National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2022

Jacob Jackson Home Site

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park

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Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the National Park System. Landscapes that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources and in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, legal interest are included in the inventory. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, and condition. Cultural landscapes have approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS-CL) database. In addition, for landscapes not currently listed on the National Register and/or without adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Keeper of the National Register.

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is compiled from primary and secondary sources and through on-site surveys of the landscape. The level of investigation is dependent upon scoping the need for information. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's integrity and an assessment of the landscape's condition. The CLI also includes historic maps, drawings, and images; photographs of existing conditions; and a site plan that indicates major features. The CLI documents the existing condition of park landscape resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to stabilize condition. This information can be used to develop strategies for improved stewardship. Unlike a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape, but it may identify stabilization measures.

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) replaces three legacy inventory systems: ASMIS (archeology), CLI (cultural landscapes), and LCS (historic structures); and it reinstates the former ERI (ethnographic resources). This Cultural Landscape Inventory document reflects the information in a corresponding CRIS Cultural Landscape record.

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

The legislative, regulatory, and policy directives for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)) Sec. 110
- Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3 (a and c)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs
- Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Std. 2
- Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22; issued pursuant to Director's Order #28 (DO-28)

The NHPA requires the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the maintenance and expansion of an inventory of cultural resources. DO-28 requires a cyclic assessment of the current condition of cultural landscapes based on an assessment interval, with a default of six years.

Use

Beyond fulfilling legal and policy requirements, park staff can use the Cultural Landscape Inventory in the following ways:

- To learn about park cultural landscapes (all staff)
- To inform management decisions (park managers)
- To inform project planning and development (park managers, facility managers, project managers, compliance specialists)
- To monitor the condition of the cultural landscape and take measures to protect its significance and integrity (cultural resource managers, facility managers)
- To recognize the stabilization and treatment needs of landscape features and plan work within cultural landscapes to address the needs (facility managers, cultural resource managers)
- To understand the cultural value of natural systems in a cultural landscape (natural resource managers)
- To create programming and educational materials based on site history (interpretation and education specialists)
- To recognize impacts within cultural landscapes and enforce protection measures (visitor and resources protection staff)

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name: Jacob Jackson Home Site

Resource Classification: Cultural Landscape

CLI Identification Number: 976226

Parent Landscape: 976226

Inventory Status: Complete

Park Information

Park Name: Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park

Alpha Code: HATU

Park Organization Code:

Park District: HATU

Region: Northeast

Restricted: Yes

Landscape Description:

The 480-acre Jacob Jackson Home Site is located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, near the mouth of Parson's Creek in Dorchester County. The property is part of the 11,750-acre Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park administered by the National Park Service, which also includes portions of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park administered by the State of Maryland, and privately owned land. The park memorializes the remarkable legacy of Harriet Tubman through the preservation of the landscape of her youth. Today Harriet Tubman is considered a national hero for her bravery and leadership in the struggle for equal rights for African Americans and women. In Dorchester County, Tubman first experienced the power of collective resistance and learned to read the landscape to facilitate her own escape and that of many others. The site is nationally significant as the farm of Jacob Jackson, a friend and neighbor of Tubman. In 1854, Tubman sent a coded letter to Jackson, who then helped arrange the escape of her three enslaved brothers.

At the Jacob Jackson Home Site, brackish muddy marshes, golden with sedges and grass, spread from Taylor's Island Road at the property's western boundary to thick forests of oak, pine, and sweet gum. Creeks, ditches, and an abandoned canal stretch from the ragged edges of the Little Choptank River deep into the site. In the 1830s and 1840s, free Black farmers, Jacob and Dinah Jackson, lived near to the Tubman and Ross families in the community of White Marsh, a short distance southeast of the 480-acre site. In 1848, Jacob and Dinah bought land near the mouth of Parson's Creek and moved to what is now known as the Jacob Jackson Home Site. When Jacob received a letter from Harriet Tubman asking him to tell her enslaved brothers that she was coming to bring them north to freedom, Jackson was living on his farm and already under suspicion of helping enslaved people escape.

In the first half of the nineteenth century, the community of White Marsh on Peter's Neck, a half-mile east of Taylor's Island Road, was isolated from county-thoroughfares. Nevertheless, footpaths and waterways linked the community to the broader landscape, including land of the Jacob Jackson Home Site. Within this community, many of Harriet Tubman's former neighbors, family, and friends, including Jacob and Dinah Jackson, formed a network of resistance to an institutionalized system of slavery and discrimination.

In honor of Harriet Tubman's legacy and the achievements of the Underground Railroad, on March 28, 2013, President Barak Obama designated the 480-acre Jacob Jackson Home Site as part the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument. On December 19, 2014, Congress passed an act establishing the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park. The new park's boundaries encompassed 11,750 acres, including the 480-acre Jacob Jackson Home Site. The Jacob Jackson Home Site encompasses the Jackson's farm and land owned by their mid-nineteenth century neighbors, the Tall, Coursey, and Green families, among others.

There is currently no public access to the Jacob Jackson Home Site, and thus there are no visitor services on site. However, people may view the property from Taylor's Island Road (Maryland State Route 16), which forms the park's western boundary. No built features are located on the landscape of the Jacob Jackson Home Site. The wooden houses, barns, and fences that once defined the site's long-abandoned fields are gone. Only a sunken road trace filled with brackish water, Martins Lane (later called Vince Green Road), points toward Jacob and Dinah Jackson's farm. No physical evidence of the locations of the Jackson farm buildings has been found yet. The Jacob Jackson Home Site property, however, includes numerous structural remnants identifying the locations of nineteenth-century landowners who were the neighbors of Jacob and Dinah Jackson. In addition, ruins of an early nineteenth-century cemetery are located adjacent to Taylor's Island Road. The late nineteenth/early twentieth century Coursey (or New) Canal forms the park's southern boundary, just south of the cemetery. Though few built features remain in the landscape, the ecological communities of the existing marshes and woods are similar to those that grew in the area during the Jackson occupancy, and contribute to its historic significance and integrity.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The 480-acre Jacob Jackson Home Site is nationally significant for its association with the life of Harriet Tubman, Underground Railroad agent and humanitarian, and the role played by the Underground Railroad in the fight for liberty and equality. The property is significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A in the areas of Social History and Ethnic History-Black, and Criterion B for the site's association with Harriet Tubman. The site is likely significant under Criterion D in the area of Archeology-Historic for its potential to yield information about the lives of Jacob and Dinah Jackson and their neighbors in White Marsh on Peter's Neck. However, evaluation of archeological significance is beyond the scope of this CLI. The period of significance for the Jacob Jackson Home Site is 1848 to 1871, beginning the year when Jacob and Dinah Jackson's purchased the farm property from James Stewart and ending the year they sold their farm to Reverend Levi D. Travers.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

The physical integrity of the Jacob Jackson Home Site is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1848-1871, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2018. While some landscape characteristics and features from the period of significance remain, others do not. There are no buildings present on the landscape, though ruins of foundations of nineteenth-century structures associated with Jackson's neighbors are barely visible through the marsh grasses. The agricultural fields that defined much of the landscape of the Jacob Jackson Home Site are gone, but the field patterns, etched into the marsh through remnant drainage ditches, are still evident. Remnants of the nineteenth-century alignment of two primary roads through the property – Martin's Lane/Vince Green Road and a trace of Taylor's Island Road –remain. The New Canal or Corsey Canal, which forms the southwestern boundary of the park, was built in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, but it echoes the characteristics of earlier canals. These historic features lie within a landscape of salt marsh grass and oak, sweetgum, and loblolly pine woodlands, similar to that which grew here in the mid-nineteenth century. The marsh and woodlands are visible eastward from Taylor's Island Road, much as they would have been during the period of significance.

The Jacob Jackson Home Site retains integrity to the period of significance primarily through its ecological communities, including the grasses and sedges of the salt marsh and oak, pine, and sweetgum forest. It also retains integrity of location, association, and feeling through the existing ruins of nineteenth-century roads, canals, drainage ditches, and farms that once comprised this rural community.

Condition:
The Cultural Landscape Inventory evaluates the overall condition of the Jacob Jackson Home Site landscape as "Fair." The potential location of the Jacob Jackson Farm and the extant ruins of the nineteenth-century farms of Jackson's neighbors, as well as the nineteenth-century road traces and the ecological marsh and forest communities, are

currently being impacted by saltwater inundation caused by rising sea levels associated with climate change. In addition, increasing light pollution from the region's large cities, including Baltimore and Washington D.C., threatens to dim the night sky's stars, used by Tubman and others to navigate through the landscape of the central Eastern Shore.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

The cultural landscape of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park is included as a single landscape in CRIS, the Jacob Jackson Home Site, and includes all NPS fee-owned land. There are no component landscape resources.

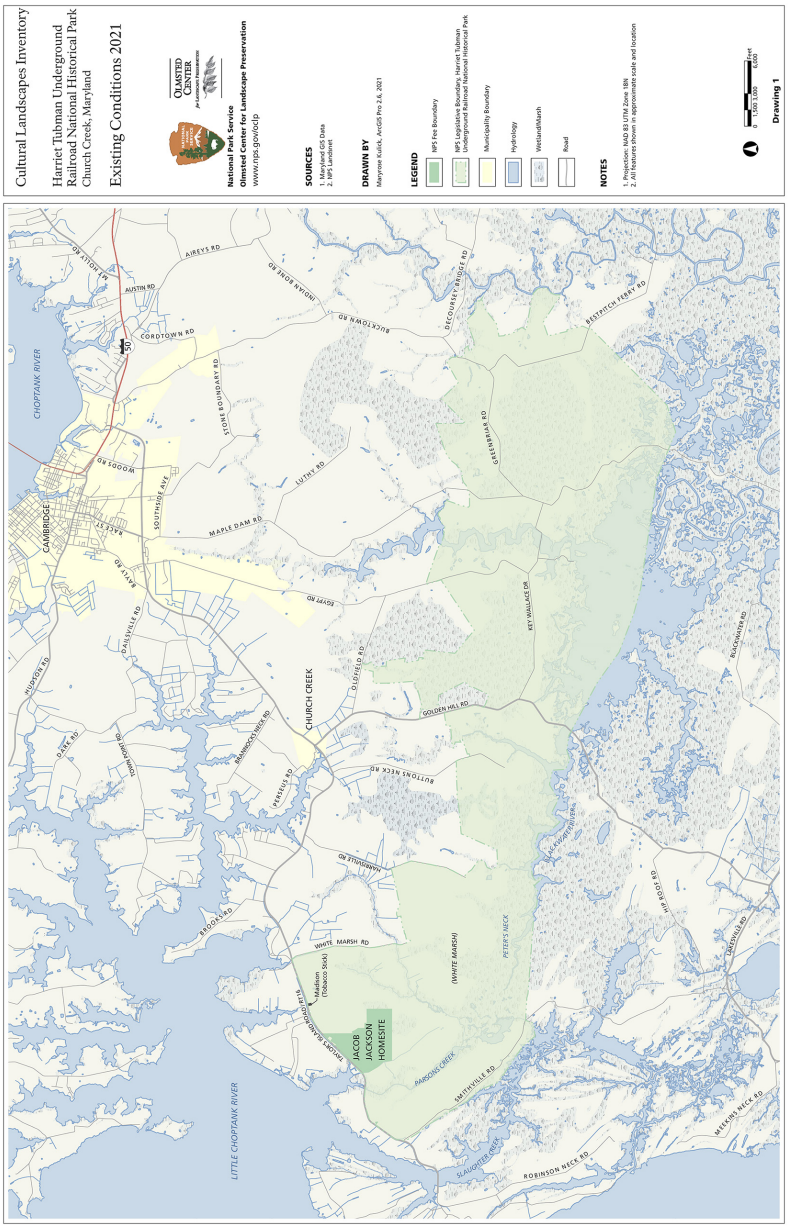
Landscape Type:

Historic Vernacular Landscape

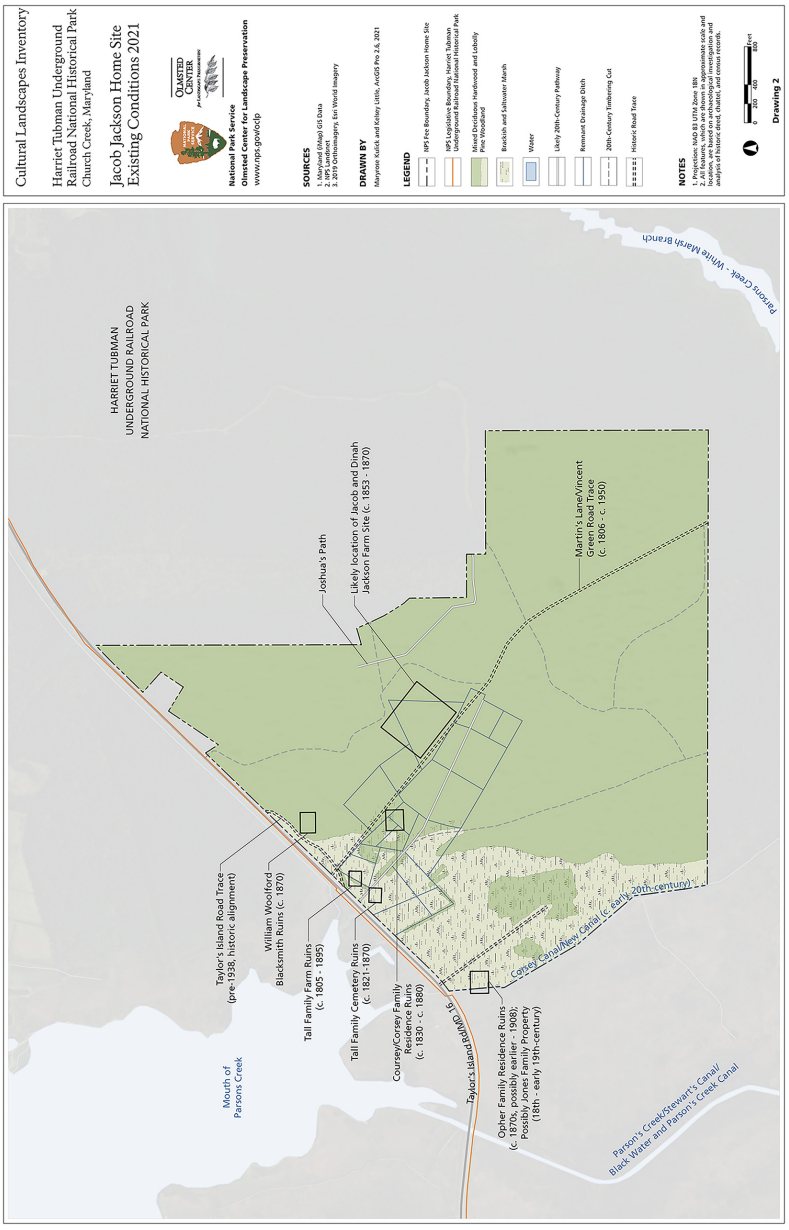
Other Names:

Other Name:	Jacob Jackson Home Site	**Other Name Type:**	Current
Other Name:	Peter's Neck	**Other Name Type:**	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	White Marsh	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Parson's Creek	**Other Name Type:**	Both Current And Historic

Site Plan



Map 1 of 2: Park-Wide Map.



Map 2 of 2: Jacob Jackson Home Site.

Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 03/04/2022

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This Cultural Landscape Inventory was written in 2021 by Jennifer Hanna, Historical Landscape Architect with the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. This CLI is based on the draft "Cultural Landscape Report for the Jacob Jackson Home Site," also authored Jennifer Hanna. Archaeological investigation and analysis, conducted by NER Archaeologists William Griswold and Joel Dukes, contributed to the findings of this report. Jennifer Hanna and Eliot Foulds, Preservation Program Manager, conducted field analysis and archival research in 2018 and 2019, and were aided by Olmsted Center Associates Daisy Mugford, Robert Wright, Melissa Eloshway, and Vanessa Hartsuiker. The team conducted research at the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park Maryland, the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis, the Harriet Tubman Museum and Educational Center, the Cambridge City Library, and the Dorchester County Courthouse in Cambridge, Maryland. Please note, many of the probate, tax, chattel, manumission, and other court records filed between 1778 to 1852 were destroyed in a fire at the Dorchester County Court House. In addition, while the focus of this report is on the families of African and African American descent living in the watershed of Parson’s Creek, their life experiences are, in large part, ascertained from the written records of those who enslaved and discriminated against them. Additional archaeological, ethnographical, and archival investigation will further illuminate their lives.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Attachment File Path

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Jacob Jackson Home Site
Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park

The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Jacob Jackson Home Site, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Jacob Jackson Home Site is hereby approved and accepted.

Deanna Mitchell Mar. 4, 2022

Superintendent, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park Date

Park concurrence form.

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Interior Region 1
North Atlantic-Appalachian
1234 Market Street, 20th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

1.A.2.(IR1-RSS)

Elizabeth Hughes, SHPO
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
3rd Floor
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023

Dear Ms. Hughes:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) for the Jacob Jackson Home Site at Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park. We seek your concurrence on the status of previously unevaluated resources identified in this CLI for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The report has been prepared by a team of historical landscape architects with the National Park Service (NPS) Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. The CLI program and the enclosed report continue the NPS efforts to update our cultural resource inventories.

Through the CLI program, the NPS is currently in the midst of a nationwide effort to inventory its cultural landscapes. The CLI is conducted in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). It is an inventory of baseline information for all historically significant cultural landscapes within the national park system, and it examines multiple landscape features that contribute to the significance of historic properties. The CLI process includes gathering information from existing secondary sources and conducting on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the property's overall significance. For landscapes found potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the evaluation describes their character-defining features and assesses the landscape's overall historical integrity. It also raises questions about the landscape that need further study.

It is important to note that the CLI reports are not intended as comprehensive inventory reports for any one property, although for some properties they provide fuller documentation than for others. For example, the reports do not include a full architectural description of structures, but document structures as elements of the overall landscape, and similarly documents other characteristics such as vegetation, spatial organization, and views and vistas. The CLI is one component of the NPS inventory effort that also includes cultural resource inventories for

SHPO concurrence letter (page 1 of 5).

historic structures, archeological sites, ethnographic resources, and museum objects. For example, the NPS List of Classified Structures inventory includes structural features of cultural landscapes, but the CLI takes a more encompassing approach to the properties, inventorying all above-ground features in each park in which the NPS has a legal or mandated interest.

Previous Historic Property Evaluation:

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument was established on March 25, 2013, to honor the historical significance of Harriet Tubman's achievements. The monument encompassed 11,750 acres of federal, state, and private lands in Dorchester County. On December 19, 2014, a portion of the national monument – the 480-acre Jacob Jackson Home Site – was redesignated as Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park to be administered by the National Park Service. The authorized boundary of the national historical park also included other lands for future acquisition totaling 4,207.54 acres, both within the national monument boundaries, as well as in adjacent Talbot and Caroline Counties (outside of the national monument boundaries).

The Jacob Jackson Home Site was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places with establishment of the national monument on March 25, 2013. The entire Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park was administratively listed on the National Register on December 19, 2014. To date, no supporting National Register documentation for the Jacob Jackson Home Site nor the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument or National Historical Park has been completed.

Current Findings:

The enclosed CLI for the Jacob Jackson Home Site fully evaluates the cultural landscape, particularly the associated landscape characteristics and features, and finds that the site's landscape retains integrity to the areas of Social History-Abolition and Ethnic History-Black. As noted previously, none of the property's features compiled on the attached list have been described in the National Register. The CLI identifies eleven features related to topography, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, and small-scale features that contribute to the significance and historic character of the property's landscape. Two features have been evaluated as noncontributing because they are not historically significant, and five features have been evaluated as undetermined because additional research is needed.

We call your particular attention to the Landscape Description, Boundary Description, National Register Information and the Statement of Significance, and Analysis and Evaluation Summary in the enclosed CLI.

Based on the CLI, we seek your concurrence on the status of resources and features identified in this CLI:

- The Jacob Jackson Home Site is nationally significant under National Register Criterion B for its association with life of Harriet Tubman, Underground Railroad agent and humanitarian.

SHPO concurrence letter (page 2 of 5).

- The Jacob Jackson Home Site is significant under Criterion A in the area of Social History for the actions of Jacob Jackson and Harriet Tubman to assist men, women, and children escaping enslavement through the Underground Railroad.
- The Jacob Jackson Home Site is significant under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic History-Black as the site of free and enslaved communities of people of African descent in White Marsh on Peter's Neck near Parson's Creek.
- The site is likely significant under Criterion D in the area of Archeology-Historic for its potential to yield information about the lives of Jacob and Dinah Jackson and their neighbors in White Marsh on Peter's Neck. However, evaluation of archeological significance is beyond the scope of this Cultural Landscape Inventory.
- The period of significance for the Jacob Jackson Home Site is 1848 to 1871. The period begins with the year Jacob and Dinah Jackson purchased their farm property from James Stewart, a future US Congressman and outspoken proponent of race-based slavery. The period ends with the sale of their farm at auction to local plantation owner and judge, Reverend Levi D. Travers, to settle a lawsuit.
- The categorization of contributing, non-contributing, and undetermined landscape characteristics and features (see attached list).

If you concur with these findings, we ask that you please sign on the space provided and return this letter to Jeff Killion, CLI Coordinator (Address: National Park Service, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, 15 State Street, 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02109). We would appreciate your response in **45 days**, if possible. Thank you for your attention to this inventory. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Killion at 508-455-8540 (cell).

Sincerely,

JONATHAN MEADE

Digitally signed by JONATHAN MEADE
Date: 2022.03.09 16:02:52 -05'00'

Jonathan Meade
Associate Regional Director
Resource Stewardship and Science

Enclosure

cc:
Superintendent, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park

I concur with the National Park Service categorizations of the landscape resources and features for the Jacob Jackson Home Site, as contributing, non-contributing, and undetermined.

Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer

June 1, 2022
Date

SHPO concurrence letter (page 3 of 5).

NPS Cultural Landscapes Inventory – Jacob Jackson Home Site
Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park.
List of Contributing, Non-Contributing, and Undetermined Landscape Features
February 2022

Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

The following landscape characteristics and associated features contribute to the property's historic character, though not all are considered countable resources according to the National Register of Historic Places.

Topography
Berms and elevation changes from the ruins of a system of drainage ditches used for agriculture

Vegetation
Forest dominated by oak, loblolly pine and sweet gum
Saltwater and brackish wetland marsh

Circulation
Martin's Lane/Vince Green Road Trace
Taylor's Island Road Trace

Buildings and Structures
Coursey/Corsey Ruins
Tall Farm Ruins
Opher Farm Ruins near Corsey/New Canal
Woolford Blacksmith Ruins

Views and Vistas
View from Taylor's Island Road into the property

Small-Scale Features
Tall Family Cemetery

Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Circulation
Modern Forestry Roads

Small-Scale Features
Modern Road Culvert near Taylor's Island Road/Maryland Route 16

SHPO concurrence letter (page 4 of 5).

Undetermined Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Vegetation

Daffodils growing near Tall Family cemetery
Vegetation growing along berms of water fences or drainage ditches

Circulation

Joshua's Path

Constructed Water Features

Corsey Canal/New Canal

Small-Scale Features

Survey Boundary Stones

bcc:
Susan Hollister, Region 1 Historic Architecture Program
Dennis Montagna, Region 1 History Program
Robert Page, Director, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

SHPO concurrence letter (page 5 of 5).

Geographic Information

State and County:

State	County
Maryland	Dorchester County

Size (Acres): 480

Land Tract Number(s)

01-101

Boundary Description:

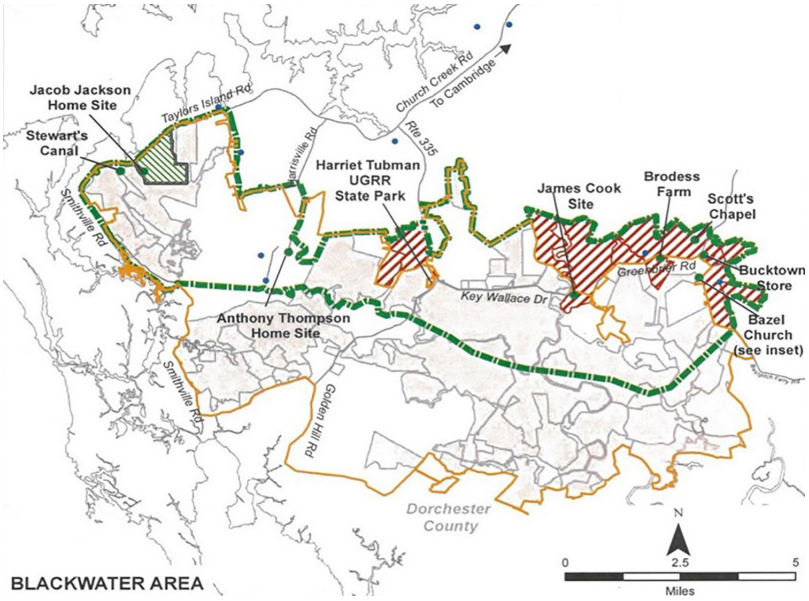
The Jacob Jackson Home Site, a unit of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park, comprises 480 acres that lay in one contiguous parcel (Tract 01-101) within the northwestern section of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park. The site is a portion of the same property acquired by the Conservation Fund from Frank M. Ewing, by deed dated August 17, 1993, and now of record among the Land Records of Dorchester County, Maryland, in Liber P.L.C. No. 292, folio 423. The acreage includes land once owned by the Jackson, Green, Jones, Coursey, Tall, and other families during the period of significance, 1848 to 1871.

The project area is bounded on the northwest by Taylor's Island Road, also known as Maryland State Route 16. The western boundary aligns with the easterly side of the Coursey/Corsey Canal, also known as the New Canal. The southern boundary is determined by a line drawn from the easterly edge of the Corsey Canal/New Canal eastward to the southwest corner of a tract once owned by John E. Burton (RSM/Liber 48/418-41). The eastern boundary aligns with the eastern boundary of the Frank M. Ewing Tract, as surveyed December 1, 1993. A portion of this boundary also aligns with the mid-eighteenth century "Loockermans Regulation" land patent. The project area is bordered on the east by a thin buffer of federally owned lands adjacent to private property, including that owned by the Trophy Rod and Gun Club, and timber companies William M. Burton & Sons, Inc. and Besley and Rodgers, Inc. Other lands south and west of the project area are federally owned and lie within the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. Lands to the northwest of the property are privately owned.

Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.489128	-76.257648	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.49591	-76.248678	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.495038	-76.248616	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.496878	-76.247626	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.496491	-76.246946	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.497217	-76.246141	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.498138	-76.24676	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.499445	-76.245337	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.491842	-76.245027	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.492036	-76.244408	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.491067	-76.243418	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.48913	-76.242861	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.489131	-76.241438	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.487968	-76.2415	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.487969	-76.237045	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.481867	-76.236899	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.481284	-76.253501	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.483463	-76.253749	
Aerial Photograph	Area	38.487191	-76.257462	

Location Map:



A map of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park. The Jacob Jackson Home Site is located in the northwestern corner of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park, about twelve miles from Cambridge, Maryland. (National Park Service)

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

The Jacob Jackson Home Site is in the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain Physiographic Area, in the center of the Chesapeake Bay/Susquehanna River Ecosystem, within the watershed of the Little Choptank River. Land cover is defined as woody wetlands and emergent herbaceous wetlands within the Princess Anne Lowland District of the Delmarva Peninsula Region of the Atlantic Coastal Province. The topography is flat, approximately 2 meters or 6.5 feet above sea level, with lowland marshes that flood regularly. Soils in the western portion of the site are defined as (Ho) Honga peat, which has a thick organic surface layer formed from organic deposits from salt tolerant plants and overlays silty mineral sediments. This area is very frequently flooded and tidal. The eastern half of the site contains Othello silt loam, which may support prime farmland if property drained. The forested areas are primarily planted stands of loblolly pine (Pinus taeda), interspersed with red maple (Acer rubrum), sweet gum (Liquidambar styraciflua), black gum (Nyssa sylvatica), various species of oak, and American holly (Ilex opaca). (Engelhardt et al. 2019: 10-24)

Ground subsidence, in combination with sea level rise and increasing salinities, are gradually replacing emergent marshes with open water throughout the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park and causing a decline and loss of loblolly pine. Within the broader watershed of the Blackwater River, the Black Water and Parson's Creek Canal (Stewart's Canal), which connected the highly saline Little Choptank River to the historically freshwater section of the Upper Blackwater River, has increased the salinity of the Upper Blackwater River and the Little Blackwater Tributary, and thus the area of Parson's Creek. Additional salinity has caused hundreds of acres of freshwater marsh to be converted into saline open water and mud flats, south and west of the Jacob Jackson Home Site. To restore this habitat, a saltwater exclusion weir was constructed in 2007 to limit saltwater entering the Upper Blackwater River system. (Engelhardt et al. 2019: 22, citing Bessler and Whitbeck 2012)

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

Small scale agriculture, water industries such as fishing, and conservation of marshland and forest for species protection and tourism, define the rural character of the regional landscape surrounding the Jacob Jackson Home Site, as well as the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park. This rural character facilitates a significant cultural characteristic of the site, the ability to view stars in the night sky. However, increases in artificial light from several large cities, including Washington D.C., Baltimore, and Richmond, is reflected into the atmosphere, decreasing night sky visibility.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

The Jacob Jackson Home Site is located on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay in Dorchester County, Maryland. Dorchester County, which is 983 square miles (541 square miles of land and 442 of water), is the largest county in Maryland. In 2020, 32,531 people lived in Dorchester County, and population in the city of Cambridge, which lies about 10 miles to the east of the property and is the county's largest municipality, was 12,375. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 62% of Dorchester County's population is Caucasian, 29% is African American, 6.1% is Hispanic, 1.2% is Asian, 0.5% is Native American, and 2.5% are two or more races.

The site is surrounded on the east, west, and south by lands designated as the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park. Taylor's Island Road, also known as State Route 16, forms the Jacob Jackson Home Site's northern boundary. Across State Route 16 is private agricultural and forested land. The town of Madison lies about two miles east of the Jacob Jackson Home Site, on Madison Bay, an inlet of the Little Choptank River. Established in 1760 as "Tobacco Stick," the town became an economic center for the timber, shipbuilding, fishing, and merchant shipping trades. The Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, located to the east, west and south of Jacob Jackson Home Site, conserves about 28,000 acres of land as migratory bird habitat and is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within the Department of Interior.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 03/04/2022

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Jacob Jackson Home Site meets the “Must Be Preserved or Maintained” management category because the property is specifically legislated. On March 25, 2013, President Barack Obama, under the provisions of the Antiquities Act, reserved lands in Dorchester County as the Harriet Tubman-Underground Railroad National Monument to honor the historical significance of Harriet Tubman’s achievements. The boundary included the 480-acre site as well as an additional 11,250 acres, much of which were located within the boundaries of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. The Presidential Proclamation directed the Secretary of the Interior to manage the National Monument through the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

On December 19, 2014, under Public Law 113-291 through the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act (U.S. Code: 16 U.S. Code § 410sss), the 480-acre site was designated a National Historical Park to commemorate the achievements of Harriet Tubman, a self-emancipated woman who led more than seventy people out of bondage before the American Civil War through the Underground Railroad. As recorded in the enabling legislation, “the purpose of the historical park is to preserve and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations the historical, cultural, and natural resources associated with the life of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.” The book, Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman by Sarah Bradford, documents the relationship between Harriet Tubman and Jacob Jackson in their facilitation of the Underground Railroad when Jacob Jackson was living on the landscape of the Jacob Jackson Home Site, therefore the property is also related to the park’s legislated significance. The law also authorized approximately 4,207.54 acres for future acquisition for the National Historical Park. These lands are located within the National Monument, known at the Blackwater Area, as well as lands known as the Poplar Neck Area in neighboring Caroline and Talbot counties. The act also established the Harriet Tubman National Historic Site in Auburn, New York.

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: None

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Narrative:

Type of Interest: Less Than Fee Simple

Narrative: The property, which was purchased by the Conservation Fund and acquired by the NPS, was subject to two easements, one for Jacob's Path and one for Vince Green Road (Martin's Lane); and exempted the cemetery. It is not clear whether any encumbrances to ownership of the land remain.

Located in managed wilderness?: No

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

Adjacent lands are lands outside the cultural landscape boundary, including lands inside or outside the park. The Jacob Jackson Home Site is bordered on the north and east by private property, including lands owned by the Trophy Rod and Gun Club (a hunting and fishing club), and timber companies, William M. Burton and Sons Inc. and Besley and Rodgers Inc. Historically, the Jacob Jackson Home Site and the surrounding landscape of Peter's Neck were used for both hunting and forestry. While the landscape north and east of the Jacob Jackson Home Site was likely more open during the mid-nineteenth century, the existing forested landscape of these properties contribute to the understanding of the broader historic landscape of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park. Lands south of the park lie within the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and include remnants of the Blackwater and Parson's Creek Canal (Stewart's Canal), as well as marsh and forest ecosystems that would have been familiar to Harriet Tubman, Jacob Jackson, and members of the White Marsh community.

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: Undocumented

Documentation Narrative Description:

The Jacob Jackson Home Site was designated as the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in September 2013 and designated Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in December 2014. The property has been administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places, but to date no supporting National Register documentation for the Jacob Jackson Home Site nor the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park has been completed. Because the areas and periods of significance for the site, and evaluations of above ground resources, have not been completed in the National Register or through past consultations with the Maryland SHPO, the National Register Status of the Jacob Jackson Home Site is considered “Undocumented.”

Eligibility: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 06/01/2022

Concurrence Narrative:

The Maryland SHPO had no review comments on the CLI.

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Individual

Classification: Site

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

The 480-acre Jacob Jackson Home Site is nationally significant for its association with the life of Harriet Tubman, Underground Railroad agent and humanitarian, and for the importance of the Underground Railroad in providing freedom seekers resistance to enslavement through escape and flight in their pursuit of liberty and equality. The property is significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A in the areas Social History and Ethnic History-Black, and under National Register Criterion B for the site’s association with Harriet Tubman. The site is likely significant under Criterion D in the area of Archeology-Historic for its potential to yield information about the lives of Jacob and Dinah Jackson and their neighbors in White Marsh on Peter’s Neck. However, evaluation of archeological significance is beyond the scope of this Cultural Landscape Inventory.

The period of significance for the Jacob Jackson Home Site is 1848 to 1871. The period begins with the year Jacob and Dinah Jackson purchased their farm property from James Stewart, a future US Congressman and outspoken proponent of race-based slavery. The period ends with the sale of their farm at auction to local plantation owner and judge, Reverend Levi D. Travers, to settle a lawsuit.

CRITERION A

Social History and Ethnic History-Black:
The Jacob Jackson Home Site is significant under Criterion A (associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history) in the area of Social History for the actions of Jacob Jackson and Harriet Tubman to assist men, women, and children escaping enslavement through the Underground Railroad. The site is also significant under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic History-Black as the site of free and enslaved communities of people of African descent in White Marsh on Peter's Neck near Parson's Creek.

The abolitionist movement was an organized effort to end slavery in the United States, which called on the Federal government to prohibit the ownership of people in the southern states. During the first half of the nineteenth century, the "Underground Railroad" developed as a network of people, places, and routes that helped enslaved people in the south escape to the northern states and following the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850, onward into Canada. Harriet Tubman, who returned to the central Eastern Shore at least thirteen times to help others escape, became known as one of its most famous "conductors."

On September 17, 1849 Tubman made her first attempt to escape and fled the family that enslaved her, with two of her younger brothers. They made the difficult choice to return; but a few weeks later Harriet escaped alone, successfully. During the mid-nineteenth century, Maryland had more "runaway slaves" than any other state where enslavement was legal. It was a border state, so freedom was relatively close, but people escaping enslavement faced beatings, sale, and other punishments if caught. Those who assisted in their escape did too. Despite the dangers, a few years after her self-emancipation, Harriet Tubman returned to the central Eastern Shore to try and free her brothers. She enlisted the help of a trusted family friend, Jacob Jackson, a free, literate, Black farmer and veterinarian living near the mouth of Parson's Creek on what is now the Jacob Jackson Home Site, close to where he was born enslaved.

Though land use patterns and rising sea levels have altered the Jacob Jackson Home Site landscape since Tubman and Jackson walked Martin's Lane, clues to the geography of enslavement, self-emancipation, and controlled freedom experienced by people of African descent remain. While evidence of nineteenth-century land use is sparse, the history of community resistance to enslavement and discrimination incises this soggy clay landscape, where farming was always marginal and timbering difficult. The site's brackish muddy marshes, golden with sedges and grass, spread east from Taylor's Island Road at the property's western boundary and evoke its nineteenth-century fields and meadows. Silt-filled drainage ditches emboss the borders of these abandoned fields, revealing clues to long lost property boundaries. On canals, like the old Corsey Canal along the property's southern edge, watermen floated the raw logs of loblolly for generations. Chimney falls lie hidden in the tall salt marsh grass and mark homes of Jackson's neighbors, though their wooden houses, barns, and fences are gone. Martin's Lane, which linked Dinah and Jacob's farm to the families living in White Marsh on Peter's Neck, is discernable through a gap in the forest cover and a slight impression on the land. Here the lives of the Black men and women who remained behind on the Eastern Shore and struggled to attain human rights for themselves and others by nurturing their communities and supporting those who fled can be mapped on the land and understood in part through the native ecosystems. For these brackish marshes and woodland thick with undergrowth would have been familiar to those who lived on the central Eastern Shore in the nineteenth century, including Jacob Jackson and Harriet Tubman.

Centering the experience of the enslaved, freeborn, and newly free on the landscape of the Jacob Jackson Home Site and nearby White Marsh requires an understanding of how the native ecosystems affected the growth of Black communities and the facilitation of the Underground Railroad. The characteristics that decreased land's economic value and made living difficult, including high water tables, clay soil, limited access to public rights of way, and dense scrubby woodland of little value, made the land attainable for newly free Black men and women who might not otherwise have gained a foothold in land ownership. Land ownership could provide a means of advancement, self-actualization, and the ability to support others. In addition, the relative isolation of the Jackson Home Site and White Marsh from primary roads may have helped sustain the growth of the Black community and protect, at times, the ties among families. The heavy swampy soils required networks of drainage ditches and canals to make the soil airable and

timber harvestable, and these waterways provided links between Black farms and residences. In addition, the lack of arable soil and the proximity of the sea (though it often inundated the land and buildings along the water's edge) provided opportunities for Black men to work in the water industries where they could potentially earn more money than as "laborers," and many of Jackson's neighbors did. Nevertheless, laws circumscribed the human rights of Black men, women, and children who were born free, manumitted, or purchased themselves and limited their ability to communicate and move freely. Though they faced severe discrimination in a harsh and marginal landscape, Harriet Tubman, Jacob and Dinah Jackson, Vincent and Elizabeth Green, Jerry and Rosa Malone, and others nurtured their families, grew their community, and fought for freedom in the watershed of Parson's Creek.

This history's significance is represented in the integrity of the road traces of Martin's Lane and Taylor's Island Road, the archaeological and structural ruins associated with the residences of Jacob and Dinah Jackson and their neighbors, the remnant Tall family cemetery, the views into and out of the property, and the ecological communities of the salt marsh, and Loblolly pine and sweetgum forest.

CRITERION B

Harriet Tubman:
The Jacob Jackson Home Site is significant under Criterion B (associated with the lives of persons significant in our past) for the landscape's connection to Harriet Tubman and her accomplishments through the Underground Railroad. Today Harriet Tubman is considered a national hero for her bravery and leadership in the struggle for equal rights for African Americans and women. It was in Dorchester County that Tubman first experienced the power of collective resistance and learned to read the landscape to facilitate her own escape and that of many others. Harriet Tubman's love for her family drove her determination to save them from enslavement. In late 1854, Harriet learned that Eliza Brodess was planning to sell her brothers Robert, Ben, and Henry after Christmas. She quickly put plans in place to help her brothers escape. With assistance from a literate friend in Philadelphia, Harriet wrote a letter to Jacob Jackson, who was living with his family on what is now known as the Jacob Jackson Home Site, near the mouth of Parson's Creek. As Jacob was already under suspicion for helping enslaved people to escape, when postal workers delivered the letter, he pretended he could not understand it. After they left, Jacob quickly warned Harriet's brothers to be ready to escape as she was coming to guide them to freedom. This account is described in "Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman" by Sarah Bradford and documents the relationship between Harriet Tubman and Jacob Jackson in their facilitation of the Underground Railroad when Jacob Jackson was living on the landscape of the Jacob Jackson Home Site.

National Register Significance Criteria:

A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past

National Register Criteria Consideration:

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes):

Time Period: CE 1848 - CE 1871

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Social and Humanitarian Movements	Abolitionism	

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Ethnic Heritage

Area of Significance Subcategory: Black

Area of Significance Category: Social History

NRIS Information:

State Register Documentation:

National Histric Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark? No

Theme:

Contributing:

NHL ID:

NHL URL:

Date: 08/25/2022

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

World Heritage Site? No

Category:

WHS ID:

WHS URL:

Date: 08/25/2022

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1	Inhabited	Land that became Dorchester County, including the project area, was the ancestral homeland of the Choptank and Nanicoke tribes.

Physical History:

INTRODUCTION

The following section provides information on the physical development and evolution of the site, organized by time periods. Endnotes are located after each period.

PERIOD ONE: SETTLEMENT ON THE CENTRAL EASTERN SHORE, 1608–1799

Period Summary:
The early settlement history of the central Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay provides context for the growth of communities of both freeborn and enslaved that developed in the late eighteenth century on Peter's Neck in the watershed of Maryland's Blackwater and Little Choptank Rivers. Development here was slow as the region's marshy clay soil was not ideal for growing tobacco, which thrived further south where the land was higher, dryer, and sandier. To the north in Talbot County, forests grew at higher elevations and were easier to harvest than those on the soggy landscape around the Blackwater River. Therefore, most of the area around the future Jackson Home Site remained forested long into the eighteenth century. What little settlement occurred concentrated along the Little Choptank River. Even there, buildings were impermanent and relatively meager. Many structures were likely puncheon (or stout pieces of wood), one of the oldest construction methods in which puncheons are set upright into the ground as a palisade. Builders then fill the spaces between the wooden puncheons with wattle and daub.(1) In the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, small clusters of one and two-room buildings, often set on stone piers, served as the houses and outbuildings of both freeborn and enslaved. Rough fields spread from the bases of these building clusters linked by waterways and footpaths. One of the primary footpaths followed the shoreline of the Little Choptank from Taylor's Island, passed St. Stephens Creek [Parson's Creek] to Tobacco Stick [Madison]. Later this trail became Taylor's Island Road. There were few towns even along the rivers. Instead, settlers constructed simple warehouses as tobacco ports to serve as centers of trade. Though the soil surrounding the Little Choptank and Blackwater River was agriculturally poor, and the timber inaccessible, the region's natural inlets were ideal for shipbuilding.

By the mid-eighteenth century, the shipbuilding industry was expanding in Tobacco Stick, Church Creek, and near the mouth of Parson's Creek. With increased capital investment, population density increased, as the industry needed local sawyers, caulkers, weavers, carpenters, boatsmen, and sailors. Land that was high enough to keep from flooding, such as the large patent "Johns Point" northwest of Tobacco Stick, was roughly cleared and planted with Indian corn and grains. However, the clay-filled lowlands around Parson's Creek remained marsh and forest. During the Revolutionary War, the economic impact of embargos and labor shortages increased the need for local skilled labor. By the late eighteenth century, the area's diversifying economy relied on a free and enslaved labor system. This dual system provided an impetus to slave manumission (the legal release of slaves by

their owners) and an option for some enslaved people, or those that enslaved them, to “rent out” their work. In some cases, manumission and labor rental created opportunities for increased Black autonomy and individual income production, which supported the development of free Black communities.

About this time, a community of free and enslaved Blacks coalesced near a rough timbering track that led north from the Blackwater River into the thick forest south of Tobacco Stick on Peters Neck. Some residents of this community, which was later called White Marsh, had likely been freed from bondage in a wave of manumissions that occurred in central Dorchester County in the early 1790s. These manumissions were spurred both by economic incentive and religious influence.(2) Later, in the nineteenth century, both Jacob Jackson and his future wife, Dinah Bell, were born in or near White Marsh in the watershed of Parson’s Creek. Harriet Tubman and her father, Ben Ross, cut timber in the soggy woods of White Marsh. In its sweet gum forests and sharp sedge marshes, Harriet Tubman learned to navigate by the stars and survive in hiding. And here Jackson, Tubman, and their friends, family, and neighbors forged a network to assist the enslaved to flee north to freedom.

