Interpreting the Brome Plantation



Travis Parno
Dir. of Research and Collections

HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. History of the Brome Plantation
   a) Property History
   b) HSMC Exhibit Development
   c) The Property Today
3. Current Project Ideas
4. Q&A



Introduction

- What brought you here today?
- What is your interest in/connection to the history of this area?



History of the Brome Plantation

1839: Inherited by Dr. John Mackall Brome

Property expansion: →2000 acres

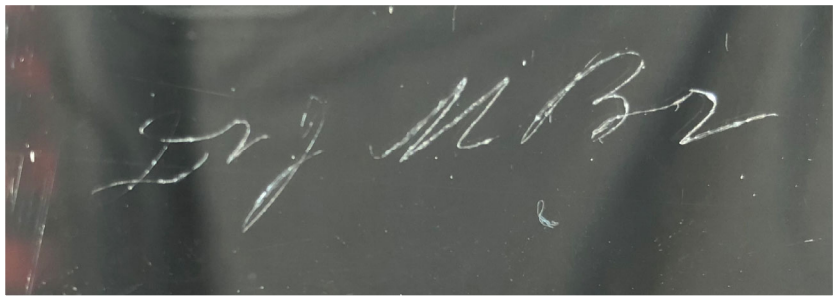
Enslaved population: 30 (1840) → 65 (Civil War)



Brome House

Built ca. 1840
(photo ca. 1970)