Early Settlement in Maryland:
When John Smith, a young sea captain hired by English investors, sailed up the Chesapeake in 1608, the Choptank, Manokin, Pokomoke, and Nanticoke had lived within the estuary landscape for generations (Figure 1).(3) Thick forests of oak, pine, and sweet gum enclosed brackish, muddy marshes. Rivers cut through the flat land, mixing salty water with fresh near the ragged edges of the Chesapeake Bay. In the warm months, the Choptank and Nanticoke, subtribes of the Algonquin, lived near the water’s edge, harvesting fish and shellfish and using oyster shells to enrich their fields and gardens. They moved inland to wooded hunting grounds in winter for protection from the cold winds off the bay.(4) The region was rich in wildlife and provided diverse nourishment in most years, but coastal floods and inland lakes that suddenly rose above their muddy flats impacted the seasonal patterns of their lives and their more permanent settlements. When the settlers arrived in the mid-seventeenth century, they identified four “Choptank Indian Townes” including Transquaking or King Ababcos’s town located to the southwest of Chancellor’s Point, Tequissino on Goose Creek, and Hapswap on Secretary Creek. The fourth town was called Upper or Indianetown by early settlers and lay on the south side of the Choptank River near present day Vienna.(5) Two ancestral villages of the Nanticoke tribe were located in what became Dorchester County. The village known as Chicone (or Chicacone, Chicawan) was located north of present-day Vienna. Another Nanticoke ancestral village was located along the Choptank River in the vicinity of what became Cambridge.

Following the founding of the British colony of Maryland at St. Mary’s City in 1634, Lord Baltimore implemented a proprietary government and land allocation system, which contributed to the development of a plantation economy on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.(6) To obtain an adequate return on investment through resource extraction and agriculture, as well as to guarantee an income stream through land-rents, Lord Baltimore needed his proprietary land holdings settled quickly. Therefore in 1635, he issued a series of proclamations or “Conditions of Plantation” to regulate land allocation and settlement. One of the most important was the headright provision under which individuals could acquire land by transporting people to the new colony. Under the “Conditions of Plantation,” every initial investor who brought five or more men to the colony was entitled to two thousand acres and the feudal rights of a manor.(7) Those who came to Maryland to “inhabit and plant” and brought fewer than five men were entitled to one hundred acres of land for himself, his wife, each child sixteen and older, and each servant. Tracts smaller than two thousand acres were called “plantations.” In 1641 the land granted through headright was reduced to fifty acres for every adult and twenty-five for every child. All settlers applied to the land office and identified the land they wished to acquire. The colony’s surveyor then surveyed the land, and a patent was issued, subject to the annual payment of rent to the Proprietor, Lord Baltimore.(8) This procedure for issuing land patents lasted until the Revolutionary War.

Lord Baltimore envisioned Maryland as a feudal society, reflecting the English aristocracy where wealthy settlers would obtain a lucrative return on their initial investment and live in the colony “like princes.”(9) In reality, many early landowners considered the harshness of the climate of southern Maryland, the relatively strict oversight of the ruling Calvert family, and the threat from Indigenous

tribes, and determined that settlement of Maryland might be a good opportunity for detached investment. Thus, between seventy to eighty-five percent of early settlers were indentured (contracted to work for at least four years of service to pay for their journey).(10) They were usually young, poor English and Scottish men, often without artisan skills. Conditions were difficult. Indentured men could expect to live only to the age of forty-three. For Black enslaved men, the age expectation was lower.(11) Women's lives too were precarious from the hazards of childbirth, the harsh environment, and dangerous work. But by the turn of the eighteenth century, most people with European lineage in Maryland were native-born, with established kinship ties reinforced through marriages among prominent land-owning families.(12) Though Maryland codified slavery into law in 1663, a few years before Dorchester County was founded, fewer than one thousand African slaves arrived in the colony between 1619 and 1697.(13) Initially, the primary route to wealth for the Proprietary government, and the individual investor, was land acquisition. Within the headright system, investors contracted the work of indentured servants in exchange for their passage, as one way to acquire large tracts of land. However, beginning in the late seventeenth century, increased settlement and agricultural production on the Eastern Shore, coupled with improving economic conditions in Europe and increasing competition in the slave trade, spurred a dramatic increase in the number of enslaved people in Maryland.(14) Within fifty years, the portion of Black people in Maryland who were free would decline from one in four to one in twenty-five.(15)

By the mid-seventeenth century, settlers, many from St. Mary's City, the coast of Virginia, and New Amsterdam, were living on plantations and smaller land patents along the Eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay and its major tributaries. Here, land along navigable waterways was most valuable. A vast expanse of marshy woodland stretched from the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, but the Choptank River was navigable for almost forty miles, and a boatman could row a sloop to the headwaters of the Nanticoke. In addition to transportation, the rivers and bay provided a source of food, and allowed strategic views of the surrounding landscape, helpful in times of conflict settlers and the Choptank and Nanticoke tribes.

Founding of Dorchester County:
When the settlers arrived in the mid-seventeenth century, they identified four "Choptank Indian Townes" including Transquaking or King Ababcos's town located to the southwest of Chancellor's Point, Tequissino on Goose Creek, and Hapswap on Secretary Creek. The fourth town was called Upper or Indianetown by early settlers and lay on the south side of the Choptank River near present day Vienna.(16) However, within a few decades of the founding of St. Mary, wealthy white men had platted much of the land that would become Dorchester County. The tracts included seven legally constituted manors. The largest manor was a six-thousand-acre tract called "Nanticoke Manor," patented for Lord Baltimore in 1664 near present-day Vienna, east of the park.(17) "Darby," a three-thousand-acre tract extending along the Choptank River two and one-half miles to Sewall Creek, was granted to Henry Sewall of Warwickshire, England in 1663. Stephen Gary was one of the first landowners of European descent to own land near the Jackson Home Site. Parson's Creek was originally called St. Stephen's Creek after Stephen Gary but was renamed Parson's Creek after the Reverend Thomas Thompson acquired the land in the eighteenth century.(18) Dorchester County was established around 1669 when the Governor's Council met in St. Mary's City and appointed the county's first commissioners.(19) The western boundary of the new county extended along the Choptank River north to the territory of New Sweden in Delaware. The Nanticoke River formed the county's eastern and southern boundaries.(20) At the time, rent-rolls from the area recorded approximately one hundred heads of household and five hundred inhabitants.(21)

The first political divisions of Dorchester County, called Hundreds, were made before 1689 and included Great Choptank Hundred, Nanticoke Hundred, Transquaking Hundred, Fishing Creek Hundred, and Little Choptank Hermitage (or Armitage) Hundred, Straits Hundred, and Cambridge Hundred.(22) The term "hundred" comes from Old English and designates a specific area or community from which one hundred men could be recruited for military service.(23) In Little Choptank Hundred, which included land that would become the Jacob Jackson Home Site, authorities appointed white landowners Raymond Stapleford, John Pollard, and William Stevens Justices of the Peace. They were to "enquire…of all manners of felonies, witchcraft, enchantments, sorceries, magic arts, forestallings, engrossings and extortions whatsoever."(24)

Increased land platting and development further stressed relations between the Nanticoke, the Choptank, and European settlers. The Choptanks were aggrieved by the continual encroachment of the settlers, stating in 1669 that "we never sold any land to the English, nor gave permission to seat any lands on the south side of the Choptank higher than Willam Stephen's Creek, yet the English do daily encroach…sit down amongst them in their clear fields with their cattle and hogs destroying their corn without which they cannot subsist."(25) A Choptank Indian Reservation was established near the future town of Cambridge. The reservation was described as,
"all that land on the south side of Choptank River, bounded westerly by the free-hold now in possession of William Dorrington and easterly with Secretary Sewalls' creek for breadth, and for length three miles into the woods; to be held of his lordship under yearly rent of six beaver skins."(26)

One year later, representatives of the Lord Proprietary and the Nanticoke signed the first of five treaties to secure peaceful relations and provide clear title to the property for the Proprietary.(27) Skirmishes between the Nanticoke and the settlers continued.(28) In 1704, another act was passed creating a four-thousand-acre reservation on the north side of the Nanticoke River. The preamble stated that it would be "most just that the Indians, the ancient inhabitants of the province, should have a convenient dwelling place, especially the Nanticoke Indians in Dorchester County, who for some years past had lived in peace and concord with the English." The Proprietary government, however, considered the land of the reservation marginal and unsuitable for agriculture. The same year as the reservation establishment, the members of the Choptank tribe sold 4,660-acres of land along the south side of the Choptank River, from Shoal Creek to Ennalls Creek, to Thomas Ennalls. By the early 1700s, the Ennalls family owned land from Shoal Creek on the west through Airey and Bucktown, almost to Vienna.(29) In 1744, the Nanticoke requested permission to leave the province and live among the Six Nations of the Iroquois, though members of the Nanticoke tribe remained in Dorchester County.(30)

The town of Cambridge was founded in April 1684 when Assemblymen passed an act locating a town on Daniel Jones' plantation on the south side of the Great Choptank River. Cambridge was just one of many "ports of entry" for tobacco established in the 1680s. Others included Islington, Bristol, Dorset, Vienna, and Yarmouth. Few of these grew beyond small shipping ports except for Cambridge and Vienna (Figure 2). In 1687 the county court was transferred to Cambridge, and a courthouse was constructed, helping to guarantee future growth.(31) Vienna, the second oldest municipality in Dorchester County, was founded around 1706. Vienna began as a simple tobacco inspection station and grew into shipbuilding center by the mid-eighteenth century.(32) It was located on an elevated site on the Nanticoke River, and benefitted from a deep moorage to serve as the western terminus of the Nanticoke River ferry by 1671. The town was named Vienna at the suggestion of Jacob Loockermans, an ancestor of the man who first surveyed land of the Jacob Jackson Home Site in the eighteenth century.(33)

Overland transportation routes in Dorchester County remained limited. The "County Road" between Cambridge and Taylor's Island was the only improved road through the area of the Jackson Home Site until the early nineteenth century. This road, with modifications, became known as present-day Taylor's Island Road, or State Route 16, and forms the western boundary of the Home Site.(34)

In much of Dorchester County tobacco cultivation regulated the seasonal patterns of land use and human movement, though not in the watershed of Parson's Creek, which remained wooded and marshy. But to the north and east near Tobacco Stick, Cambridge, and Bucktown, most laborers, white and Black, free and enslaved, faced the overriding task of clearing the land for agriculture. They lived in hastily constructed shelters near the isolated fields in which they worked.(35) The cultivation of tobacco was labor-intensive and quickly drained nutrients from the soil. New land needed to be cleared and brought into cultivation every few years, so fields were small. In addition, land needed to be chosen carefully for spring freshets could destroy a crop planted too close to a riverbank, and inundation could flood a field.

To prepare land for crops, laborers girdled standing trees in February, burned underbrush, and tilled the ground, pulling the clumpy soil into knee-high hills. They then planted tiny tobacco seedlings into the hills in May and June. Weeds, which would steal nutrients from the young tobacco plants and shade them, were pulled, mainly by the enslaved. They crushed green hornworms under their feet

and pinched the tobacco stems to hinder flowering. At harvest, laborers pushed small wooden pegs through stems, and hung them by pegs on a horizontal timber to cure. Each laborer was expected to tend about ten thousand tobacco plants a season in the late seventeenth century.(36) By 1740, more than ten million pounds of tobacco were exported from the Eastern Shore, and enslaved people of African descent became Maryland's dominant workforce.(37) Between 1700 and 1775, more than one hundred thousand African people were forced into slavery by those of European descent in Maryland.(38)

Land development and capital investment in the central Eastern Shore, and thus the importation of enslaved African people to the area, was also impacted by a decades long dispute over the location of the border between Maryland and Pennsylvania, and later Delaware. Eventually, the dispute would center on Slaughter Creek, a tributary of the Little Choptank, about a mile and a half west of the Jacob Jackson Home Site.

Transpenninsular Line Survey and the Slaughter Creek Boundary Question
The border dispute, whose foundations were laid in 1681 by Charles II, lasted almost one hundred years. The dispute limited investors' ability to patent land in southern Dorchester County, which increased economic risk and therefore slowed development. In 1681, seven years after the English took control of the Delaware Valley, Charles II granted approximately 45,000 square miles to William Penn (1644-1718) as repayment for a loan of sixteen thousand pounds made to the displaced king by William Penn's father, an admiral in the Royal Navy. The grant of "Penn's Woods" or "Pennsylvania" encompassed lands between the 39th and 42nd degrees north latitude and from the Delaware River westward for five degrees of longitude. The English king, not wanting to encroach upon land owned by his brother, the Duke of York, determined that the southern boundary of Pennsylvania would be twelve miles from New Castle. New Castle was a small settlement on the Delaware River founded in the mid-seventeenth century by the Dutch.(39)

When Penn's agents arrived to administer the grant, they realized that the new province of Pennsylvania did not include navigation or egress to the Atlantic Ocean. Fearing that the lands of Pennsylvania might ultimately become landlocked, Penn petitioned the British Crown to extend his patent to include the west side of the Delaware River. This extension encompassed a twelve-mile arc around New Castle and was critical to provide for future port facilities. Therefore, Penn petitioned the Duke of York to add the "Lower Counties" of New Castle, Kent, and Sussex (the future state of Delaware) to his patent. Both petitions were granted in 1682. As a result of the addition of the lands of the "Lower Counties" to the Pennsylvania patent, Pennsylvania had two colonial assemblies. One was for the "Upper Counties," originally Bucks, Chester, and Philadelphia. The other assembly represented the "Lower Counties on the Delaware," directly north of the land claimed by Lord Baltimore. The boundary however, between the Maryland and Pennsylvania colonies remained in dispute.

To clarify these boundaries, in 1701 Isaac Taylor of West Chester County and Thomas Pierson of New Castle County were appointed to survey and mark the boundary arc from the Delaware River westward for 120 degrees or two-thirds of a semicircle.(40) Later, the Agreement of 1732 called for seven commissioners to mark the boundaries of the two provinces. According to 1732 Agreement, a line was to be drawn due west from "Cape Henlopen" on Fenwick's Island across the Delmarva Peninsula. From the center of this line another line would be drawn tangent to a circle twelve miles from New Castle. In addition, a meridian line from the tangent point would be continued to within fifteen miles south of the southern-most point of Philadelphia. From there a line would follow a parallel line westward, thereby dividing the provinces.(41) But another legal battle ensued, and the work was delayed for years. In 1750 Lord Hardwicke issued a decree as High Chancellor requiring that the agreement of 1732 be carried out. Commissioners from Maryland and Pennsylvania met in New Castle and decided that the Courthouse should be the center of the New Castle arc and that a "transpennisular line," from Cape Henlopen to the Chesapeake Bay, should be surveyed and marked.

By April 1751 the work of extending the line had begun and by June 12th surveyors had reached Slaughter Creek, which divided Taylor's Island from the mainland just west of Parson's Creek. Three days later they came to the eastern side of the Chesapeake Bay. Maryland Commissioners argued that the survey line should end at the shore of Slaughter Creek. For if the shore of Slaughter Creek

was determined to be the end point, then the middle point of the line would fall further to the east, thus granting more territory to Maryland than Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Commissioners countered that Slaughter Creek should not be regarded as part of the Chesapeake Bay as it was only two feet deep at low tide. Instead, they argued that the survey line should extend all the way to the open water of the Bay, thus placing the center point of the survey line further to the west and granting Pennsylvania more land.(42) Finally in 1757 a draft of an agreement was made which reached its final form three years later. The Commissioners of 1760 accepted the line initially run in 1751 from Fenwick Island to the Chesapeake Bay. They fixed the line, and the southern border of Maryland was finally ratified (Figure 3).

In 1763 Josiah Mason and Charles Dixon were hired to survey all portions of boundary left incomplete or in question. In January 1769, the King in Council ratified the Mason and Dixon Line as the settled boundary between the Provinces of Maryland and Pennsylvania.(43) With the title to the lands in the southern half of Dorchester County now finally clear, capital investment in infrastructure increased, and the local economy diversified from agriculture into shipbuilding and timbering.

Growth of the Shipbuilding and Timbering Economies:
Though tobacco was the main export in Dorchester County through the Revolutionary War, most Eastern Shore farmers relied upon European merchant ships to transport their crops to overseas markets instead of domestic vessels. Most colonists lacked the capital necessary to build an ocean-worthy ship.(44) Yet as tobacco prices became increasingly volatile and the relationship between Europe and the colonies strained, some colonists began shipbuilding businesses. Indeed, shipbuilding became a hedge against an economic downturn when tobacco prices declined, and locally built ships provided more secure transport when relations with Europe became difficult.

The natural topography and resources of the central Eastern Shore favored the shipbuilding industry. The deep channels of local rivers offered shipwrights the protection of inland locations without compromising the size of the ships they might build. Nearby forests provided ample timber, though the swampy ground made harvesting and transporting timber challenging.(45) Tall, straight pine trunks were used for masts, and oak formed the substructure and cladding of the boat, the most critical material in wooden ship construction.(46)

By the mid-eighteenth century, shipbuilding was driving the development of the region's small towns, including Dorchester Town (Church Creek), Loomtown (Woolford/Milton), and Tobacco Stick (Madison), northeast of Parson's Creek.(47) Church Creek, first known as Dorchester Town, then White Haven, was a shipbuilding center from the mid-seventeenth century through the 1850s. It had two shipyards, a boat wharf, and numerous residences of lumbermen, watermen, and shipbuilders, including caulkers, painters, carpenters, and rope-makers.(48) Loomtown, a small village west of Church Creek and east of the Home Site, may have been named for a concentration of weavers in the area. In 1682, the Assembly passed an act authorizing the Dorchester County Court Commissioners to pay six pounds of tobacco for every yard of linen woven and ten pounds for every yard of woolen cloth. Though repealed in 1697, they adopted additional measures to encourage domestic manufacturing of fabric and spinning and weaving continued to supplement residents' income through the first half of the nineteenth century. Flax, woven into linen to form sails, linked Loomtown to the dominant shipbuilding industry. By 1760, the village of Tobacco Stick, present-day Madison, was located on Tobacco Stick Bay about twelve miles west of Cambridge and two miles northeast of Parson's Creek and the Jackson Home Site. Shipbuilding and timbering became the primary industries in Tobacco Stick by the late eighteenth century. By the first few decades of the nineteenth century, shipbuilding was integral to the economy around Parson's Creek as well. Though Jacob and Dinah Jackson were farmers who grew grain and corn and raised small herds of livestock, many of their neighbors helped build ships or worked for the timber companies that supplied them.

As the central Eastern Shore economy transitioned from tobacco to grains to timber and shipbuilding, an enslaved fixed labor force became less advantageous for white planters. Unlike tobacco which required care through the growing season, grain cultivation required short, intense bursts of activity at certain times of the year. In addition, grains had to be processed locally due to a lack of reliable overland transportation routes. While the wooden windmills that dotted the low-lying landscape provided energy to process grain, they were often a poor substitute for water mills which could grind

on calm days, as well as windy. Water mills, however, required elevation change and a reliable consistent flow of fresh water, both of which were rare in the lowlands around Parson's Creek. Shipbuilding and timbering expanded, but they too, were seasonally focused. Therefore, supporting an enslaved labor force year-round made less economic sense than hiring labor only when necessary. Gradually the economy of Dorchester County was shifting from an economy based on enslaved labor to an economy based primarily on free labor. Yet, some white planters clung to the enslaved labor system and tried to adjust to a seasonally based labor cycle by monetizing the people they held in bondage. A system of "hiring-out" of enslaved labor became ingrained in the economy of Dorchester County, partially in response to the sporadic nature of available work. In addition, in the early nineteenth century, as demand for labor grew in the deep south following the invention of the cotton gin in 1793 and the newly opened western territories, the price slave traders would pay for enslaved people increased. As a result, the number of enslaved people sold south increased.(49)

The diverse economy of Parson's Creek, and the central Eastern Shore, evolved within a legislative framework that increasingly limited the rights of free Black residents and codified slavery. On the eve of the Revolutionary War, Maryland's legislature adopted a Declaration of Rights codifying individual rights to life, liberty, and property: "No freeman ought to be taken, or imprisoned, or disseized of his freehold, liberties or privileges…or deprived of his life, liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers or by the law of the land."(50) Unlike the United States and Virginia constitutions, which declared liberty to be a right of all men, Maryland's new constitution protected only the liberty of men already free. In 1776, most Black people in Maryland were enslaved.

In addition to having their legal rights curtailed, the physical proximity of both free and enslaved Black people was often tenuous. Men and women would marry, then white planters forced their separation by selling the enslaved person or "hiring-out" their labor. In addition, according to Maryland law, children of enslaved women remained enslaved even if their fathers were free.(51) The close relationships between families and friends who were free and those enslaved meant that even once free, Black people often remained in the area.(52) Today, the stratified landscape formed by this harsh dual labor system can be read in the traces of roads, canals, and farms that etch the woods and marshlands of White Marsh in the watershed of Parson's Creek.

Early Patenting, Surveying and Settlement in the Little Choptank River Watershed:
Gradually by the second half of the eighteenth century, the landscape of the central Eastern Shore developed into a mosaic of farms and small plantations carved from thick swaths of forest. Vegetable gardens, freely seeded orchards, and half-cleared pasture where cattle and hogs grazed under scrubby trees surrounded small timber frame houses. Most people who lived on the land practiced subsistence agriculture and, where possible, small-scale husbandry and grain farming for trade.(53) Most land was forested and owned by the Thompson, Loockermans, Woolford, Tall, Harrington, Hodson, Jones, and Martin families. Their land deeds and patents provide a glimpse of sparse eighteenth-century settlement in the region. Yet, though settlement was limited, descendants of these few families influenced development here for the next two hundred years.

Jacob Jackson's land in the mid-nineteenth century was part of an unpatented 581-acre tract named "Loockermans Regulation" surveyed in 1756 by Thomas Loockermans, and again by Roger Woolford in 1761. The tract encompassed the eastern and western shore of Tobacco Stick Bay and extended southward across the County Road [Taylor's Island Road] to Parson's Creek (Figure 4). By the time Thomas Loockermans surveyed "Loockermans Regulation" in the eighteenth century, the Loockermans family had been in North America for more than one hundred and forty years and were one of the wealthiest and well-connected families in the colonies.(54)

Govert Loockermans, son of a poor peat cutter and a direct ancestor of Thomas Lockermans, was born in 1617 in Turnout, a small city in the southern Netherlands, about twenty-five miles northeast of Antwerp. When Govert was about sixteen years old, he signed on with the West India Company in Amsterdam as a cook's mate on the cargo ship, the "De Soutbergh" bound for New Netherland. The ship landed in New Amsterdam in May 1633 and Govert got a job working as a clerk with the West India Company. A few years later, when the West India Company released their trading monopoly and allowed immigrants to trade furs, Govert began work as an independent fur trader. Through his position with the West India Company, he learned about trading routes and tensions among the

Indigenous people and European settlers. Over time Govert built a successful trading company and acquired extensive real estate holdings in New Amsterdam. When Govert died around 1671, he was one of the wealthiest men in the colonies. Following the twenty-year probate of Govert Loockermans' estate, his son, Jacob Loockermans, denunciated his right to inherit.(55) Jacob, a barber/surgeon, soon married Ellinor Keiting and left New York for St. Mary's County in Maryland (Figure 5).(56) Jacob and Ellinor then purchased land in Dorchester County and had five children, including a son named Govert.(57) Govert and his son, Jacob Loockermans, held influential positions within the Dorchester County government. They served as Justices of the Peace, Justices of the Court, and Sheriff in various years between 1687 and 1725. The family owned extensive property on Cabbin and Hunting Creeks, on the Honga River, and along southern tributaries of the Choptank, including Parson's Creek. In the early 1720s, Goovert [Govert] Loockerman's purchased some of this land from Choptank tribe leaders, including "Betty Caco, Queen of the Ababco Indians and Pemetasusk, Queen of the Hard Swamp Indians".(58) Further research is necessary to determine the chain of title, but according to the elder Jacob Loockermans' 1730 will, the Loockermans family owned more than 2,400 acres of land, including a "dwelling plantation" on a 1,000-acre parcel of land west of Cambridge called "Regulation."(59) Jacob Loockermans, Govert Loockermans' son, had seven children. Under the English custom of primogeniture, his eldest son Jacob received the bulk of the estate.(60) Thomas Loockermans, who surveyed "Loockermans' Regulation" was Jacob's grandson. Thomas Loockermans died intestate, and his heirs sold the parcel to Roger Woolford, who patented or surveyed the parcel in 1768 to confirm his ownership rights.(61) The Loockermans family continued to buy and sell land in the area for the next one hundred years.

Like the Loockermans family, the Woolford family had been in the region for generations. Roger Woolford's grandfather, Roger Woolford Sr., had acquired more than six hundred acres by headright in the 1660s for transporting at least fourteen people to the colonies, including his wife and children.(62) In 1695 Colonel Roger Woolford Jr. married Elizabeth Ennalls, the daughter of another prominent English farmer, John Ennalls.(63) The family of Elizabeth Ennalls Woolford first came to the area in 1668 when Bartholomew Ennalls proved the headright for transporting himself, his wife Mary, his children, and indentured servants.(64) In celebration of their marriage, John Ennalls gave the newly married couple 345 acres from the patent "John's Point [Poynt]." The land was on the west side of Tobacco Stick Bay along the Little Choptank River, with rich arable soil and access to the bay.(65) It would remain some of the most valuable land in the area through the mid-nineteenth century.

Perhaps the beauty of the promontory impressed the young Elizabeth Ennalls and Roger Woolford, for they built one of the grandest homes in the region.(66) While the building is no longer extant, 1930s photographs reveal a T-shaped one-and-a-half-story building with brick walls laid out in a Flemish bond pattern. A wide foundation ornamented with a beveled water table supported the walls. Steeply pitched jerkinhead, or clipped gable, roofs capped the relatively large house (Figure 6).(67)

In 1704, Thomas Ennalls purchased 4,660 acres from the Choptank Indians extending along the south side of the Choptank River from Shoal Creek to Ennalls Creek, north of Cambridge.(68) A late eighteenth-century tax assessment, suggests the composition of relatively affluent landowners of the time, for his descendant, also named Thomas Ennalls, owned eleven tracts of land totaling 1,171 acres. Ennalls' principal residence, set on a 235-acre parcel named "Ennall's Discovery," was near a large frame barn and two smaller barns. Ten log houses, likely quarters for the enslaved, were located near an orchard and garden on an adjacent tract called "Nothing Worth Improved."(69) His brother, Bartholomew Ennalls, owned a very similar plantation."(70) Like the Woolford and Loockerman families, the Ennalls family remained major landowners in Dorchester County though the first half of the nineteenth century.

Members of the Tall family also owned land in the watershed of the Little Choptank by the early eighteenth century.(71) In 1751 planter Phillip Tall granted land near the head of Tobacco Stick Bay, including "orchard houses and fencing" on two tracts named "Chance" and "Division" to his son, Philip Tall.(72) In 1794, his descendant, Bruffit Tall purchased portions of two tracts of poorly drained land. The tracts, "Williams Goodwill" and "Trego's Spite," were located along the north side of "a branch of the Blackwater River," just south of what is now the Jacob Jackson Home Site.(73) By the early nineteenth century, Bruffit Tall had purchased additional land and built a farm on Taylor's Island Road, near where Jacob and Dinah Jackson would establish their farm later in the century and within

the present-day Jacob Jackson Home Site.

In 1775, Roger Woolford sold a portion of Loockermans Regulation to a planter named John Jones. Woolford had purchased his land from Thomas Loockerman's estate for "thirty-eight pounds common money in hand." The land included 152 acres south of the "main road that leads from the head of Tobacco Stick Creek to Taylors Island Ferry," near the mouth of Parson's Creek.(74) A 1792 receipt for household goods that Thomas Jones, John Jones's son, purchased his neighbor Phillimon Simmons reveals tools for both fishing and timbering, "one schooer boat called 'the Polly,' beds and furniture, one iron pot, ten pounds of pewter, and one whip saw.(75) Just a few years later, Jacob Jackson would be born enslaved to Thomas Jones.

Landscape Description, 1799:
Late eighteenth-century land deeds, chattel records (recording for the sale of material goods and enslaved people), tax assessments, and census data provide glimpses of the sparsely settled landscape of central Dorchester County. Simple dwellings dotted the edges of the Little Choptank River and along the "County Road" leading west from Cambridge past the small villages of White Haven, Loomtown, and Tobacco Stick. The "County Road" linked Cambridge to Taylor's Island through Tobacco Stick, but most travel was by water. Land in the watershed of Parson's Creek, south of Tobacco Stick, remained wooded and marshy through the eighteenth century (Figure 7).

Even the most substantial homes, like that of Elizabeth and Roger Woolford's, were only one or one-and-a-half stories with wood frame or brick construction. Piers lifted the buildings off the marshy ground. Small kitchen buildings stood near the main houses. (76) Likely both free and enslaved Black people lived in small houses, many of log construction, on or near the properties owned by their enslavers or former enslavers.(77) Barns and other agricultural support structures were found in clusters around farmyards, with fencing enclosing fields, meadows, and sprawling farm orchards. These orchards were often only informal plots of a few acres where trees sprouted from seeds buried by soil.(78) Cattle and pigs grazed in half-cleared meadows. Fields of corn hills and grain rows spread out around the bases of houses. Vegetable gardens, large enough to augment a family's diet, grew near entries. By the late eighteenth century, white planters of the Loockermans, Woolford, Jones, Thompson, and Martin families owned the land near Parson's Creek, but land ownership patterns were changing.

ENDNOTES
1 Christopher Weeks, Editor, Between the Nanticoke and the Choptank: An Architectural History of Dorchester County, Maryland, (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press), 1984, 23.
2 For the influences of Methodist and Quaker religions on enslaved manumission in Maryland see, Kenneth L. Carroll "Religious Influences on the Manumision of Slaves in Carloine, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties, Maryland Historical Magazine, 55 (1961); Ira Berlin, Slaves without Masters: The Free Negro in the Antebellum South (New York: Pantheon Books, 1974); see also, Robert J. Brugger Maryland A Middle Temperament, 1634 – 1980, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press), 1996.
3 Christopher Weeks, Editor, Between the Nanticoke and the Choptank: An Architectural History of Dorchester County, Maryland, (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press), 1984, 3-5
4 Two ancestral villages of the Nanticoke tribe were located in what became Dorchester County. The village known as Chicone (or Chicacone, Chicawan) was located north of present-day Vienna. Another Nanticoke ancestral village was located along the Choptank River in the vicinity of what became Cambridge.
5 Christopher Weeks, Editor, Between the Nanticoke and the Choptank: An Architectural History of Dorchester County, Maryland, (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press), 1984, 3.
6 Christopher Weeks, Editor, Between the Nanticoke and the Choptank: An Architectural History of Dorchester County, Maryland, (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press), 1984, 4.
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9 David W. Jordan, Foundations of Representative Government in Maryland 1632 – 1715, (Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1987), 12.
10 David W. Jordan, Foundations of Representative Government in Maryland 1632 – 1715,

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13 Ira Berlin, A Guide to the History of Slavery in Maryland, (Annapolis, MD: Maryland State Archives), 2008, 7-10.
14 Lorena Walsh, "The Chesapeake Slave Trade: Regional Pattersn, African Origins, and Some Implications," The William and Mary Quarterly LVIII, no. 1 (2001); see also David Eltis, "The Volume and Structure of the Transatlantic Slave Trade: A Reassessment," The William and Mary Quarterly LVIII, No 1 (2001), 148.
15 Between the late 17th century and 1740; see Ira Berlin, A Guide to the History of Slavery in Maryland, (Annapolis, MD: Maryland State Archives, 2008, 5.
16 Christopher Weeks, Editor, Between the Nanticoke and the Choptank: An Architectural History of Dorchester County, Maryland, (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press), 1984, 3.
17 Christopher Weeks, Editor, Between the Nanticoke and the Choptank: An Architectural History of Dorchester County, Maryland, (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press), 1984, 12.
18 Kate Larson, Historic Resource Study, The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park (Department of the Interior, National Park Service), 2020, 17.
19 Christopher Weeks, Editor, Between the Nanticoke and the Choptank: An Architectural History of Dorchester County, Maryland, (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press), 1984, 4.
20 Jones, 1902, 36. In 1773, northern Dorchester County was separated and became Caroline County. The boundaries of Dorchester County changed in 1704, 1712, 1755, and 1790. Present day Dorchester County contains less than half of its original area as when legally acquired by Lord Baltimore.
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22 Jones, 1902, 143.
23 Weeks, 1984, 13.
24 William Hand Brown, ed. Archives of Maryland: Proceedings of the Council of Maryland 1667-1688, p. 52-53, as quoted in Weeks, 14.
25 Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly, April/May 1669, Choptank Indians, Maryland State Archives
26 Elias Jones, History of Dorchester County Maryland (Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins), 1902, 172.
27 Weeks, 3.
28 Jones, 1902, 45.
29 Weeks, 1984, 313.
30 Jones, 1902, 176-177. In 1768 the Nanticoke received $666.66 in exchange for relinquishing their claim to land in the colony of Maryland.
31 Weeks 1984, 19.
32 Paul B. Touart., National Register Nomination, Vienna Historic District, (Annapolis, Maryland: Maryland Historical Trust), October 21, 2010.
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50 As quoted in McElvey 1972, 75-76.
51 Ira Berlin, A Guide to the History of Slavery in Maryland, (Annapolis, MD: Maryland State Archives), 2008, 7-10.
52 Fields, 32.
53 Dorchester County, Maryland 1783 Supply Tax, Maryland State Archives, General Assembly, Assessment Record, 1783, MSA S1161-54 through 56.
54 "Loockerman's Regulation", Dorchester County, Surveyed for Jacob Loockermans, May 3, 1756, Patented to Roger Woolford, November 7, 1768, Record of Cert. B.C. & G.S. No. 37/Folio 28. Maryland State Archives MSA_S1196_2193. This parcel should not be confused with another parcel, also called "Loockerman's Regulation" 400-acres surveyed for the elder Jacob Loockermans' son Govert in 1715 and was patented in 1735 to Jacob Loockermans, Govert's son and Jacob's grandson. "Loockerman's Regulation" Surveyed for Govert Loockerman, March 8, 1715 and Surveyed for Jacob Loockerman, November 10, 1735. Maryland State Archives, Rec. of Cert. QL N. A, Folio 29 and E.I. No. 5, Folio 23, MSA_S1196_2192.
55 Willem Frijhoff, Govert Loockermans (1617-1671) and his relatives: How an Adolescent from Turnhout worked his way in the New World, Thesis, (Amsterdam, Netherlands: Erasmus University, Rotterdam/VU University, January 7, 2016., 26. One of the issues addressed during the probate was whether Govert's wife, as a woman, was entitled to inherit more than a dowager's one third the estate. Under Dutch law they were, under English law they were not. Jacob was indebted to his brother-in-law Jacob Leisler for forty-thousand pounds of tobacco, so perhaps to settle the debt he conveyed all his estate in New Netherland to Leisler.
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57 Frijhoff , 2017, 30. Their five children that lived to adulthood were Jacob, Govert, Mary, Thomas, and Nicholas Loockermans; see also Joseph S. Ames, "Genealogies of Four Families of Dorchester County, Harrison, Haskins, Caile and Loockerman (Continued from Volume XI, p 83)", Maryland Historical Magazine, Volume XI, 1916, 193 – 200 & 295
58 Govert Loockerman's purchased a portion of his property, from tribes of the Choptank Indians in June 1722. See Dorchester County Deed, 2 Old 115. Govert Loockermans from Betty Caco, Queen of the Abaco Indians, et. al. June 13, 1722. "Betty Caco, Queen of the Abaco Indians, daughter & heir of Winacaco late of Dorchester County deceased who was ruler and King of aforesaid, Abapco Indians and Pemetasusk, Queen of the Hatch Swampe Indians, daughter and Heir of Patch Youske, late of Dorchester County deceased who was ruler and King of the aforesaid Hatch Swampe Indians, together with the free will, approbation, advice and consent of the rulers, governors, great men and others of the aforesaid Indians to Goovert Loockermans for ten pounds sterling. Land included "lying and being in the Parish of the Great Chop-tank in Dorchester County, called Poulks Content, and other the premises thereunto adjoining the county aforesaid . . .ten pounds sterling." Further research

is necessary to determine the exact location of the land purchased, but it likely included land that would become part of Loockerman's Regulation.
59 Willem Frijhoff, Govert Loockermans (1617-1671) and his relatives: How an Adolescent from Turnhout worked his way in the New World, Thesis, (Amsterdam, Netherlands: Erasmus University, Rotterdam/VU University, January 7, 2016, 21-30.
60 Frijhoff 2017, 30-45.
61 "Loockermans Regulation" 581 acres surveyed for Thomas Loockermans 30 May 1756, Patented to Roger Woolford 7 November 1768, MSA_S1196_2193; see also, Hester Dorsey Richardson, Side-lights on Maryland History, with Sketches of early Maryland Families. (Baltimore, Maryland: Williams and Wilkins Company, 1913, 351 -355; According to the 1916 Ame's study of the Loockerman family in Dorchester County, Thomas Loockerman was born after the year 1714 when his namesake and half-brother was drowned. His father refers to him in his will (1729) as a minor, and his brother Jacob speaks of him in his will (1731) as being at school. Thomas's will was written September 20, 1762 and was proved on March 29, 1769.
62 Jones, 1902, 398, as cited in Jones Dorchester County Headright Deeds, Old 5, folio 210, Old 6 folio 134, Old 8 folio 486, Old 11 229 & 359. According to Jones, between 1662 and 1665, Woolford transported the following individuals the colony, Mary Woolford, and Mary Woolford again, Levin and Sarah Denwood, John Wells, Martha Robinson, Owen Mackara, Mary Thomas, Elizabeth and Rebecca Denwood, Richard Prinum, Barbary Gilbert, Thomas Somers and Elizabeth Gradwell.
63 Paul B. Touart, National Register Nomination for John's Point Site, Brooks Road, Maryland, Chesapeake County Heritage and Preservation, 10-15-2012. Elizabeth's father, John Ennalls, acquired "John's Point" from John Hodson, an English planter who had surveyed the land in 1665After the sale of his land to Ennals, Hodson remained a major land owner in the area and acquired an unpatented tract of more than 2100 named "Maiden Forrest" in 1695, the same year Roger and Elizabeth Woolford came to live at John's Poynt.
64 "Woolford's Beginning" 241 acres surveyed for Levin Woolford, February 25, 1762 and Patented to Levin Woolford September 29, 1762.
65 Rodger and Elizabeth Woolford from John Ennalls, August 5, 1695, Deed Old 5 folio 62, Dorchester County Land Record.
66 Jones 1901, 160; see also, Paul Touart, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, John's Point, Chesapeake County Heritage & Preservation, Maryland Historical Trust, October 15, 2012. This point is controversial, however. Weeks suggests that the brick residence was constructed around 1665 by John Hodson, the original patent holder. However Touart argues that if this is the case, it is surprising that the building is not mentioned in the bequest of John's Point by John Ennalls to his daughter Elizabeth in 1694.
67 Weeks 1984, 16. Photograph of house is in Henry Chandlee Forman's Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland, (Easton, Maryland: privately printed for the author, 1934), p 161; a photograph is also reproduced in Jones, History of Dorchester County, New Revised, on pp 170 and 171.
68 Weeks 1984, 13.
69 Dorchester County, Maryland 1783 Supply Tax, Maryland State Archives, General Assembly, Assessment Record, 1783, MSA S1161-54 through 56.
70 Dorchester County, Maryland 1783 Supply Tax, Maryland State Archives, General Assembly, Assessment Record, 1783, MSA S1161-54 through 56..
71 One of the earliest transfers of land between members of the Tall family occurred in 1702 when Anthony Tall gave to his brother, Philip Tall "for Divers and good causes. . . specially for natural love" two large parcels of land called "Anthony's Chance" and "Anthony's Fortune." Both were located near Tobacco Stick Bay and the Little Choptank River." As referenced in later deed, Daniel Tall from Philip Tall, 13 June, 1751, Old 14/517, Dorchester County, Maryland State Land Records
72 Daniel Tall from Philip Tall, June, 13, 1751, Liber Old 14, folio 517, Dorchester County, Maryland State Land Records.
73 Bruffit Tall from William Trego, March 20 1794, Liber HD 6 Folio 359. Note, in census records, Bruffit Tall is also spelled Bruffit Tall. In 1796 Bruffit Tall and William Trego again entered into a contract. In exchange for one hundred and fifty four pounds and two shillings, Bruffit Tall received the land of "Trego's Spite" and "Williams Good-will" resurveyed so that they included thirty-eight and one-quarter acres, as well as a seven-and-three quarter acres tract located on the "north side of a Great Beaver-dam, called and known by the name of "Addition to Good-luck." Both "Addition to Outlet" and "Trego's/Tregoes Division" were located south and west of the property owned in the 1850s by Jacob

Jackson.
74 John Jones from Roger Woolford, February 8, 1775, Liber Old 27, Folio 406.
75 Thomas Jones from Phillimon Simmos October 4, 1793. Liber HD 4, Folio 193, Maryland State Archives.
76 As there are no buildings remaining on the Jacob Jackson Home Site, this description is based on architectural study of buildings in the vicinity of the property. Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant, Maryland Historical Trust, "E.C. Flynn House, Maryland Historical Trust Worksheet for the Nomination Form for the National Register of Historic Places" (Annapolis, Maryland: Maryland Historical Trust), May 1, 1975.
77 Analysis of 1783 Tax Assessment for Southern Dorchester County reveals that most properties with dwelling houses had a separate kitchen, and many had numerous "other houses". The material construction of the houses is usually not described.
78 Susan Dolan. Fruitful Legacy: A Historic Context of Orchards in the United States, with Technical Information for Registering Orchards in the National Register of Historic Places, (Boston, Massachusetts: Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, National Park Service 2009), 32.

Figure 1. [Map of Virginia] / discovered and described [sic] by Captain John Smith 1606 [?] William Hole. Indicating the territories of tribes along the Chesapeake Bay. (Library of Congress)

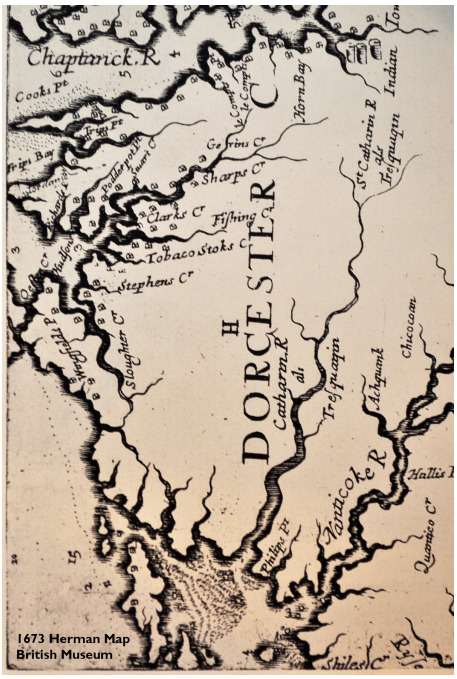


Figure 2. Detail from the Virginia and Maryland as it is planted and inhabited this present year 1670, showing Stephens Creek and "Tobaco Stoks," Cambridge is further to the east, Herrman, Augustine, 1673. (Library of Congress)

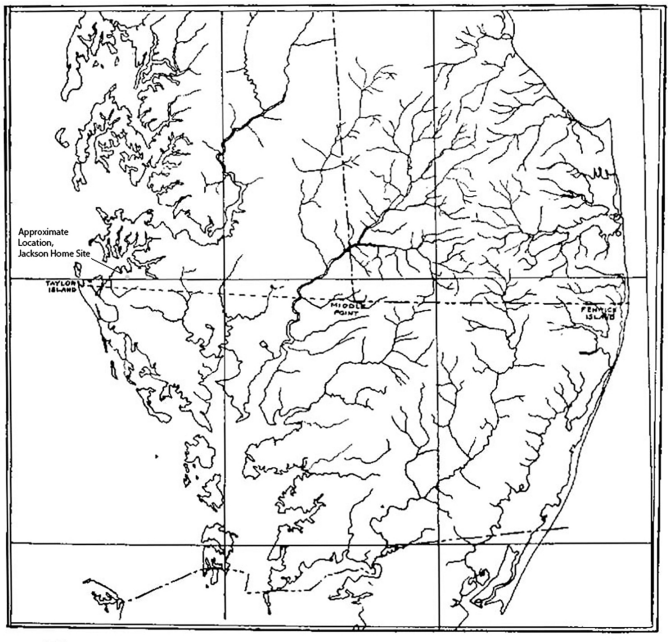
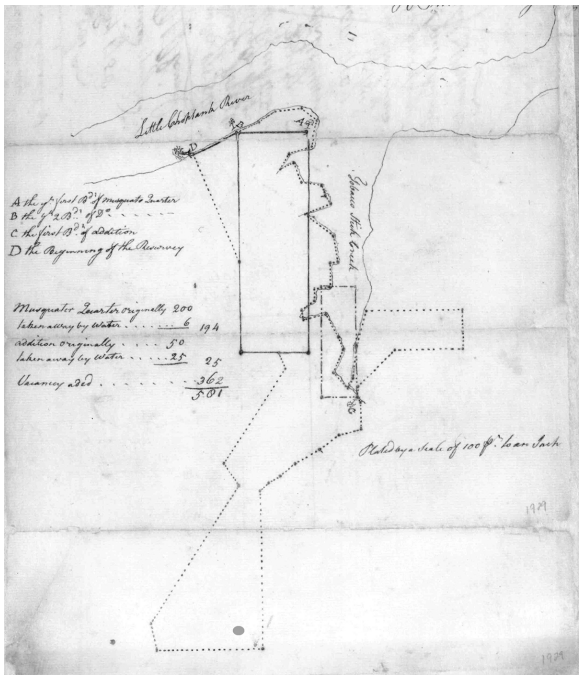


Fig. 2. The Transpeninsular Line showing the Middle Point.

Figure 3. Detail from the Transpennisular Line, 1751, indicating the surveyed line across Slaughter Creek to Taylor's Island, west of the Jackson Home Site. (Maryland Historical Society)



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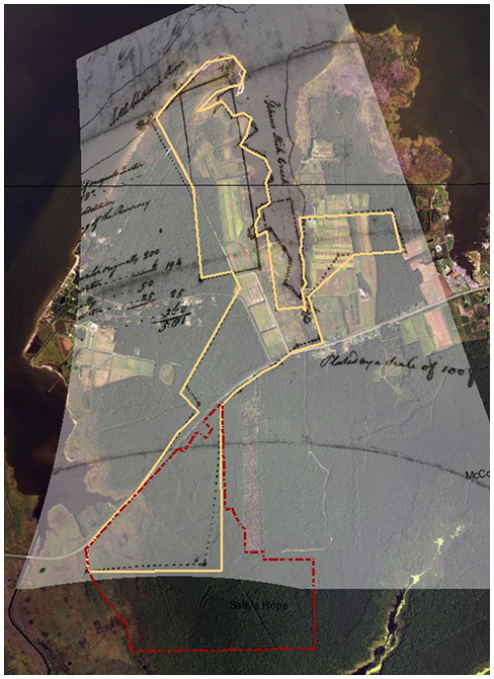
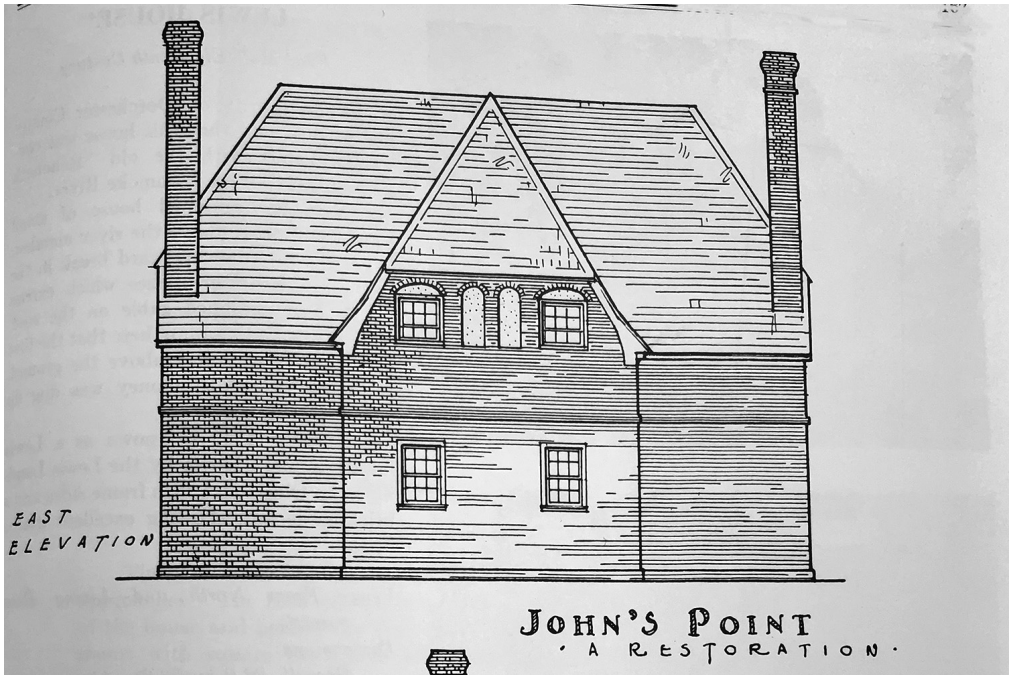


Figure 4. Loockermans' Regulation land plat, 1756, as drawn for Roger Woolford, overlaid on a Google Earth aerial image. The red line is the Park boundary. (Maryland State Archives & OCLP)

Figure 5. Detail from A map of the British Empire in America with the French and Spanish settlements adjacent thereto, 1733 showing the relationship between the colony of New York and the Chesapeake Bay about the time of Loockerman's emigration. (Library of Congress)



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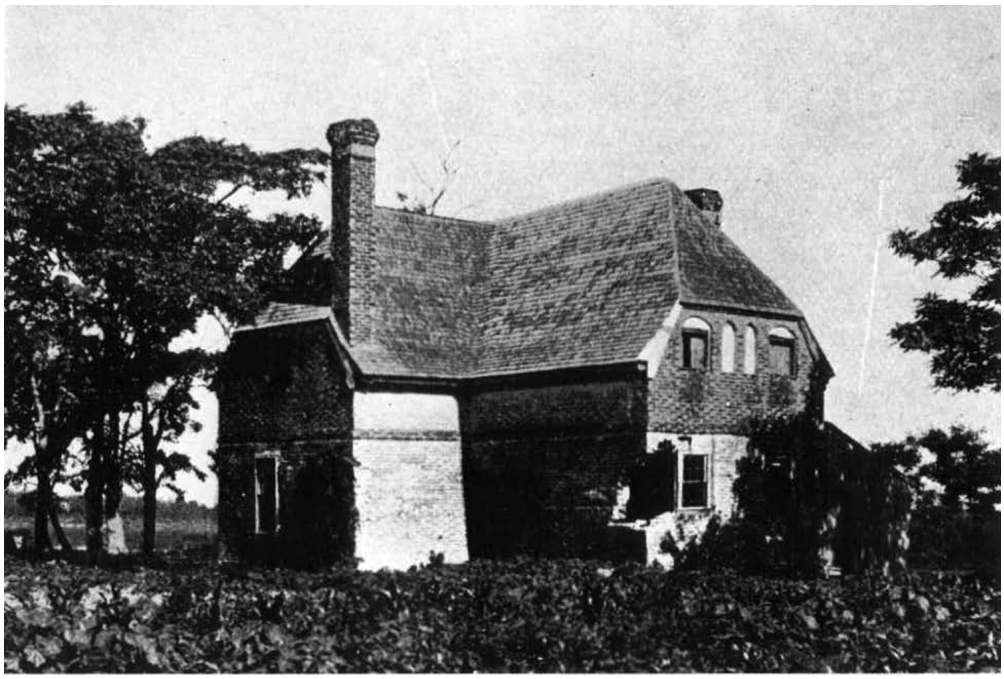


Figure 6. Drawing and photograph of Johns Point, the late 18th-century house of Elizabeth Ennalls Woolford and Rodger Woolford, from Jones, History of Dorchester County, New Revised, 1902. The house is no longer extant, but it provides insight into the homes of relatively wealthy families, just north of the Jackson Home Site. (Cambridge Public Library)

Figure 7. Detail from the Map of the Lower Eastern Shore, 1794 showing the extant of marshy land within the county, as well as the "County Road" from Cambridge to Taylor's Island, also known as Taylor's Island Road, and presently Maryland State Route 16. (Library of Congress)

PERIOD TWO (PART 1): WHITE MARSH AND PARSON'S CREEK ON PETER'S NECK, 1800–1854

Period Summary:
As the first half of the nineteenth century progressed and the labor system unpinning this timbering, shipbuilding, and agricultural economy incorporated more free and paid labor, land ownership patterns changed. Newly free Black men and women leased and purchased property here, imprinting the soggy landscape with small farms and simple one-story homes, and forging a new community on Peter's Neck that became known as White Marsh. Around the year 1800, Jacob Jackson was born enslaved on Peter's Neck south of Taylor's Island Road near the mouth of Parson's Creek, on the land of the patent "Loockerman's Regulation." At his birth, Jacob and the land upon which he lived were owned by a white planter named John Jones.

By 1830, Jacob Jackson and his future wife, Dinah Bell, were recorded as free and living on Peter's Neck southeast of Parson's Creek surrounded by their Black neighbors, some enslaved and some free. Later as a married couple, the Jackson's purchased land further west near the juncture of Parson's Creek and the Little Choptank River, not far from Taylor's Island Road. Compared to their first home deep in the hinterlands of White Marsh, their new land was more valuable for it was near major transportation routes. However, throughout their lives, the Jacksons remained physically and socially connected to the more isolated community, where members of the Ross and Tubman families had lived for generations. Roads, footpaths, and drainage ditches crisscrossed the landscape between the Jackson farm and the community of White Marsh. By the mid-nineteenth century, free Black families lived throughout the area, though few owned the land upon which they lived. In 1854, when Harriet Tubman reached out to Jacob Jackson for help in freeing her brothers from slavery, Jacob was farming valuable land he owned as a free literate man, only a short distance from where he had been born enslaved.

Early Development of White Marsh and Parson's Creek:
The community of White Marsh developed south of Tobacco Stick, between present-day White Marsh Road and Harrisville Road. It likely first coalesced along a logging track during construction of the Blackwater and Parson's Creek Canal [Stewart's Canal] in the early nineteenth century. But its foundations were laid earlier. In the early 1790s, a few prominent Dorchester County planters, Thomas Hill Ariey and Thomas Ennals among others, were spurred by economic factors and religious convictions, to manumit some of the people they enslaved.(79) Some freed their slaves immediately. Others were freed after many years.(80) These people were likely among the earliest free Black members of what grew to be the White Marsh community. The connection between individuals manumitted during this period and the residents living on Peter's Neck in White Marsh, however, is difficult determine with certainty. An examination of early nineteenth-century census records yields limited information on free Black individuals, as they were listed only by first name. However, chattel, manumission, and deed records provide glimpses of continuity between the names of individuals manumitted and the names of free Black families living in the watershed of Parson's Creek in the first half of the nineteenth century.

The name "White Marsh" as the name of a landscape feature predates the community. A 1746 deed between white planters John William and John Pollard Jr. and planter William Leigh references the "White Marsh," and by the early nineteenth century, the north branch of Parson's Creek was named the "White Marsh Branch." The 1746 deed identified a fifty-acre tract of land called "Williams Goodwill," first surveyed in the late 1600s. The fifty-acre parcel lay "on the northeast side of the Great Dam or Bank ensuing out of that Great White Marsh which lies betwixt Blackwater and

Slaughter Creek."(81) The deed was characteristic of the time, for it described a relatively small plot of undeveloped land transferred between multiple white men from a few wealthy families. Though the survey from "Williams Goodwill" has not been found, an 1825 survey of "Mary's Fortune" references the earlier patent (Figure 8).(82) Land in central Dorchester County was surveyed, patented, and subdivided again and again for land speculation, to allot for family inheritance, and to settle debts.

Evidence of the location of the family who first enslaved Jacob Jackson threads through late eighteenth century Dorchester County deed records. In 1793, John Jones, the son of a man named Morgan [Morgain] Jones and father of Thomas Jones, who enslaved Jackson, sold a small portion of the land patent "Loockerman's Regulation" to Thomas Lockermans Sr.(83) Loockermans Jr. was a descendant of the original Loockermans family who surveyed the patent. About the same time as John Jones sold land of "Loockermans Regulation," Jones bought a house at the mouth of Parson's Creek (then known as St. Stephen's Creek) from white planter, Thomas Killman.(84) Jones then sold a portion of his land to William Martin, another local white planter. Within a few years, William Martin was living at the mouth of Parson's Creek near the Jones family.(85)

In 1797, William Martin surveyed two parcels of land, "Martin's Regulation" and "Martins Landing" (Figures 9 and 10). Both were comprised primarily of land Martin had acquired from the Jones family. "Martin's Regulation" was a 267-acre parcel which included one hundred acres of the southern portion of the patent Loockermans Regulation. "Martin's Landing" was a ¾-acre parcel bordering the mouth of Parson's Creek. William Martin also owned extensive acreage just north of the Blackwater River, including a parcel called "Martin's Purchase."(86) By the mid-nineteenth century, portions of all three, "Martin's Regulation," "Martin's Landing," and "Martin's Purchase" were owned by Jacob Jackson as a free African American man.(87)

One of the earliest recorded land purchases by free Black people in Dorchester County near White Marsh occurred much earlier, about the time that Jacob Jackson was born into slavery. In 1802 John Driver purchased two acres of land from Elizabeth [nee Jones] and Martin Killman (son of Thomas Killman), who lived near the head of Parson's Creek.(88) John Driver, a free Black man, was likely formerly enslaved by Henry Keene, a planter on Taylor's Island to the south.(89) Driver's land was part of a much larger tract called "Cator's Addition," marginal marshland west of Parson's Creek.(90) His parcel was described as "forty-one perches [approximately 600 feet] south of the County Road [Taylor's Island Road] near Parson's Creek."(91) Though there was no road access to Driver's property at the time, his land was "to be accessed via a [new] road which was to be laid-off on the east side of a large ditch." The ditch extended from the County Road southeast to Parson's Creek. The new road was likely Martin's Lane, which would run past Jacob and Dinah Jackson's farm to White Marsh in the mid-nineteenth century.(92) After a year, John Driver sold the two-acre parcel of land to white landowner John Willoughby. Driver later moved to a free Black community at the end of Egypt Road, east of White Marsh, and was eventually able to buy his son, Jerry Driver, out of bondage from someone named "Jones."(93)

About 1806, William Martin constructed a road named Martin's Lane, likely referenced in Driver's 1802 deed. Martin's Lane cut through fields southeast of the County Road (Taylor's Island Road) and led across Parson's Creek. By the mid-nineteenth century, Martin's Lane would extend past Jackson's property, across the Blackwater and Parson's Creek Canal, to join White Marsh Road. As development in the area increased, Martin's Lane became an essential link between the Black families living near Taylor's Island Road, including Jacob and Dinah Jackson, and the community of free and enslaved Black families living to the east near White Marsh Road.

During the first half of the nineteenth century, narrow Martin's Lane was one of the few roads that extended into the forested center of central Dorchester County instead of skirting the coasts. The land was marshy and not ideal for roads, but transportation routes were necessary to harvest and sell the land's increasingly valuable timber. By the early nineteenth century, the forests in Talbot County to the north, which had supplied the local shipbuilding industry for decades, were becoming depleted.(94) Dorchester County's thick wooded marshes and uplands could provide valuable raw materials to the shipbuilders, but timber investors needed better and cheaper ways to move timber to market. Though men had transported timber on rivers and streams for generations, tides and weather made

the waterways unreliable. Joseph Stewart, a local planter and shipbuilder, believed new canal technology could transport timber more easily than roads from the swampy interior woodlands of Peter's Neck into Tobacco Stick Bay.

Therefore in 1809, Stewart petitioned the Maryland State Assembly to permit him to dig a canal from the mouth of Parson's Creek through the White Marsh and into Tobacco Stick Bay.(95) In proposing the canal, Stewart was following contemporary trends in commercial goods transportation. The Potomac Canal had opened in 1802, and surveying of the land of the Erie Canal had begun in 1808. Stewart was also in an excellent position to make the infrastructure investment. In addition to having available financial capital, Stewart had at least one connection to the shipbuilding industry; he was married to Rachel Linthicum. The Linthicum family owned a significant shipbuilding business in Church Creek.(96) Following the War of 1812, domestic demand for fast schooners increased, which may have spurred Stewart to move forward with the canal construction to support increased timber trade. By 1814 Stewart began land speculation in the canal's path and paid Thomas Loockermans Jr. for a 222-acre parcel south of the County Road.(97) This was the same land that John Jones (father of the Thomas Jones, the man who enslaved Jacob Jackson) sold to Thomas Loockermans Sr. in 1793.(98)

In 1815, Joseph Stewart purchased a 50-acre tract near Parson's Creek from John and Nancy [nee Martin] Crawford for one thousand dollars.(99) The deed described the land as,
"near the head of Parson's Creek beginning for the same at a locust post standing on the south east side of a road called Martins Road [Martin's Lane] and directly opposite to where William Saunders formerly lived and from thense [sic] runs north thirty minutes west north thirty minutes west, one hundred and three and a half perches to another locust post, then north seventy four degrees west eighty seven perches to another locust post standing by the edge of a new road then southwest by south forty perches, then south seventy one degrees and fifteen minutes east nine perches to another locust post then southwest by south thirty five perches to the aforesaid Martins Road then with the same, south forty nine degrees east eleven and one half perches to bring on the said road then south eight degrees east one perch, then with a ditch cut on the south side of the said road south fifty two degrees and thirty minutes east thirty six and one half perches to a locust post in the said ditch it being the end of the third line of a deed given from the said John Crawford to a certain Philliomon Simmons, then with the same north sixty five degrees east eighty five perches, then south twenty nine perches, then with a straight line to the first beginning."(100)

Eventually, Jacob Jackson would own part of both parcels of land Stewart bought to build the Black Water and Parson's Creek Canal. Stewart speculated on land for the canal construction and timbering for the rest of his life. When he died in 1843, his son, future United States Congressman James Stewart, helped settle his father's estate by selling the cut-over timbered land, sometimes to free Black men.

The seven mile long Black Water and Parson's Creek Canal, later called Stewart's Canal, took more than twenty years to build and was likely constructed primarily by enslaved labor. The work was so dangerous that free Black and white workers would excavate the canal only when they had no other option.(101) Canal builders toiled deep in brackish water, shoveling out the heavy wet earth. In the summer, the air was hot and thick with mosquitoes. Yellow fever, malaria, and pneumonia were rampant, and a slip into deep water could be deadly.(102)

Anthony Thompson, a white planter and an investor in the Blackwater and Parson's Creek Canal, owned forested land on Peter's Neck on the shores of the Blackwater River. He, too, recognized the potential value of the timber and wanted to improve the arduous process of moving timber to market. The same year Stewart began purchasing land in the path of the canal, local white planters Anthony Thompson, William M. Robertson, Charles Jones, Horatio Jones, and Ezekiel Fitzhugh submitted a petition to the General Assembly to build a road from the "Baptist Meeting House [in Milton] to the Indian Landing on Blackwater River."(103) The men owned property along the proposed north-south route connecting the town of Milton with the wooded lowlands to the south.(104) In 1816, Baptist Meeting House/Thompson's New Road [present-day Harrisville Road] opened from Taylor's Island Road in Milton south to Indian Landing, south of Anthony Thompson's farm on the Blackwater River.

Even with the improved roads and canal, extracting timber from the marshy landscape around Parson 's Creek and the Blackwater River remained difficult. Working in temporary logging camps, free and enslaved men and women cut down and hauled enormous logs over marshy trails out to the canals and rivers. Along with the canal, small ditches, seasonal waterways, and tributaries of the Little Choptank River formed a network to connect the valuable timber to the market. Black watermen on the canal and nearby creeks and rivers floated logs to mills where sawyers cut the logs into lumber for the shipbuilding centers in Tobacco Stick, Church Creek, and Baltimore. Through their ability to move freely between the relatively isolated communities around Parson's Creek out to Baltimore and beyond, these Black watermen broadened the communication network between free and enslaved Black people.(105)

Early Lives of Jacob and Dinah Jackson:
Though not much is known yet about Jacob Jackson's early life as an enslaved person, in 1830 he was recorded on the federal census as a free Black man. At the time, he likely lived at the eastern end of Martin's Lane, in White Marsh with three other free Black people, another man between the ages of fifty-five and one hundred and two females.(106) One female was between ten and twenty-four, and another was between twenty-four and thirty-five years old.(107) According to an 1832 census of free Black men and women in Dorchester County, a young free woman named Dinah Bell, the future wife of Jacob, also lived in the community.(108) Indeed, Dinah Jackson's Certificate of Freedom, filed in June 1832, lists her name as Dinah Jackson. Dinah Bell and Jacob Jackson also lived near the home of Benjamin Ross, Harriet Tubman's father, and the Tubman household, where Harriet's future husband lived. A man named Denwood Camper also lived in a free Black household near Jackson, as did Phebe Keene, a free Black man between twenty-four and thirty-six years old, who lived as the head of household with three other people, all enslaved. Nearby Priscilla Maulin, an enslaved Black woman, lived as a head of household with four young, enslaved children (Figure 11).(109)

Unlike Jacob, Dinah Jackson, nee Bell, was born free in Dorchester County about 1802 to a woman named Rachel, last name unknown. William Markiss enslaved Rachel, and she received her freedom through his will. In 1800, a free Black woman named Rachel was a neighbor of Morgan Jones, the grandfather of the man who enslaved Jacob Jackson, though whether this Rachel was Dinah's mother in unknown.(110) According to Dinah's Certificate of Freedom recorded in 1832, Dinah Jackson was "five feet and five and one half inches tall, and of a chestnut color with a small scar over her left eye."(111) Jacob was described as "five feet eight inches tall and of a chestnut color with a small mole on the left side of his nose," in his freedom certificate (Figure 12).(112)

How Jacob Jackson gained his freedom is not entirely clear, but on January 23, 1826, Thomas Jones, son of John Jones, filed a deed of manumission in the Cambridge County Courthouse (Figure 13),
"Be it remembered that the following manumission was recorded on the 23rd day of January 1826 to wit –
known by all men in these presents that I Thomas Jones of John of Dorchester County in the State of Maryland for divers good causes and considerations me here unto moving have released from slavery liberated manumitted and forever set free and by these presents do hereby release from slavery liberate manumit and forever set free a certain negro man called Jacob from and after the expiration of the ten years I sold him to James Tall of the county afforded hereby acknowledging the said negro man called Jacob discharged from me my heirs executors and administrators from and after the expiration of the ten years he is to serve the said James Tall. In witness whereof I have here unto sit my hand and seal this 23rd day of January 1826."(113)

In 1830, two white men by the name of Thomas Jones lived in the Parson's Creek Election District. Most likely, the Thomas Jones who enslaved Jackson was the Thomas Jones who lived near the mouth of Parson's Creek near the shipbuilding enterprises of John and Nancy Crawford and Robert and Elizabeth Reddish. In offering freedom to Jacob after ten years of forced labor for another person, Jones was following a common practice. By limiting the term of enslavement, enslavers could ensure immediate income while providing for eventual manumission. In ten years, Jacob would be thirty-six, still young enough to fall below the forty-five-year age limit on manumission; under a 1796 Maryland law, it was illegal to free enslaved people over the age of forty-five.(114)

Yet only three months later, Dorchester County Sheriff and future governor of Maryland, Thomas H. Hicks, placed a notice in the local newspaper, the Cambridge Chronicle, advertising the auction of a person named “Jacob.”(115) The auction was to be held at the entrance to the Cambridge County Courthouse to satisfy the debts of James Tall (Figure 14).(116) Whether Jacob’s ten years of enslaved labor were auctioned is unknown, for sometimes those who owed debt placed notices advertising the future auction of slaves to encourage enslavers to pay. Whether or not Jacob Jackson’s term of service was auctioned, the 1830 census recorded Jacob Jackson as a free man.

In 1832, the year Dinah’s Certificate of Freedom was recorded, the number of requests in Dorchester County for Certificates of Freedom, which proved an individual’s free status, increased. That year the Maryland legislature passed an extensive statute to control the free Black population, partially in response to the insurrection of Nat Turner in Virginia in August 1831, during which Turner led a group of enslaved men to kill their enslavers and about fifty other white people. The Maryland law required free Black people to leave Maryland within six months of their manumission unless they had a “respectable” white person testify each year that they deserved to remain because of their ‘extraordinary good conduct and character.”(117) The law also imposed fines on any free Black person coming into the state or any person who harbored a free Black person in the state. With this law came an increase in the number of manumissions in Dorchester County and a rise in the number of sales of enslaved people to the southern and western states.(118)

Ship Building and Land Development in Parson’s Creek:
By the 1830s, a minor shipbuilding center had developed at the mouth of Parson’s Creek and east along the County Road to Tobacco Stick, though small-scale farming remained common. At the time, much of the land around the mouth of Parson’s Creek, as opposed to White Marsh where Jackson lived, was owned by a few white families. The Coursey, Crawford, Reddish, and Stewart families were all involved in the shipbuilding industry and had inherited their land through the Martin family. The fifth family, the Tall family, farmed land that included parcels purchased by Bruffit Tall (b. 1752 – d. 1825) at the beginning of the century.(119) The Stewart family owned land that Joseph Stewart had purchased for Black Water and Parson’s Creek Canal speculation and the timbering industry. Eventually, Jacob and Dinah Jackson and other free Black men and women would move to this area of Parson’s Creek and purchase land that once belonged to the Stewart, Reddish, and Coursey families.

In 1838, Robert and Elizabeth Reddish purchased a fifty-acre parcel of land at the mouth of Parson’s Creek for one thousand dollars from George and Ann Stapleforte, who owned a plantation on the western shore of Slaughter Creek on Taylor’s Island.(120) The property had come to the Staplefortes through Henny Martin, who inherited the property from her father or uncle, William Martin (builder of Martin’s Lane), and then married into the Stapleforte family. The same year Robert and Elizabeth Reddish purchased their fifty-acre parcel from the Staplefortes, the Reddish’s purchased the 3/4-acre patent “Martin's Landing,” at the mouth of Parson’s Creek, and the 57-1/4-acre parcel “Martins Regulation” from Daniel and Theresa Martin.(121) Daniel Martin had inherited the property in 1817 at the death of William Martin, his father.(122) Shortly after the Reddish’s purchased the 55-acre property from the Martin family, however, Elizabeth died. Elizabeth Reddish’s son, Thomas Corsey/Coursey, then inherited the land.(123) Like Robert Reddish, Thomas Coursey worked as a ship carpenter. Thomas’s eldest son James Coursey became a mariner. The local Tall family patriarch, Bruffit Tall, lived just south of Martin’s Lane and purchased his property near the mouth of Parson’s Creek in the early nineteenth century from Morgan Jones, grandfather of Thomas Jones who enslaved Jacob Jackson.(124)

At the time, water ditches ringed the small clayey fields of grains and Indian corn used for animal fodder which spread between the residences of the Reddish, Coursey, Crawford, and Tall families in Parson’s Creek (Figure 15). Their homes were simple one or one-and-one-half-story, wood frame or log structures set on piers set back slightly from Taylor’s Island Road. By the 1840s, members of the Tall family, including Levin Tall, Richard Tall, and Ruben Tall, owned farms both north and south of Taylor’s Island Road. The Tall family cemetery was near the intersection of Taylor’s Island Road and Martin’s Lane. Broken white marble headstones and clumps of daffodils still mark some graves. In 1821 Elizabeth Woolford Tall, wife of Bruffit Tall, passed away at age 38 and was the first to be

buried. By the late nineteenth century, at least ten Tall family members were buried in the cemetery. To the east and south of the Tall farms, Martin's Lane cut southeast from Taylor's Island Road through the fields across the Blackwater and Parson's Creek Canal and towards a growing community near White Marsh Road.(125)

Jacob and Dinah Jackson Purchase Land in White Marsh:
By the 1840s, on Peters Neck and in central Dorchester County, many white planters, shipbuilders, and timbering industrialists depended upon the skilled labor provided by both free and enslaved Black men and women. In some cases, this system of specialized labor and individual ingenuity allowed for economic advancement. Indeed, some free Black men and women in White Marsh, including Jacob and Dinah Jackson, were able to establish farms and become financially stable, despite pervasive discrimination. Most people, both free and enslaved, lived in small one or two-room log or timber frame houses, and few of those living in the watershed of Parson's Creek owned the land upon which they lived.

Yet in 1842, Jacob and Dinah Jackson purchased about forty acres of land just north of the Blackwater River near the eastern end of Martin's Lane in White Marsh for two hundred dollars from a man named Dennis Camper. This land was likely the first property the couple owned, as the Jacksons are not included in the land records for Dorchester County before this date. How they acquired the money to pay for the land is unknown, though there is a record of Jacob providing veterinary services for a horse belonging to a man named Levin Camper.(126) Several free Black families with the surname of Camper lived in the area at the time.(127) The 40-acre property included portions of two tracts, "Martin's Purchase" and "Chalmers Chance."(128) The patent "Martin's Purchase" was a 1792 resurvey by William Martin of portions of patents "White Oak Range" and "Chalmers Chance." "White Oak Range" was first granted in 1788 to Anthony Thompson whose plantation was east of White Marsh. "Chalmers Chance" was a 267-acre tract resurveyed for James Chalmers in 1761.(129) The 1842 land transaction between Camper and Jackson was witnessed by Richard Tall, the son of Bruffit Tall, who lived at the junction of Taylors Island Road and Martin's Lane.(130)

At the time, Jackson's 40-acre parcel bordered land owned by Joseph Stewart. Stewart had purchased his land in 1838 from white farmers Emanuel and Mary Ann Kelley, likely as part of the Black Water and Parson's Creek Canal construction.(131) Like Joseph Stewart, Dennis Camper purchased a portion of the land he sold to Jacob Jackson from Emanuel Kelley in 1840 when Kelley sold 62-acres to Camper for one hundred dollars.(132)

Shortly after Jacob and Dinah purchased their property and around the time of the birth of their daughter, Rose, Jacob was seriously injured. In January 1843, Jacob was in his home using an ax to hone a piece of wood. As he swung the ax upward it caught in a skein of yarn hanging from a beam over his head. The ax bounced and struck Jacob in the head. He was treated by three separate physicians before being operated on by Dr. Benjamin Harrison, a doctor from Tobacco Stick. A detailed report of Jacob's injury and subsequent treatment by Harrison was published in the Boston Medical and Surgical Review,
"Jacob Jackson of Tobacco Stick, a free colored man, forty-two years of age, of a strong athletic frame, and more than ordinary height, of temperate habits and general good health, received an injury from an axe, on the vertex, over the frontal bone, and near the angle formed by the coronal and sagittal sutures. It seems that he was occupied, within the house, making an article for domestic use, and as he raised his axe it struck a beam over his head, and becoming entangled in a hank of yarn suspended from the beam, rebounded with great force, so as to cause a severe concussion…He had been attended by three respectable physicians of the same county, whose treatment was various, but attended with only temporary relief. In the month of January 1843, Dr. Benjamin B. Harrison, of Tobacco Stick, was called to the case and while under his care, several remedies were employed, but to little purpose, until in the month of June, Dr. Harrison determined to operate on the patient; and accordingly in the presence of many neighbors…precautions were taken against inflammation and a free use of poultices and anodynes were used to keep the wound open as long as possible…In a little more than two weeks, however, it healed up, and the patient to all appearance became perfectly sound."(133)

According to the medical report, Doctor Harrison operated on Jacob in the presence of "many neighbors." At the time, Jacob's neighbors included both free and enslaved members of the Slacum, Keene, Linthicum, Maukey, Marine, Camper, Ross, and Malon/e families.(134) Many of these families, including members of the Ross family would remain in White Marsh for generations.

In 1845, just two years after purchasing their property, Jacob and Dinah Jackson sold their land back to Dennis Camper for the same price they originally paid for the land, likely to raise money through a mortgage.(135) Whether they moved from their home in White Marsh when they sold their property is unknown. However, the ties of kin and friendship the Jackson's made in White Marsh, including their friendship with Harriet Tubman, would last for years.

Vincent Green and Black Land Ownership in Parson's Creek:
In 1843, the year the Jackson family purchased their property from Dennis Camper, Joseph Stewart died. His son James Augustus Stewart was empowered to sell his father's extensive Dorchester County landholdings. Joseph had spent thirty years purchasing property along the Blackwater and Parson's Creek Canal pathway, sometimes at high prices. Now his son James was tasked with selling his father's land, much of which had been denuded of valuable trees and lay fallow or was rented to tenants (Figure 16).(136)

James had little interest in the businesses his father and uncles had built, unlike his brother John T. Stewart who was active in both timbering and shipbuilding. James was educated in Baltimore and practiced law (Figure 17). He was married to Rebecca Eccleston from a prominent Dorchester County family. A few years before his father's death, James had entered politics. Within ten years, he would become a Democratic member of the United States Congress (1855 – 1861) and an outspoken proponent of slavery.(137) But in 1843, as the eldest of seven sons and five daughters, James was tasked with pulling as much value from his father's estate as possible at his father's death. Soon he sold the stump-strewn land in White Marsh and Parson's Creek, land his father had gathered up to build the canal, some of which he sold to free Black people. In 1845 as an attorney, he facilitated the purchase of land by three free Black men, Vincent Green, Edward Penitant, and Gabriel Saunders.

That year Stewart was empowered to sell the real estate of John Brohawn, who had passed away in 1839. Stewart sold the bulk of the land to Whitefield Woolford, a local white farmer who had married John Brohawn's daughter Eliza Brohawn Woolford. Woolford then sold 56-acres of land to Green, Penitant, and Saunders for twenty-eight dollars. They purchased their land, which lay south of Taylor's Island Road near Parson's Creek and the "Bridge Marsh" in White Marsh, as tenants in common.(138) Each man had undivided individual ownership of his interest in the land, described as:

"the said part of said tracts being a part of the same which was sold by the said James A Stewart to Whitefield Woolford, and since sold by Whitefield Woolford to the above parties and this conveyance is made to the said parties by the authority and direction of the said Woolford – the said part of "Pollard's Choice" and "Cator's Addition" sold to the said Woolford, being part of the said John Brohawn's real estate and which said part has for its beginning a white gum tree standing on the seventh line of the said "Pollard's Choice" and the same having been proved by Richard Tall, John Mills and John Vickers, and a line drawn south forty five degrees west 117 perches to the old canal [Black Water and Parson's Creek Canal] is the division between the lands of the said Brohawn and John Willoughby, the said John Brohawn being entitled to all the said tracts lying to the north and westward of the said line."(139)

Years later, Vincent Green and his family would move to a home near the Jackson family on Martin's Lane. Like Jacob Jackson, Vincent Green was born enslaved around 1800 near Parson's Creek on property belonging to the Jones family. In June 1827, Vincent attempted to escape his enslavement. Perhaps his timing of his escape was related to the birth of his son, Vincent Green Jr.(140) Following his escape, James Jones, the son of John Jones and brother of Thomas Jones (enslaver of Jacob Jackson), placed an advertisement in the local paper, the Cambridge Chronicle, publicizing his search (Figure 18). A few months after placing the advertisement, "Jones" sold an enslaved man named "Vincent" to James Neild of Dorchester County.(141) On December 21, 1829, Neild sold Vincent Green Sr. to Austin and Joseph Woolfolk of Baltimore County.(142) Brothers Austin and

Joseph Woolfolk were major domestic slave traders based in the city of Baltimore.(143) Yet, by 1845, Vincent Green Sr. had returned to White Marsh and purchased property there as a free man. He may have returned to be near his son, Vincent Green Jr., who was then enslaved by white planter William M. Robinson. In his will written in 1832, Robinson bequeathed young Vincent Green Jr. to his newborn son. He wrote, “I give to my youngest son, not baptized or named but should he be christened Andrew Jackson Robinson, I give him as a legacy five hundred dollars, also a negro boy called Vincent to serve until he is thirty-five years of age.”(144) The newborn was named Andrew Jackson, and young Vincent Green Jr. did not become free until 1861.(145) He may have lived on property owned by William M. Robinson, part of the Ross Farm formerly called Loockerman’s Lot, just north of Taylor’s Island Road and the Jackson farm on Martin’s Lane.(146)

Harriet Tubman on the Eastern Shore:
Like Jacob Jackson and Vincent Green, Harriet Tubman was born enslaved and spent her youth on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. She escaped to freedom through her intelligence, spiritual strength, deep knowledge of the landscape, and through the support of her kin and community. She then returned to lead her family and friends on their journeys out of bondage through the network known as the Underground Railroad. Despite the increased danger and threat of capture, between 1849 and 1860, Tubman made at least thirteen trips to rescue enslaved men and women facilitated through her network in White Marsh and beyond. Tubman’s courage in returning to the place of her enslavement, her intelligence in navigating the physical landscape and human networks, and her leadership in fighting enslavement through her actions and words, brought her recognition and fame. By 1854 she was well known to prominent northern abolitionists and suffragists. As her legend grew, people compared her efforts to free Black people from slavery to the Biblical story of the enslaved Israelites release from bondage in Egypt, and she became known as the “Moses of her people.” Unlike Tubman, Jacob Jackson spent his entire life on Peter’s Neck in the watershed of Parson’s Creek, but he too fought for freedom.(147)

Harriet Tubman was born Araminta Ross on the plantation of Anthony Thompson Sr. in the spring of 1822.(148) Thompson’s approximately one-thousand-acre plantation was located near the junction of present-day White Marsh Road and Thompson’s New Road [Harrisville Road] on the Blackwater River in Peter’s Neck. Araminta’s parents, Benjamin “Ben” Ross and Harriet ‘Rit’ Green, were born enslaved in Dorchester County between 1785 and 1790. Rit was enslaved by Atthow Pattison and Ben was owned by Anthony Thompson Sr. In 1803, Anthony Thompson Sr. married Mary Pattison Brodess, the granddaughter of Atthow Pattison. When Atthow Pattison died a few years after his granddaughter’s marriage, Mary inherited an enslaved woman named “Rittai” or Rit, Araminta’s mother.(149) Thus Rit Green and Ben Ross were likely brought together on the Thompson plantation on the Blackwater River.(150)

They soon married and began a family. Pattison's will stipulated that his wife, Mary Brodess, would have the right to enslave all of Rit’s future children. Therefore, when Mary Brodess died, her son Edward Brodess inherited Rit and her children as slaves. By 1824 Edward Brodess and his new wife, Eliza Anne Keene, lived on his ancestral farm east of Anthony Thompson’s New Road in Bucktown.(151) Rit Ross had given birth to at least six children, possibly seven, including Linah (1808), Mariah Ritty (1811), Soph (1813), Robert (about 1816), Araminta (1822), Benjamin (1823), and possibly Rachel (about 1825). Henry was born in 1830, followed by Moses in 1832.(152) Around the time of Rachel's birth in 1825, Edward Brodess sold a sixteen-year-old enslaved girl named ‘Rhody” to a slave trader from Mississippi, as well as a fifteen-year-old boy named James. Rhody was likely Mariah Ritty, Harriet’s sister, and James may have been one of the enslaved children brought into the marriage by Edward’s mother, Eliza Brodess.(153)

By 1827 Eliza and Edward had also started a family. They had eight children over the next twenty years. To monetize the people they enslaved, Edward and Eliza Brodess likely hired-out Araminta’s older brothers and sisters. Five-year-old Araminta was left to care for her siblings, three-year-old Benjamin and baby Rachel, while her mother cooked in the “big house ‘ on the farm in Bucktown.(154) From the age of about eight, Araminta was hired out by Brodess as well. Araminta’s work was difficult and dangerous—checking muskrat traps in the icy water of the Blackwater River, yanking flax plants against a hackle’s sharp tines, and caring for young children through sleepless nights.

Later in life, Araminta remembered intense loneliness, horrible beatings from some of the people who enslaved her, and times when she was returned to her mother deathly ill. Between 1834 and 1836, young Araminta received a severe blow to her head from a stone or metal weight that was thrown in anger at another slave.(155) Araminta barely survived, and for the rest of her life, she suffered from a condition that would cause her to lose consciousness suddenly. The injury also altered her perception of the world and induced physical and physiological changes within her mind. These changes sparked what Araminta recognized as a religious and spiritual consciousness.(156) In later years, this profound internal guidance, coupled with a deep understanding of the natural world, empowered Araminta on her path to freedom.

Following Anthony Thompson Sr. death in 1836, his real estate and personal property was divided between his two biological sons, Dr. Anthony C. Thompson and Absalom Thompson. Araminta's father, Ben Ross, was inherited by Dr. Anthony C. Thompson. As per Thompson Sr.'s will, Ben was granted his freedom though manumission in 1840. At the time of his manumission, he was given ten acres of land at the southern end of Thompson's New Road [Harrisville Road].(157) Ben later purchased his wife Rit from Eliza Brodess, though Rit's advanced age made manumission legally impossible.(158) He was not, however, able to purchase freedom for their children.

Between 1838 and 1842, Araminta was hired out to John Trevalian Stewart, the brother of James A. Stewart.(159) Unlike his brother James, John was deeply involved in the timbering and shipbuilding industries. Their father Joseph Stewart's 220-acre plantation was on the shore of Tobacco Stick Bay north of the town of Tobacco Stick. In addition to a principal residence, assorted agricultural outbuildings, and fields of wheat and corn, the plantation included a shipyard, store, windmill, and "workhouse."(160) The Stewarts also owned a mercantile. Therefore, while Araminta was hired out to John T. Stewart, she likely worked at many different tasks in many locations. Eventually, she worked in the fields and timber camps near the Black Water and Parson's Creek Canal. In her words, it was "the rudest of labors –drove oxen, carted and plowed and did all the work of a man."(161) But as Araminta cut and hauled the giant logs in White Marsh and Parson's Creek on Peter's Neck, she was likely able to see her father, Ben Ross, for he served as a timber foreman for many years in the woods around the canal. She likely also became friends with Jacob and Dinah Jackson, who lived there too.

Where the thin canals and tributaries of the Choptank and Nanticoke created conduits to the broader world, Araminta nurtured a social network wider than her gender might typically have allowed. The watermen who traveled up and down the rivers and bay to Baltimore provided access to people and ideas beyond her immediate surroundings. Though her work was exhausting and dangerous, Araminta used her time among the timbermen, sawyers, and watermen to learn. According to her account, Harriet learned to predict the weather based on changes in the environment, use stars for navigation, and the water to hide scent. She may have also developed methods to encode and hide her communication.

By 1840 a free Black man named John Tubman lived near the Jackson and Ross households in White Marsh on Peter's Neck. John was about twenty-two years old and shared his home with an elderly Black man and woman, perhaps his parents, two boys under the age of ten and two girls between ten and twenty-four. According to the 1840 Census, "John Tubman" was listed as the head of the household, and everyone who lived with him was free (Figure 19).(162) Four years later, enslaved twenty-two-year-old Araminta Ross married twenty-six-year-old John Tubman.(163) When she took her new husband's last name Araminta changed her first name to Harriet, perhaps after her mother, Rit (Figure 20).(164)

At Edward Brodess's death in 1849, his widow Eliza was left heavily in debt and engaged in a lawsuit with the Pattison family over ownership of enslaved Rit and her children. Attorney James A. Stewart was involved in the suit for many years and had filed on behalf of the Pattison family against Eliza Brodess. On September 17, 1849, the same day Eliza Brodess petitioned the courts to allow her to sell Kessiah, one of Tubman's family members, Harriet Tubman made her first attempt to escape to freedom. Her two younger brothers, Ben and Henry, went with her. They quickly returned, however, for they became scared and disagreed upon the best route north.(165) Only a few weeks later,

sometime after October 3, Harriet left her “cabin on Dr. Anthony C. Thompson’s property” and headed northward alone.(166) This time Harriet escaped.

When Harriet Tubman made her way north to freedom through the marshy forests of the Eastern Shore, Maryland had more runaway slaves than any other state in the south. Maryland was a border state, so freedom was relatively close, but the risks were still significant. Escaping slaves faced beatings, sale, and other punishments.(167) So too did the people who assisted them. For decades communities of free and enslaved Black people, like those in White Marsh and Parson’s Creek, had woven a network of support for those fleeing. However, few who escaped are known to have returned to the place of their enslavement to help others out of bondage, as Harriet Tubman did.(168) Jacob Jackson, as a free, literate, land-owning Black farmer, became a leader in this small community and an important link in the network supporting freedom seekers as well.

ENDNOTES

79 Beginning in 1790, legal changes allowed slaveholders to free their slaves by will as well as deed which also spurred manumissions.

80 March 25, 1790, Deed of Manumission, Thomas Hill Aiery declared in a deed of manumission promised freedom to twenty-nine people he enslaved. He granted freedom to a few immediately. Others would wait up to twenty years to be free. Airey was not alone in promising freedom to those he enslaved. A little over a week later he witnessed his friend and fellow planter, Henry Ennalls, promise freedom to those he enslaved. Only a few weeks earlier, local planter Levin Parker set free Nell, a thirty year old woman he enslaved, and promised freedom to three young children, Daniel, Jacob, and Abram when they reached the age of thirty. Planter John Pitt, believing it to be set free Enoch and Nan immediately, and Peter and Jonathan in twelve and fourteen years respectively. That spring, local planters Edmond Brannock, Peter Harrington, and Capwell Keene joined Airy, Parker, Pit, and Ennalls in promising freedom to at least some of the people they enslaved. “Henry Ennalls to Sundry Negros, April 8, 1790, HD2 Folio 559.

81 “Leigh from the Pollards”, May 2, 1746, Liber Old 14 Folio 28, Maryland State Archives. By the mid nineteenth century, “Williams Goodwill” was owned by white farmer Richard Tall whose home farm was next to the farm of Jacob and Dinah Jackson.

82 Patent of “Mary’s Fortune”, Levin Woolford, 1825 MSA S1196_2311-4, Maryland State Archives.

83 Thomas Loockermans from John Jones December 9, 1793”, Liber HD 6 Folio 235-236.

84 John Johns was a son of Morgan Jones; See “Morgans Venture ” 220-acres Surveyed for Morgan Jones August 30, 1760 , Patented to Morgan Jones September 29, 1761220 MSA s1196_326; 1792 John Jones from Thomas Kilman Liber HD 4 Folio 135; September 23, 1793 “William Martin from Morgan Jones” “Lockermans Regulation” Liber HD 6 Folio 100; December 9, 1793, “Thomas Lockerman from John Jones”, Liber HD 6, Folio 235; see also, “Martins Purchase” Unpatented Certificate, 108 ¾- acres, surveyed for William Martin, April 6, 1793, MSA_S1219_906; “William Martin from Henry Killman” August 28, 1795, Liber HD 8 Folio 521; 1797 “Martins Regulation” Unpatented Certificate, 267 ¼ -acres, February 7, 1798, MSA_S1219_909; all available through MDLandrec.net.

85 1800 census record for “Morgain Jones”. Dorchester County, Maryland "United States Census, 1800." Database with images. FamilySearch. http://FamilySearch.org : 14 June 2016. Citing NARA microfilm publication M32. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.; Note one reference has been found suggesting “John Jones, blksmith”, though it is difficult to know for certain which John Jones is being referenced. In October 1809, John Jones, blksmith sold a two-year-old enslaved boy named Bloc [?] Manoke/y [sic] to Joseph Stewart for 32 dollars. Joseph Stewart from John Jones, blksmith, October 14, 1809. Robert Ross, Harriet Tubman’s brother, was married to Mary Manokey. Larson 2003, 111.

86 Martins Landing Unpatented Certificate, October 12, 1795, MSA_S1219_906, Dorchester County, Maryland, Maryland State Archives; see also 1789 Martins Regulation Unpatented Certificates 02-06 MSA_S1219; 1793 Martins Purchase Unpatented Deed 1793_MSA_S1219_908.

87 “Jacob Jackson from James A. Stewart and wife” November 2, 1855, Indenture Deed, Liber FJH 3 Folio 372.

88 “John Driver from Martin Killman”, March 15, 1802, Liber HD 19 Folio 193; available through MDLandrec.net.

89 McElvey 1972, 189.

90 John Driver from Martin Killman, March 15, 1802, Liber HD 19 Folio 193.

91 John Driver from Martin Killman, March 15, 1802, Liber HD 19 Folio 193; See also John Willoughby from John Driver" May 18, 1803.
92 "Cator's Addition" Unpatented Certificate, 214-acres, surveyd Levin Cator, June 4, 1791, was located adjacent to the tract "Morgan's Venture," a portion was owned by Bruffit Tall in the early nineteenth century. MSA_S1219_297.
93 1820 Census, Dorchester County; According to the 1800 census there is one man named William Geoghegan in Dorchester County. He is living near Martin Killman/Kilman. In 1816, John Driver and his wife Cate, sold their land near Tobacco Stick to Samuel Craig for three hundred and fifty dollars. In 1820 Samuel Craig was a white farmer who lived in Parson's Creek Election District and had five enslaved people living on his property. Samuel Craig from John Driver Liber ER 4 Folio 213; 1820 Census, Dorchester County, Election Districts 3 & 4. See also, John Driver from William Geoghegan, 1809 Liber HD 29 Folios 488 & 489
94 Kate Clifford Larson, Harriet Tubman Portrait of An American Hero: Bound for the Promised Land, (New York: Random House), 2003, 21.
95 Jones 1902, 103.
96 Maryland County Marriages, 1658-1940, Dorchester County, Maryland, FHL microfilm 13,929. Joseph Stewart married Rachel Linthicum November 27, 1806.
97 "Joseph Stewart from Thomas Loockerman and the State of Maryland" August 22, 1814, 220 acres of land for $3047.50 south of Taylor's Island Road, Liber ER 3 Folio 126. The land lay "south of the county road to Taylors Island and north of the lands owned by William Saunders and Charles Stewart."
98 Thomas Loockerman from John Jones December 9, 1793, Liber HD 6 Folio 235.
99 Nancy Martin Crawford (1788 – 1869) was the daughter of William Martin and husband of John Crawford (1778 – 1851) "Find A Grave Index," database, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV2P-DYNL : 11 July 2016), Nancy Martin Crawford, 1869; Burial, Church Creek, Dorchester, Maryland, United States of America, Old Trinity Church Cemetery; citing record ID 73305519, Find a Grave, http://www.findagrave.com. Both are buried at Old Trinity Church in Church Creek.
100 John and Nancy Crawford to Joseph Stewart, June 19, 1815 Liber ER 3 Folio 406.
Larson 2003, 60 -61.
102 Larson 2003, 60 -61.
103 Laws of the State of Maryland, Chapter CXXIX "An Act to lay out and open a Road in Dorchester County" Liber TH 4 Folio 162. See also Dorchester County Land Zachariah Linthicum to James A Stewart Trustee, December 31, 1847, Liber WJ 4 Folio 54 tract, "Robertson's Prospect" 229 ½ acres, includes references "to the new road that leads from the Baptist Meeting House to Anthony Thompson's Late Residence."
104 Paul B. Touart, "Zachariah Linthicum Farm Worksheet for National Register Nomination", Chesapeake Country Heritage and Preservation, September 11, 2012.
105 Larson 2003, 66.
106 During the nineteenth century, the US Census for Dorchester County was divided into districts or division. Those related to the land ownership of Jacob Jackson and the development of the White Marsh community include 1830, 1840 & 1850, District/Division 3; 1860, District 4 and District 9; 1870, District 4; and 1880, the Parson's Creek District.
107 1830 Dorchester County Census, National Archives and Records Administration, Series M19, Roll 56.
108 Jerry M. Hynson Free African Americans of Maryland 1832: Including: Allegany, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Kent, Montgomery, Queen Ann's, and St. Mary's counties, Baltimore: Family Line Publications ,1998.
109 1830 Dorchester County Census, NARA Series M19, Roll 56.
110 1800 Census, Dorchester County, NARA Series M32, Roll 11.
111 "Dinah Jackson" Dorchester County, Maryland, Certificate of Freedom, June 2, 1832, MSA c689-1, page 88, Maryland State Archives.

112 "Jacob" Dorchester County, Certificate of Freedom, MSA c689-1, page 69, Maryland State Archives.
113 Dorchester County, Certificates of Freedom, "Jacob", 1806-1851, MSA c689-1, page 69; see also "Thomas Jones to negro Jacob", chattel records, 1826 Liber ER 10 Folio 180.
114 Maryland Laws Chapter 67; see also Jeffery Richardson Brackett, The Negro in Maryland,

Volume 6, A Study of the Institution of Slavery, 2001 as cited in Larson 2003, 7. The 1796 act also denied nearly free Blacks the right to vote, serve in public office, give evidence against any white person, or to be recorded as competent evidence to manumit any slave petitioning for freedom.
115 Advertisement, Cambridge Chronical, March 27, 1826, Maryland State Archives.
116 Advertisement, Cambridge Chronical, March 27, 1826, Maryland State Archives.
117 Laws of Maryland, General Assembly December 1831 Session, Chapter 40, "An act to explain an act of Assembly, passed at December session, eighteen hundred and thirty-one, chapter three hundred and twenty three, entitled, "An Act related to free negroes and slaves" Passed February 12, 1833, Library of Congress.
118 For a detailed analysis of laws limiting rights of free black people in Maryland during eighteenth and nineteenth centuries see, David Skillen Bogen: " The Maryland Context of Dred Scott: The Decline in the Legal Status of Maryland Free Blacks 1776 -1810" in the American Journal of Legal History, Vol. XXXIV, 1990.
119 See deeds of Morgan's Venture land transfers to Bruffit Tall, May 12, 1805, Liber HD 21 Folio 700; December 20, 1809, HD 27, Folio 105; December 15, 1817, SRW 4 Folios 532 and 533.
120 Bourne, Michael. Individual Property/District Maryland Historical Trust Internal NR-Eligibility Review Form, for the Stapleforte House, Maryland Historical Trust, November 1975. The Stapleforte family also owned a plantation on the shores of the Little Blackwater River, near the intersection of present-day Egypt and Key Wallace Roads.
121 "Martins Regulation" was a resurvey of five separate but continuous tracts of land that included 122 acres of "Martins Beginning" 1783: 28 ¾ acres of Morgan's Venture 1760; 100 ½ acres of Loockermans Regulation 1767; 2 ¾ acres of Litttleworth; and 7 acres of Addition to Woolford Spite. 1797 Martins Regulation, MSA_S1219_909
122 William Reddish from Daniel Martin, 1838, ER 17, Folio 115; George Stapleford & Wife to Robert Reddish & Wife, ER 17, Folio 112.
123 In nineteenth-century federal census records and in deeds for lands within Dorchester County, Maryland, the surname of Coursey is spelled both Corsey and Coursey.
124 Bruffit Tall from Morgan Jones, March 23, 1806, Liber HD Folio 329.
125 This description is based on the Map of Little Choptank or Hudson River, including the Bay Shore from Cook's Point to Mekins Neck, surveyed October 1847 and May, June, and July 1848, By Capt Joseph E. Johnston, Engineer and E. Hunt, US Coast Survey, A.D. Bache Superintendent.
126 Levin Camper estate probate record. #0-361, Maryland State Archives, as provided to author by Kate Larson.
127 Dennis Camper may have been the son of free Black man, Denwood Camper, who lived next to Jacob Jackson in 1830. On the 1830 census Denwood Camper was advanced in age and had three young males between the ages of ten and twenty four living in his household. Census records further suggest that Dennis Camper may have moved to Baltimore in the late 1830s or early 1840s with his wife Mariah prior to selling his property to Jacob Jackson. By the time of the 1840 census, Dennis Camper, free Black man, was no longer listed as a head of household on near Jacob Jackson within the Parson's Creek district. This does not necessarily mean, however, that Jacob Jackson did not purchase his property from the Camper family listed as his neighbor in 1830. But it may have been another Dennis Camper. There were thirteen heads of household with the last name of Camper listed on the 1840 census for Dorchester County. On the 1840 Maryland census, a young man between the ages of 24 and 35 is living in Baltimore with one young female under the age of ten, perhaps Mary, and one female between the ages of 10 and 24, perhaps his wife Mariah. By 1850, 34-year old Dennis Camper had returned to the area around William Thompson's New Road in Census District 3. Described as a farmer on the census, Dennis Camper lived with his wife, Mariah (31), daughters Mary (9), Ann (7), John (5) and Mariah (2), and Milley Camper (16), and William Barns (14). The Camper household lived near Horace (40) and Harriet (41) Jackson, and their children, Henry (23), and Levin T. (17) Jackson. 1850 Federal Census, District 3, Church Creek, Dorchester County, Maryland.
128 Unpatented deed, "Martins Purchase," 108 ¾ acres, 1793 MSA_S1219_908.
129 "Chalmers Chance", 1761, surveyed for James Chalmers, MSA S1196_755; "Chalmers Chance" was formerly owned by William Trego [sometimes spelled with an e], who may have been the same William Tregoe who witnessed Dinah Jackson's freedom paper in 1832.
130 "Jackson from Camper" Liber MJ 1 Folio 218 27 November, 1842; Richard Tall's home was appointed as the voting location for the Parson's Creek District in 1841, Laws of the State of Maryland, Chapter 114, Feb 22, 1841.

131 The 1830 census lists a Manuel Kelly (no Emanuel Kelley), while the deed records the grantor as Emanuel Kelley.
132 Dennis Camper from Emanuel Killa [sic] & wife" Liber ER 18 Folio 155, October 26, 1840 see also "Jackson from Camper" LIber MJ 1 Folio 218 November 27, 1842; The 1830 Census lists Manuel Kelley and the 1840 census includes Emanuel Kelley living near Jacob Jackson and Dennis Camper. Emanuel Kelley (written as Killa on the 1840 deed between Dennis Camper and Kelley) was a young white man who lived with his wife and young daughter near Denwood Camper and Jacob Jackson in 1830. The religion practiced by Emanuel Kelly/a, if any, is unknown, but there were Quaker members of the Marshy Creek Meeting house who had the last name of Kelly/ey. In 1840 Emanuel Kelly lived on Peters Neck near Levin Tall and William W. Thompson, both of whom had enslaved people living on their property. Tall had thirteen and Thompson had twelve. No records have been found thus far to suggest that Emanuel Kelley owned slaves.
133 Boston Medical and Surgical Review, Volumes 29 – 30, 1843.
134 1840 Census, Dorchester County, Maryland.
135 "Dennis Camper from Jacob Jackson", Liber WJ 2 Folio 698.
136 The Map of the Little Choptank or Hudson River including the Bay Shore from Cooks Point to Mekins Neck, Surveyed October 1847 and May, June and July 1848, US Coast Survey A.D. Bache (Library of Congress) illustrates the fields and forest cover of the coastal areas. Unfortunately it does not include the likely location of Jacob and Dinah Jackson's farm.
137 United States Congress, Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989, Bicentennial Edition. Washington, D.C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1989, pages 16 -17.
138 "Cator's Addition" was a re-survey of "Parson's Defeated" which was patented by John Pollard in the early eighteenth century; "Cator's Addition" MSA_S1219_297, MDLandrec.net.
139 "Gabriel Sanders, Edward Penitant, and Vinson Green, free negroes from James A. Stewart", December 24, 1845. Liber WJ 2 Folio 546.
140 "Vincent Green, Certificate of Freedom", June 9, 1862.; According to the "Pass Paper" or Certificate of Freedom for Vincent Green, he was about "5 feet and 4 and ¼ inches tall and of a very dark complexion"; 1832 will of William M. Robinson, Liber THH 1, Folios 441, 442, and 443.
141 Dorchester County Court (Chattel Records) 1827-1833, Liber ER 1, Folio 41. Interestingly, James Jones, son of John, sold the former farm of William Goeghegan to Joseph Stewart on 26 March 1832, "Joseph Stewart from James Jones of Jno," Liber ER 12 Folio 527.
142 Bill of Sale, Austin and Joseph Woolfock from James Neild, Baltimore City, Maryland, Vincent M. Green, December 21, 1829, http://slavery2.msa.maryland.gov/pages/Search.aspx, accessed June 7, 2018.
143 Calvin Schermerhorn, The Business Of Slavery and the Rise of American Capitalism 1815-1860, Yale University Press: London 2015, 60.
144 Will of William M. Robinson, October 27, 1832; Liber THH 1, Folios 441, 442, 443 William M. Robinson died on December 1, 1834.
145 Federal Census, 1840 Dorchester County, District 4, Parson's Creek.
146 Will of William M. Robinson, October 27, 1832; Liber THH 1, Folios 441, 442, 443
147 For more information about Harriet Tubman's life and property in New York after her self-emancipation, see John Auwaerter's. "Draft, Cultural Landscape Report for the Harriet Tubman National Historic Site, Auburn, New York, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, National Park Service, 2019.
148 Larson, 2003, 15.
149 Will of Athow Pattison, January 18, 1791 Est. #0-35-E, Dorchester County courthouse, Registrar of Wills, Cambridge, MD, as cited in Larson 2003, Chapter 1, fn7, 306.
150 Larson 2003, 10
151 Larson 2003, 301.
152 Larson 2003, Ross-Stewart Family Tree, no pagination.
153 Larson 2003, 20.
154 Emma P. Telford, "Harriet: The Modern Moses of Heroism and Visions," Cayuga County Museum, Auburn, New York, c. 1903, as quoted in Larson 2003, 20 – 21.
155 Larson 2003,41.
156 According to Larson, it is likely that Araminta suffered from Temporal Lobe Epilepsy (TLE), for her sleeping spells and visions are typical of TLE precipitated by a severe head injury and TLE visions often have religious overtones, Larson 2003, 43.
157 Ben Ross purchased Aaron Monoke (sp?) and Maria Bayley from Thompson on June 14, 1842.

Aaron was two years old, and Maria was 27. Dorchester County Court (Chattel Records) MSA C691, 1833-1842 Liber ER 2, Folio 1, as cited in Larson 2003, 71.
158 Larson 2003, 119-120. Benjamin Ross from Eliza Brodess, 11 June 1855, Dorchester County Court Chattel Records, 1847-1852 Vol. 805, Page 163.
159 Larson's research suggests that Harriet was hired out to John T. Stewart, James A. Stewart's brother, not John T. Stewart, Levin Stewart's son and James's cousin. Larson 2003, 54
160 James A. Stewart, "Valuable Plantation for Sale," Cambridge Chronical, Cambridge, Maryland, July 13, 1844.
161 Sarah H. Bradford Sanborn, "Harriet Tubman," Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman, Auburn, NY: W.J. Moses, 1869, 75 as quoted in Larson 2003, 56.
162 1840 Census, Dorchester County, District 4.
163 John Tubman's Certificate of Freedom states that he was 32 at the time of the recording of the certificate, which would make John Tubman about 26 in 1844. Certificate of Freedom, John Tubman, January 1, 1850, Maryland State Archives, MSA c689-1, p. 166
164 Rit Ross is listed as Henrietta Ross on the 1850 Census for Caroline County, Maryland.
165 Bradford, Scenes, 16 as cited in Larson 2003, 78-79.
166 Larson 2003, 80.
167 Larson 2003, 103-104.
168 Larson 2003, 103-104.

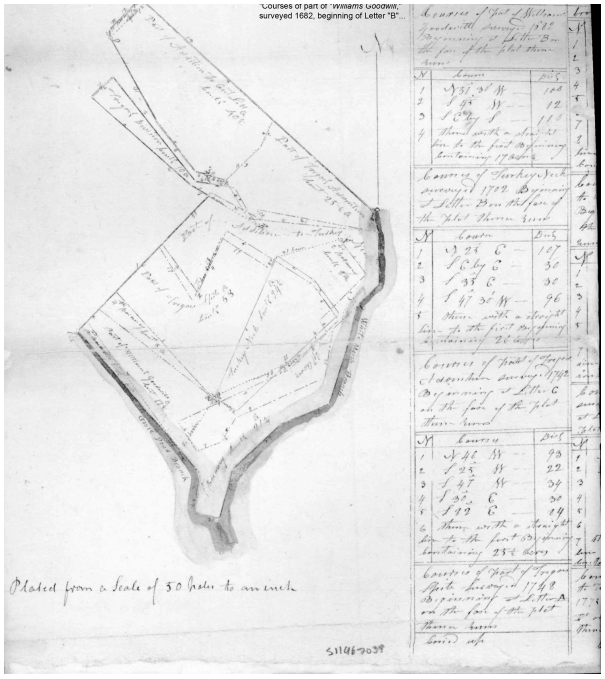


Figure 8. Plats of "Marys Fortune." 1825, references the earlier patent "Williams Goodwill" and clearly indicates the White Marsh Branch of Parson's Creek. (Maryland State Archives)

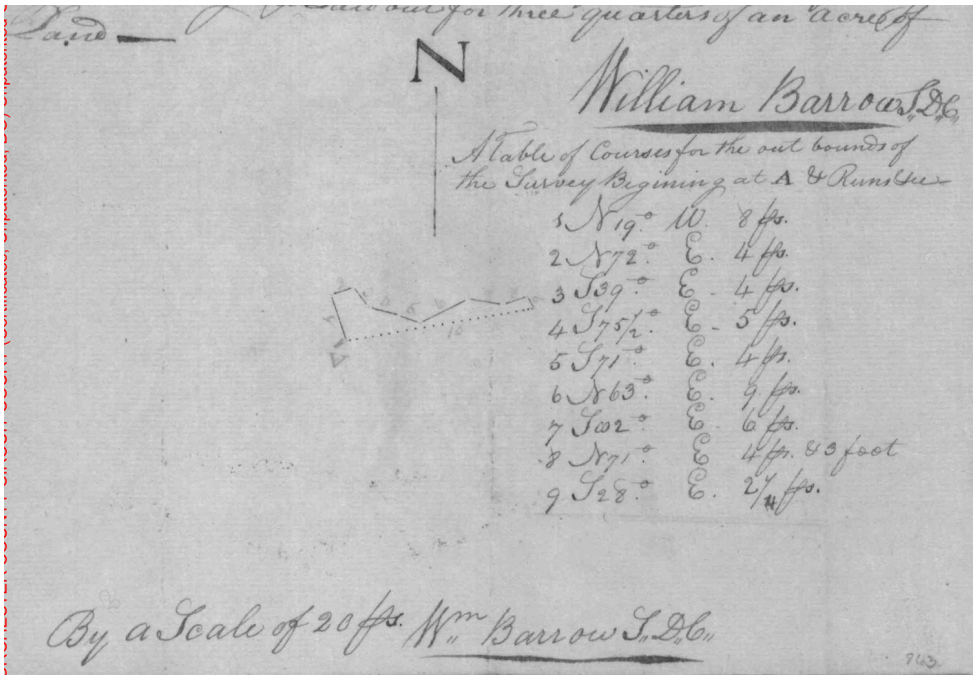


Figure 9. Survey of "Martin's Landing" along the mouth of Parson's Creek, 1791 (top). This land became part of the holdings of Jacob Jackson in the mid-19th century. (Maryland State Archives)

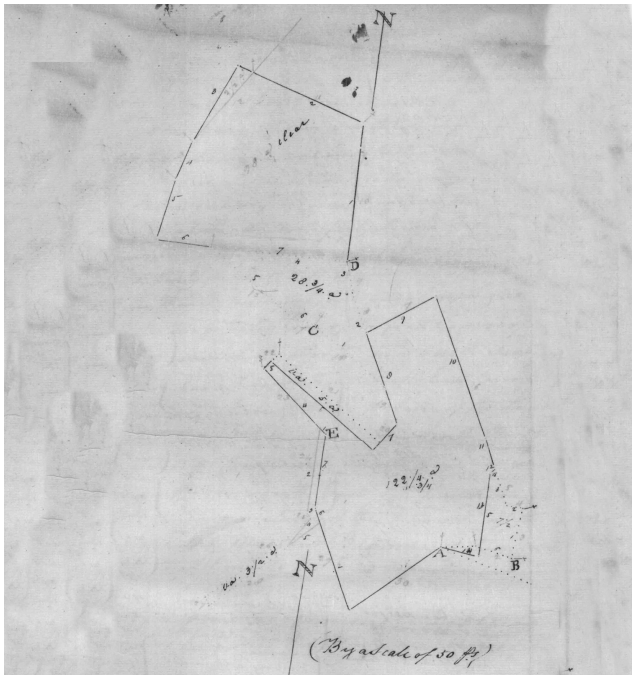
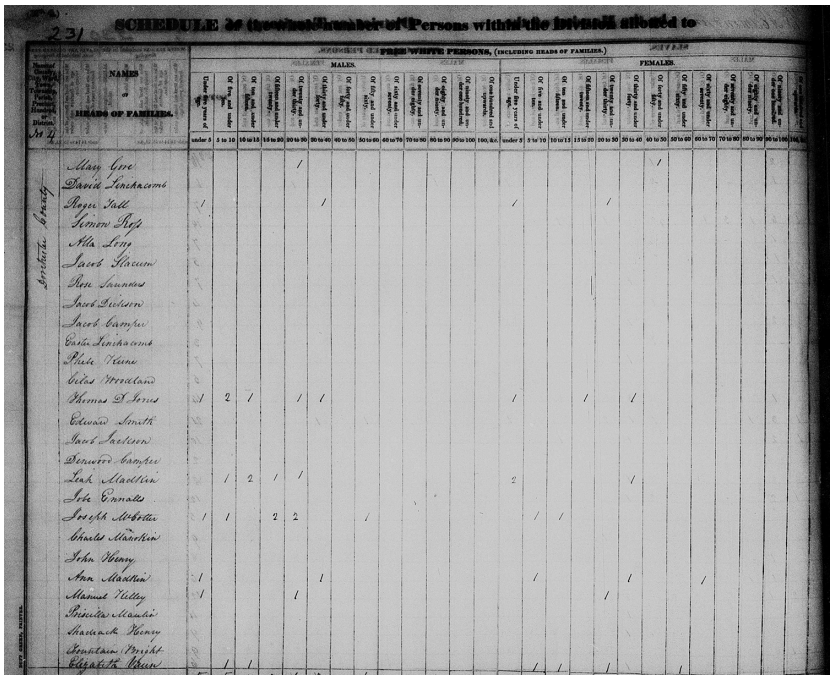


Figure 10. Survey of "Martin's Regulation," 1797 as surveyed for William Martin. A portion of this land was purchased by Jackson in the mid-nineteenth century. (Maryland State Archives)



SCHEDULE 2d (the whole number of Persons within the limits aforesaid to

231

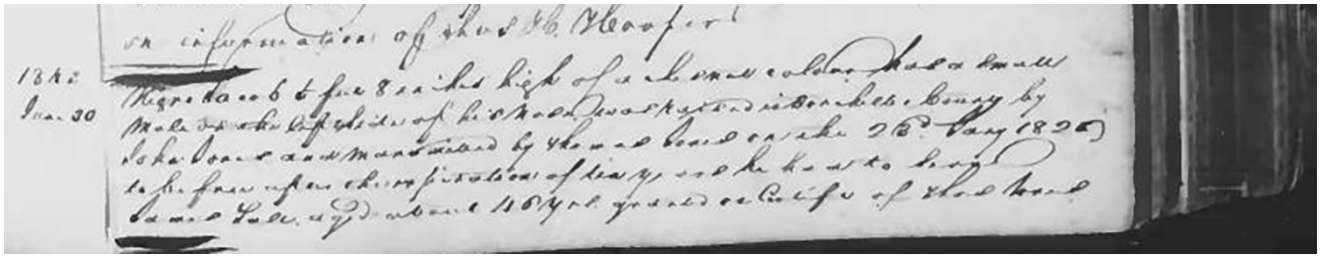
FREE WHITE PERSONS, (INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES.)

MALES. FEMALES.

NAMES of HEADS OF FAMILIES.

Mary Cire
David Linkacums
Roger Sall
Simon Rest
Ella Long
Jacob Slacum
Rem Saunders
Jacob Dickson
Jacob Campbell
Easter Linkacums
Peter Keene
Silas Woodland
Thomas D Jones
Edward Smith
Jacob Jackson
Dennis Campbell
Leah Madden
Isle Emmalls
Joseph Webster
Charles Hawkins
John Henry
Ann Madden
Manuel Tilley
Priscilla Hawkins
Shadrach Henry
Jonathan Wright
Elizabeth Brown

1842 Jan. 30



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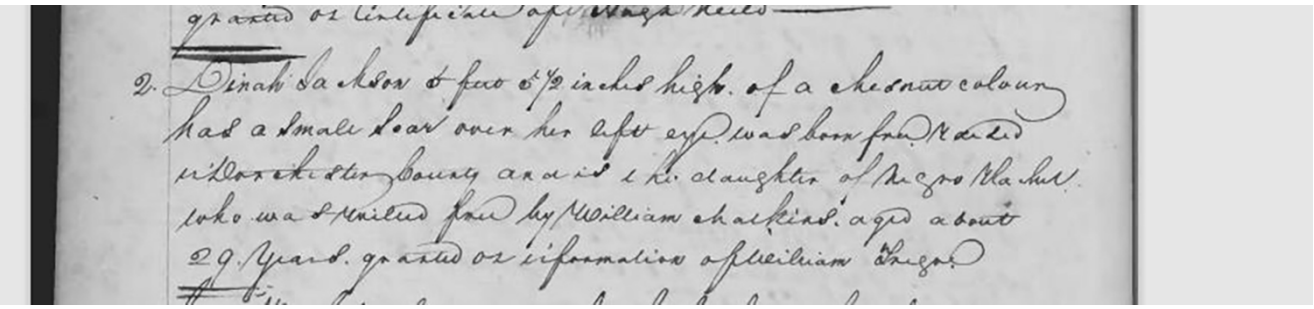
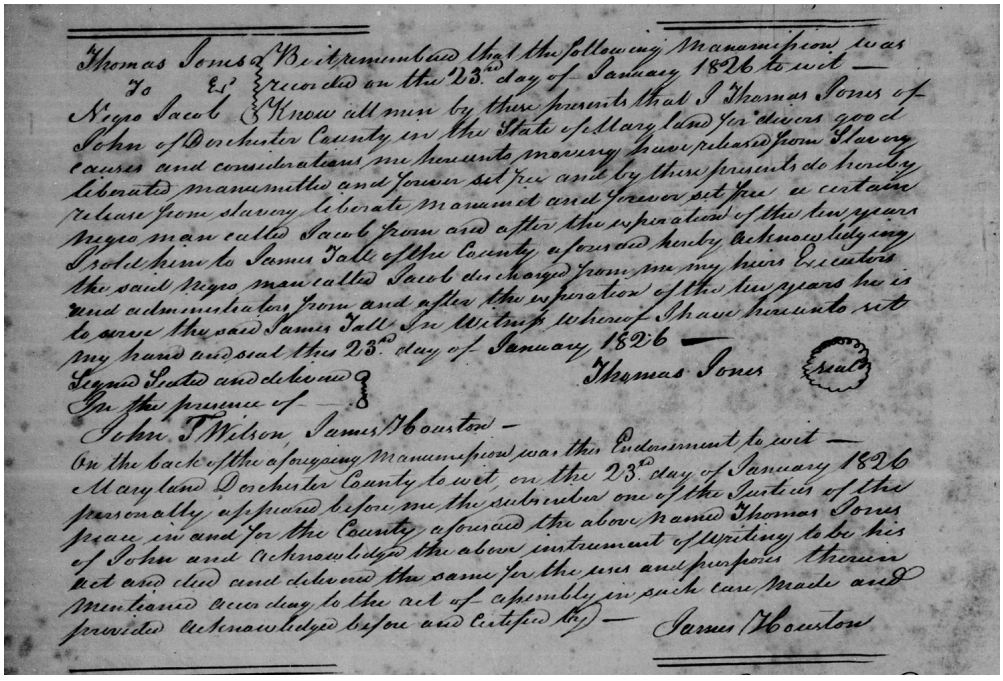


granted or certificate aforesaid Recorded

2. Dinah Jackson a free Negro 5 feet 5½ inches high, of a chesnut colour has a small scar over her left eye, was born free & raised in Dorchester County and is the daughter of Negro Rachel who was emancipated by William Hawkins, aged about 29 years, granted on information of William Hughes

Figure 12. Certificates of Freedom for Jacob Jackson and Dinah Jackson. Jacob's "Pass Paper" or Certificate of Freedom was filed January (possibly, difficult to decipher) 30 ,1842, Dinah's was dated June 2, 1832. (Maryland State Archives)



Thomas Jones of Britannia Land that the following Manumission was recorded on the 23rd day of January 1826 to wit —

To } Know all men by these presents that I Thomas Jones of
Negro Jacob } John of Dorchester County in the State of Maryland for divers good
causes and considerations me thereunto moving have released from Slavery
liberated manumitted and forever set free and by these presents do hereby
release from slavery liberate manumit and forever set free a certain
Negro man called Jacob from and after the expiration of the ten years
I sold him to James Tall of the County aforesaid hereby acknowledging
the said Negro man called Jacob discharged from me my heirs Executors
and administrators from and after the expiration of the ten years he is
to serve the said James Tall In Witness whereof I have hereunto set
my hand and seal this 23rd day of January 1826 —

Thomas Jones (seal)

Signed Sealed and delivered }
In the presence of — }

John T Wilson James Houston —

On the back of the aforegoing Manumission was the Endorsement to wit —
Maryland Dorchester County to wit on the 23rd day of January 1826
personally appeared before me the subscriber one of the Justices of the
peace in and for the County aforesaid the above named Thomas Jones
of John and acknowledged the above instrument of writing to be his
act and deed and delivered the same for the uses and purposes therein
mentioned according to the act of assembly in such case made and
provided acknowledged before and certified by — James Houston

Figure 13. Jacob Jackson's Manumission Record - "Thomas Jones to Negro Jacob," January 23, 1826. (Maryland State Archives)

VOL. V. CAMBRIDGE, MD. SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1826.

TERMS:

Sheriff's Sale.

BY virtue of sundry fieri facias' issued out of Dorchester county Court and to me directed, at the suit of Mrs. Dorothy Staplefort, executrix of Charles Staplefort, against James Tall, Also one at the suit of Joseph Stewart, will be offered at public sale on ... the 27th of March next, at the Court house door, in Cambridge; All the right, title, interest and claim of said Tall, at law or in equity, of, in and to

All the Lands

which he may hold, adjoining the lot deeded to Reuben Tall by said James Tall & Henrietta Tall, at Tobacco stick; also all the land he holds in Dorchester county, except the above mentioned lot deeded to Reuben Tall, which said lot having been deeded away by James Tall is at all times exempted from sale by virtue of the avove executions—Also, ONE NEGRO BOY, called Jacob, taken and will be sold for cash to satisfy the above mentioned fieri facias and cost, also for county charge and officers' fees due for 1825. Sale to commence between the hours of 10 and 12 o'clock.

THOS. H. HICKS Shff

Feb 25 5w of Dorchester cty.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

By virtue of a fieri facias issued out of Dorchester county court and to me directed, at the suit of Ange Norwan, against Josiah Dean, will be offered at public sale on THURSDAY the 30th inst. at the tavern of Charles Lecompte, Esq. New Market, between the hours of ten and four o'clock, all the right of the said Josiah Dean, to all that

Tract or parcel of Land,

on which Thomas Traverse now resides, adjoining the lands of Mrs. Rebecca Richardson, called Landore.—Also one bay mare, taken and will be sold to satisfy said fieri facias, and for fees and county charge for 1825.

THOS. H. HICKS, Shff.

march 11 3w of Dorchester co.

Sheriff's Sale.

By virtue of a fieri facias issued out of Dorchester county court, and to me directed at the suit of Samuel Lecompte and Zadock Cropper, administraters with the will annexed of John Cropper, use of Dr. Joseph E. Muse, against William K. Wright, will be offered at public sale on TUESDAY the 21st of March, at the residence of the said Wright, the following

Tracts, or parts of tracts, of

LAND,

to wit—Addition to Mount Pleasant, containing two acres, Mount Pleasant, containing 94 acres, the Wading Place, 172 acres, Pain's Gift, 58 acres, Luck by Chance, 20 acres, West's Rest, 53½ acres, Abloy, 45 acres, Ash Meadows, 50 acres, Silver Mine and Gold Mine, 63 acres—one horse and sulky, taken and will be sold to satisfy said claim

TRUSTEE'S SALE.

By virtue of a decree of Dorchester county court, and in pursuance of a will of the late Robert Dennis, dec. will be sold at public sale on TUESDAY the 21st day of March next, if fair, if not, the next fair day thereafter, at Mr. Thomas Tall's tavern in the town of Vienna, between the hours of 10 and 4 o'clock, part of the real estate of said Robert Dennis, dec'd.—viz:

All the Lands

situated near Jones' mills, and late in the occupancy of Maj. John Mitchell. The lands formerly owned by the Mr. Tripps, & purchased under a decree of the Chancellor of this state, laying below the drawbridge, and a water lot in the town of Vienna, opposite Jeremiah Colston's store.

Terms of sale are three fourths of the purchase money to be paid at the expiration of twelve months, and the remaining fourth on a credit of two, three, and four years, in equal instalments, the purchaser giving bond with good and sufficient security with interest from the day of sale—on payment of the purchase money with interest thereon, the trustee will convey the same by good and sufficient deed of bargain and sale to the purchaser or purchasers.

CLEMENT STANFORD,

Feb. 25 4w Trustee.

For Sale.

THE subscriber will offer at public sale, at Mr. William Flint's hotel, on MONDAY the first day of court, or 3d of April next, at 4 o'clock, P. M.

The HOUSE & LOT

situated on Race street, and adjoining the property of Messrs. Corkran and Bryan. The dwelling is

New

The subscribers ... general assortment ... which they offer on ... They request ... to call for settlement ... wishes to retire ... sable that their affa... ted.

EDW... THO...

Jan 7 w

GLOVE...

FLOUR,

The subscribers ... large supply of tre... On hand, 20 barrels ... and Fine FLOUR. ... Fur HATS, also w... al assortment of Se... sale by

BRICKHEAD

Feb. 25 5w

No...

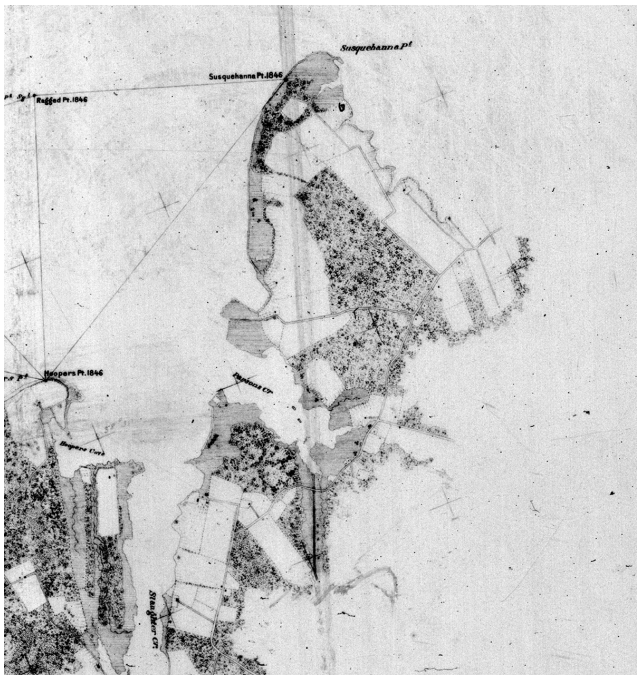
IS hereby given ... brsham Lynch, ... county, deceased, ... duly authenticated ... Wills for said coun... 29th day of March ... will be struck on t... sons who neglect t... cluded from any p... Given under my h... March, 1826.

THOMAS ... of Abra...

march 4 3w

Figure 14. Advertisement for "Sheriff's Sale" selling "Negro boy, called Jacob," Cambridge Chronicle, Saturday, March 18, 1826. (Maryland State Archives)

Figure 15. A detail from a map in the 1835 Maryland State Geologist Report by Alexander & Ducatel indicates the stiff clay soil types in the watershed of Parson's Creek and the lighter soils to the north. (Maryland State Archives, Huntingfield Map Collection, annotation OCLP)



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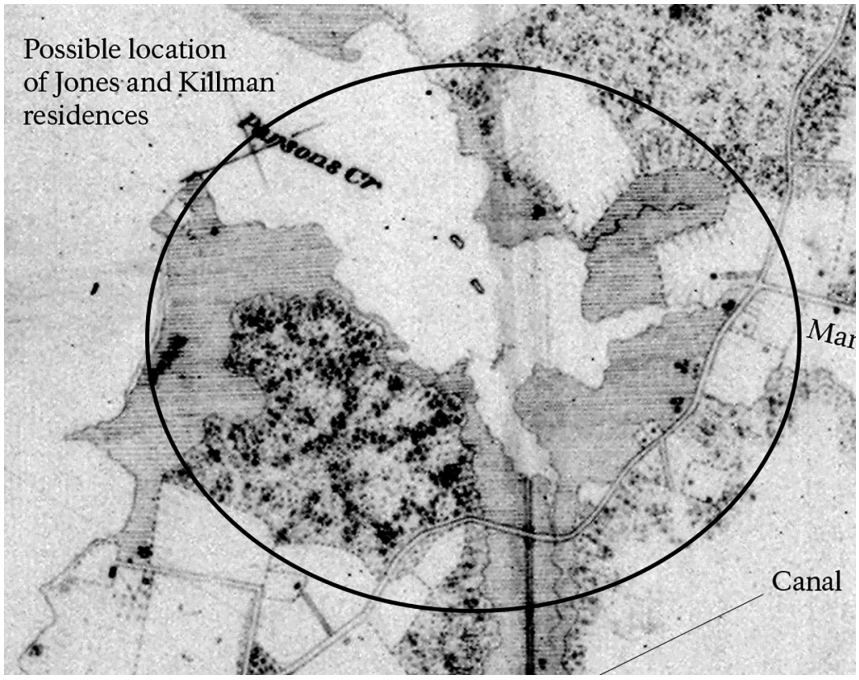

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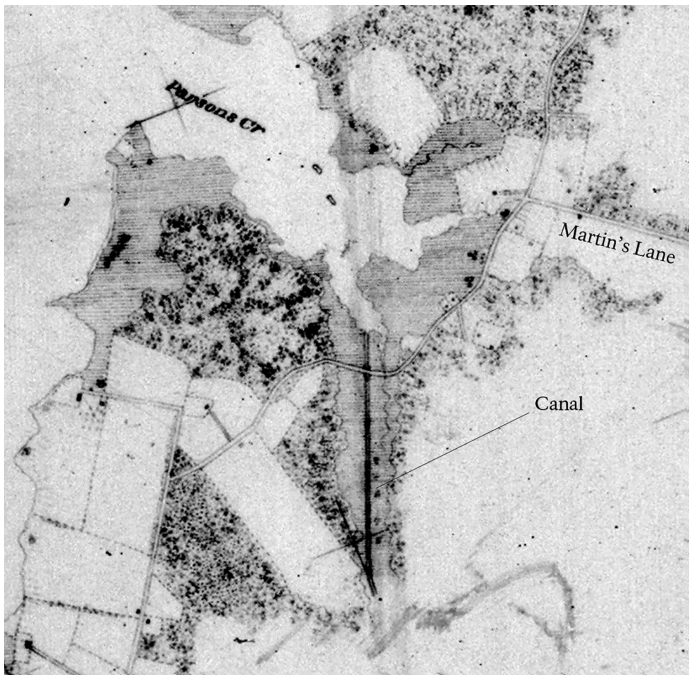
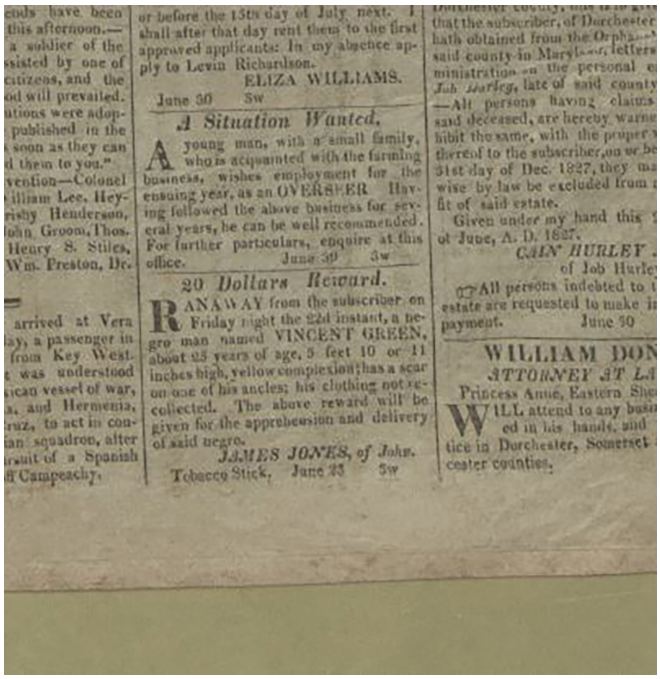


Figure 16. Annotated detail from Map of the Little Choptank or Hudson River including the Bay Shore from Cooks Point to Mekins Neck, Surveyed October 1847 and May, June and July 1848, US Coast Survey A.D. Bache. (Library of Congress, annotation OCLP)

Figure 17. Photographic portrait of United States Representative James Augustus Stewart, 1859. (Library of Congress)



or before the 15th day of July next. I shall after that day rent them to the first approved applicants: In my absence apply to Levin Richardson.

ELIZA WILLIAMS.

June 30 3w

A Situation Wanted.

A young man, with a small family, who is acquainted with the farming business, wishes employment for the ensuing year, as an OVERSEER. Having followed the above business for several years, he can be well recommended. For further particulars, enquire at this office. June 30 3w

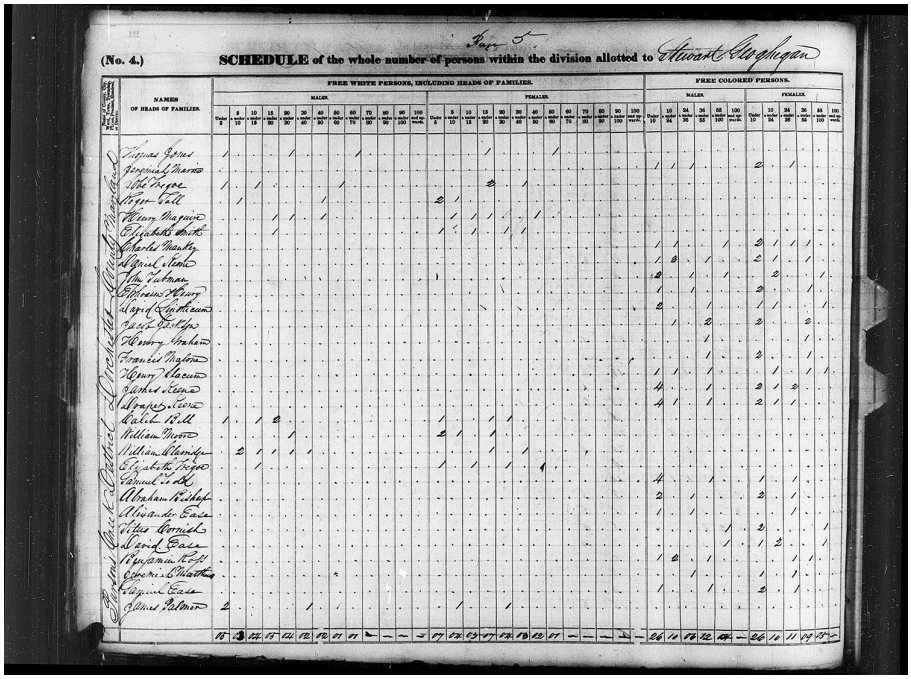
20 Dollars Reward.

RANAWAY from the subscriber on Friday night the 22d instant, a negro man named VINCENT GREEN, about 25 years of age, 5 feet 10 or 11 inches high, yellow complexion; has a scar on one of his ancles; his clothing not recollected. The above reward will be given for the apprehension and delivery of said negro.

JAMES JONES, of John.

Tobacco Stick, June 25 5w

Figure 18. On June 25, 1827 James Jones, son of John Jones, brother of Thomas Jones placed an advertisement in the Cambridge Chronicle advertising the escape of enslaved Vincent Green and a $20 reward for his capture. (Maryland State Archives)



(No. 4.) **SCHEDULE** of the whole number of persons within the division allotted to Stewart Stoughton

Figure 19. The 1840 Federal Census, Parson's Creek District, including the names (heads of household) of many free and enslaved Black families including Benjamin Ross, John Tubman, and Jacob Jackson, among others. (Federal Census, familysearch.com)

Figure 20. One of the earliest portraits of Harriet Tubman, Powelson, photographer, 7, 1868. (Library of Congress)

PERIOD TWO (PART 2): WHITE MARSH AND PARSON'S CREEK ON PETER'S NECK, 1800–1854

Jacob and Dinah Jackson Move from White Marsh to Parson's Creek:
In 1848, three years after selling their property near the Blackwater River in White Marsh, Jacob and Dinah Jackson purchased land nearer to Taylor's Island Road and the mouth of Parson's Creek, not far from the land owned by Vincent Green Sr. The two families would live near each other until Jacob's death, decades later.

Earlier in 1848, James Stewart indentured the same tract purchased by Jackson, slightly more than 57 acres, with Thomas and Caroline Coursey for $550. This meant only that James Stewart loaned Thomas and Caroline $550, with their property as collateral to the loan. The tract included two parcels, an approximately 57-acre portion patent "Martin's Regulation" and the ¾-acre tract 'Martin's Landing."(169) At least two tenants lived on the property when Stewart purchased it, "Jerry Graham" and "M. Canada."(170) A Certificate of Freedom from decades later suggests Jerry Graham was a Black man, once enslaved by William Geoghegan and set free by him.(171) The identity of "M. Canada" remains unknown.(172) On September 30, 1848, Jacob Jackson "called for the deed in the name of J.A. Stewart," which likely meant that Stewart's indenture or loan with Thomas and Caroline/Nancy Coursey, was acquired by Jackson.(173)

According to the early nineteenth-century description of "Martin's Landing," the tract was located along the Little Choptank shoreline, "adjoining the cove or waters making out of Parson's Creek" to a run (creek) just east of the run that would become the Black Water and Parson's Creek Canal. It adjoined the tract "Cator's Addition," which had historically been purchased by people living in free

Black households, including John Driver.(174) "Martin's Landing" provided access to the cove of Parson's Creek, which was beneficial for both transportation and communication and possibly a link in the route to freedom for those escaping slavery. By 1850, Jacob and Dinah Jackson had moved to their land near Parson's Creek, though their connections to the community of White Marsh to the south and east remained strong.(175)

Though Jacob and Dinah already owned land at the mouth of Parson's Creek, on November 24, 1855, they entered an indenture, or mortgage, with James and Rebecca Stewart for 140-1/4 acres of land. The Jacksons paid $1250 for three contiguous parcels. All the parcels were originally part of the "Loockermans Regulation" track surveyed for Thomas Loockermans in 1756 and patented by Roger Woolford in 1768.(176) However, as in much of Dorchester County, the parcels had been resurveyed into new patents and transferred through numerous owners since the mid-eighteenth century. The first parcel described in the deed, the 58-acre tract that Stewart purchased from the Courseys and signed over to the Jacksons a few years earlier, was at the western edge of their farm, near Martin's Lane. The tract contained land of the patents "Martin's Regulation" and "Martin's Landing," which William Martin first surveyed in the late eighteenth century.(177) The 3/4-acre tract "Martin's Landing," was likely Jackson's most valuable land as it provided access to the Little Choptank River via the cove of Parson's Creek. At the time of the initial sale to Stewart, Thomas Coursey was involved in the shipbuilding business and may have owned infrastructure, such as docks and buildings, which would have been included with the sale of "Martin's Landing." However, Coursey likely remained in the boatbuilding business for several of Jackson's free Black neighbors were employed as caulkers and ship carpenters, and no evidence has been found so far that Jackson engaged in shipbuilding.(178)

The second parcel of land included in the Jacksons' indenture was a 47-¾-acre tract that Joseph Stewart purchased from white farmers John and Nancy Crawford in 1815. At the time the Crawfords had extensive land holdings around Church Creek, Tobacco Stick, and Parson's Creek. James Stewart inherited this acreage at his father's death.(179) The third parcel of land that made up the Jackson farm was a 35-acre tract known as Lot #7. James Stewart purchased this parcel too as part of the settlement of his father, Joseph Stewart's estate.(180) Joseph Stewart purchased Lot #7 from Thomas Loockermans Jr. years earlier.(181) Together, these three tracts formed a contiguous 141-½-acre parcel. Eventually, the Jackson's likely established their farmstead about one-third mile from Taylor's Island Road down Martin's Lane toward White Marsh.

When Jacob and Dinah moved to their farm on Martin's Lane, much of their land was cleared of large timber, though probably littered with stumps and small trees. The 1852 tax assessment valued their land at $592.(182) In addition to land, Jacob owned livestock, two horses, two steers, three sows, three cattle, eleven sheep, and twelve hogs and shouts [piglets]. He also owned two beds worth fifteen dollars and additional household goods valued at twenty dollars. In total, the value of his property was $860.(183) According to the agricultural census, farmers near Jackson's farm primarily grew Indian corn for animal fodder and wheat, not tobacco. Many also raised small herds of livestock, pigs, and cows and produced butter as a cash crop.(184)

By the time the Jackson family moved to their new farm, members of the Jackson, Ross, and Tubman families had likely known each other for decades.(185) Though the Jacksons were now further from the center of White Marsh, the footpaths, ditches, and streams that cut east to west through the fields and forests linked the areas together. Only two roads led into White Marsh. Martin's Lane extended southeast from Taylor's Island Road. Another small track ran south from the junction of Martin's Lane and the Blackwater and Parson's Creek Canal, across a ford in the Blackwater River, to present-day Smithville Road and on to the free Black community of Smithville.

According to the 1850 census, Jacob and Dinah lived near Parson's Creek with sixteen-year-old Sarah Jackson, nine-year-old Rose Jackson, thirteen-year-old Joseph Handley, and eight-year-old William Robeson. Hester Franklin, a twenty-year-old woman, also lived with them. William Robeson was legally apprenticed to Jacob, and, likely, Joseph Handley and Hester Franklin were as well. In later years, Jacob and Dinah took in additional apprentices. They also sold or mortgaged the unexpired terms of some of their apprentices to a local white landowner, Samuel Brohawn.(186) Further detail about the young people Jacob and Dinah apprenticed is unknown, but they may have

been orphans or children whose parents were unable to care for them. In mid-nineteenth Dorchester County, the apprenticeship of Black children was common, but how people practiced apprenticeship varied greatly.

In Maryland, any County Orphan's Court had the right to summon a child of any free Black person at any time. According to an 1840 law to "provide for the better regulation of the Free Negro and Mulatto Children," the County Court could appoint a white "master" to apprentice a child until the age of majority at any time if it was "best for the child."(187) Anyone convicted of encouraging or enabling an apprentice to run away would be subject to between one and four years in prison. If the apprentice ran away, once caught, the court could sell their term of apprenticeship, provided the court was satisfied that the master did induce the apprentice to run away through abuse. There was a concurrent law for white children, but it required the parents' permission to indenture and provisions for the child's education.(188) At the time, Dorchester County Orphans Court forced many free Black children to be bound to white masters. By apprenticing children, "masters" could attempt to control their parents' lives, regardless of whether they were free or enslaved.

Jacob and Dinah Jackson's Neighbors in Parson's Creek:
By the 1850s, the shipbuilding and timbering industries had expanded around Parson's Creek, and many of Jacob and Dinah's Black neighbors worked as skilled sawyers, ship carpenters, and caulkers. The land near Parson's Creek and Taylor's Island Road was more valuable than the land in more isolated White Marsh. The population was also more diverse. While some residents owned the land upon which they lived, many did not.(189) Daniel Landreuey/Landregy, a free Black man, worked as a ship carpenter near the Jacksons. He lived with his wife Rose, their son John, and a young girl named Mary Dickson. William Slator, another neighbor of the Jacksons, also worked as a ship carpenter. Though he was not as well off as Jacob and Dinah, William owned about fifty acres of "Loockermans Regulation," one yoke of steers, and a bed. Just to the north of the Jacksons, Vincent Green also owned a small parcel of "Loockerman's Regulation."(190) Gabriel Saunders, a free Black man employed as a sawyer, lived with his wife Eliza near the Jacksons as well. Like ship carpenters, the profession of sawyer required great skill and demanded a higher wage than a laborer. Gabriel Saunders owned about fifty acres of "Loockermans Regulation" and land further south in White Marsh he owned jointly with free Black men, Vincent Green and Edward Penitant. Gabriel Saunders also owned four enslaved people, likely his children, three young boys ages ten, eight, and six, and a two-year-old girl.(191) Free Black man Henry Graham was employed as a laborer and lived near the Jacksons on property possibly owned by the Jacksons. Henry lived with his wife Elizabeth and three young children Harriett, William Matilda, and Solomon. A woman named Rebecca Washington and her young son George lived with them. According to the 1850 slave census, Graham owned one enslaved person, a forty-five-year-old woman, perhaps his wife.(192) Henry Graham and Jacob Jackson had been neighbors in 1840 when both lived closer to the Blackwater River in White Marsh.(193) Jerry Graham was a tenant on the property in the early nineteenth century when Joseph Stewart purchased the land from Thomas Coursey, before it was owned by Jackson.

John D. and Cassandra Harrington were white farmers who lived southeast of the Jackson family. Though the 1858 tax assessment valued their home farm at only $500, they owned additional land in the area, including a 161-½-acre tract, "Mary's Fortune," southeast of Jackson's farm.(194) A portion of this tract lies within the park. John Harrington also owned a third of a schooner, the John Hardy, one-half of a scow (a small flat-bottomed boat), and a canoe. His livestock included one horse, three steers, one cow, three cattle, one sow, and four shoats or piglets. Their total estate was valued at $2,480. John Harrington's relatives, Samuel and Edmond Harrington also owned land to the southeast of Jacob and Dinah Jackson.

During the mid-nineteenth century, Samuel and Edmond Harrington had extensive landholdings in the area. According to the 1852 tax assessment, they owned portions of the patents "Westfalia," "Chambers Chance," and "Thompsons Desire," totaling 317 acres along the Blackwater River. They also owned part of "Martins Purchase" and a 120-acre patent known as "The Grove." "The Grove" incorporated a large stand of merchantable hardwoods just east of White Marsh Road. In total, their assets were worth $10,879, which included about $2,500 in private securities and $1,500 in merchandise for their mercantile business. As part of their mercantile business, Samuel and Edmond

Harrington served as brokers for the area residents. For instance, during the 1850s, Andrew/Drew Opher, a free Black man who owned a farm worth $2,000 on Peter's Neck, sold or mortgaged his personal property to the Harringtons for $116. Opher's property included two horses, one yoke, three cows, one bull yearling, twelve head of hogs, two ox carts, two plows, one harrow, two hundred bounds bacon, a crop of wheat in the ground, and one pair of carriage wheels. The Harringtons then sold the property to someone else or mortgaged the property back to the owners.(195)

In 1850 the farm of Richard and Susan Tall, white farmers who lived with seven children, was just west of the Jackson's Farm. By 1862 their farm included the patents "Morgans Venture" and "Keene's Addition," first purchased by Bruffit Tall, Richard's father, in the early nineteenth century. Richard Tall also owned the tract, "Martins Lane," the narrow road which ran east to west between Taylor's Island Road and White Marsh Road, past the Jackson farm. The Tall family cemetery, which held the graves of Richard's parents among other relatives, was located just south of the intersection of Martin's Lane and Taylor's Island Road.(196) According to the 1852 tax assessment, Tall's real estate was worth between three and five dollars an acre, like Jackson's land. Richard Tall's livestock included a horse, a colt, three yokes of steers, four cows, six young cattle, and fourteen hogs. He also owned five beds, additional household furniture worth thirty dollars, and one scow or flat-bottomed boat.(197) According to the 1850 agricultural census, Richard Tall's farm was worth $2,000. He cultivated 130 acres and left fallow or in forest, 200 acres. Tall raised livestock and grew wheat and Indian corn and produced wool and butter.(198) In 1850, Tall enslaved a thirty-five-year-old man, and the value of his enslaved people was $400 in 1852.(199)

Dr. Reuben James Hooper Tall, Richard's cousin, farmed 336 acres of "Loockermans Regulation" across Taylor's Island Road from the Jackson farm.(200) Northeast of Reuben Tall, Thomas Woolford owned 425 acres of the land patent "John's Point," which had been owned by the Woolford family for generations. At twenty dollars per acre, "John's Point," which was located on the shore of Tobacco Stick Bay, was some of the most valuable land in the area. Jackson's land, valued at only four dollars an acre was worth much less.(201)

Yet even though the value of Jackson's land was relatively low, as a free Black man who owned more than fifty acres of land in Dorchester County, he was exceptional. In the mid-nineteenth century, few free Black men farmed their own property in Dorchester County. The 1850 census described only eleven percent of Black heads-of-households as farmers, while thirty-seven percent of white men were "farmers." Seventy-eight percent of Black men were laborers, while only nineteen percent of white men were. Five percent of Black men were sailors, and just two percent were ship carpenters, though many of Jackson's neighbors sailors and ship carpenters.(202) In 1855, Jacob owned property worth about $2,600, which included a young person named Lucy valued at $100, whom he had purchased from the Keene estate (Figure 21).(203) By 1858, the property Jacob Jackson owned was worth three times as much as that owned by the next wealthiest free Black landowner on the Parson's Creek tax assessment.(204) As a free Black farmer of some means, Jackson likely became a leader in the Black community. It was perhaps through this role that he assisted freedom seekers in their journeys out of slavery.

Jacob Jackson Assists Harriet Tubman to Help Her Brothers Escape to Freedom in 1854:
While Jacob and Dinah Jackson lived on their farm on Martin's Lane, Harriet Tubman assisted about seventy people to escape slavery. The risk was enormous for those who attempted the journey as well as for those who helped them. By the mid-nineteenth century, conflict between people who supported slavery and those who did not was growing. As part of the Compromise of 1850, the Fugitive Slave Act stated that those who prevented the capture of enslaved people or facilitated their escape were breaking the law and risked persecution. People escaping slavery in the southern United States by living in the north now faced renewed fear of capture. Northern abolitionists resisted the law in many ways, including through popular culture. In 1851 and 1852 the story Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe was released in serial form. The story provided a dramatic, accessible, and feminine voice to the struggles of enslaved Black people. Abolitionists, horrified at the depiction of the lives of slaves, were spurred into renewed action. Those who believed in slavery became increasingly angry and alienated from those who would end it. For free Black people in White Marsh and Parson's Creek, increasingly harsh laws and enforcement at the state and local level suppressed Black community growth and advancement. Enslaved people faced additional fear

of being sold to supply the burgeoning agricultural markets in the south and west. And those that took flight risked capture and the inevitable loss of family and friends.(205)

Though Harriet had escaped to freedom in 1848, her brothers Robert, Henry, Benjamin, and Moses were still enslaved, though they had attempted escape. During the winter of 1853, they lived in the woods as fugitives, afraid their enslavers would sell them south. Then a local lumberman [likely John T. Stewart] agreed to hire the three oldest brothers for a year, so Robert, Henry, and Benjamin agreed to "come-in" confident that the local lumberman would not sell them during their contract period.(206) Harriet's youngest brother Moses, however, was not included in the arrangement. He remained hidden in the woods and suffered from frostbite. Harriet, too, was in hiding but was able to communicate with Moses and helped him escape. She returned to the Eastern Shore the following summer during the Methodist "camp meeting time."(207) While in concealment, she spoke with her brothers and encouraged them to escape with her. Nevertheless, her brothers were unwilling to leave the man who had agreed to hire them, and they refused to go. Then late in 1854, Harriet learned that Eliza Brodess was planning to sell Robert, Ben, and Henry after Christmas. She quickly put plans in place to help her brothers escape.(208)

With assistance from a literate friend in Philadelphia, Harriet wrote a letter to Jacob Jackson. According to the 1869 biography of Harriet Tubman written by Sarah Bradford, Harriet began her message with "indifferent matters." She then asked Jacob to "read my letter to the old folks and give my love to them, and to tell my brothers to be always watching unto prayer, and when the good old ship of Zion comes along, to be ready to step aboard."(209) The letter was signed "William Henry Jackson."

William Henry Jackson was born around 1826 and grew up near White Marsh and Parson's Creek.(210) According to Bradford, William Henry was the adopted son of the Jacksons and had left some years earlier for the north, though his exact identity remains a mystery.(211) He was described in his 1849 Certificate of Freedom as follows,
"Negro, William Henry Jackson, 5' 9" high, dark chestnut complexion, has a scar on his right thumb and another large scar on the right side of his head between his ear and forehead – about 23 years of age – born and raised in Dorchester County and free born, identified by Elizabeth K. Hanley."(212)

By 1854, Jacob was already under suspicion for helping slaves to escape. Therefore, when postal workers delivered Harriet's letter to Jacob they initially refused to let him see it.(213) According to Bradford,
"Jacob was not allowed to have his letters till the self-elected inspectors had had the reading of them and studied into their secret meaning. They, therefore, got together, wiped their glasses, and got them on, and proceeded to a careful perusal of the mysterious document. What it meant, they could not imagine; William Henry Jackson had no parents or brothers, and the letter was incomprehensible. White genius having exhausted itself, black genius was called in, and Jacob's letter was at last handed to him. Jacob saw at once what it meant, but tossed it down, saying "Dat letter can't be meant for me, no how. I can't made head or tail of it," and walked off and took immediate measures to let Harriet's brothers know secretly that she was coming, and that they must be ready to start at a moment's notice for the North."(214)

Harriet arrived on the Eastern Shore on Christmas Eve. Her brothers were to be sold by auction the day after Christmas. Quickly Ben, Henry, and Robert, who were working nearby for landowners in Peter's Neck, were told that Harriet was home from the north and that they were to go to their parents' cabin north in Caroline County immediately after dark. Henry and Ben headed quickly towards the cabin. They were soon joined by other escaped slaves from the Cambridge area, including Ben's fiancée, Jane Kane, who was enslaved by Horatio Jones just south of Cambridge. Two young men, Peter Jackson (relationship to Jacob Jackson unknown) and George Winthrop, joined them. Harriet's brother Robert, however, hesitated. His wife Mary had just given birth to their daughter, Harriet, and he struggled to leave her, the baby, and their two young sons. But after weighing the risk of separation forever if he was sold, Robert made his way north and met up with the others hiding in a fodder house. The fodder house, a wooden barn used for storing Indian corn as feed for cattle and swine, was located near Rit and Ben's cabin. Together the group traveled by foot more than one hundred miles to Wilmington, Delaware, where they stopped at the home of Thomas

Garrett.(215)

Thomas Garrett, a Quaker and leader in the Underground Railroad movement, gave them shelter and food and forwarded the party to William Still in Philadelphia.(216) On December 29, the group reached William Still's office at the Anti-Slavery Society. There Still recorded information about their appearance, past experiences, and enslaver so that loved ones might identify the freedom seekers in the future. Like Garrett, Still was a leader in the abolitionist movement. Once freedom seekers arrived at the Anti-Slavery Society offices in Philadelphia, Still was responsible for securing their passage to many other stations along the Underground Railroad in their journey north. To protect their newly achieved freedom and to help discard their former identities as slaves, many formerly enslaved people chose to change their names. Twenty-two-year-old Jane Kane became Catherine Kane. John Chase and Peter Jackson both chose names of powerful Eastern Shore men, Daniel Lloyd, and Tench Tilghman, respectively. Harriet's brothers took the last name of Stewart. Ben became James Stewart. Robert chose John Stewart, and Henry became William Henry Stewart. (217) They then traveled north to New York and on to Canada, where they settled in St. Catherine's, Ontario.

Landscape Description, 1854:
Between 1848 and 1854, Jacob and Dinah Jackson purchased what became their 140-¼-acre farm from James Stewart. Their farm was on Martin's Lane, a narrow dirt road that extended southeast from Taylor's Island Road to White Marsh Road, after passing over the Blackwater and Parson's Creek Canal. Compared to White Marsh, their new community was more racially diverse and economically better off, though it was not wealthy. During the last thirty years, lumberman had removed the area's largest trees, so stumps and trees too small to be worth harvesting likely littered Jackson's land. Their nearest neighbors included the white, Tall family, whose home farm and family cemetery were to the northwest near Martin's Lane and Taylor's Island Road. The Coursey family, and perhaps later the free and enslaved Graham family, lived northwest on Martin's Lane near Taylor's Island Road as well. The eighteenth-century farm of the Jones family, where Jacob was born enslaved, was likely located off of Taylor's Island Road near the present-day trace of the New Canal or Corsey Canal. Fields of grain and Indian corn, as well as pasture for livestock, lined both sides of Taylor's Island Road. Water fences, narrow ditches that helped drain the land and kept cattle and swine from wandering too far, sometimes ringed these open areas. A small cluster of simple log or wooden board structures near the mouth of Parson's Creek was likely related to the shipbuilding industry, for Thomas and Nancy Coursey owned a small shipbuilding business nearby. Some of the free Black men who lived near the Jacksons likely worked here. Southwest of this cluster of residences, the Blackwater and Parson's Creek Canal stretched southward toward the community of White Marsh that developed where Martin's Lane crossed over the Blackwater and Parson's Creek Canal. Eventually, African American settlement in White Marsh expanded northward along what became White Marsh Road. Before the Civil War, however, White Marsh was isolated from public roadways. South of White Marsh, a ford across the Blackwater River provided access to Smithville Road. At the same time, footpaths and small waterways through the fields and woods surrounding Jacob and Dinah's farm linked the three communities together.

As no physical remnants of Jackson's farm have been found thus far, the spatial organization and material design of the farm is unknown. The house was likely oriented southwest to face Martin's Lane, with barns nearby. Typical construction of the period and Jackson's socio-economic level suggest wooden post-and-beam, puncheon, or log.

ENDNOTES
169 The Courseys purchased the property from the Reddish family in the 1830s and 1840s. Thomas Coursey from Robert Reddish, April 15, 1843 Liber W. I 1, folios 623 and 624; also June 8, 1839 Liber E.R. 17, Folios 344 & 345; and June 8, 1839 Liber E.R. 17, 345 & 346; Robert Reddish from George Staplefort and Wife October 29, 1838 Liber E.R. 17, folios 112, 113, 114; and Robert Reddish from Daniel Martin and Wife October 26, 1838 Liber E.R. 17, folios 114, 115, 116
170 "James A. Stewart from Thomas and Nancy Coursey," March 8, 1848 Liber WJ 4, Folio 122.
171 "Jerry Graham" Certificate of Freedom, November 14, 1861, Maryland State Archives. Jerry Graham was approximately 40 years old at the time of the filing of his certificate.
172 The Geoghegan family lived on Taylors Island and William Geoghegan (b. 1811), like many in

Geoghegan family, was a mariner.
173 "James A. Stewart from Thomas and Nancy Coursey", 8 March 1848 Liber WJ 4, Folio 122.
174 The parcel, "Parson's Defeated", is referenced in the patent for "Morgan's Venture" as well, but to date no documentation for a patented or unpatented tract named "Parson's Defeated" has been located, see Patent, "Morgans Venture" in the name of Morgan Jones MSA_S1196_2432.
175 1850 Census, District 4, Parson's Creek Election District.
176 Jacob Jackson from James A Stewart, November 24, 1855, FJH 3 Folio 372, Maryland State Archives.
177 Patents "Morgans Venture by Morgan Jones", 1761, and "Martins Beginning by William Martin" 1791; 1797 Martins Regulation included: 122 acres of "Martin's Beginning"; 28 ¾ acres of "Morgan's Venture"; 100 ½ acres of "Loockermans Regulation"; 2 ¾ acres of Littleworth; and 7 acres of Woolford Spite. This survey was completed only a few years after William Martin had surveyed "Martin's Purchase" on the Blackwater River. When Jacob purchased his land in 1842 it included land of "Martin's Purchase."
178 1850 Dorchester County Census, Parson's Creek District. 1860 – 1880 Federal Census, Dorchester County, Parsons Creek/District 1 & 4, the name Coursey/Corsey does not appear on the federal census during this time period in the area of Parsons Creek. Thomas Corsey (1808-) is listed on the 1850 census for Parson's Creek, District 1, with his wife Caroline Corsey on land valued at $500 – along Harrisville Road) Thomas Corsey (1808-) with wife Rose Ann Corsey also appears on the 1870 federal census for District 9 (east of the Jacob Jackson Home Site) on land valued at $600 and personal property worth $400. On both censuses, Thomas Corsey is listed as a ship carpenter. For Coursey land on Harrisville Road see Thomas Coursey from Samuel Craig and Wife, 10 April 1850, Liber WJ 5, Folio 347.
179 Joseph Stewart from Crawford, Liber ER 3 Folio 406.
180 Joseph Stewart from Thomas Loockerman, August 1814, Liber ER 3 Folio 127 22.
181 Thomas Loockerman Sr. from John Jones, Dec 9, 1793, Liber HD 6 Folio 235
182 Note, though the indenture between Jacob Jackson and James Stewart was not filed until 1855, the 1852 Dorchester County tax records include 148 acres including portions of "Martin's Landing" and "Martin's Regulation" as well as "Loockermans Regulation" in the inventory of Jackson's property. Therefore the property value given likely relates to Jackson's farm on Martins Lane. Except for the note on the 1848 deed between Coursey and Stewart, "Jacob Jackson called for the deed" no other records of land transactions have been found thus far related to Jacob Jackson and land purchases.
183 1852 Tax Records for Parson's Creek District, Dorchester County. When adjusted for inflation, $866 in 1850 equals about $26,000 in 2017.
184 Dorchester County, Maryland, 1850 Federal Agricultural Census.
185 As early as 1830, Jacob was living in the Peter's Neck area of Parson's Creek, north of Anthony Thompson Sr.'s plantation and very near to free Black man, Simon Ross, who according to research by Kate Larson, may have been a half brother of Ben Ross, Harriet's father. In addition, the Jackson and Ross families may have been related through marriage. Araminta Ross's brother, Robert Ross (who took the name of John Stewart following his escape from slavery in 1854), married Millie/Milley Hollis. Millie Hollis's mother was Betsey Jackson, possibly a relation to Jacob Jackson. Betsey Jackson was a Black woman born free near Bucktown in Dorchester County, as was Millie Hollis. Certificate of Freedom, Milley Hollis, 1846, April 28, page 147. Maryland State Archives. In 1846 Milley Hollis was about 27 years old putting her birth about, 1819.
186 Samuel M. Brohawn from Jacob Jackson, March 31, 1858, Bill of Sale, Maryland State Archives, Chattel Records.
187 "An Act to Provide for the Better Regulation of the Free Negro and Mulatto Children within this State", Laws of the State of Maryland, Chapter 35, 1839, Passed March 20, 1840.
188 Ira Berlin, A Guide to the History of Slavery in Maryland, (Annapolis, MD: Maryland State Archives, 2008, pg?.
189 1850 Census, Dorchester County Parson's Creek Election District 4, Maryland State Archives.
190 Vincent Green from James A. Stewart February 12, 1850, Liber WJ 5 Folio 273. Vincent Green purchased 22-acre parcel for $300.00.
191 1850 Dorchester County Slave Census.
192 1850 Census for Dorchester County, on the 1840 census Henry Graham is listed as the head of household where everyone in the household is enslaved.
193 1840 Federal Census, Dorchester County, Maryland
194 1858 Tax records, Parson's Creek, Dorchester County, Maryland State Archives.

195 S.E. Harrington & Co from Andrew Opher, Bill of Sale, May 24 1858, Dorchester County Court Chattel Records 1847-1852, Volume 805, Page 344. (note misfiled), Maryland State Archives; Federal Census, 1850, Dorchester County, District 4, "Drew Opher."
196 Nellie M. Marshall, “Old Tall Place at Parson’s Creek, Madison District”, Tombstone Records of Dorchester County Maryland 1678 – 1964, Cambridge: Dorchester County Historical Society, 1965. According to this publication, the graves for the following people were visible in the early 1960s within the Tall family cemetery: Tall, Elizabeth b. 1783 d. July 25 1821; Aaron, Luvenia b. October 22, 1813, d. Jan 6, 1870; Tall, Francis A. b. May 2, 1844, d. August 20 1867; Tall, Lewis b. Jan 20, 1846, d. October 19, 1867; Tall, Susan d. May 8, 1868, aged 60 years; Tall, Bruffet d. April 10, 1825, aged 58 years; Tall, Monroe, d. (illegible); Tall, T.R. d. Sept. 6, 1829, aged 3 years; Tall, William, b. December 5, 1824, d. October 9, 1825; Tall, G.T. d. Jul 18, 1833, aged 2 years.
197 1852 Tax Records, Parson’s Creek, Dorchester County, Maryland, Maryland State Archives.
198 1850 Agricultural census, Parson’s Creek, Dorchester County, Maryland, Maryland State Archives.
199 1852 Tax Records, Parson’s Creek, Dorchester County, Maryland State Archives; 1850 Slave Schedule, Dorchester County, Maryland State Archives. In 1852, Richard Tall was assessed for 69 acres of Cator’s Addition ($5/acre); 94 acres of Morgans Venture at $3 and 32 acres of Morgan’s Venture at $4; part of Timber Yard, Martin’s Lane, Keenes Addition, and Gregg’s Reeding totaling 71 acres at $5. Dorchester County Board of County Commissioners Assessment Lists, Election Districts 1-10, 1852-1860 MdHR 18.775-1/10, Maryland State Archives.
200 Dr. Reuben James Hooper Tall was the youngest son (b. July 9 1844) of Levin W. Tall and Mary Harrington Tall.
201 1852 Tax Records, Parson’s Creek, Dorchester County, Maryland, Maryland State Archives.
202 McElvey 1972, 338. Table 5-6. Based on an analysis from the 1850 US population census for Dorchester County of all three census areas. As the occupation for some men was left blank in the census, the percentages do not add up to 100%.
203 Tax Assessment records and Assessors Field Book, Dorchester County Board of County Commissioners, 1855 “Jacob Jackson, Negro,” Maryland State Archives
204 Tax Assessment records, Dorchester County Board of County Commissioners, 1858 Tax records, Parson’s Creek, Dorchester County, Maryland State Archives.
205 For an analysis of the rescue trips made by Harriet Tubman between the years 1850 and May/early June 1857, and a discussion of the histography of those trips see Milton C. Sernett, Harriet Tubman, Myth, Memory and History (Duke University Press: Durham and London 2007), Appendix 321-322, as well as Larson.
206 “Interview with Harriet Tubman,” Sydney Howard Gay Papers, Journal 1855 – 1856; Columbia University Special Collections, pg. 54 – 58, as referenced in Kate Larson, National Park Service National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Site Nomination for the Jacob Jackson Home Site, April 7, 2014, 13.
207 Kate Larson, National Park Service National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Site Nomination for the Jacob Jackson Home Site, April 7, 2014.
208 Kate Larson, National Park Service National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Site Nomination for the Jacob Jackson Home Site, April 7, 2014.
209 As quoted in Larson 2003, 110. The story and quote are included in Sarah H. Bradford, Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman (Auburn, NY: W.J. Moses, 1869), 57. The story is supplemented by Benjamin Drew, The Refugee: A North-Side View of Slavery (1855; reprint, Tiden G. Edelstien, ed. Reading, Mass; Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1969.
210 1850 census, Dorchester County, District 3 and Certificate of Freedom “William Henry Jackson” February 12, 1849, MSA c689, Maryland State Archives.
211 According to the 1850 Census for Dorchester County District 3, a 23 year old man named Henry Jackson lived with Horace (40), Harriet (41) and Levin (17) Jackson around White Marsh, Dorchester County, District 3, not far from Dennis Camper and family.
212 Pass Paper or Certificate of Freedom, “William Henry Jackson”, February 12, 1849, p. 161, Maryland State Archives, MSA c689 MSA c689-1. Interestingly, the large facial scar identified in William Henry Jackson’s Freedom Paper would have been very similar to the scar Jacob Jackson caused by his injury from the ax.

213 Larson 2003, 110.
214 Larson 2003, 110.

215 Larson 2003, 110 – 112.
216 C. Peter Ripley, The Underground Railroad (United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service), 1998, 45-47 as quoted in LaRoche, Cheryl Janifer. Free Black Communities and the Underground Railroad: The Geography of Resistance. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2013, 2.
217 Larson 2003, 114-117.

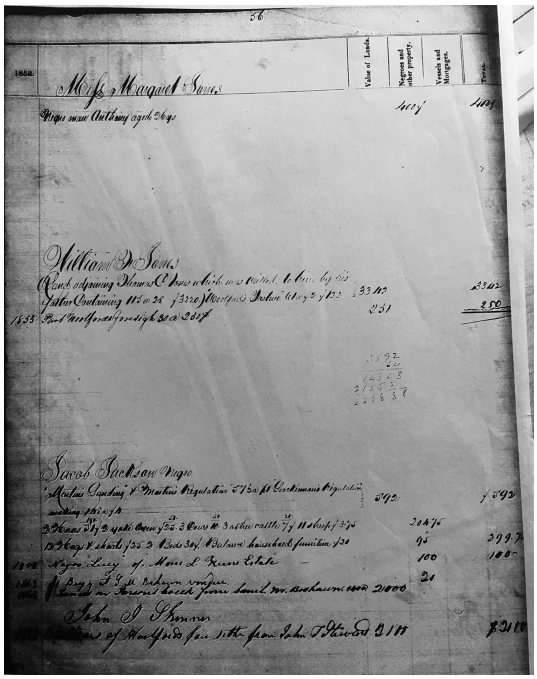


Figure 21. The Dorchester County Tax assessment for Jacob Jackson from the early 1850s includes his land of Martin's Landing and Martin's Regulation, as well as a woman or girl named Lucy. (Maryland State Archives)

PERIOD THREE: WHITE MARSH AND PARSON'S CREEK ON PETER'S NECK, 1855–1879

Period Summary:
In the decade before the Civil War, the White Marsh community's relative isolation from larger towns and roadways, its network of waterways connecting to routes north, and its concentration of land-owning free Black residents helped to sustain resistance to slavery through self-emancipation. Following the war, African Americans fostered a strong community on Peter's Neck centered on the Malone Chapel and an adjacent school. The area closer to Taylor's Island Road near the mouth of Parson's Creek remained both economically and racially diverse. Over time, fewer people farmed on Peter's Neck, though most families continued to garden for subsistence (Figure 22). Where meager farming revenue did not justify maintaining drainage ditches, soggy fields began to revert to woodland and marsh. However, the Tall family near the intersection of Taylor's Island Road and Martin's Lane continued to be cultivated through the 1880s. Though the shipbuilding Coursey family owned their property through 1877, census data suggests they leased it, and by the 1880s, little remained of the shipbuilding industry near the mouth of Parson's Creek. Shortly after the Civil War, William Woolford

purchased property just north of the Jackson farm. By 1877 he was operating a blacksmith shop along Taylor's Island Road, northwest of the Jackson farm, but there were few businesses in the area (Figure 23 and 24).(218)

As the second half of the nineteenth century progressed, the value of land on Peter's Neck and in the Blackwater River watershed fell. Farming had always been difficult here. Now, as rural farmers competed with urban industry for labor, farm fields slowly began to revert to woodland and marsh. Small one-and-one-half-story frame houses on stone piers with brick chimneys were strung along Taylor's Island Road and Martin's Lane. Free Black men and women rented and purchased these homes on relatively small plots of land along White Marsh Road, Martin's Lane, and Taylor's Island Road. Eventually, the African American Green, Keene, Dudley, and Opher families owned most of the land here, including Jacob and Dinah Jackson's farm and the property that once belonged to Jacob's enslaver, Thomas Jones.

The Underground Railroad and Resistance to Slavery in White Marsh and Parson's Creek:
Though the existence of freedom seekers began with the institution of slavery, the term "Underground Railroad" first gained prominence with the invention of the railroad in the 1820s. By the 1850s, both those who aided freedom seekers and those outraged by the loss of their human property used the term "Underground Railroad." Its definition evolved in public discourse to refer to a loose network of people and places in the upper south and the north that assisted enslaved people on their journeys to freedom. With the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850, which required enslaved people to be returned to their enslavers even if captured in a free state, activity on the Underground Railroad increased. During the 1850s in Dorchester County, many freedom seekers attempted to escape with and without Harriet Tubman's assistance. Whether Jacob Jackson assisted people in addition to Tubman's brothers is unknown. Between February and March 1857, eight enslaved people, known as the "Dover Eight," escaped their owner Pritchett Meredith of Bucktown with directions from Tubman.(219) Following their successful escape, in the autumn of that year 44 enslaved people escaped in two large groups, including members of the Anthony and Cornish families, among others.(220) They included a group of twenty-eight people enslaved by Samuel Pattison, Jane Cator, Richard Keene, Willis Brannock, Reuben E. Phillips, and the Reverend Levi D. Travers.(221) Their farms were all located near Slaughter Creek, southwest of the Jackson property in the area of present-day Smithville, and they may have received guidance from Tubman.(222) The Slaughter Creek area was connected to White Marsh through a narrow road or track that passed over a ford on the Blackwater River and extended north to cross Parson's Creek to join with Martin's Lane.

Soon after the successful escapes, a leading national newspaper published in Washington D.C. began running articles deriding and mocking Eastern Shore slaveholders.(223) Perhaps reporters recognized the irony of "slaves stampeding" from the home district of Representative James A. Stewart.(224) Representative Stewart, the man from whom the Jackson's brought their property, was a strong proponent of slavery in the United States House of Representatives. In 1856 Stewart outlined his pro-slavery beliefs before the US Congress in a speech on "…African Slavery, it's status -- Natural, Moral Social, Legal and Constitutional." In his speech Stewart stated that "the negro race, although human, in all probability, is inferior and subordinate to the white race….they were undoubtedly intended to do the drudgery of the white man, and such is the ordination of Providence…"(225) Nine months later, another Maryland native, Chief Supreme Court Justice Rodger B. Taney, echoed Stewart's words in the court's Dred Scot Decision, that free Black people were not citizens under the United States Constitution.(226) This local and national media scrutiny spurred Eastern Shore slaveholders to increase their vigilance on both free and enslaved Black communities. However, despite the increased danger and threat of capture between 1849 and 1860, Tubman made at least thirteen trips to rescue enslaved men and women, including many members of her family, facilitated through her network in White Marsh and beyond. Tubman quickly became known as an important Underground Railroad conductor.

Jacob and Dinah Jackson Face Financial Challenges:
Although authorities suspected Jacob Jackson of participation in the Underground Railroad when he assisted Harriet Tubman to help her brothers escape enslavement, except for Sarah Bradford's account in Scenes from the Life of Harriet Tubman, his methods for assisting freedom seekers are unknown. Between 1858 and 1863, Jacob and Dinah Jackson appear to have needed money, and

they leveraged their real estate and household goods quickly to raise it. On March 13, 1858, the Jacksons sold or mortgaged their 140-acre farm to Samuel Brohawn for $1,800.(227) According to the 1850 census, Samuel Brohawn, his wife Elizabeth, their young son William, and free Black man Charles Dutton lived on a farm not far from the Jackson family.(228) In March, a few weeks after their real estate transaction, Jacob sold his personal property to Brohawn for $552. At the time, Jacob's property included "three steers, four heiffers [sic], three cows, two calves, five head of sheep, seventeen head of hogs, two horses, two ploughs, one wheat farrow, one ox cart."(229) It also included the unexpired terms of apprenticeship of four Black youths William (age 18), Rosilla and Joseph Robinson, and Julia Cornish. The 1850 census included William in the Jackson household as an eight-year-old (Figure 25). The identities of Julia Cornish, and Rosilla and Joseph Robinson are unknown. The Jackson family appears on the 1860 census but not on the 1860 agricultural census, which required land ownership. In addition, none of the young apprentices listed in the 1858 bill of sale were in the Jackson household by 1860.(230)

Whether Jacob and Dinah released their assets to Samuel Brohawn and moved away from their farm in 1858 or whether they mortgaged their property to Brohawn to raise money is unclear. Whether Samuel Brohawn sold the debt is also unclear. But on July 29, 1858, Hugh Neild, a local farmer, referenced the "house where Jacob Jackson now lives" and a man Neild enslaved, Levin Camper, in his will,
"I give to each of my dear grandchildren Asbury Jones [and] Thomas Jones the Sum of $1000 to be applied to their education. I will and bequeath my negro man [enslaved] Levin Camper to be free at my death, I also give and bequeath unto the said Levin Camper the house where Jacob Jackson now lives with the cleared land attached thereto with the privilege of getting dead and down timber for firewood, and fence rails to enclose his ground in any part of my timber land which he may select during his life, and at his death I give and bequeath the said house and lot to my dear son John R. Neild in fee simple. I will and bequeath to my negro [enslaved] man Martin Bowly to be free at my death and I also give and bequeath to the said Martin Bowly the house where Charles Sanders now lives [northwest of Jackson], with five acres of land attached thereto, with the privilege of getting dead and down timber for firewood, and fence rails to enclose his ground.during his life and at his death I give and bequeath said house and lot to my dear son John R. Neild in fee simple. I will and bequeath [enslaved] negro boy Jerry [possibly Jerry Malone] to serve my dear son John R. Neild for fifteen years, after my death, then to be free."(231)

On the 1860 census, African American Levin Camper is described as a free man, employed as a miller and living near the Jones family. The relationships among Levin Camper, (who may have been the same or related to the Levin Camper who paid Jacob Jackson for veterinary services in the 1840s), James Neild (who purchased the enslaved Vincent Green), Thomas Jones (who enslaved Jacob Jackson) and his brother James Jones (who enslaved Vincent Green), require further study. In 1860, Jacob and Dinah Jackson, both of whom could read, lived with their son James (age 15), their daughter Margaret (5), and a nineteen-year-old man, Stephen Camper. Vincent and Elizabeth Green and their family lived next to them. Then on June 1, 1863, Jacob and Dinah Jackson bought back their farm from Samuel Brohawn for two thousand dollars, the price Brohawn paid Jackson for the farm plus two hundred dollars of interest.(232)

The transactions may have related to Jackson's purchase of an enslaved girl or woman named Lucy, listed in the Jackson's Parson's Creek tax assessment record in 1858 (see Figure 21).(233) Or Jacob and Dinah's need for money may have related to a lawsuit first recorded in the Dorchester County Equity Court. For on March 7, 1859, less than a year after Jackson sold his property to Brohawn, Henry Collins filed a lawsuit against Jacob Jackson et al., in the Dorchester County Circuit Court.(234) Henry Collins was a merchant who lived east of the Jackson Farm in election district two.(235) The suit continued for the next thirteen years.(236)

White Marsh and Peter's Neck During the Civil War:
In 1860 Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the United States. Of the approximately 2,500 votes cast in Dorchester County, only 34 were for Lincoln. Six of those votes were cast in the Parson's Creek Election District and eight in Church Creek, the most of any single district in Dorchester County. During the Civil War, both free and enslaved Black people traveled to Baltimore to enlist, both for employment and protection from enslavement. As Major-General Robert C.

Schenck wrote in frustration to President Lincoln on July 4, 1863,
“I have again and again in vain endeavored to get the attention of authorities at Washington to the fact that at least one negro regiment might be raised here. I telegraphed you some days ago on the subject and venture once more respectfully to suggest that somebody be sent here or authorized to accept the services of and organize these blacks, who ware now willing to be enrolled. I have had some thousands of them at work on fortifications but will discharge the most of them in a day or two. I had also upward of 200 offering today, from Cambridge, on the Eastern Shore. But if not accepted and organized while this spirit prevails among them, it will be difficult to get them together hereafter.”(237)

Further research is necessary to determine which if any men of Jackson, Green, or other families living in White Marsh enlisted in the Union army. In 1864, Jacob Jackson passed away of unknown causes; the same year enslaved people in Maryland received their freedom through the Emancipation Proclamation.(238) That year, the tax assessment of Jackson's property was slightly more than $3,000, more than twice as much as the land owned by any member of the white Jones family in Parson’s Creek.(239)

Growth of the African American Communities in White Marsh and Parson’s Creek:
Following the Civil War, southern Maryland, including Parson's Creek and White Marsh, experienced economic decline. Most commercial wheat and tobacco cultivation moved to the south and west, and small-scale farms suffered.(240) Small-scale establishments also dominated the timbering and oystering industries on the Eastern Shore and provided only season employment. Over time, many young people left the fields around White Marsh, and much of the Eastern Shore, for manufacturing jobs in Baltimore and other cities. Yet while the local timbering and agricultural industries were shrinking, the market for oysters was growing. Before the Civil War, a man with a single skiff and tongue could enter the business and make a decent income in good harvest years. However, as the national popularity of oysters grew in the late 1870s and 1880s, new laws were passed to harvesting, which limited the economic viability of small-scale operations. As large-scale dredging for oysters with hired labor took over, harvests increased exponentially. By the late nineteenth century, the Cambridge oyster trade was the second largest in the nation after Baltimore. With the growth of oystering industry came the expansion of the packing and canning industry. Eventually, many of the residents in White Marsh, Parson’s Creek, and Tobacco Stick found work canning.(241) Initially, canneries were located on rivers and creeks to facilitate transportation, but as the rail network expanded in the 1870s, the large rectangular buildings of the canneries moved further inland and dotted the Dorchester County landscape.

The community also evolved around newly established African American schools and churches. In 1864, a revision of the Maryland constitution organized a new statewide system of education. Though legislators discussed a system to educate Black children at length, they did not include it in the final plan adopted by the Constitution Convention delegates.(242) Instead, independent organizations, including the Baltimore Association for the Moral and Intellectual Improvement of Colored People and the Freedmen’s Bureau, privately funded schools for African American children throughout Maryland. Around 1865, four schools opened in Dorchester County located in Church Creek, Vienna, Cambridge, and Blackwater.

In addition to schools, churches formed cornerstones of many communities in Dorchester County, including White Marsh. In 1866 a group of African American men who lived near Jackson’s farm, including Jeremiah Malon/e, John Jones, Andrew Opher, Vincent Green, James Keene, James Brown, and John E. Opher, founded the Malone African Methodist Episcopal Church.(243) That year Jerry Malone (age 76) and his wife Roseann/Rosa (64) conveyed a small parcel of land adjacent to White Marsh Road to members of the Board of Trustees. Like his neighbors, Jacob Jackson and Vincent Green, Jerry Malone had been enslaved by members of the white Jones family. Jerry had gained his freedom in 1836.(244) By 1887, and likely years before, an African American school called “Public School No. 1, District 4” was established next to Malone Church.(245) The school was active until desegregation in the late 1960s and has since been demolished. The existing single story, gable-roofed frame chapel in White Marsh was erected in 1895 and continues to serve as a center of the community.(246)

By the 1870s, many of White Marsh and Parson's Creek residents were either tenant farmers or sharecroppers. Only a few Black families, including Dinah Jackson, owned the parcels of land upon which they lived.(247) Levin Camper, owned an establishment, likely a mill, near the Malone Church and the African American school in White Marsh.(248) At the time, Dinah Jackson lived near African American farmers Vincent Green and Jacob Baily. Jacob Baily was likely related to Dinah (and may have been a tenant on her land) as he was listed in 1869 as a defendant, along with Thomas and John Jackson, in legal proceedings filed in the Jackson lawsuit with Collins.(249) The assessed value of the Jackson farm had decreased dramatically to just four hundred dollars. A few white landowners owned much of the land surrounding Jackson's farm, including Stewart Vickers, whose home farm was west of Dinah near Slaughter Creek. Members of the Harrington family, Edward, Samuel, John, and Benjamin owned large tracts of land on both sides of Taylor's Island Road, near the Jackson and Green farms and southeast near White Marsh. Though the Jacksons had owned their land for decades, like many people in central Dorchester County during the challenging economic times of the 1870s, Dinah's hold on her land was tenuous.

The Jacksons Lose Their Family Farm:
Following Jacob's death in 1864, Dinah Jackson stayed on the farm. In 1870, Benjamin Harrington was appointed Trustee by the Circuit Court of Dorchester County Court of Equity to sell the "lands of Jacob Jackson, deceased." The sale was to settle the suit first filed in 1859 between defendants Dinah Jackson and her son Thomas Jackson and complainant Henry Collins. Following an extended suit, the courts decreed that Jacob Jackson's former farmlands were to be seized, possessed, and sold to the highest bidder. In May 1870, Reverend and Judge Levi D. Travers purchased the farm for $625 from Trustee Benjamin Harrington.(250) Travers, who was a local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church, owned a large and valuable farm on Taylor's Island called Ridgeton Farm (Figure 26).(251) Then in 1875, Travers sold the former Jackson farm to local white farmers John R. (age 60) and Sarah E. (36) Brown (see Figure 23).(252) Likely, this John R. Brown was the same John R. Brown, a Pattison heir and plaintiff in the legal battle involving ownership over Harriet Tubman's mother, Rit Ross, years before.(253) The couple had four sons, William (15) and Charlemagne (13), who worked on the farm, and Baynard (9) and Thomas (4).

Following the loss of her home, Dinah Jackson remained in the area. In 1870 she lived with three women Maria Thomas (age 70), Martha Griffin (20), and Margaret Franklin (16).(254) Margaret Franklin may have been related to Hester Franklin, who lived in the household of Dinah and Jacob in 1850. Further information about the women is unknown.

Around the same time, Vincent Green, a neighbor of the Jackson family for more than twenty years, purchased a fifteen-acre parcel of the former Jackson farm, including:
"land situated on the seventh end of the said enclosed land and as surveyed and land as it appears by deed or certificate made by John Tubman [relation, if any, to Harriet Tubman unknown] November 1876 is described as follows, beginning at a locust post standing by a road which separates the said land from the home farm of the said Vincent Green containing fifteen acres, two rods, and thirty-two and a half perches, more or less."(255)

At the time of his purchase, Green owned a farm adjacent to John and Sarah Brown. By 1880 Vincent Green (age 70) was living with Elizabeth Green (40) and their children. According to the census, their sons, George (20) and Jacob (17), worked as "laborers" on the farm. Sons Robert (13) and James (11) also worked on the farm. May Green (8), Vincent and Elizabeth's daughter, attended school, likely in or near Malone's Church on White Marsh Road. They also had two young daughters, Eliza (7) and Sarah (4), and an adopted baby Isiah Bryan (1). Richard (74) and Annie (48) Tall lived and farmed west of the Brown and Green families on land first acquired by Richard's father Bruffit Tall in the early nineteenth century. Richard's two grown sons lived with them, Harrison (45), a sailor, and Samuel (35), a farmworker, as well as a young daughter, Kate May (4), and Harrison's son, John (8). The Coursey family still owned a residence south of the Tall family. The African American Opher family, widowed James and his six children, farmed land they owned lived near the mouth of Parson's Creek. Members of the Opher family had owned land in Parson's Creek at least as early as the 1850s, when Drew Opher farmed land worth $2,000.(256)

Landscape Description, 1880:

By 1880, Dinah Jackson had likely passed away, as her name no longer appears in the census. Vincent and Elizabeth Green continued farming the land they had owned for more than thirty years. Their sons, Thomas V. and Jacob Green eventually purchased portions of the former Jackson farm and may have lived in Jackson's farmhouse. Farming in the watershed of Parson's Creek continued, though most farmed to augment income from other sources, including employment in the growing canning and packing industry. Agricultural land bordered White Marsh Road north to Madison [Tobacco Stick]. The wettest land near the mouth of Parson's Creek was slowly reverting to woodland and marsh. Fields remained small and surrounded by water fences or drainage ditches. The community of White Marsh centered on the African American Methodist Episcopal Church based in Malone Chapel and the nearby school for African American children. Established roads included White Marsh Road, which led south from Tobacco Stick, through White Marsh, forded the Blackwater River and continued to Smithville Road. Martin's Lane linked Taylor's Island Road to White Marsh Road, crossing the old Blackwater and Parson's Creek Canal, also known as Stewart's Canal (Figure 27).

Small clusters of houses, many simple one or one-and-a-half story clapboard buildings with brick chimneys, were located at the mouth of Parson's Creek and in White Marsh along White Marsh Road near Malone's Chapel. In addition, a few houses were located north along Taylor's Island Road toward Madison. By the late 1870s, William Woolford owned a blacksmith just north of the Tall and Jackson farms on Taylor's Island Road. J.E. Harrington (1821 – 1909) owned property north of Vincent Green on Taylor's Island Road and across Taylor's Island Road from the Tall farm. His small one-and-one half-story clapboard house on the east side of Taylor's Island Road remains in ruins just outside the park's boundary.

ENDNOTES

218 See deeds, "William W. Woolford from Robert Phillips and wife" November 7, 1867, Liber FJH 7 Folio 495; "Dr. B.L. Smith from Washington Woolford", Liber CL 10 Folio 343, December 7, 1887; See also, W.F Harrington (Estate of Benjamin L. Smith) to Calvert R. Jones Liber WHM 23 Folio 67; . See too, patent 1761 "Morgan's Venture", Patent from Morgan Jones_220 acres, MSA_s1196_2432; and 1877 Illustrated Atlas of Talbot and Dorchester Counties, Parson's Creek District. 1850 Federal Census, Dorchester County, District 4, "William Woolford." At the time his real estate was valued at $1000 and his goods at $300. See also, Robert H. Phillips from George and Jane Todd of Baltimore City" 18 December 1868 for "land adjoining the land of Jacob Jackson," for $500. Liber FJH 7 Folio 177.

219 Kate Larson, http://www.harriettubmanbiography.com/TubmansUGRR.html, accessed 5/1/2018.

220 Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Driving Tour brochure cites the names of the families of those escaping enslavement, (Maryland State Office of Tourism, National Park Service, et. al), 11.

Negro Stampede," Cecil Whig, October 31, 1857.

222 For more information about this particular self-emancipation, please see William Still's The Underground Rail Road, Porter & Coates, 1872, page 102 – 104.

223 See "Fears of Insurrection." The National Era (Washington D.C.), April 26, 1855.

224 McElvey 415-420.

225 Excerpt from the "Speech of James A. Stewart of Maryland on African Slavery – Its status – Natural, Moral, Social, Legal and Constitutional and The Origin, Progress, Present Condition. And Future Destiny of the United States, Considered in Connection with African Slavery as a part of its Social System; With the Bearings of that Institution Upon the Interests of All Sections of the Union and Upon the African Race," delivered in US House of Representatives, July 23, 1856, Washington, D.C.: Congressional Globe, 1856.

226 McElvey, 418-419.

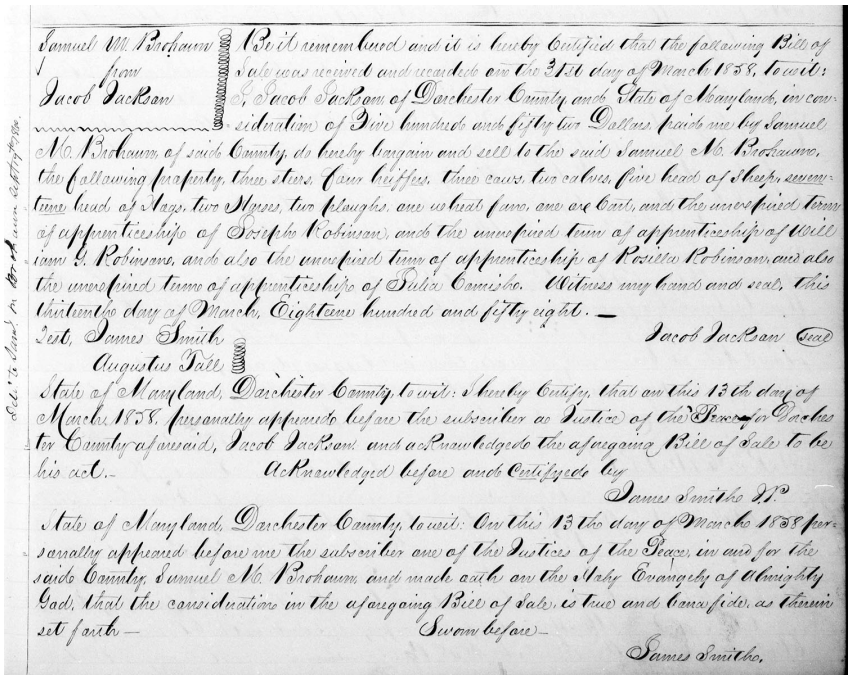
227 Brohawn from Jackson, Deed Fiber FJH 4 Folio 170.

228 1850 Dorchester County Census. Samuel Brohawn does not appear in the 1860 census for Dorchester County, though the name may not have been found due to the inability to correctly decipher script. Samuel Brohawn was born in 1817 and died in 1882.

229 Chattel Records, Samuel M. brohawn from Jacob Jackson, Dorchester County Circuit Court, Chattel Records, 1847-1852, pg 332, note the deed is misfiled under Chattel Records 1847 – 1852, though the date of the deed is March 18, 1858.

230 1858 Tax Assessment, Dorchester County, Maryland, Maryland State Archives.

231 Dorchester County Registry of Wills, Hugh Neild, July 19, 1858, LLK 2/180. See also land deeds, FJH Liber 5, Folio 41 and 595, Maryland State Archives; To illustrate the complicated nature of enslavement, the nine heirs of Thomas Jones filed a deed of manumission for Levin Camper on April 27, 1854 stating that Levin was to be freed on January 28, 1858. Maryland State Archives, Deeds of Manumission, April 27, 1854.
232 Jackson from Brohawn, Liber FJH 5 Folio 385 June 1, 1863, Maryland State Archives.
233 1858 Tax Assessment Record, Dorchester County, Maryland State Archives
234 Circuit Court Records, Court of Equity, Dorchester County, March 7, 1859 Liber 1 Folio (or Case Number) 453.
235 1860 Federal Census, Dorchester County, District 2
236 Circuit Court Records, Court of Equity, Dorchester County, Jackson, Thomas, et al, Jackson, John et. al, Jackson, Dinah, et al, vs. Collins, Henry, July 16, 1869 Liber FJH 2 Folio 681; and Jackson, Thomas et al vs. Henry Collins, May 3, 1870, Liber FJH 2 Folio 710; Liber FJH 4 Folio 269.
237 Major General Robert C. Schenck to President Abraham Lincoln, Baltimore Maryland, July 4, 1863. The Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives for the First Session of the Fifty-First Congress, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1891, 528.
238 Kate Larson, Nomination, “Jacob Jackson Home Site, Underground Railroad Network to Freedom”, July 31, 2016.
239 Board of County Commissioners, Tax Assessment List for 1864, District No. 4, Parson’s Creek.
240 Barbara Jeanne Fields, Slavery and Freedom on the Middle Ground; Maryland during the Nineteenth Century (Yale University Press), 1987, 168.
241 Barbara Jeanne Fields, Slavery and Freedom on the Middle Ground; Maryland during the Nineteenth Century (Yale University Press), 1987, 183.
242 Kay McElvey, “Early Black Dorchester, 1776-1870: A History of the Struggle of African Americans in Dorchester County Maryland”, (University of Maryland Dissertation), 1972, 552.
243 7 September 1866, Liber FJH 6 Folio 431, Dorchester County Land Records.
244 January 11, 1837, Jerry Malun [Malone], Dorchester Court Chattel Records
245 July 13, 1887, Liber FJH 10 Folio 53, Dorchester County Land Records.
246 Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 10/53, 13 July 1887, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland
247 1870 Federal Census, District 4, Dorchester County, Maryland.
248 1777 Illustrated Atlas of Maryland, Parson’s Creek, Dorchester County Maryland; 1860 and 1870 Census records, District 4, Parson’s Creek Election District
249 Circuit Court Records, Court of Equity, Dorchester County, Jackson, Thomas, et al, Jackson, John et. al, Jackson, Dinah, et al, vs. Collins, Henry, July 16, 1869 FJH 2 681; See also Dorchester County, Federal Census, 1870, Jacob Baily (35), lived with Rachel (25), George Ann (16); Jacob (10), Levin Trego (10), and Priscilla Chester (9) in a house next to Dinah Jackson.
250 Circuit Court Records, Court of Equity, Dorchester County, Jackson, Thomas, et al, Jackson, John et. al, Jackson, Dinah, et al, vs. Collins, Henry, July 16, 1869 FJH 2 681; and Jackson, Thomas et al vs. Henry Collins, May 3, 1870, Liber FJH 2 Folio 710; Liber FJH 4 Folio 269; see Harrington to Travers Liber FJH 10 Folio 214 &215.
251 Travers’s property was assessed for taxes at thirty-six thousand dollars in 1870.
252 John R. and Sarah Brown from Levi Travers, June 18, 1875 as referenced in deed Vincent Green from John Brown February 13, 1877, FJH 11 Folio 469 & 470.
253 Whether this was the same John R. Brown is unknown. John R. Brown who purchased the Jackson farm was born in 1820 and would have been thirty-two and the time of the case over the ownership of Rit.
254 1870 Federal Census, Parson’s Creek District, Dorchester County, Maryland
255 Vincent Green from John and Sarah Brown February 15, 1877, Liber FJH 11 Folio 469; unfortunately, the location of the survey referenced in the deed is unknown.
256 1850 Federal Census, District 1, Dorchester County, Maryland.



Samuel M. Brohawn from Jacob JacSon

Be it remembered and it is hereby Certified that the following Bill of Sale was received and recorded on the 24th day of March 1858, to wit; I, Jacob JacSon of Dorchester County and State of Maryland, in consideration of Five hundred and fifty five Dollars paid me by Samuel M. Brohawn of said County, do hereby bargain and sell to the said Samuel M. Brohawn, the following property, three steers, four heifers, three cows, two calves, five head of Sheep, seventeen head of Hogs, two Hoes, two ploughs, one ox chain, one ox Cart, and the unexpired term of apprenticeship of Joseph Robinson, and the unexpired term of apprenticeship of Will iam G. Robinson, and also the unexpired term of apprenticeship of Rosetta Robinson and also the unexpired term of apprenticeship of Julia Ann Isbo. Witness my hand and seal, this thirteenth day of March, Eighteen hundred and fifty eight. —

Test, James Smith
Augustus Tall

Jacob JacSon (Seal)

State of Maryland, Dorchester County, to wit: I hereby Certify, that on this 13th day of March 1858 personally appeared before the subscriber as Justice of the Peace for Dorchester County aforesaid, Jacob JacSon and acknowledged the aforegoing Bill of Sale to be his act. — Acknowledged before and Certificate by James Smith JP

State of Maryland, Dorchester County, to wit: On this 13th day of March 1858 personally appeared before me the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace, in and for the said County, Samuel M. Brohawn, and made oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, that the consideration in the aforegoing Bill of Sale, is true and bonafide, as therein set forth. — Sworn before — James Smith

Figure 22. Though the 1861-1862 United States Coastal Survey, illustrates only the western edge of the Jacob Jackson Home Site, including the land of the patent, Martin's Landing, and the Tall family residence. However, the patterns of field and forest in the region are clearly visible. (Library of Congress)

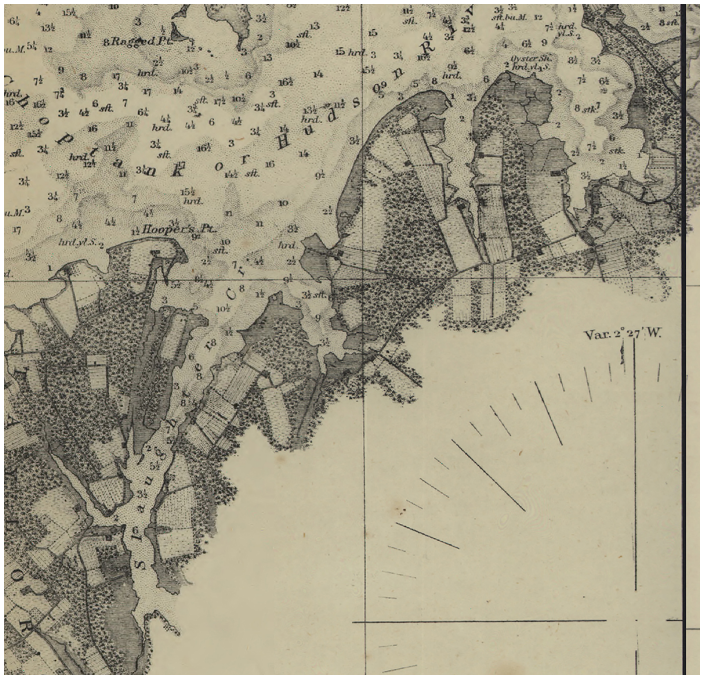


Figure 23. Detail from the 1877 Map of Parson's Creek from the Illustrated Atlas of Talbot and Dorchester Counties, indicating the location of the J. Brown residence, the former Jackson family farm. (Library of Congress)

Figure 24. 1877 Map of Parson's Creek from the Illustrated Atlas of Talbot and Dorchester Counties. (Library of Congress)

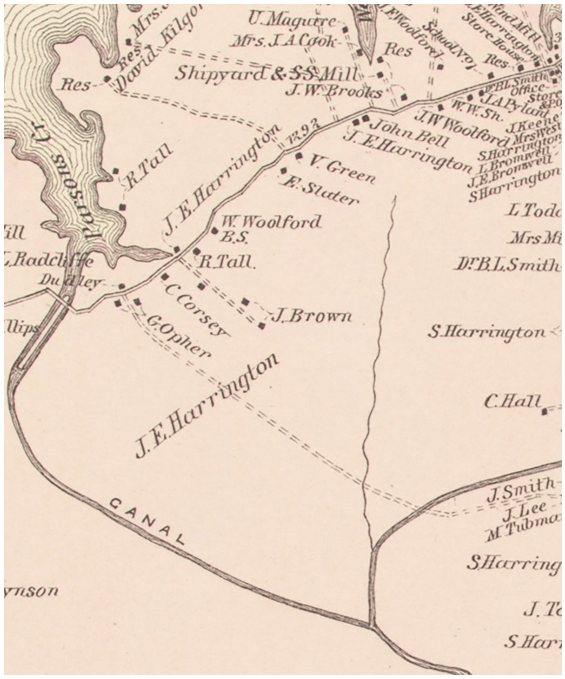
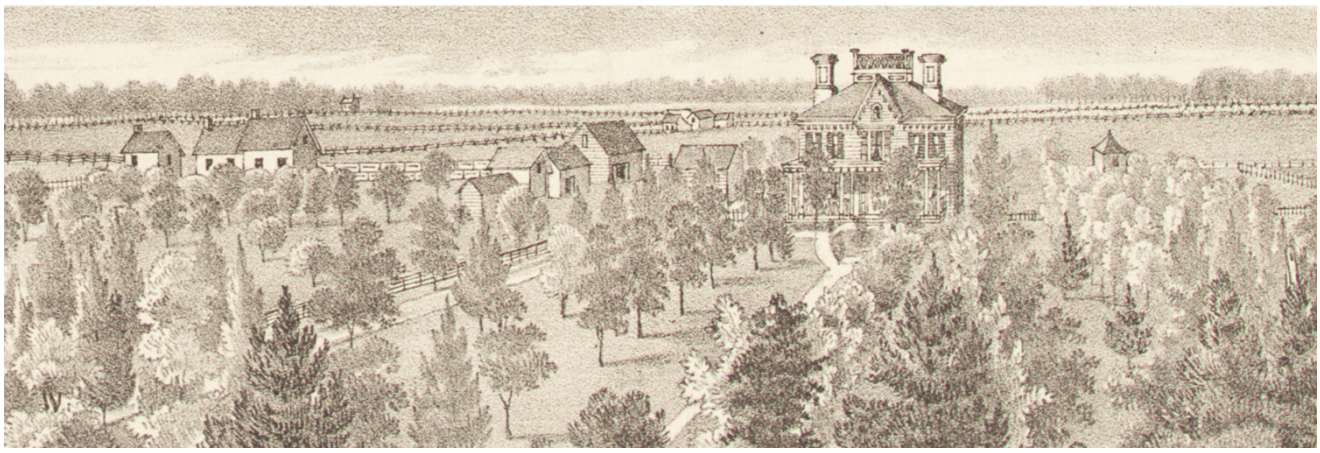


Figure 25. A chattel record from Jacob Jackson to Samuel Brohawn, March 13, 1858, recording Jacob's sale of his belongings, including the unexpired terms of apprenticeships of black children in his household. (Maryland State Archives)



see below

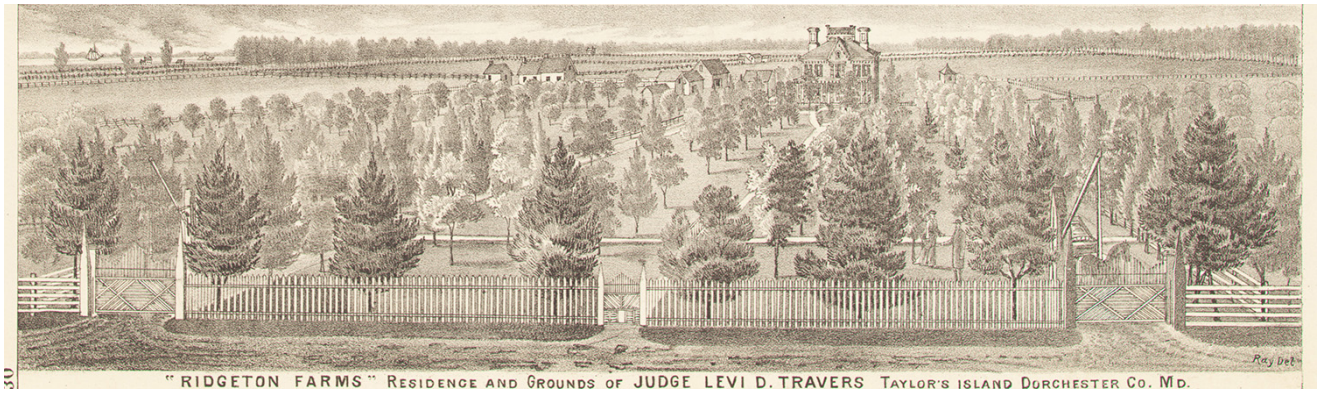


Figure 26. Ridgton Farm, the property of Reverend Levi D. Travers who purchased the Jackson farm in an auction from Trustee Benjamin Harrison, as printed in the Illustrated Atlas of Talbot and Dorchester Counties, Maryland, 1877. (Library of Congress)

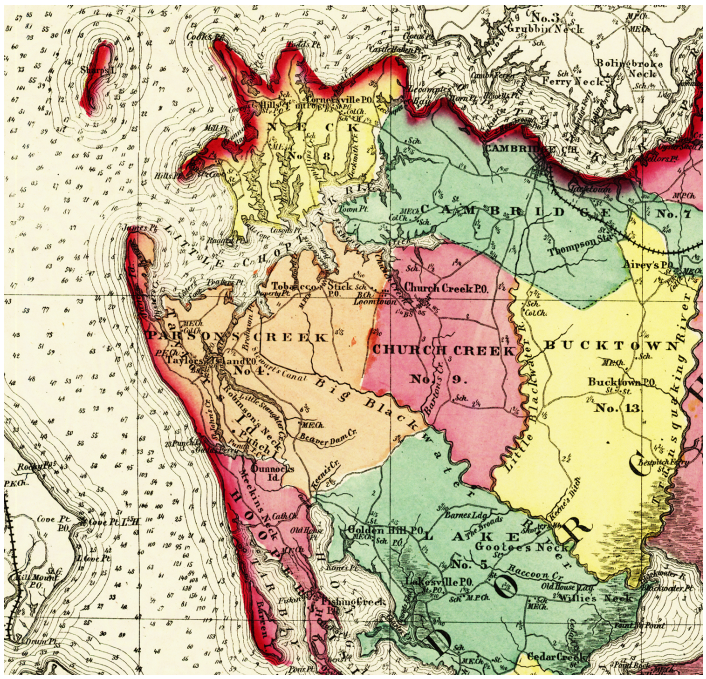


Figure 27. The Walling Map, 1873 labels the Blackwater and Parson's Creek Canal as "Stewart's Canal" and extends White Marsh Road (unlabeled road extending south from Tobacco Stick) almost all the way to the Blackwater River. (Library of Congress)

PERIOD FOUR: CONSOLIDATION, FORESTRY, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, 1881–1938

Period Summary:
By the 1880s, an exodus had begun as people moved from rural Dorchester County to Cambridge, Baltimore, and other urban communities. The railroad, which linked the Eastern Shore to Baltimore and the north, increased the mobility of both goods and people. Jobs in the urban service and manufacturing industries often paid more than farm jobs, and entrepreneurialism was growing as well. Between 1870 and 1910, the number of Black-owned businesses increased more than one thousand percent in the urban areas of the Upper South.(257) Simultaneously, rural populations, including those in Parson's Creek and White Marsh, faced economic challenges. The viability of small-scale agriculture was declining, and the rural, relatively isolated farmland of central Dorchester County was decreasing in value. In time, landowners had no incentive to maintain the water fences and drainage ditches that helped prevent soil salinization in the old fields along Taylor's Island Road. In addition, the price of wheat was plummeting as markets absorbed the improved yields of larger-scale Midwest farmers with their modern machine technology. Where Dorchester County elevations were out of flood zones, farmers switched to growing delicate crops like tomatoes which demanded a premium when shipped to market in the newly invented refrigerated railroad cars. However, in White Marsh on Peter's Neck and along the Blackwater River, much of the land was too marshy for the intensive cultivation these crops required.

By the 1890s, as the generation of landowners who farmed and timbered under slavery passed away, their heirs had little inclination to farm for a living. Where farms remained, they were for subsistence to augment other sources of income, often from the oystering, canning, and packing industry.

Between 1890 and 1920, many children of the previous generation sold the parcels they inherited to large-scale investors who consolidated the land for resource extraction. Private investors, including Madison Timberlands Inc., and the Delmarva Fur Farms Incorporated, tried to pull profit out of the marshy forests, as hunting and trapping grounds, and through timbering. Their financial success in these endeavors was limited.

Nevertheless, the men who ran these companies were politically connected. Indeed, the owner of Madison Timberlands, Emerson C. Harrington, became the Governor of Maryland. By the early twentieth century, state resources funded timbering support programs within the Blackwater watershed. The impact of government increased when Federal authorities purchased a large swath of land from Delmarva Fur Farms to establish the Blackwater Migratory Bird Refuge, later the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.

Land Consolidation and African American Land Ownership on Peter's Neck:
As part of the late nineteenth-century consolidation of land ownership on Peter's Neck and the movement from small-scale agriculture back to timbering, investors built a new canal along the present-day park's southern border. Its construction may have been precipitated by a major storm in 1876, known as the "Centennial Tide," which destroyed miles of the area's coastline. The canal was called the New Canal or Corsey Canal and may have been used for transporting timber, as shipbuilding in the area had not entirely died out.(258) The Corsey Canal linked the mouth of Parson's Creek with Corsey Creek, an eastern branch of Parson's Creek near White Marsh Road, and the former Blackwater and Parson's Creek (Stewart's) Canal. At the time, Joseph Brooks operated a shipyard and steam sawmill to the north of Taylor's Island Road near Woolford Creek and had since the mid-nineteenth century.(259) The narrow "New Canal" stretched between the mouth of Parson's Creek, south of where the Coursey family lived in the nineteenth century, through the former Tall family lands, and connected with the existing Blackwater and Parson's Creek Canal (also called Stewart's Canal) and Corsey Creek at the "horse dam."(260) The New or Corsey [sic] Canal remains visible in the landscape today.

By the late nineteenth century, many families who had lived in the area for generations sold their land to local investors, including members of the Harrington and Applegarth families. When Richard Tall died in 1887, he divided his land among his sons, Benjamin, Samuel, William, and his daughter Jane Keene.(261) In 1895, the children sold their land to William W. Harrington, a merchant in Tobacco Stick/Madison and a relative of Emerson Harrington.(262) Harrington then purchased another 259 acres to the southwest of the Jackson farm, an old patent known as "Sally's Hope."(263) Harrington was likely evaluating the investment potential of the young stands of skinny loblolly pine (Pinus taeda) growing on the reforesting farmland.

However, African American communities and farms endured within this nascent movement to consolidate land for resource extraction. By late nineteenth century, most area residences were clustered along the southern end of White Marsh Road and near the mouth of Parson's Creek along Taylor's Island Road (Figure 28). About the same time as Richard Tall's death in the 1880s, William Applegarth, a local "capitalist" according to the 1900 census, purchased one hundred acres of the former Jackson property from the estate of recently deceased John R. Brown and sold it to African American farmer, George W. M. Opher.(264) African American Hester Keene also purchased two acres of the former Jackson farm from Applegarth, as did Vincent Green.(265) Two elderly African American men, Moses Cornish and Dudley Gilbert, bought four acres each of the former Jackson farm from the Applegarths as well. Dudley Gilbert, a sailor and veteran of the Civil War, had lived in the area at since at least 1880 when he was a neighbor of Vincent Green's son, Thomas.(266) Moses Cornish, lived with his wife Harriet, and worked as a "day laborer."(267) These lands were likely located in the northeastern portion of what is now the Jacob Jackson Home Site, along a path noted as Joshua's Path on mid-twentieth century maps (see Figure 42).(268) George W.M. Opher purchased the remaining lands of the Jackson farm from Applegarth in 1890 for $275.(269) The Opher family had lived and farmed near the mouth of Parson's Creek for generations. By 1900, George E. and Araminta Opher lived near the African American Tilghman family. Both families farmed.(270) Vincent and Elizabeth Green and their family also remained within the community around Parson's Creek and White Marsh, on land to the north of the former Jackson Farm. Their sons, Thomas V. Green (b. 1856) and Jacob Green (b. 1864, the year of Jacob Jackson's death),

likely farmed the former Jackson land and may have lived in the Jackson farmhouse by 1900.(271) Indeed, sometime around the end of the nineteenth century, the road connecting Taylor's Island Road with White Marsh Road, old Martin's Lane, became known as Vince Green Road, and Parson's Creek, east of the property became known as the White Marsh Branch.

Meanwhile, land consolidation, primarily driven by inheritance, continued. In 1908, Nancy Opher, the widow of George Opher, and their grown children sold their 100-acre parcel of the former Jackson property to Calvert Jones, a white merchant in Madison, for $850. In 1887, Washington Woolford, a descendent of William Woolford, owner of the blacksmith shop north of the Jacksons in the 1870s, sold his property of "Morgan's Venture" to Dr. Benjamin Smith.(272) Calvert Jones was married to Dr. Benjamin Smith's daughter, Emma, and in 1917 at the death of Smith, he added the land of "Morgan's Adventure [sic]" to the former Jackson property.(273)

In 1927 Emerson C. Harrington was appointed Trustee on behalf of George H. Green and James W. Green, sons of Vincent Green, in a legal dispute. Harrington subsequently sold the Green farm, which included a portion of the former Jackson farm (now within the park) at a private sale for $150 to William Harrington.(274) A few years earlier, Harrington had purchased ninety acres of land from William D. Smith, including the old farm of Bruffit Tall, to the west of the Jackson farm. William D. Smith was a descendant of both the Tall family and Dr. Benjamin Smith, and Smith retained ownership of the Tall family cemetery into the twentieth century.(275) Following the death of Dr. Benjamin Smith in the 1930s, Emma Smith deeded her land to Claude W. Adams, who then sold the land to Wallace P. Smith Jr.(276)

Through the 1930s, former Governor Emerson C. Harrington acquired the nineteenth-century agricultural fields and timber tracts of the Tall, Green, and Jackson families. When Governor Emerson C. Harrington Senior passed away in 1938, he left his property and Madison Timberlands Inc. to his son, Emerson C. Harrington, Jr.(277) By the 1940s, except for small strips of forested land retained by the Keene and Burton families, Madison Timberlands Inc., a timber extraction company, owned most of the property surrounding the former Jackson and Green farms.(278)

Development of Modern Forestry in Dorchester County:
By the early twentieth century, the land of White Marsh and Parson's Creek, and to the south and east along the Big and Little Blackwater Rivers, had been harvested for timber many times. By 1915, successional forest dominated by loblolly pine grew on farmland around White Marsh, though most of the land of former Jackson, Green, and Tall farms remained open. Loblolly was the most valuable timber here, for hardwood grown in marshy conditions yielded poor wood that could be used only as firewood. Harvesting these forests to extract income had always required intensive labor, whether enslaved or free. To many, the old agricultural, timbered-over land was now worthless. However, Governor Emerson C. Harrington (1916 – 1920) and his brother William, bolstered by capital and political connections, saw opportunity in the swampy woods of southern Dorchester. Perhaps when the Harrington brothers formed the Madison Timberlands company, they thought they could harvest these tracts of second and third growth loblolly pine around Parson's Creek and the Blackwater for a profit. Alternatively, perhaps Fred Besley, the first State Forester of Maryland who published Maryland's first forestry inventory the year Harrington was elected governor, convinced him of the investment potential.

Fred Wilson Besley graduated from the Maryland Agricultural College in 1892 and began his career as a secondary school teacher (Figure 29). A few years later, while exploring different career paths, Besley was introduced to Gifford Pinchot, the first Director of the Division of Forestry under the US Department of Agriculture. By 1900 Besley was working as one of Pinchot's forest division assistants, traveling around the country during the warm months. In winter, he and the other forest assistants stayed in Washington D.C. They gathered weekly at Pinchot's home for meetings of the "Baked Apple and Gingerbread Club" to listen to guest speakers, including President Theodore Roosevelt, and share their forestry experiences.(279) After obtaining a degree in forestry from Yale and armed with Pinchot's recommendation, in 1906, Besley became Maryland's first state forester, only the second State Forestry position in the country.(280)

The Maryland State Board of Forestry was created one year later by a special legislative act to

inventory the existing forests in the state to determine their condition and identify ways to better manage timber resources. Besley began the forest survey and for the next seven years, he, in his own words, walked “every cow path in Maryland,” inventorying every wooded tract larger than five acres.(281) In 1915, he co-authored, The Forests of Maryland.

This richly illustrated book was the first statewide forest survey published in the country.(282) Besley’s analysis of Maryland’s timber tracts revealed that the state’s forest cover had been reduced considerably since the first European settlement and that the condition of the existing forests was relatively poor. Before European settlement, forests covered more than ninety percent of what would become Maryland. By 1915, forests covered about thirty-five percent, much of it “brushland, bearing no merchantable timber of value.” Besley estimated that Maryland’s forest clearance had likely peaked about 1860, after which gradual abandonment of cleared fields permitted forest regeneration. (283) In his inventory of Maryland’s forests, Besley and his associates sketched wooded parcels on Maryland Geological Survey topographic base maps, making notes of the general characteristics of the tracts, sometimes linking current forest conditions to past activity. For instance, in southern and eastern Maryland on former agricultural fields where well-drained and light sandy soils predominated, pine grew in more significant numbers than before cultivation. Thus, at the time, Besley considered the extent of pine forests as a good index of the amount of land formerly under cultivation (Figure 30). (284)

The land bordering the Chesapeake Bay had long lacked merchantable timber. In 1879, when the Federal Census Bureau undertook a national tree count, the tidewater counties on either side of the Chesapeake Bay, including Dorchester, were identified as having particularly low timber densities. In 1900 and 1906, the Maryland Geological Survey, under the direction of geologist William Bullock Clark, described the prevailing forest condition as “that of cut-over virgin forest, covered with a scattering growth of large, defective trees not suitable for lumber, interspersed with reproduction of hardwood sprouts and seedlings, and occasional patches of coniferous reproduction.”(285)

Most of Dorchester County was low-lying and flat. In Besley’s survey, the highest elevations were less than fifty feet above sea level, and half the county’s land was less than ten feet above sea level. The best agricultural soils were at higher elevations, primarily located in the northeastern section of the county. Here the soils were primarily of the Sassafras loam, one of the best agricultural formations on the Eastern Shore. At the time of the inventory, there were two types of marshes in the Blackwater River and Parson’s Creek watersheds. Freshwater marshes were usually forested and comprised most of the county’s forested area. Saltwater marshes comprised about twenty-one percent of the total land area and had no vegetation except coarse grasses. Then, as today, the area of salt marshes was increasing as the seawater extended inland from the Bay. In the southern section of the county, including the watershed of the Blackwater River, the pines on the margins of the salt marshes suffered from increasing salinization, resulting in “sickly yellow foliage” and slow growth. Stumps and snags of dead pines filled the increasingly salty wetlands.

In his description of the local timbering practices, Besley explained that timber quality balanced against the cost of extraction determined harvesting methods. Within marshy watersheds such as Parson’s Creek and the Blackwater River, logging operations were challenging and undertaken during the dryer months, usually September through January (Figures 31, 32, 33, 34). In the marshlands where loblolly pine mixed with hardwood, the mine-prop or saw-log size pine was harvested. Timber companies harvested only the heaviest, highest hardwood grades; everything else remained standing or left on the ground to rot. As pine has a greater capacity to reproduce, pine quickly grew up on cut-over land wherever openings in the forest cover and elevation allowed. In 1915 thirty-seven mills operated in Dorchester County. Together with small enterprises run by men who split their time between timbering and farming, the sawmills produced about 2,200,000 cubic board feet of lumber. Pine lumber was by far the most important of the forest products, with cordwood second, then piling, lath, poles, railroad ties, mine-props, posts, and shingles.(286)

Establishment of the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge:
Unlike forests further north, the timber tracts along the Blackwater River south and east of White Marsh were not economically valuable. Instead, local investors identified the saltmarshes of Onley three square sedge (Scirpus americanus) as their best opportunity for making money. During the

early twentieth century, muskrats were the most important animal to the domestic fur industry in Maryland (Figure 35).(287) In the Blackwater area, the muskrat utilized the Onley three square sedge as its primary food. In addition, as the sedge decayed, it developed a subsurface of peaty soil that allowed muskrats to dig a widespread system of canals and underground tunnels and remain hidden from natural predators. In 1928, Delmarva Fur Farm Inc. bought thousands of acres of land from local resident Charles Seward and others, south and east of the Jacob Jackson Home Site, for $250,000 to use as a private hunting ground. They planned to use the income raised from muskrat furs to manage their new hunting property."(288) Poor management and depressed fur prices stemming from the 1929 stock market crash, quickly made their business venture appear less than advantageous. One year later Delmarva Fur Farm was looking for a buyer, and they found it in the Federal government.

Like the conservation measures put into place to safeguard the nation's forest resources through the US Forest Service, the economic impacts from the loss of waterfowl in the early twentieth century spurred Congressional action to protect migratory bird habitat. On February 18, 1929, Congress passed the Migratory Bird Conservation Act authorizing $7.9 million to purchase or lease refuges for waterfowl. The same year, the government learned of the Delmarva-owned land along the Blackwater River. It opened negotiations with the company at an initial price of thirty dollars per acre. Protracted negotiations reduced the price to fourteen dollars per acre, but Delmarva retained a seven-year muskrat and agricultural reservation. Based on the previous ten-year period, government valuation on the property indicated that proper management of the refuge would produce a six percent net return per annum in muskrat furs on a capital investment of $240,270, or $24.02 per acre. In addition to possible economic benefits, the land was of significant value to migratory bird populations. The parcel for sale along the Blackwater had one major issue though. The property's chain of title was extremely complicated, for like the land of Parson's Creek and White Marsh, owners had divided and subdivided it for centuries.

In 1931, the Chairman of the Migratory Bird Commission described the Delmarva Fur Farms deal to the assembled Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce, stating "from the standpoint of cost, this [Blackwater Migratory Bird Refuge] is the most important case we have placed before you since the passage of this act." He cautioned, though, that the land came with a "very unusual condition . . . original land grants that go back to the pre-revolutionary periods are here by the hundreds, and consequently, there are many small areas that go to make up the property under consideration for purchase." He then presented a colorful map with a kaleidoscope of parcels laid one atop another (Figure 36).(289)

Eager to dampen protracted discussion, the Secretary of Interior asked the Maryland State Game Warden bluntly, "this looks important to you?"(290) Yes, he answered "from a duck's standpoint it is the most important place on the Eastern Shore." The motion to purchase the land of the Delmarva Fur Farm to create the Blackwater Migratory Bird Refuge carried.(291)

In addition to the Blackwater Migratory Bird Refuge, seven other refuges were established in 1932 by the Bureau of Biological Survey. At 7424-acres, the Blackwater Refuge was the second largest.(292) As the 1932 Annual Report of the Biological Survey described, the Blackwater Migratory Bird Refuge:
"comprises both marsh and high land and thus is suited to both waterfowl and upland birds. Studies of nesting ducks and their enemies showed that fish crows destroyed 35 per cent of the nests, despite control operations that somewhat reduced their numbers. Studies are being made to determine the feasibility of planting cover around wind-swept ponds and introducing duck-food plants in favorable waters. Adequate fire control has been planned to reduce marsh fires to the minimum. This refuge is frequented in winter by large numbers of waterfowl, including geese and swans and such ducks as the teal, mallard, pintail, baldpate, and widgeon. Among the birds that breed there are black ducks, blue-winged teal, bitterns, rails, and great blue, little blue, and night herons.(293)

The land acquisition program and subsequent Refuge planning efforts associated with the Migratory Bird Conservation Act were funded mainly through a special allocation to purchase drought-stricken and distressed agricultural land through the Sub Marginal Land Retirement Program (Figure 37). The primary goal of the sub-marginal lands program, as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New

Deal, was to address poverty and environmental degradation. Later, an annual fund from the sale of migratory waterfowl hunting stamps supported the expansion and maintenance of the refuges. The President's Committee of Wildlife Restoration publicly dramatized the crisis resulting from the rapidly diminishing migratory wildfowl populations to garner public support."(294)

The National Migratory Waterfowl Program was also responsible for creating a maintenance plan for each Refuge that properly conserved the habitat favored by the migratory waterfowl. In addition, a "staff of refuge custodians trained in the requirements for adequate maintenance, service, and usages best adapted to the full utilization of the refuge" was necessary.(295) At the Blackwater Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, Peter J. Van Huizen, was appointed Chief Foreman, Construction and Maintenance. The Emergency Conservation Works (ECW) Act of 1933 provided early development support. Construction quickly began on a Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) camp at Church Creek, northeast of the Refuge and about five miles from the Jacob Jackson Home Site on August 23, 1934. The camp opened in early October with 160 enrollees (Figure 38). The CCC crew constructed roads and trails, three lookout towers, a bridge, two wells, and a telephone line, improved headquarters, and removed fire hazards.(296) State Forester Fred Besley served as the Representative of ECW for the Blackwater (Third Corps) CCC area.(297) By June 1935, Blackwater CCC Camp members had planted millet, black hull kafir, dwarf milow, hemp, Japanese millet, and cowpeas as bird food within the Refuge.(298)

At the Blackwater Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, the conservation of the wetland environment was also important to the local fur industry (Figure 39). As early as 1931, before the Refuge's establishment, federal employees mapped the extent of the three square sedges and salt grass within the future refuge boundary to determine the extent of muskrat habitat (Figure 40).(299) By 1934, workers had constructed a ""small minkery and rabbitry" to compare findings from other fur animal experiment stations on other federal wildlife refuges.(300) According to the 1934 Annual Report, muskrat catches around the nation were decreasing, and as with the conservation of migratory birds, "the conservation of fur resources is of exceptional importance to the United States, not only because of the potential financial returns to trappers but also because of the employment of people in the fur business."(301)

Landscape Description, 1938:
By the late 1930s, much of the farmland around Parson's Creek and White Marsh was reverting to marsh and forest (Figures 41 and 42). The land was soggier as many drainage ditches and canals fell into disrepair and the Chesapeake Bay's shores slowly subsided. Many of the simple homes along Taylor's Island Road were likely still inhabited. However, as Jacob and Dinah's farm buildings were isolated from Taylor's Island Road, they were likely abandoned as Vince Green Road/old Martin's Lane slowly became overgrown and waterlogged. Both the old Blackwater and Parson's Creek Canal (Stewart's Canal) and the New Canal (Corsey Canal) were likely not active, though the straight edges of their watery tracks revealed their former use.

Some of the nineteenth-century farmland around White Marsh had grown up in successional forest, though most of the former Jackson, Green, and Tall farms remained cleared. Along White Marsh Road and Harrisville Road, and in and around Madison, the land remained open and divided into small fields and residential lots. East of the Jacob Jackson property, where the New Canal crossed White Marsh Road, was a stand of culled hardwoods that followed the canal's path. Where the formerly cleared land was reverting to woodland east of the Jacob Jackson Home Site, young loblolly pines dominated. A small, slightly older tract of loblolly pine grew to the west of the former Jackson farm. A mix of deciduous and pine forest and sedge dominated saltmarsh grew in the future location of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, south and west of the Jacob Jackson Home Site. The Federal government had recently acquired enormous parcels of land south of the property, along the Blackwater River, to protect migratory bird habitat and support the fur industry. White Marsh to the east of the former Jackson land and Smithville south of the Blackwater River remained active African American communities, though the density of residences had declined.

ENDNOTES
257 Gregory P. Downs and Kate Masur, Ph.D., The Era of Reconstruction, 1861-1900: A National Historic Landmarks Theme Study, The National Historic Landmarks Program, National Park Service,

Washington D.C. 2017, 19.
258 The Corsey Canal may also date to the first half of the twentieth century when the land was owned by the Harrington family as part of the Madison Timberlands company. The first survey of the "New or Corsey Canal" found thus far dates to 1948, see 1948 Plat of Madison Timberlands MSA C2141_284.
259 Paul B. Touart, Brooks House, D-225, National Register Nomination. Chesapeake Country Heritage and Preservation, 2012; see also Deed Liber CL 31 Folio 602; see also Manufacturers Census, Dorchester County Maryland, 1880.
260 See 1958 Plat Ewing Tract MSA_C2141_2404.
261 The Tall land sold included patents "Morgan's Venture" and "Keene's Venture," located to the south and west of the Jackson farm. Liber CL 19 Folio 685
262 Descendants included Benjamin F. and Mary E. Tall, George L. and Katie M. Sanders, Alexander H. and Sadie Tall, Samuel Tall, James H. and Jane Keene, as well as the daughter of Richard Tall, Louisiana and her husband, Ashbury H. Woolford, and Susan C. Navy. See deed, December 31, 1895, Liber CL 19 Folio 685.
263 The patent was first surveyed in 1884 for Jones and included portions of the early patents "Martins Regulation" and "Woolford's Spite" among others. "William W. Harrington from Sarah Jones", April 10, 1899 see also 1894 Patent "Sallys Hope" Mrs. Sarah A. Jones 259 acres MSA_S1196_2996
264 George W. M. Opher from William and Nettie Applegarth, Liber CL14 Folio 559, December 1, 1890, Maryland State Archives.
265 By 1921, Hester Keene was living on Taylor's Island Road north of the former Jackson farm on land she purchased from William Harrington, Keene from Harrington Liber WHM 10 Folio 568.
266 There were two people named Hester Keene included on the 1880 census, both were young Black women. In 1900 census, a fifty year old woman named Hester Keene was described as a "farmer" of rented land and head of a household which included her children and grandchildren. Federal Census, 1880, Dorchester County, Parson's Creek Election District. Hester Keene was likely the daughter of David Keene, or Davy Keene, of the "Davy Keene Tract" noted on the 1948 Madison Timberlands/Harrington survey. 1880 United States Census, Dorchester County, Parson's Creek.
267 Federal Census, 1900, Dorchester County, Parson's Creek and Madison Election District.
268 Madison Harrington Timberlands Plat_MSA_C2141_284
269 George W.M. Opher from William P. Applegarth, December 1 1890, Liber CL 14 Folio 559.
270 Calvert R. Jones & Lake Travers from Nancy E. Opher (widow) and Et al , April 1, 1908, Liber CL 33 Folio 758. In 1917 Calvert R. Jones also bought land from Lewis and Alice Woolford, located to the north and east of the former Jacob Jackson farm. "Calvert R. Jones from Lewis and Alice Woolford", 7 April 1917, Liber WHM 2 Folio 83.
271 1900 Federal Census, Election District 4, Parson's Creek, Madison, House 188 Thomas V. Greene [sic] and wife Rosa M., Children, Hilrid V, Thomas F. Bessie B, Oda, Mattie and Virgie. House 189, Jacob J. (?) Greene [sic] wife Mary A., children, Eva A., Gordon V., Lizzie M, Joseph J., and George H. (brother b. 1860). Jacob was listed as a farmer owning a farm, and Thomas owned a house.
272 Dr. B. L. Smith from Washington Woolford, December 7, 1887 Liber CL 10 Folio 343.
273 W. H. Harrington (Estate of Benjamin L. Smith) to Calvert R. Jones, Liber WHM 2 Folio 67; 1910 Federal Census, Dorchester County, District 16, Madison.
274 Emerson Harrington appointed Feb 12, 1927, sold the tract at private sale for $150 to William Harrington on March 1, 1928. See also, Vince Green Tract – Emerson C. Harrington, Trustee on behalf of George H Green, et. al Complainants and James W. Green, et. al, Defendants to William W. Harrington May 3, 1929. JFD 23 Folio 615.
275 March 9, 1920 (same as conveyed by Richard Tall to his daughter Jane Keene) Liber WHM 8 Folio 233 At the time, William W. Harrington lived in a house he purchased from Dr. Benjamin Smith, an ancestor of William D. Smith, who had purchased the home from members of the Tall family in the 1860s. Dr. Benjamin Smith's daughter, Emma, married Calvert R. Jones, a merchant and another major land owner in the Madison/Parson's Creek area. Dr. Benjamin Smith's home remains at the corner of White Marsh Road and Taylor's Island Road. The two-story, side hall, double-pile house, circa 1840, is the oldest surviving structure in Madison.
276 Wallace P. Smith Jr. From Claude W. Adams, October 20 1947, Liber RSM 64 Folio 241 reference to: Claude W. Adams from Emma L. Jones et. Al, 2 December 1939 Liber RSM 40 Folio 338 at the time "known as the J.E. Harrington land containing 400 acres" and 18 March, 1939 Liber

RSM Folio 368 containing 325 acres of land – on both sides of the Taylor's Island Road. The deed dated Nov 25. 1939, referencing the "Archer Tract" which was conveyed unto Emma Jones et al by Emerson C. Harrington, surviving Trustee of No. 6051 Chancery and 6051 Chancery, recorded in RSM 40 Folio 310, includes a "perpetual right of way for the use and benefit of the land herin conveyed. And also a perpetual right or easement of way, that runs across the tract of land designated as Lot No 9 in a deed from Emerson C. Harrington Trustee to Emma L, Jones dated 18 March 1939 Liber RSM 39, folio 368, and granted unto the said Claude W. Adams by Emma Jones et al by indenture dated 22 May 1942 Liber RSM 45, Folio 267.

277 1938 Emerson C. Harrington, Surviving Trustee to Emerson C. Harrington Jr. – "Tall Property" (180 acres +/-) being parts of the lands which were conveyed unto the said William W. Harrington by Richard Tall. Tall Property also contains a tract of woodland (50 acres) conveyed by Richard Tall to daughter Jane Keene, and conveyed as "first" in the deed to the said William W. Harrington from William D. Smith and wife (March 9 1920); Tall property also contains a tract where Richard Tall formerly resided (40 acres) and conveyed as "Second" in the Deed to the said William W. Harrington from the said William D. Smith and wife, dated and recorded as aforesaid (cemetery exempted). Deed Lots 3, 4, 5 of JFD No 38 Folio 316

278 Claude A. Adams had purchased a track of timber and woodland from Emma L. Jones et. al in 1939. Claude W. Adams from Emma L. Jones et al, 2 December 1939, Liber RSM 40 Folio 338; Adams sold this land, known as the J.E. Harrington Timber and Woodland tract, to Wallace P. Smith Jr. in1947 Wallace P. Smith Jr. from Claude W. and Anna C. Adams 18 October 1947 Liber RSM 64 Folio 241

279 Geoffrey L. Buckley, America's Conservation Impulse: A Century of Saving Trees in the Old Line State, (Chicago, Illinois: The Center for American Places at Columbia College Chicago 2010), 29.

280 Geoffrey L. Buckley, America's Conservation Impulse: A Century of Saving Trees in the Old Line State, (Chicago, Illinois: The Center for American Places at Columbia College Chicago 2010), 32

281 Geoffrey L. Buckley, America's Conservation Impulse: A Century of Saving Trees in the Old Line State, (Chicago, Illinois: The Center for American Places at Columbia College Chicago 2010, 308.

282 Frank Besley and W. Bullock Clark, Maryland State Forestry Department, Forests of Maryland 2016

283 Geoffrey L. Buckley, America's Conservation Impulse: A Century of Saving Trees in the Old Line State, (Chicago, Illinois: The Center for American Places at Columbia College Chicago 2010, 310.

284 Frank Besley and W. Bullock Clark, Maryland State Forestry Department, Forests of Maryland, 2016, 10 – 31.

285 Geoffrey L. Buckley, America's Conservation Impulse: A Century of Saving Trees in the Old Line State, (Chicago, Illinois: The Center for American Places at Columbia College Chicago 2010, 311

286 Frank Besley and W. Bullock Clark, Maryland State Forestry Department, Forests of Maryland, 2016, maps of the region surrounding the Little Choptank River and Cambridge.

287 In the late 19th century, the Nutria was also introduced into North America for the fur trade and at some point they became established in the Blackwater River watershed. These aquatic rodents which resemble small beavers or large muskrats are native to South America. The nutria fur market boomed until 1940 then crashed. Nutria eat both native and nonnative vegetation and convert marshes to subsiding mudflats. Efforts to completely eradicate the nutria in the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge and throughout the Delmarva region began in 1997 through a broad reaching public-private partnership. No nutria's have been seen in the region for many years; see Ted Williams, Recovery by Eradication: Saving Marshes from Nutria (nature.org) (accessed 9-24-2021).

288 Report, Summarized Statement about the Lands Recommended for Purchase in the Blackwater River Migratory-Bird Refuge. December 3, 1931, NARA

289 Report, Summarized Statement about the Lands Recommended for Purchase in the Blackwater River Migratory-Bird Refuge. December 3, 1931, NARA

290 Report, Summarized Statement about the Lands Recommended for Purchase in the Blackwater River Migratory-Bird Refuge. December 3, 1931, NARA

291 Minutes of the Meeting of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, held December 3, 1931, RG 22, NARA

292 Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, Annual Reports of the Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C. August 31, 1932, 22.
293 Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, Annual Reports of the Department of Agriculture, 1932, 25.
294 Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, Annual Reports of the Department of Agriculture Report, July 1, 1934
295 Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, Annual Reports of the Department of Agriculture Report, July 1, 1934
296 Monthly Progress Report, October 1934, Blackwater CCC Camp, RG 22 NARA, Records of the Division of Construction and CCC Operations, Emergency Relief Projects on Refuges, 1933 – 1935, Box No. 8.
297 Letter, W.E. Crouch to F.C. Pederson, October 30, 1943, Blackwater CCC Camp, RG 22 NARA, Records of the Division of Construction and CCC Operations, Emergency Relief Projects on Refuges, 1933 – 1935, Box No. 8.
298 Report on Weekly work progress, Camp Blackwater June 24 – 29, 1935. RG 22 NARA, Records of the Division of Construction and CCC Operations, Emergency Relief Projects on Refuges, 1933 – 1935, Box No. 8.
299 Map, “Blackwater River Migratory Bird Refuge, 1931”, in “Reports Relating to Migratory Birds Refuges and Fish Culture Stations, 1929 – 1962, RG 22 Records of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Container 12.
300 Annual Reports of Department of Agriculture, 1934, 12.
301 Annual Reports of Department of Agriculture, 1934, 12.

see below

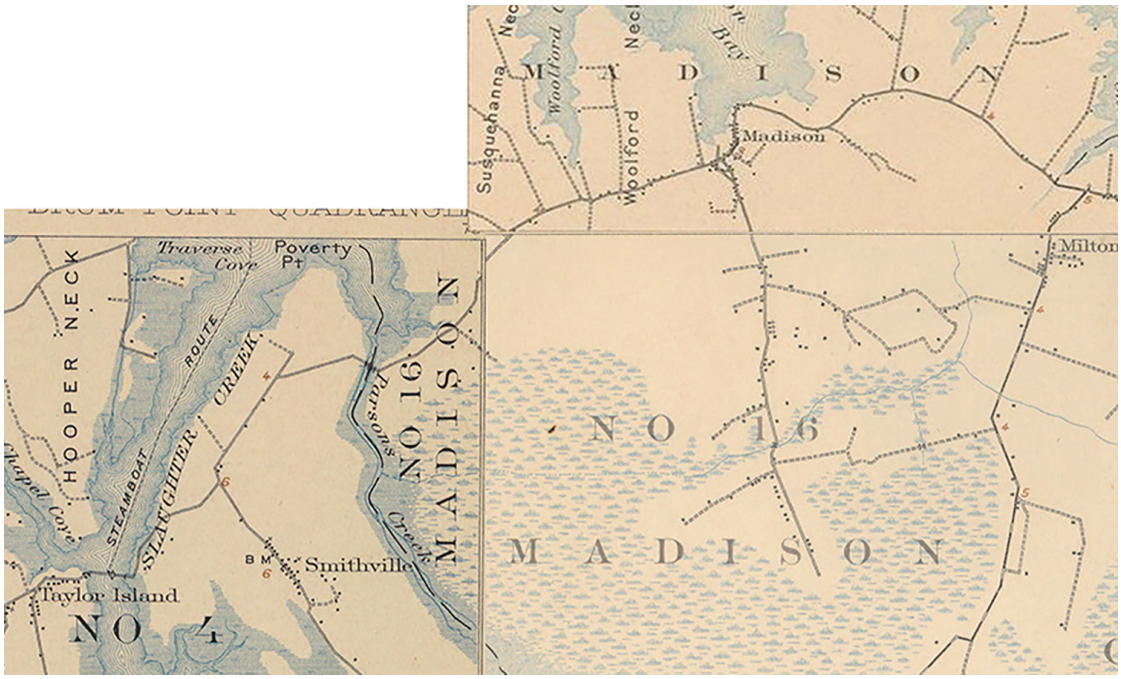


Figure 28. The 1904-1905 USGS Map of the Crapo, Oxford and Drum Point Quadrangles, indicates development along White Marsh and Harrisville Road, as well as a dirt road link between them. Buildings still dot the landscape at the mouth of Parson's Creek. (Princeton University Archives)

Fred W. Besley

Figure 29. Portrait of a young Fred Besley, ND, Maryland State Forester, in Forests of Maryland, 1915.

see below

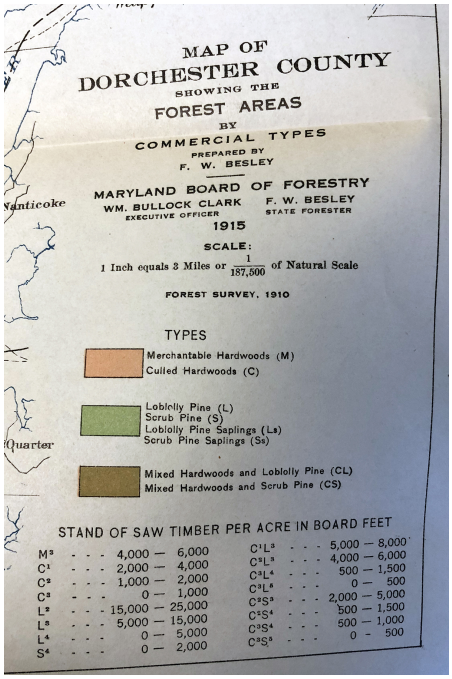


Figure 30. Besley believed that pine dominated on lands previously under cultivation, which according to this map, includes most of the Jacob Jackson Home Site. (Forests of Maryland, 1915)

Figure 31. "Loblolly pine for piling. . .on barge load $7830", September 1920. (Maryland State Archives, Besley-Pfeifer Collection)

Figure 32. "Hauling pulpwood across the marshes, July 1921. Though this photograph is taken near the Transquaking River in eastern Dorchester County, the landscape and transportation methods were similar to those near Parson's Creek in the nineteenth century. (Maryland State Archives, Besley-Pfeifer Collection)

Figure 33. "Making up rafts of logs to be towed to a saw mill below Taylor's Island, July 1921", (Maryland State Archives, Besley-Pfeifer Collection).

Figure 34. Timbermen harvesting Loblolly pine, circa 1921, (Maryland State Archives, Besley-Pfeifer Collection).

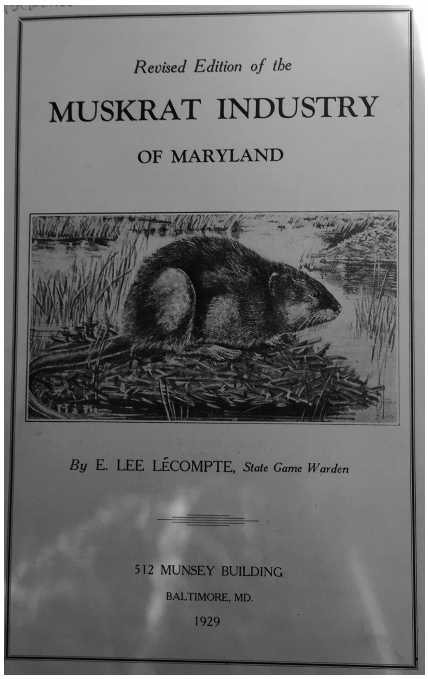


Figure 35. This publication provides a clear illustration of the importance of the muskrat industry in early twentieth-century Maryland (National Archives and Records Administration, RG 22)

Figure 36. This colorful map indicates the layers of platting and surveying of the Charles Seward Tracts (to the east of the Jackson home site), to be acquired for the Blackwater Migratory Bird Refuge in 1931. The complicated nature of the land's title chain, each color represents a different plat, is similar to that of the land that became the Jacob Jackson Home Site. (National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 22)

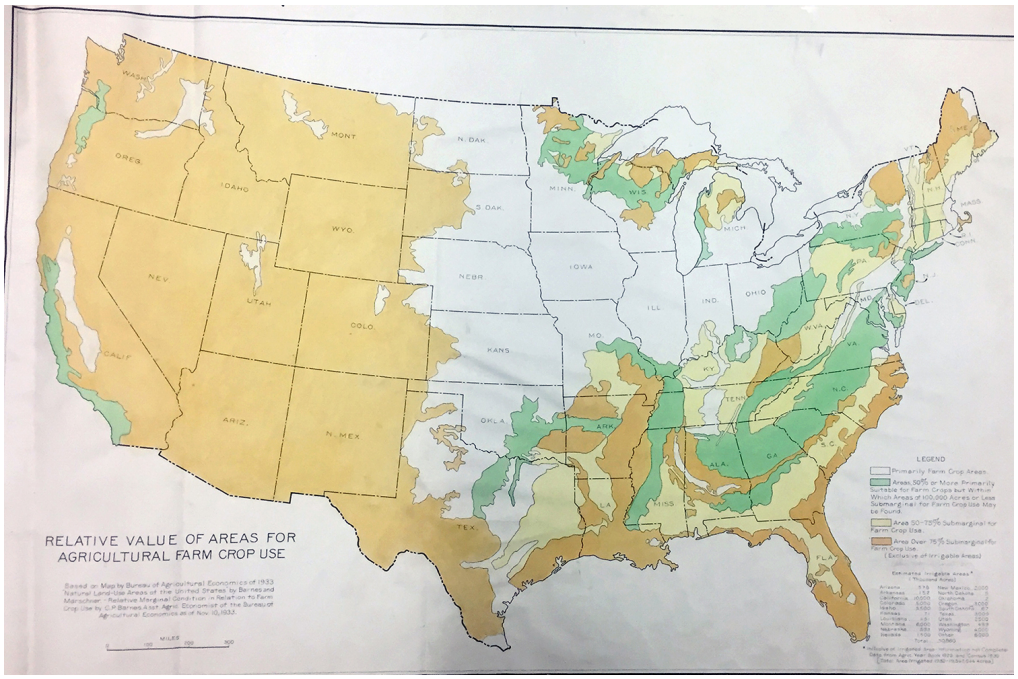
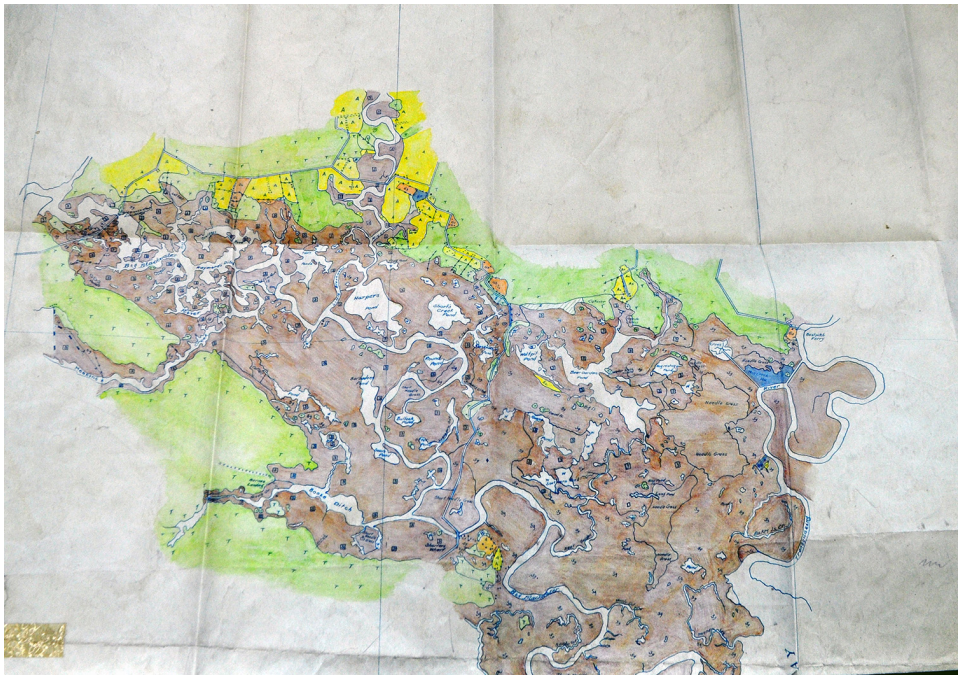


Figure 37. A map illustrating the sweeping extant of Submarginal Farmland program in the United States in 1933, around the time of the development of the Blackwater Migratory Bird Refuge. The areas on the map that are shaded were identified at as least 50% submarginal for agriculture. (National Archives and Records Administration)

Figure 38. The CCC Camp near Church Creek, north and east of the Jacob Jackson Home Site, 1933. (Maryland State Archives, Besley-Pfeifer Collection)

Figure 39. Typical fur trapper structures located on land of the Blackwater Migratory Bird Refuge, circa early twentieth century. (Maryland State Archives, Besley Collection)



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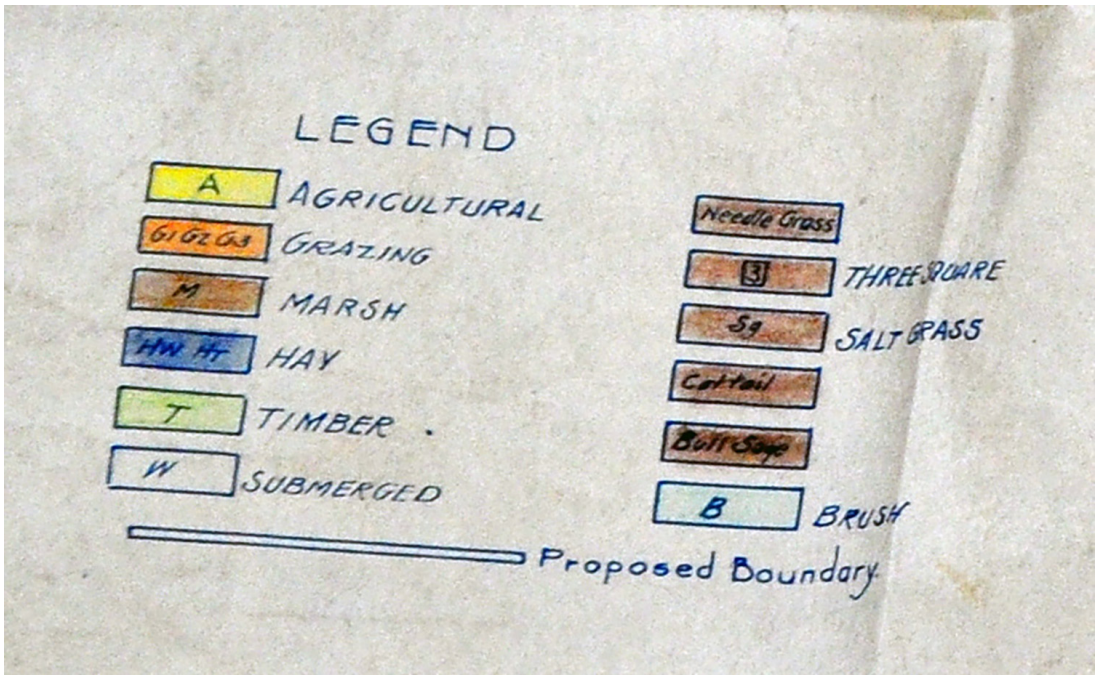

Figure 40. This map, drawn by planners of the Blackwater Migratory Bird Refuge in 1931 inventories the extent of crop fields, and other types of vegetation, southeast of the Jacob Jackson Home Site. (National Archives and Records Administration, RG 22)

Figure 41. This 1938 aerial photograph of Parson's Creek area, the mouth of Parson's Creek is located in the upper left corner, shows the gradual growth of successional vegetation on the land that would become the Jacob Jackson Home Site. (National Archives and Records Administration)

Figure 42. In this detail from the 1938 aerial, the farm fields along White Marsh Road are clearly visible on the right side of the photograph. (National Archives and Records Administration)

PERIOD FIVE: PRESERVATION OF THE LAND AND LEGACY OF HARRIET TUBMAN, 1939–PRESENT

Period Summary:
By the mid-twentieth century, the southern Delmarva peninsula was changing again. As marginal industry and agriculture struggled, the federal government acquired vast tracts of the marshy land to conserve wildlife habitat and encourage tourism for a newly mobile middle class. Private land conservation also increased as wealthy individuals purchased tracts for hunting, investment, and philanthropic ventures. In 1950, Frank Ewing, owner of Maryland timber companies and later a philanthropist, purchased the land that scholars would eventually identify as the farm of Jacob Jackson. Decades later, Ewing sold the property to the nonprofit public charity, the Conservation Fund, who then donated 480-acres of land to the Department of Interior, National Park Service. The land was named the Jacob Jackson Home Site, and it became the foundation of the Harriet Tubman National Monument in 2013, as the farm of a free Black man, who helped Harriet Tubman free her brothers from enslavement more than one hundred years earlier.

Growth of the Private and State Timbering Industry:
In the 1930s and 1940s, the State of Maryland acquired forested lands to manage on behalf of the public. The primary purpose of the forest reserves was to ensure a reliable timber supply in support of future industrial development and growth. The State Board of Forestry, on which Emerson C. Harrington served, oversaw the acquisition of privately owned land to add to the State's growing system of forest reserves. Under the program, land could be purchased at a low cost and then put under state control and protection to grow into valuable assets through sound forestry practices. The State of Maryland originally acquired some of the land that currently comprises the Harriet Tubman

Underground Railroad National Monument through this program. The private timbering industry was also expanding. Between 1942 and 1946, after Fred Besley retired from his position as State Forester, his timber company Besley and Rodgers, acquired more than five thousand acres around Madison and the Blackwater River to “manage and produce continuous crops of standing timber and wildlife on forest land.”(302) Besley and Rodgers continue to operate a timbering company today and own large land parcels adjacent to the Jacob Jackson Home Site.

In 1950 Frank M. Ewing, an owner of Maryland-based timber companies, purchased the J.E. Harrington Tract (also known as the Claude W. Adams Tract) incorporating the northwest portion of Jackson's land.(303) Ewing was born in Albany, Georgia, in 1915, and graduated from Yale University in 1936. Later in life, he and his family supported charitable causes through the Frank M. Ewing Foundation, including preserving land for conservation and recreation within Dorchester County and the southern Eastern Shore.(304) By the 1950s, Ewing had purchased most of the land once owned by Emerson C. Harrington between the Blackwater and Parson’s Creek Canal and the New Canal, as well as the land that would become the Jacob Jackson Home Site (Figures 43 and 44).(305)

Transportation Corridors and The Blackwater Wildlife Refuge Expand:
During the mid-twentieth century, transportation corridors on the Eastern Shore were improving and strengthening the link between population centers and public lands. In 1935, the Governor Emerson C. Harrington Bridge opened across the Choptank River at Cambridge. Prior to 1938, Taylor’s Island Road was straightened in the vicinity of Parson’s Creek.(306) The first span of the William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial Bridge opened in 1952, connecting Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore. The Cambridge port expanded in 1960, quickly followed by improvements to Route 50 between the Eastern Shore and Washington D.C., strengthening ties between rural Dorchester County and the capital city. In 1962 and 1967, the Maryland Department of Transportation straightened and widened Taylor’s Island Road again, now called Maryland State Route 16, improving traffic flow but likely destroying any remaining buildings near Parson’s Creek.(307)

While transportation improved in the region, the Secretary of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission lobbied Congress to expand the Refuge. In December 1944, the Secretary negotiated the purchase of the Seward family tract, a 2,135-acre parcel of marshland “reputed to be among the best, if not the best, muskrat producing areas of the Eastern Shore,” far superior to the Delmarva Fur Farms property further south.(308) In 1955, Congress added 10,327-acres to the existing Refuge, which now included the land between the Blackwater River and the land owned by Frank Ewing (the future Jackson Home Site).(309)

The local economy, however, was struggling. The Phillips Packing Company, a significant employer in the area, faced increased challenges. During the early twentieth century, the Phillips Packing Company had expanded, bolstered by two large military contracts during World Wars I and II. In the 1940s, Phillips became the country’s largest supplier of C-rations, individual canned and pre-cooked meals, and employed twenty-five percent of the eight thousand residents of Cambridge. The canning industry also employed many people in the hamlet of White Marsh, which by the 1940s was referred to on maps as “Out-Back” (Figure 45).(310) However, in the 1950s, changing American tastes and advancing refrigeration technology depressed the industry. Consolidated Foods Corporation of Chicago purchased the company in 1957. By the early 1960s, they ceased operations. In 1961 unemployment in Cambridge soared to almost thirty percent among the Black population, though it remained at six percent for white men. In part because of improved communication and transportation connections between Cambridge and Washington, D.C., the region’s deep racial disparities were highlighted in national newspapers and brought to the attention of national political leaders. After years of violent and non-violent protests in the streets of Cambridge, the city began to integrate its public facilities in 1969.

Recognizing Harriet Tubman on the Eastern Shore:
Efforts to link Dorchester County and Cambridge to the life of Harriet Tubman began formally in the 1980s, though a Civil War centennial marker was placed at Tubman’s childhood home, the former Brodess Farm near Bucktown, in 1965. The surrounding community also honored the legacy of Harriet Tubman through celebrations held on or near Juneteenth at Bazel Church in Bucktown.(311)

In 1983 Addie Clash Travers and other local African American area residents formed the Harriet Tubman Association of Dorchester County and established the Harriet Tubman Museum in Cambridge. In 1993, Frank Ewing sold 1,336 acres of land he had purchased in the 1950s to the Conservation Fund, a national nonprofit conservation organization, for $1,100,000 and other good and valuable consideration (Figures 46, 47, 48, 49, 50).(312) Though the deed for the property referenced neither Tubman nor Jackson, the Conservation Fund worked with Tubman descendants, conservationists, local politicians, and state and federal agencies to facilitate the transfer.(313) At the time, private hunting and timbering land almost encircled the Ewing tract. The Trophy Rod and Gun Club was west of the property, as were timber tracts owned by William E. Burton and Sons Inc., a lumber company, and tracts owned by the estate of John E. Burton. Besley and Rodgers, Inc. owned land to the southwest of the Ewing's land. Following payment, Ewing transferred the property in fee simple to the Conservation Fund, except for two easements associated with road rights-of-way. Joshua's Path may have related to the early twentieth century development by African American families, though the name may have related to a more recent owner. The other right-of-way, Vince Green Road, was named after the former friend and neighbor of Jacob Jackson and followed the alignment of early nineteenth-century Martin's Lane.

In 1998, the Maryland State Highway Administration, the Harriet Tubman Organization, and other stakeholders developed a sixty-four-mile Harriet Tubman Byway, which was later expanded to 125-miles. The designated tourist route traveled through Dorchester and Caroline Counties and included several sites related to Tubman's life as an enslaved person, though not Jacob Jackson's farm, as well as significant African American historical sites.(314) In 2000, President Bill Clinton signed the Harriet Tubman Special Resources Act, which authorized the National Park Service to begin a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing a national park in honor of Tubman. In 2002 the Harriet Tubman organization in Cambridge proposed, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People endorsed, the creation of the Harriet Tubman National Park in Dorchester County, Maryland. The Special Resource Study took eight years to complete, and identified land and buildings in New York, as well as Dorchester, Caroline, and Talbot Counties in Maryland that met the criteria to become units in the National Park Service. In 2007, the Conservation Fund facilitated the transfer through a land exchange of a seventeen-acre site on Key Wallace Drive, southeast of the Jacob Jackson Home Site, from the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge to the Maryland State Parks Department. The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park was established the same year.(315) In 2012 the Conservation Fund transferred 480-acres of the land Frank Ewing sold to them in 1993, to the Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

On March 28, 2013, President Barak Obama designated approximately 11,750-acres as the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument. The boundaries of the new monument included the northern half of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, as well as the 480-acre "Jacob Jackson Home Site" now owned in fee simple by the National Park Service. The monument designation reserved lands and interests in lands not owned or controlled by the United States beyond the boundaries of the 480-acre Jacob Jackson Home Site and the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. The proclamation gave the National Park Service responsibility for the monument, subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to administer the portions of the national monument within the National Wildlife Refuge System.(316)

On December 19, 2014 (P.L. 113-291, Section 3035), Congress passed an act establishing the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park. The new park included the portion of the monument administered by the National Park Service and lands administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service initially designated in the monument. The act also designated "Authorized Acquisition Areas," including slightly more than 4,207-acres east of the Jacob Jackson Home Site near Bucktown and the Brodess farm in Dorchester County, and approximately 2,700-acres of land near the Thompson plantation in Caroline and Talbot Counties. Today, the National Park Service administers the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park as a single unit of the National Park Service. The 2014 agreement allows for the National Park Service to provide for archeological research and the public interpretation of historic resources located within the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge that are associated with the life of Harriet Tubman and consistent with the management requirements of the Refuge. In 2016, a visitor center related to the Harriett Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park opened on land owned by the state

of Maryland through the Maryland State Parks system. The visitor center is at 4068 Golden Hill Road in Church Creek, to the east of the Jacob Jackson Home Site. The visitor center interprets the life of Harriet Tubman and her leadership in the pursuit of human rights.

ENDNOTES
302 Kirk P. Rodgers, Besley and Rodgers Inc., “Celebrating Our Past, Creating Our Future: Private Forest Landowners – Evolutions in Management” An address for the Maryland Forests Association Conference, November 2005.
303 Frank M. Ewing from Wallace P. Smith Jr, and Betty R. Smith, April 23 April 23, 1950, Liber 94 Folios 211 – 220.
304 Obituary, Frank M. Ewing, The Washington Post, September 19 September 19, 2013.
305 Frank M. Ewing from Wallce P. Smith Jr. and Better R. Smith, April 23, 1950, Liber 94, Folios 211-219; Plat of Property Surveyed for Frank M. Ewing Esq. Survey Date August 1958, MSA C2141_2404; Frank M. Ewing from Russell P. Smith and Leila B Smith April 25, 1955 Liber 94, Folio 220 - 220
306 Aerial 1938, National Archives and Records Administration.
307 1974, Maryland Route 16 Relocation east of Madison to West of Parson’s Creek – Right of Way 39396, MSA c2820-53
308 Memorandum, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Summarized Statement about Lands Recommended for Purchase, December 5, 1944, R.G. 22 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Entry P. 241 Records concerning Approval of Refuge Purchases, 1930 – 1962, Container 1;
309 Entry P 239, Reports relating to Migratory Birds Refuges and Fish Culture Stations, 1929-1962, Container 12, RG 22, National Archives and Records Administration
310 “Origins of the Name Out Back”, Sunday Sun Magazine, May 21, 1961.
311 Larson, Kate. Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park Historic Resource Study (Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2020): 2.
312 The Conservation Fund from Frank M. Ewing, August 17August 17 1993, L 292/423 The tracts or parcels of land included land referred to as the "Tall Tract", Gadd Tract, "Vince Green Tract", "Sally's Hope", "Davy Keene Tract", "McCotter Tract", "Opher Tract", "Claude Adams Land", "J.E. Harrington Land", "Archer Tract", "Phillips Farm", "Dr. Wallace Smith Land", and "Mary's Fortune."
313 Article, Remember Aunt Harriet · National Parks Conservation Association (npca.org) (Accessed September 12, 2021).
314 Larson, Kate. Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park Historic Resource Study (Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2020): 3.
315 Larson, Kate. Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park Historic Resource Study (Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2020): 3.
316 Presidential Proclamation No. 8943 of March 28, 2013 (78 FR 18763-67, 03/28/2013).

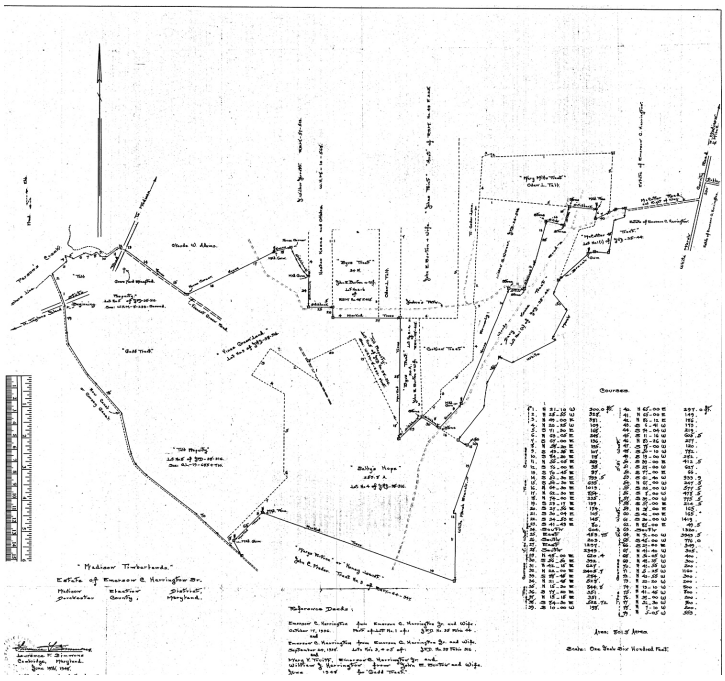

Figure 43. Plat of the Emerson Harrington lands/Madison Timberlands, 1948, showing the long thin tracts of land purchased by the Keene family and others in the early twentieth century. It is also one of the earliest maps found thus far, that indicates the "New or Corsey Canal." (Maryland State Archives)

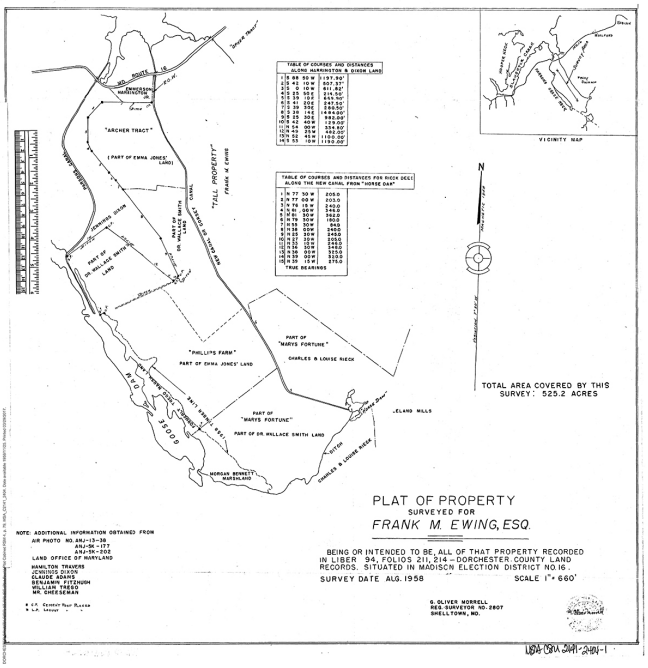

Figure 44. Frank Ewing Survey, Survey of lands adjacent to "New or Corsey Canal" 1958. (Maryland State Archives)

Figure 45. USGS Map from 1942, the area of White Marsh is labeled, "Out Back," one of the earliest uses of this name for the White Marsh area used thus far. (Maryland State Archives)

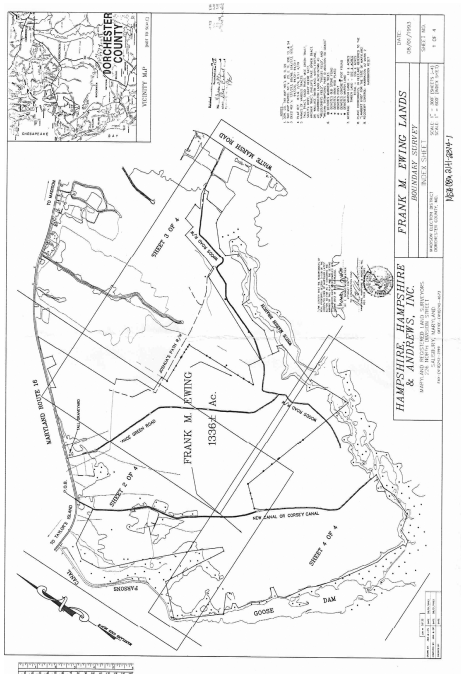

Figure 46. The 1993 Frank Ewing Boundary Survey, page one. (Maryland State Archives)

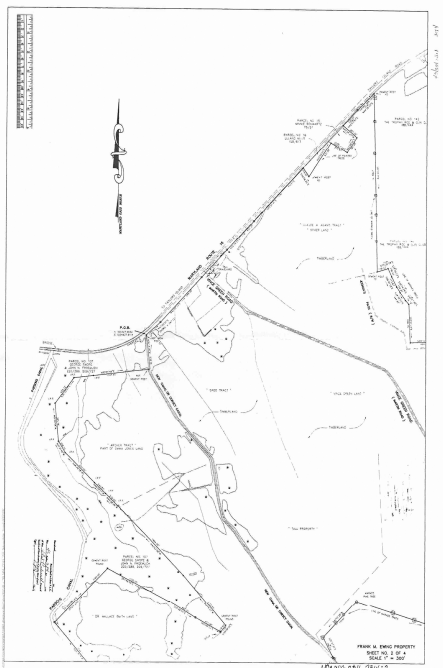

Figure 47. The 1993 Frank Ewing Boundary Survey, page two. (Maryland State Archives)

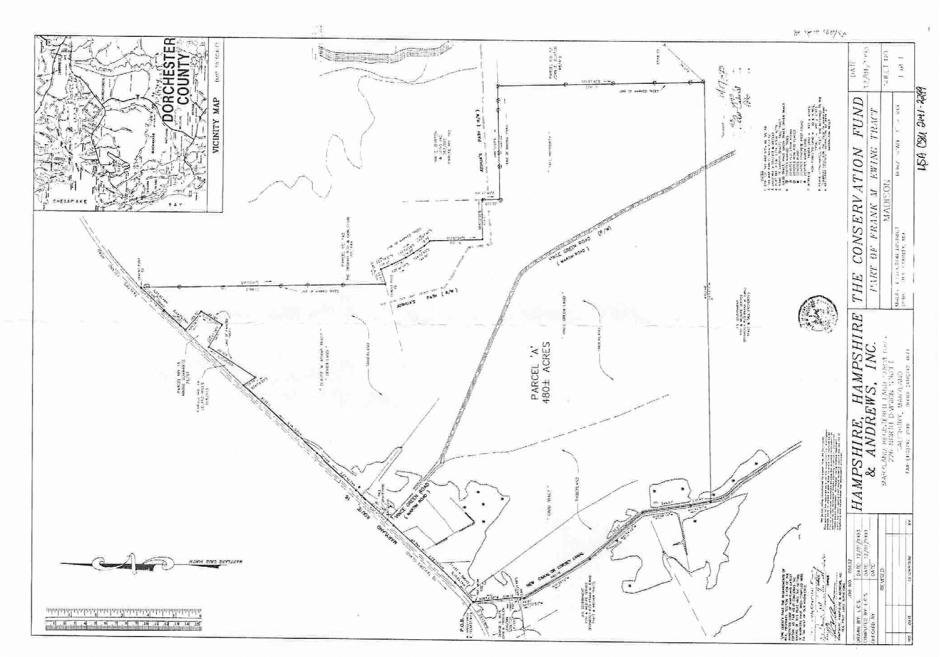

Figure 48. The 1993 Frank Ewing Boundary Survey, page three. (Maryland State Archives)

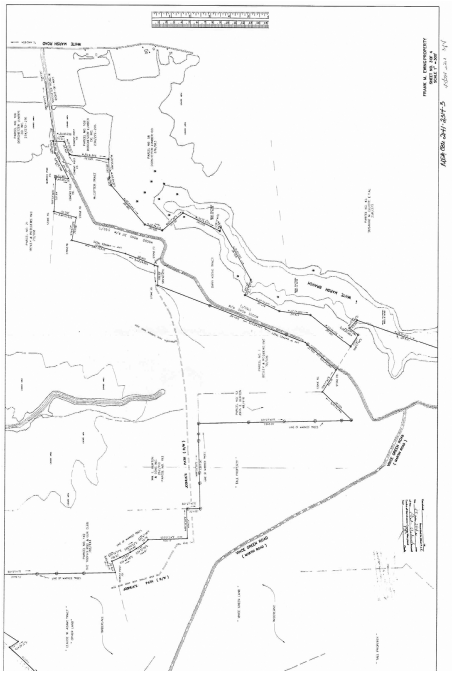

Figure 49. The 1993 Frank Ewing Boundary Survey, page four. (Maryland State Archives)

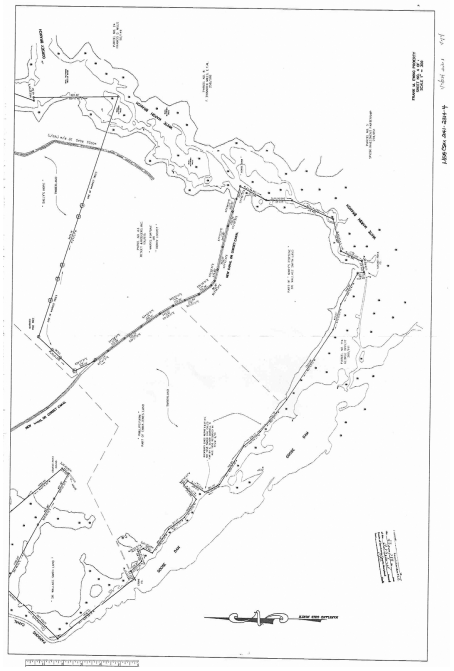

Figure 50. The 1993 Frank Ewing Boundary Survey, page five. (Maryland State Archives)

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Agriculture/Subsistence	Agricultural Field	Agricultural Field	Yes	No	Yes
Agriculture/Subsistence	Agricultural Outbuilding	Agricultural Outbuilding	Yes	No	Yes
Domestic (Residential)	Single Family Dwelling	Single Family House	Yes	No	Yes
Funerary	Cemetery	Cemetery	Yes	Yes	No
Agriculture/Subsistence	Woodlot/Forest (Managed)	Woodlot/Forest (Managed)	Yes	No	Yes
Landscape	Natural Area	Wetland	Yes	Yes	No
Landscape	Natural Area	Forest	Yes	Yes	No
Transportation	Water-Related	Canal	Yes	No	Yes
Vacant (Not In Use)	Ruin	Ruin	No	Yes	No

Public Access:

Public Access: No Access Currently

Public Access Narrative:

There is currently no public access to the Jacob Jackson Home Site. There are no maintained pedestrian trails, roads, parking areas, or other visitor support facilities on the property.

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Narrative:

No ethnographic studies have been completed that focus on the Jacob Jackson Home Site or the larger park property. However, numerous archaeological investigations, ethnographic studies, and ethnographic histories have been undertaken of the broader Chesapeake Bay region that may provide further insight into the ethnographic history of the landscape. These resources have been included in the bibliography.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The physical integrity of the Jacob Jackson Home Site is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1848 to 1871, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2018. While some landscape characteristics and features from the period of significance remain, others do not. The Jacob Jackson Home Site retains integrity to the period of significance primarily through its ecological communities, including the sedges of the salt marsh and oak, pine, and sweetgum forest. It also retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association through the existing remnants of nineteenth-century roads, canals, drainage ditches, and farms that once comprised this rural community. Further archaeological investigation may improve understanding of the integrity of workmanship and materials.

Location:
Location is the place where the cultural landscape was constructed or the landscape where the historic event occurred. The Jacob Jackson Home Site was the 140-acre farm of Jacob and Dinah Jackson and their family, where Jacob lived when he received the letter from Harriet Tubman asking for his assistance in rescuing her brothers from enslavement. The site also includes the homes and property of the neighbors of Jacob and Dinah Jackson, including, Vincent and Elizabeth Green, Richard and Susan Tall, and Thomas and Nancy Coursey, among others. This land was acquired by Maryland Governor Emerson Harrison, as part of larger land holdings, in the early twentieth century through the Madison Timberlands Company. In the 1950s, the lands were purchased by Frank Ewing, owner of Maryland-based timber companies. Ewing sold the property to the Conservation Fund in 1993, and the property was transferred to the National Park Service in 2012. All parcels currently within the Jacob Jackson Home Site contribute to the park's integrity of location.

Design:
Design is the combination of elements that create form, plan, space, structure, and style of a cultural landscape. The design of the landscape of the Jacob Jackson Home Site, once revealed in the orientation of small homes and farms along Martin's Lane and Taylor's Island Road, and in the patterns of fields and water ditches, has almost disappeared. The vernacular design of the landscape is subtly revealed, however, in the remnants of the Martin's Lane road trace and the remaining water ditch berms incising field patterns. In addition, although the Corsey Canal/New Canal may postdate the period of significance, its construction methodology is similar to nineteenth-century canal construction. Therefore, integrity of design is partially preserved.

Setting:
Setting is the physical environment of the cultural landscape. The setting of the Jacob Jackson Home Site, within the marshes and woodlands of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park, near the mouth of Parson's Creek, is similar to its setting during the period of significance. Although increased salinization due to inundation, and successional forest growth, has changed the ratio of marshland to deciduous and coniferous forest surrounding the property, the patterns of forest and marsh are similar to those present during the period of significance. In addition, the Corsey Canal/New Canal and the Blackwater and Parson's Creek Canal (southwest of the site) are evocative of nineteenth century development and the timbering industry. Thus, integrity of setting is retained.

Materials:
Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period(s) of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form the cultural landscape. While all above-ground built structures, and almost all circulation features and water systems have been lost, the types of vegetation which comprise the Jacob Jackson Home Site, would have been familiar to people living in the watershed of Parson's Creek in the mid-nineteenth century. In addition, remaining brick chimney falls on at least two home sites, as well as the remnant marble headstones within the Tall family cemetery, contribute to the integrity of the property. Therefore, the property retains partial integrity of materials.

Workmanship:
Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. The Jacob Jackson Home Site retains workmanship in the construction of the remnant water ditches and canal which illustrate the technical skills and design of nineteenth century builders. An evaluation of workmanship of the residential sites on the property is difficult, as little above ground evidence of structures remains. Thus, the property retains only partial integrity of workmanship.

Feeling:
Feeling is a cultural landscape's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. The feeling of the nineteenth-century wet and wooded landscape that would have been familiar to Harriet Tubman and Jacob Jackson is expressed through the open marshes, sunken road traces, remanent water ditches and canal, and in the forests of loblolly pine, sweet gum and oak. Though the open agricultural fields are no longer extant, their former boundaries are subtly incised into the marsh through the earthen remnants of drainage ditches and suggested in the spatial contrast of the open marsh to the forest. Therefore, the property retains integrity of feeling.

Association:
Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a cultural landscape. The Jacob Jackson Home Site retains a direct association with the life of Harriet Tubman, as the former farm of Jacob Jackson, a free Black man who helped Harriet to free her brothers from enslavement in 1854. It is also the location of a community of free and enslaved Black people who lived in the watershed of Parson's Creek in the throughout the nineteenth century.

The section below presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding CRIS-HS (formerly List of Classified Structures) names and numbers, if applicable. It also includes an evaluation of whether the feature contributes to the property's National Register eligibility for the historic period (1848-1871), contributes to the property's historic character, or if it is noncontributing, undetermined, or managed as a cultural resource. If a feature is non-contributing, it is evaluated as "compatible" (visually congruent with the historic character of the landscape) or "incompatible" (visually incongruent with the historic character of the landscape).

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

Historic Condition (to 1871):
Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape and can include geology, geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, climate, and native vegetation. Hydrology influenced the development of the Jacob Jackson Home Site's landscape, which was shaped by its proximity to the mouth of Parson's Creek and the Little Choptank River, and its low elevation on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay. To grow crops successfully, farmers had to drain excess water from the soil by digging ditches around the fields. These ditches also served as an essential means of transportation through the soggy landscape. The marshy soil also hindered nineteenth-century timbering by limiting the size and species of trees removed, as timber was more difficult and therefore more expensive to harvest in soggy soil. Such harvest patterns affected the tree species that grew on the region's more well-drained soils, favoring the loblolly pine over deciduous trees, including sweet gum and oak species. As timbering expanded following construction of the Blackwater and Parson's Creek Canal, the protected cove of Parson's Creek supported a nascent shipbuilding industry, which provided skilled jobs to those practicing subsistence agriculture. Jacob Jackson, Vincent Green, Richard Tall, and others farmed in the watershed of Parson's Creek, struggling against the infiltration of brackish water that eventually turned the farmland into marsh. This slow conversion may have been exacerbated by the canal, which mixed the high salinity of the Little Choptank's water with the freshwater of the Blackwater River.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Beginning in the late nineteenth-century, the agricultural land of the Jacob Jackson Home Site began to revert to woodland and wetlands as farming declined and successional vegetation took hold. Though Jacob and Vincent's nineteenth-century fields remained partially open in the 1930s, by the 1940s and 1950s most people had left their homes and farms. In the 1960s the rerouting of Taylor's Island Road included the placement of a large culvert that diverted additional water from the mouth of Parson's Creek into the former Corsey Canal/New Canal of the Jackson Home Site, increasing the effects of seawater inundation. Today the western edge of the site is defined as a saltwater and brackish wetland, while the remaining areas are mixed deciduous hardwoods and loblolly pine. Although increased salinization from rising sea levels and changes in hydrology have impacted natural systems, they retain integrity to the period of significance (Figure 51).

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Figure 51. The western edge of the Jacob Jackson Home Site, was likely the location of the Tall and Corsey families, among others during the nineteenth century. Today the area is dominated by wetland grasses and sedges. (OCLP 2018)

Landscape Characteristic: **Spatial Organization**

Historic Condition (to 1871):
Spatial organization is the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces. During the period of significance, the spatial organization of the western portion of the Jacob Jackson Home Site, including the area immediately surrounding the Jackson farm building cluster, was likely more open than it is currently, with small fields surrounded by drainage ditches. The building clusters associated with the family farms and residences of the Green, Jackson, Tall, and other families, would have been clearly visible on the flat open landscape. Eastward along Martin's Lane, towards White Marsh, cut over forest would have predominated, perhaps screening the community from the main route of Taylor's Island Road.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Following the period of significance, successional vegetation growth on the Jacob Jackson Home Site gradually created a denser forest canopy and decreased the open character of the landscape. As the twentieth century progressed, the land was purchased for forestry and loblolly pine was planted and harvested and planted again, changing the patterns of enclosure. By the late twentieth century, expanding marsh at the western edge of the property (precipitated in part by sea level rise and soil inundation) again reflected the open nature of the nineteenth century agricultural landscape (Figure 52). While the marsh evokes the open nature of the nineteenth century agricultural landscape, the growth of successional woody vegetation, as well as the loss of all historic structures, has diminished the integrity of the site's spatial organization.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Figure 52. The marshland of the western portion of the Jacob Jackson Home Site evokes the open farmland of the nineteenth century. (OCLP 2017)

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

Historic Condition (to 1871):
Land uses are the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize the landscape as a result of human interaction. During the period of significance, the land of the Jacob Jackson Home Site was used primarily for small scale commercial and subsistence agriculture, timbering, and the water industries of fishing and shipbuilding. This land was also the home and community of Jacob and Dinah Jackson and others.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
In the late nineteenth century, land prices dropped precipitously and the economy suffered from latent industry, but the land of the Jacob Jackson Home Site remained a center of African American community until the early twentieth century. Following the area's economic decline, the property was purchased by Governor Harrington and later Frank Ewing, both of whom owned timbering companies. Around the same time land south of the property was conserved as part of the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge for both resource conservation and tourism. The Jackson property was purchased by the Conservation Fund in 1993, who donated it to the National Park Service for recreation and preservation in 2012. While human use of the landscape has changed profoundly since the period of significance, the use of the land by native fauna is similar to the period of significance.

Landscape Characteristic: Topography

Historic Condition (to 1871):
Topography is the three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features (such as slope and articulation) and orientation (such as elevation and solar aspect). As it is today, the mid-nineteenth-century topography of the Jacob Jackson Home Site was almost entirely flat and low in elevation. These characteristics, and the constant threat of inundation, resulted in the excavation of drainage ditches around the edges of agricultural fields defined with small berms. The drainage ditches were augmented by natural waterways, and later by the New or Corsey Canal, that cut through the low-lying ground. Martin's Lane and Taylor's Island Road were likely sunken into the surrounding landscape, compressed into the ground by generations of use.

Post Historic and Existing Conditions:
The topography of the Jacob Jackson Home Site remains almost entirely flat, only a few feet above sea level. By the 1940s, and likely before, farmers no longer used the agricultural drainage ditches. Over time the ditches filled in with silt, so only the patterns of berms are visible, etched into the sedge covered marshland. In areas where the berms reach up above the marsh, they provide a footing for woody vegetation and small trees that follow the straight lines of the old agricultural ditches (Figures 53 and 54). The traces of Martin's Lane and Taylor's Island Road are now filled with water and appear like remnant canals. In the late 1960s (possibly as early as the 1930s), a large culvert was installed along the southeastern edge of Taylor's Island Road, altering the flow of water between the Little Choptank River and the Jacob Jackson Home Site, contributing to its inundation (see Small-Scale Features). While the topography of the landscape remains flat, water inundation from rising sea levels and changing hydrology precipitated by alterations to Taylor's Island Road have caused the integrity of the topography to diminish.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Berms and elevation changes from the ruins of a system of drainage ditches used for agriculture	195486	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Figure 53. In this view from Google Earth, the system of drainage ditches is visible on the landscape as indentations or shadows in the green woodland. (Google Earth, 2021)

Figure 54. In this detailed view of the same Google Earth image, the system of drainage ditches is revealed through lines of trees that grow on the slightly elevated berms of the former ditches. This L-shaped field or lot line dates at least as early as 1843. (Google Earth, 2021)

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Historic Conditions (to 1871):
Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous

plants and plant communities, whether Indigenous or introduced in the landscape. During the period of significance, a portion of the Jacob Jackson Home Site was used for small-scale commercial and subsistence agricultural production. Fields for grazing, grain and corn cultivation would have been present on both sides of Martin's Lane, at least at its western end, and along Taylor's Island Road. Informal fruit orchards would also have been common. The marshy land would have been drained through the canals and ditches, though it was still susceptible to seasonal floods. The eastern side of the Jacob Jackson Home Site, nearer to White Marsh Road, would have likely remained tree covered, though cut-over where timbering was possible. The forest would have been dominated by species including loblolly pine, sweet gum, and oak species, similar to the species present today.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Following the period of significance, African American men and women continued to farm the property, though the forestry industry was expanding. Maps created by Fred Besley and the Maryland Forestry Department provide reliable documentation of the vegetation patterns on the landscape of White Marsh, Parson's Creek and around Madison in the early twentieth century. By 1915, much of the land that had been farmed around White Marsh during the mid-nineteenth century was covered in successional forest, though most of the land of former Jackson farm itself remained cleared, as did the Green and former Tall farmland to the north and west. Adjacent to White Marsh Road, Harrisville Road, and in and around Madison, the land remained open and divided into small fields and residential lots. The peninsula west of Madison, John's Point, was open except for a narrow swath of loblolly pine forest that had recently been allowed to revert to woodland. Where the formerly cleared land was reverting to woodland east of the Jacob Jackson Home Site, the forest was comprised of young loblolly pine stands. South and west of the Jacob Jackson Home Site, in the future location of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, the forest timber was less valuable than forest comprised of mixed hardwoods and evergreens. East of the Jacob Jackson property, where the New or Corsey Canal crossed White Marsh Road, was a stand of culled hardwoods which followed the path of the canal. In 1915, Election District 4 (Parson's Creek) encompassed 20,696 acres, of which only thirty seven percent, or 9,872 acres, were wooded. The forests were dominated by loblolly pine. By the 1940s, following the purchase of the land by Emerson Harrington and later Frank Ewing, agricultural had ceased and forestry dominated.

Although the landscape during the period of significance would likely have not been marsh, the species composition and sensory experience of the marsh would have been familiar to Harriet Tubman, Jacob Jackson, and the other residents of nearby White Marsh. Today the western edge of the site is defined as a saltwater and brackish wetland, characterized by smooth cord grass (Spartina alterniflora), salt meadow cordgrass (Spartina patens), Olney three square (Schoenoplectus spp.), big cordgrass (Spartina cynosuroides), and narrowleaf cattail (Typha angustifolia), among other species (US Fish and Wildlife, 2006: 34). The remainder of the site is wooded wetland, including loblolly pine (Pinus taeda) stands with an understory of wax myrtle (Myrica spp.), and holly (Ilex spp.). Common hardwoods include red maple (Acer rubrum), sweet gum (Liquidambar styraciflua), black gum (Nyssa sylvatica), swamp chestnut oak (Quercus michauxii), willow oak (Quercus phellos), black oak (Quercus velutina), white oak (Quercus alba), American beech (Fagus grandifolia), and American holly (Ilex opaca). Narrow lines of loblolly pine and deciduous trees follow some of the former agricultural drainage ditches, where the berms are high enough to allow woody vegetation to take root. These remain visible in the landscape. While it is unknown whether trees or extensive woody riparian vegetation bordered the edges of ditches during the period of significance and these specific trees postdate the period of significance, their presence helps to reveal the subtle topographic changes present on the landscape. Near a prominent line of trees growing on the berm of an old drainage ditch, which appears like a windbreak in the landscape, a few clumps of daffodils mark the graves in the Tall family cemetery. Whether the bulbs date to the period of significance is unknown. Although the locations of vegetive communities in many places on the site differ from the period of significance, the types of vegetation that grow on the site now are similar to those that grew in the mid-nineteenth century (Figures 55 and 56).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Forest dominated by oak, loblolly pine and sweet gum	195487	Contributing					No
Saltwater and brackish wetland marsh	195488	Contributing					No
Daffodils growing near Tall Family cemetery	195489	Undetermined					No
Vegetation growing along berms of water fences or drainage ditches	195490	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Figure 55. A woodland of Loblolly pine and mixed hardwoods grows in the vicinity of the Jacob Jackson farm location. (OCLP 2017)

Figure 56. The marshland sedges, grasses and forbes transition to Loblolly pine and mixed hardwood forest in the southwestern portion of the site near the Corsey Canal, facing southeast from Taylor's Island Road. (OCLP 2017)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Historic and Existing Conditions:
Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape. During the period of significance, the primary circulation in the Jacob Jackson Home Site was the northwest to southeast road named Martin's Lane, and later Vince Green Road. In addition, Taylor's Island Road, also known as Maryland State Route 16, formed the western boundary of the Jacob Jackson Home Site, and historically may have bisected Jacob Jackson's property, as the parcel "Martin's Landing" was located on the mouth of Parson's Creek to the west of Taylor's Island Road (beyond the boundaries of the Jackson Home Site). The parcel "Martin's Regulation" was located to the east of Taylor's Island Road. The site was also crisscrossed by foot paths which connected the farms and residences to each other and to local roads and canals. No documentation of these footpaths has been discovered. Joshua's Path may date to the late nineteenth century when the property was owned by the Keene, Dudley, and Green families, or may relate to the use of the property for forestry later in the twentieth century. The earliest reference to Joshua's Path found thus far is on the 1948 survey of Madison Timberlands. Further research may reveal its origins. During the first half of the twentieth century, the Jacob Jackson Home Site property was used for forestry. Road cuts were made throughout the site to facilitate timber harvest and these remain clearly visible in the landscape. The traces of Martin's Lane and Taylor's Island Road are visible, but they are impassable as they are inundated with water (Figures 57, 58, 59). Nonetheless they remain as circulation elements in the landscape, allowing overall circulation patterns in the Jacob Jackson Home Site to retain partial integrity.

Martin's Lane/Vince Green Road Trace.
Martin's Lane, which was built on land owned by William Martin about 1806, cut through fields southeast of Taylor's Island Road and led across Parson's Creek. By the mid-nineteenth century, Martin's Lane ran past the farms of the Coursey, Tall. and Jackson families, across the Blackwater and Parson's Creek Canal, to intersect with White Marsh Road. As development in the area increased, Martin's Lane became an essential link between the Black families living near Taylor's Island Road, including Jacob and Dinah Jackson, and the community of free and enslaved Black families living to the east near White Marsh Road. In the second half of the nineteenth century, after Vincent Green, a friend and neighbor of Jacob Jackson, purchased land along Martin's Lane, the narrow lane became known as Vince Green Road. Following the realignment and straightening of Taylor's Island Road in the early twentieth century, the alignment of the western end of Martin's Lane was altered slightly to the south, though the original route remains visible. As marsh surrounding the road trace has become inundated with sea water and changing hydrology, the road trace has filled with water, though the break through the forest growth remains visible.

Taylor's Island Road Trace.
Taylor's Island Road, also known as the "County Road" and Maryland State Route 16, dates to as early as the late eighteenth century, and may follow the route first used by Indigenous people much earlier. During the period of significance, the curved road led from Taylor's Island, west of the Jacob Jackson Home Site east along the little Choptank River, to Cambridge. In the early twentieth century, the road was straightened and then realigned again in the late 1960s and early 1970s. A portion of the pre-1938 road trace is visible in the landscape south of the present-day road alignment. The east edge of present-day Taylor's Island Road forms the western boundary of the Jacob Jackson Home Site.

Joshua's Path.
The origins of Joshua's Path are not known. The earliest reference to Joshua's Path found thus far is in deeds dating to the first half of the twentieth century, relating primarily to Harrington family land purchases. Joshua's identity is unknown. The path was indicated on a 1993 survey of the property, but it is not known whether the path remains visible in the landscape.

Modern Forestry Roads.
Modern forestry roads were constructed in the twentieth century to facilitate harvest of the loblolly pine under the under the ownership of Madison Timberlands and later Frank Ewing, prior to the property's ownership by the National Park Service. They do not contribute to the historic significance of the Jacob Jackson Home Site.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Martin's Lane/Vince Green Road Trace	195491	Contributing					No
Taylor's Island Road Trace	195492	Contributing					No
Joshua's Path	195493	Undetermined					No
Modern Forestry Roads	195494	Non contributing – compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Figure 57. The trace of Martin's Lane, looking east, is just visible through a break in the tree line. (OCLP 2018)

Figure 58. On this aerial image, the road traces of Taylor's Island Road and Martin's Lane are clearly visible. (Google Earth Image, 2021; annotated OCLP)

Figure 59. On this aerial image, the traces of twentieth-century forestry roads crisscross the landscape. (Google Earth 2021, annotated OCLP)

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Historic and Existing Conditions:
Buildings are elements constructed primarily for sheltering any form of human activity in a landscape, while structures are elements constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activity. There are no extant buildings nor standing structures on the Jacob Jackson Home Site. Photographs of the ruin locations are not included in this report to help preserve their integrity.

Early settlement along the central Eastern Shore was impermanent and relatively meager. One of the oldest construction methods in the area was known as "puncheoning," in which puncheons (or stout pieces of wood) were set upright into the ground as a palisade. Builders then filled the spaces between the wooden puncheons with wattle and daub. Later, small clusters of one and two-room log buildings often set on stone piers served as the houses and outbuildings of both freeborn and enslaved. By the mid-nineteenth century, log cabins in addition to simple frame structures predominated. While there are no extant buildings on the Jacob Jackson Home Site, study of the architectural form of extant early buildings in the area may shed light on those that once existed. The E.C. Flynn House, located to the east of the Jacob Jackson Home Site, about one half mile west of Madison, is a typical small, early nineteenth-century, one-and one-half story, Dorchester County vernacular dwelling. It is a frame structure built on brick piers and has a fireplace within both gables. A center door is flanked on both sides by large windows, and three dormers on each side of the "A" roof provide light for the second floor rooms. During the period of significance, the homes of the most affluent on the Jacob Jackson Home Site, were likely similar to the E.C. Flynn House. The J.E. Harrington House, located just beyond the boundaries of the park, remains as a ruin and is likely evocative of homes once located along Taylor's Island Road within the Jacob Jackson Home Site (Figure 60). Most buildings, however, featured simple single-pile log or wood frame construction with brick chimneys, set on stone or brick piers. Barns and outbuildings would

have followed a similar construction method. Indeed, many outbuildings were likely only temporary structures, sited where they were most needed and used for a season or two (Figure 61). After the late nineteenth century, landowners added few if any structures to the landscape, and by the 1950s, most remaining buildings were vacant.

Jackson Farm.
Ownership: Loockermans (18th-century); Jones & Martin (late 18th-early 19th century); Coursey, Crawford & Stewart (early antebellum); Jackson (1848-1871); Brown (1870s); Green & others (late 19th century to early 20th century); Harrington (early 20th century); Ewing (mid-20th century); Conservation Fund (1993-2012)

Field investigations have not yet revealed the location of the Jackson farmhouses and outbuildings. Research suggests the farm building cluster was likely located on the north side of Martin's Lane, approximately a quarter of a mile southeast from the intersection of Martin's Lane and Taylors Island Road.

Coursey/Corsey Residence.
Ownership: Loockermans (18th century); Martin & Reddish (early 19th century; Coursey & Stewart (mid-19th century); Richard Tall & son Benjamin Tall (late 19th century); William D. Smith (early twentieth century); Harrington (1930s and 1940s); Ewing (1950s); Conservation Fund (1993-2012)

The site of the Coursey/Corsey residence is on the south side of the Martin's Lane road trace. A brick mound about ten meters from the road trace comprises the ruin. The site derives its name from the 1877 Dorchester and Talbot County Atlas which indicates it as the "Corsey" residence. Deeds and census records reveal that the Corsey (also spelled Coursey) family owned property in this area by the 1830s.

In the late eighteenth century, William Martin surveyed a portion of what would become the Coursey property. Henny Martin, the daughter or niece of William Martin, then inherited the property. Henny married into the Stapleforte family, who owned a plantation on the western shore of Slaughter Creek. The Staplefortes then sold their fifty-acre parcel of land to Robert and Elizabeth [nee Coursey] Reddish. At the same time, the Reddish's purchased additional land, including a ¾-acre patent "Martin's Landing" and a 57 ¼-acre parcel of "Martin's Regulation" from descendants of William Martin. Elizabeth Coursey Reddish died soon after, and her son Thomas Coursey (1808-1890) inherited all the land. Thomas retained the fifty acres, but in 1848, he and his wife Caroline indentured the 57-plus acres to James Stewart for $550. Jacob Jackson called for the deed of this indenture a few months later. At the time, Thomas Coursey owned a shipbuilding business, and the 1850 census identified Thomas as a ship carpenter and his son, James, as a mariner. Census records suggest that Thomas and Caroline Coursey moved east to Election District 9 by 1860. The property appears to have been purchased by the Tall family after the Civil War. In the early twentieth century, the property was sold by the descendants of Richard Tall to members of William D. and Elizabeth E. Smith family. The Smith family sold the property to the Harrington family, before it was purchased by Ewing in the mid-twentieth century. Ewing then sold the land to the Conservation Fund.

Tall Family Farm.
Ownership: Bruffit and Elizabeth Tall (early 19th century) to son, Richard Tall (mid to late 19th century), William D. Smith (early twentieth century); Harrington (1930s and 1940s); Ewing (1950s); Conservation Fund (1993-2012)

The site of the Tall family farm is in the salt marsh south of Taylor's Island Road and is identified through a brick chimney fall and a cluster of four, noncontributing small trees. Structures are indicated in this vicinity on the 1848 US Coastal Survey Map, the 1877 Illustrated Atlas of Dorchester and Talbot Counties, and the 1905 USGS St. Mary's Quadrangle Map. The land was purchased by white farmer Bruffit Tall in the early nineteenth century. His son, Richard Tall, farmed the property during the tenure of Jacob and Dinah Jackson. The property was sold to various owners by the heirs of Richard Tall before being acquired by Governor Emerson Harrington as part of the forestry company, Madison Timberlands. The land was eventually purchased by Frank

Ewing for forestry and sold to the Conservation Fund in 1993, as part of a much larger land transaction. The Tall family cemetery is located approximately thirty meters south of the structural ruins of the Tall family house (see Small-Scale Features). The location of the former farm is suggested in the drainage ditch berms that are now lined by non-contributing trees established on the slightly higher elevation of the berm (see Constructed Water Features).

Opher family structural ruins near the remnant “New/Corsey Canal”
Ownership: Loockermans (18th-century); Jones/ Killman (late 18th century); Martin (early 19th century); Crawford (1810s); Joseph & James Stewart (mid-nineteenth century; unknown; Opher Residence (1877); unknown; Harrington (1930s and 1940s); Ewing (1950s); Conservation Fund (1993-2012)

Structural ruins are also located near the intersection of the remnants of the “New Canal” and Taylor’s Island Road. Late eighteenth-century deeds from the Jones, Killman, and Martin families reference a residence in this approximate location, near the “County Road” at the mouth of St. Stephens or Parson’s Creek. The Crawford family, who had extensive land holdings in the region, purchased the property from the Martin family in the early nineteenth century. Joseph Stewart then purchased property to support the development of the Black Water and Parson’s Creek Canal. Later, the Opher family purchased the property in this vicinity and where they lived until the early twentieth century. The Coastal Survey from 1843 indicates buildings in the approximate location of the ruin, as does the 1877 Dorchester County Atlas for Parson’s Creek. At the time of the 1877 Atlas the property was owned by Black farmer George Opher. The relationship between the Corsey/New Canal and the structural ruins is unknown.

Woolford Blacksmith Ruins.
Structural ruins located in the vicinity of the 1870s blacksmith William Woolford are barely visible on the landscape, near the road trace of the former alignment of Taylor’s Island Road. The design of the structure/structures is unknown, but it likely faced the road. Further research may further illuminate the history of this site.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Coursey/Corsey Ruins	195495	Contributing					No
Tall Farm Ruins	195496	Contributing					No
Opher Farm Ruins near Corsey/New Canal	195497	Contributing					No
Woolford Blacksmith Ruins	195498	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Figure 60. The architectural style of the J.E. Harrington House, located just beyond the boundaries of the Jacob Jackson Home Site, was similar to other timber frame homes in the area. (OCLP 2021)

Figure 61. Though this photograph dates from the early twentieth century, the temporary nature and design of the structure would have been similar in the nineteenth century, "a product from dead Chestnut, making hurdle fence during slack time on the farm, Foxville near Bethel Church, 1928." (Maryland State Archives, Besley-Pfeifer Photograph Collection)

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

Historic and Existing Conditions:
A view is the expansive and/or panoramic prospect of a broad range of vision that may be naturally occurring or deliberately contrived. Historically, broad unobstructed views from Martin's Lane and Taylor's Island Road across open farmland to surrounding forests would have characterized the Jacob Jackson Home Site property during the historic period. The western half of the property remained relatively open through the 1940s, though successional vegetation slowly reclaimed farmland. Today, the western edge of the Jacob Jackson Home Site remains covered in low-growing grasses and sedges, which evoke the former farmland and allow views into the site from Taylor's Island Road. Loss of historic structures and inundation of the low-lying site with seawater has altered the viewshed from what Jacob and Dinah Jackson and their neighbors would have recognized. The natural landscape which now dominates the property, however, would have been familiar to them as it is typical of the area's native mid-nineteenth century ecosystems (Figure 62).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
View from Taylor's Island Road into the property	195499	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Figure 62. View east toward the Jacob Jackson farm from Taylor's Island Road. (OCLP 2018)

Landscape Characteristic: Constructed Water Features

Historic and Existing Conditions:
Constructed water features are built features and elements that utilize water for aesthetic or utilitarian functions in the landscape. The only remaining constructed water feature that retains integrity in the Jacob Jackson Home Site landscape is the Corsey Canal/New Canal. The canal linked the mouth of Parson's Creek with the Corsey Creek branch of Parson's Creek to the east. The history of this canal remains obscure, however. The Corsey Canal/New Canal may have been named to differentiate it from the Blackwater and Parson's Creek Canal/Stewart's Canal, and may have been constructed in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, following the destruction caused by the Centennial Tide of 1876. However, the first official survey of the canal found thus far is Emerson Harrington's Madison Timberlands 1948 land survey. Lack of earlier documentation suggests that the canal may have been constructed in the first half of the twentieth century to help transport timber. In either case, its construction post-dates the period of significance for the Jacob Jackson Home Site. The appearance of the canal is similar to nineteenth-century canals, but the methods used in its construction are unknown (Figures 63 and 64).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Corsey Canal/New Canal	195500	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Figure 63. The Corsey Canal forms the southwestern boundary of the property. (OCLP 2018)

Figure 64. Blackwater and Parson's Creek Canal, looking southeast from Taylor's Island Road south of the boundary of the Jacob Jackson Home Site. (OCLP 2018)

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Historic Condition (to 1871):
Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. Historically, small-scale features on the Jacob Jackson Home Site were associated with small-scale commercial and subsistence agriculture, timbering, and the water industries of shipbuilding, oystering, and fishing. Small-scale features were also referenced in nineteenth-century deed and surveys, which included locust posts and fencing, stone boundary markers, and docks.

Tall Family Cemetery.
During the nineteenth century, the Tall family cemetery was located near the intersection of Taylor's Island Road and Martin's Lane, south of the Tall family farmhouse. Broken white marble headstones and clumps of daffodils still mark the cemetery. In 1821 Elizabeth Woodland Tall, wife of Bruffit Tall, passed away at age 38 and was the first to be buried. By the late nineteenth century, at least ten Tall family members were buried in the cemetery. As recent as 1962, the following people were identified as buried in this location:
Tall, Elizabeth, b. 1783 d. July 25, 1821
Aaron, Luvenia, b. October 22, 1813, d. Jan 6, 1870
Tall, Francis A., b. May 2, 1844, d. August 20 1867
Tall, Lewis, b. Jan 20, 1846, d. October 19, 1867
Tall, Susan, d. May 8, 1868, aged 60 years
Tall, Bruffet, d. April 10, 1825, aged 58 years
Tall, Monroe, d. (illegible); Tall, T.R. d. Sept. 6, 1829, aged 3 yrs
Tall, William, b. December 5, 1824, d. October 9, 1825
Tall, G.T., d. Jul 18, 1833, aged 2 years

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Existing small-scale features include boundary stones, isolated fence posts, and likely marked trees. These features were placed in the landscape at least as early as 1948 to identify some of the boundary of the Harrington/Madison Timberland land tracts. They may, however, have predated the 1948 survey (Figure 65).

A circa 1960 cemetery inventory of the region documented ten graves in the Tall family cemetery. Today, the Tall family cemetery is identified through one broken foot stone and two broken headstones, markings illegible, and clumps of daffodils (Figure 66). Modern Road culverts are located near the trace of Martin's Lane and the Corsey Canal (Figure 67).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Tall Family Cemetery	195501	Contributing					No
Survey Boundary Stones	195502	Undetermined					No
Modern Road Culvert near Taylor's Island Road/Maryland Route 16	195503	Non contributing – incompatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Figure 65. Blackwater and Parson's Creek Canal, looking southeast from Taylor's Island Road south of the boundary of the Jacob Jackson Home Site. (OCLP 2018)

Figure 66. View looking east at the Tall family cemetery. (OCLP 2017)

Figure 67. Twin culvert pipes direct water into the Corsey Canal/New Canal. (OCLP 2018)

Landscape Characteristic: Archeological Sites

Archeological sites are the locations of ruins, traces, or deposited artifacts in the landscape and are evidenced by the presence of either surface or subsurface features. Only sites identified in approved National Register documentation are identified in this report. There are no archaeological sites documented in the National Register of Historic Places for the Jacob Jackson Home Site. Section 110 archaeological investigation is programmed for 2023.

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 6

Next Assessment Due Date: 03/04/2028

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 03/04/2022

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The Cultural Landscape Inventory evaluates the overall condition of the Jacob Jackson Home Site landscape as "Fair." The potential location of the Jacob Jackson Farm and the extant ruins of the nineteenth-century farms of Jackson's neighbors, as well as the nineteenth-century road traces and the ecological marsh and forest communities, are currently being impacted by saltwater inundation caused by rising sea levels associated with climate change. In addition, increasing light pollution from the region's large cities threatens to dim the night sky's stars, used by Tubman and others to navigate through the landscape of the central Eastern Shore.

An evaluation of Fair indicates the property shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape characteristics will cause the property to degrade to a poor condition.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Inundation/Sea Level Rise

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: The Chesapeake Bay, and thus the Jacob Jackson Site, is experiencing sea level rise as a result of climate change at twice the global rate which is modifying the Bay's hydrology, and causing a loss of dry land and loss of historic vegetation, particularly the loblolly pine (Pinus taeda). Sea-level rise projections at the Jacob Jackson Home Site reflect those of the greater Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad area. Undeveloped dry land is projected to increase by 1 acre (8%) by 2050, and then decrease by 84% over the course of the following 50 years, losing approximately 10 of the original 12 acres by 2100. Freshwater swamp is projected to lose 35% (approximately 130 acres) of its cover by 2050, and nearly 100% by 2100, with just less than a half an acre projected to remain by the end of the century. Projections show that the majority of freshwater swamp will be lost to transitional salt marsh, regularly flooded marsh, and eventually, tidal flat over the course of the next century.

Date Identified: 01/01/2019

Type of Impact: Other

Other Impact: Salination

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: Increased salinization from sea level rise is causing the loss of historic vegetation species within patches of forests and tree stands, particularly those comprised of loblolly pine.

Date Identified: 01/01/2019

Type of Impact: Other

Other Impact: Light Pollution

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: Increasing light pollution in the atmosphere from major cities within 100 miles of the park, including Washington D.C. and Baltimore, is decreasing star visibility, which historically was an important wayfinding tool for Harriet Tubman and those escaping enslavement.

Date Identified: 01/01/2019

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Approved Treatment

Treatment Type: Undetermined

Completed: No

Approved Treatment Document: Other Document

Narrative:

The Foundation Document for the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park, produced by the National Park Service, Denver Service Center, was published in 2021. A Foundation Document is a statement of a national park unit's purpose and significance, most important resources and values, and the interpretive themes that tell the park's important stories. Although the Foundation Document is not a decision-making document and does not include actions or management strategies, it describes a shared understanding of what is most important about the park. In addition, the enabling legislation for the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park passed by Congress in 2014 (P.L. 113-291, Section 3035), mandated that a General Management Plan should be prepared by the National Park Service, in consultation with the State of Maryland and the public, to guide future development. The National Park Service initiated the General Management Plan in 2022.

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

The Foundation Document for the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park, produced by the National Park Service, Denver Service Center, was published in 2021. A Foundation Document is a statement of a national park unit's purpose and significance, most important resources and values, and the interpretive themes that tell the park's important stories. Although the Foundation Document is not a decision-making document and does not include actions or management strategies, it describes a shared understanding of what is most important about the park. In addition, the enabling legislation for the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park passed by Congress in 2014 (P.L. 113-291, Section 3035), mandated that a General Management Plan should be prepared by the National Park Service, in consultation with the State of Maryland and the public, to guide future development. The National Park Service initiated the General Management Plan in 2022.

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