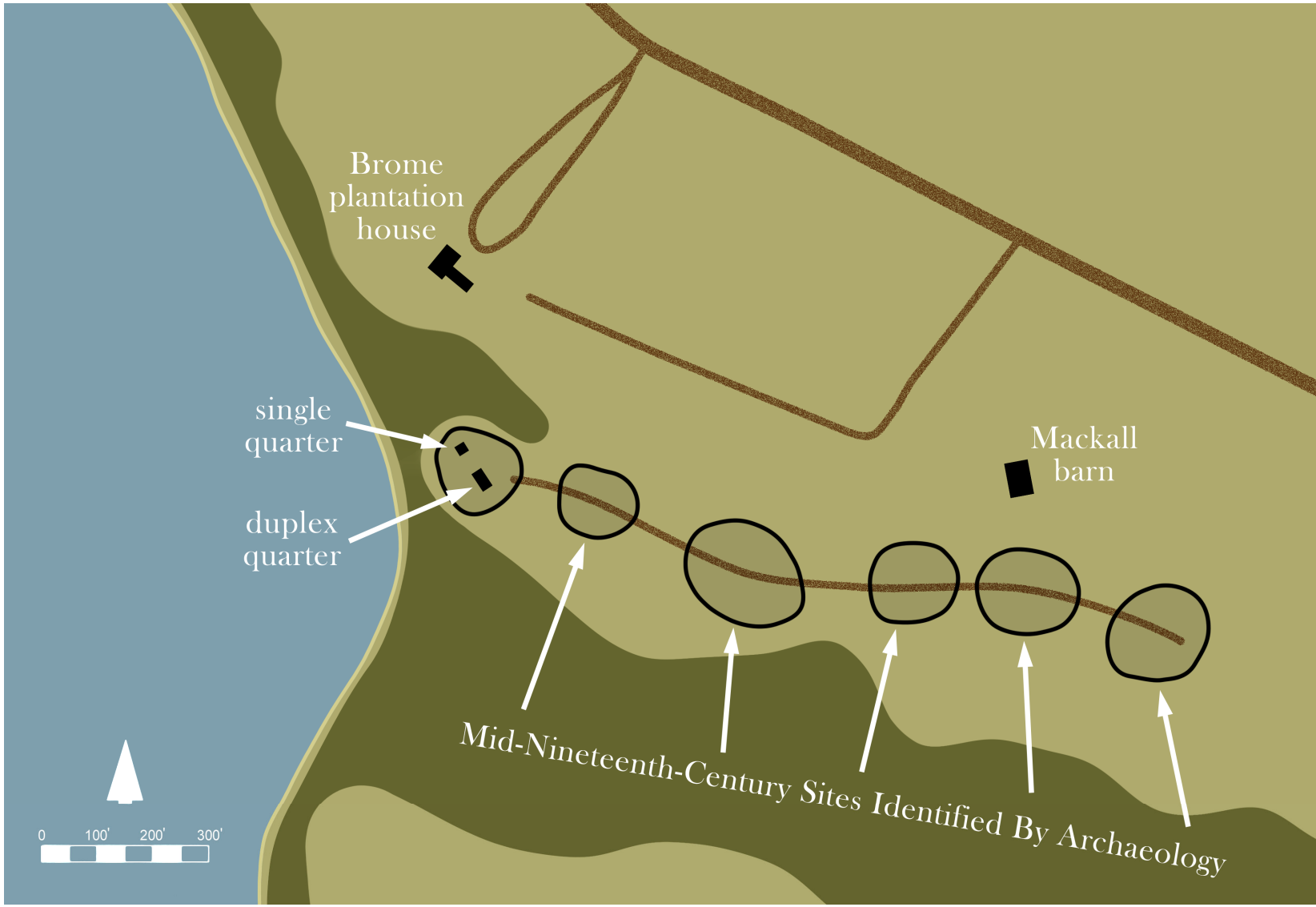


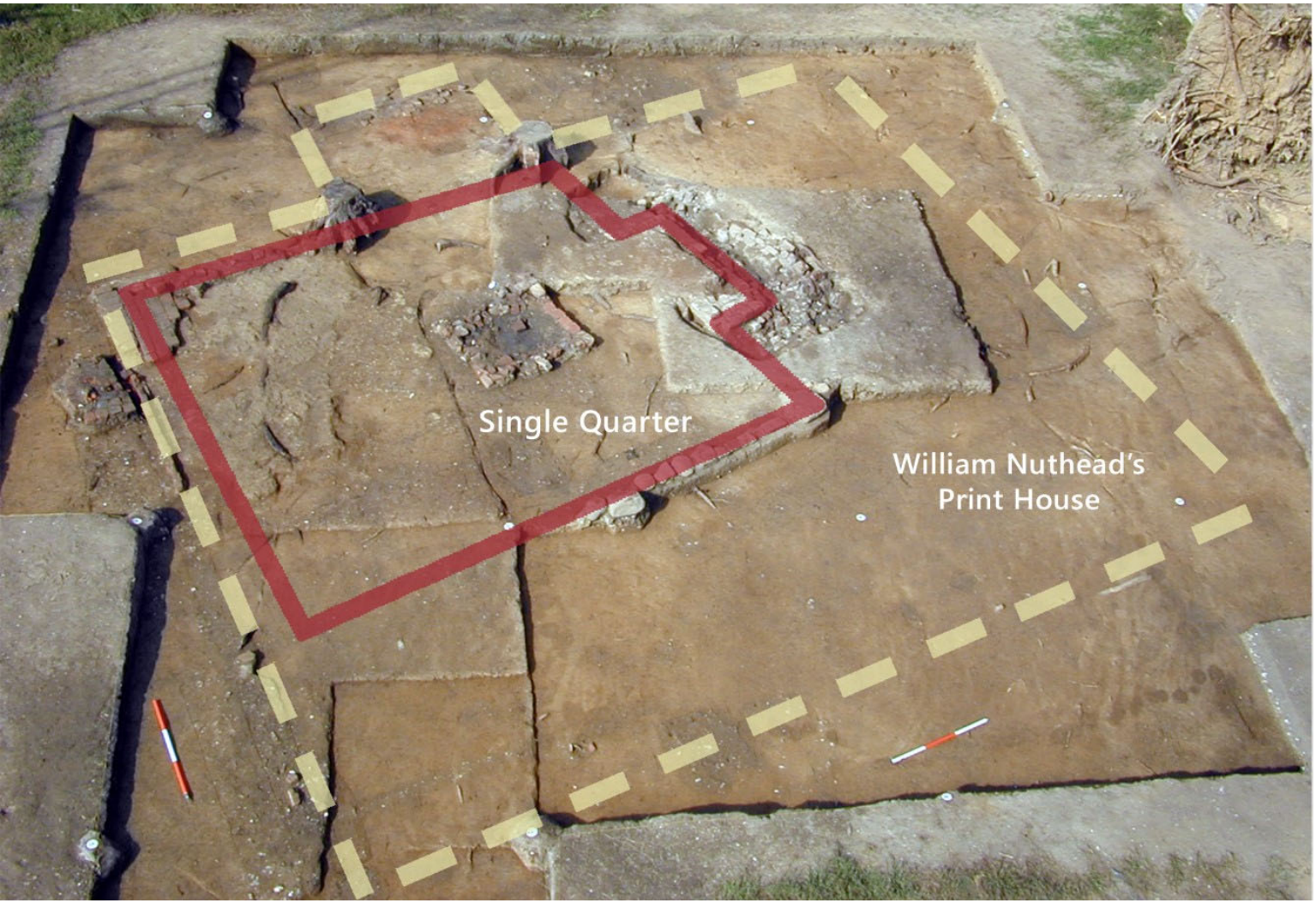
Brome House

Built ca. 1840

(photo ca. 1909)

Brome Plantation
(ca. 1860)





Print House excavations, showing single quarter foundations


0
1 in
0
1
2 cm

History of the Brome Plantation

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Property expansion: →2000 acres

Enslaved population: 30 (1840) → 65 (Civil War)

1860-1865: Self-emancipation (“Left w Military”)



Date	Owner	Name of Slave	Sex	Age	Physical Condition	Term of Servitude	How Free	Emancipated by State; Left w/ Military; Enlisted*	Compensation
12 March 1868	Dr. John M. Broom	Hiram Bennett	M	55	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Ralph Butler	M	30	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Eliza Butler	F	30	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Samuel Butler	M	10	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Lottie Butler	F	9	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Sylvia Butler	F	8	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Emilia Butler	F	6	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Nannie Butler	F	4	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Eliza Butler	F	2	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Maria Biscoe	F	55	Good	For Life	Left w Military	10 August 1863	
		Nace Biscoe	M	30	Good	For Life	Left w Military	1 February 1862	
		Peter Gough	M	30	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Harriet Gough	F	22	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		John Gough	M	8	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Margaret Gough	F	7	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Teresa Gough	F	6	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Rose Gough	F	4	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Elanor Gough	F	2	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Matilda Hopewell	F	25	Good	For Life	Left w Military	1 February 1862	
		Betsy Hopewell	F	1	Good	For Life	Left w Military	1 February 1862	
		Alexander Gough	M	25	Good	For Life	Enlisted	1 April 1863	$100 from MD
		Jacob Clarke	M	44	Good	For Life	Left w Military	5 March 1863	
		George Whaling**	M	40	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Mary Whaling**	F	30	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Sarah Whaling**	F	13	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Louisa Whaling**	F	10	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Georgianna Whaling**	F	6	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		John Biscoe	M	40	Good	For Life	Left w Military	10 August 1863	
		Maria Biscoe	F	18	Good	For Life	Left w Military	10 August 1863	
		Elanor Whaling	F	8	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Lucy Whaling	F	4	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Peter Biscoe	M	65	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Fannie Biscoe	F	55	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Charles Biscoe	M	28	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Tildy Biscoe	F	27	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	

Transcription of list of enslaved persons on St. Mary's Manor (1867) – 1/2

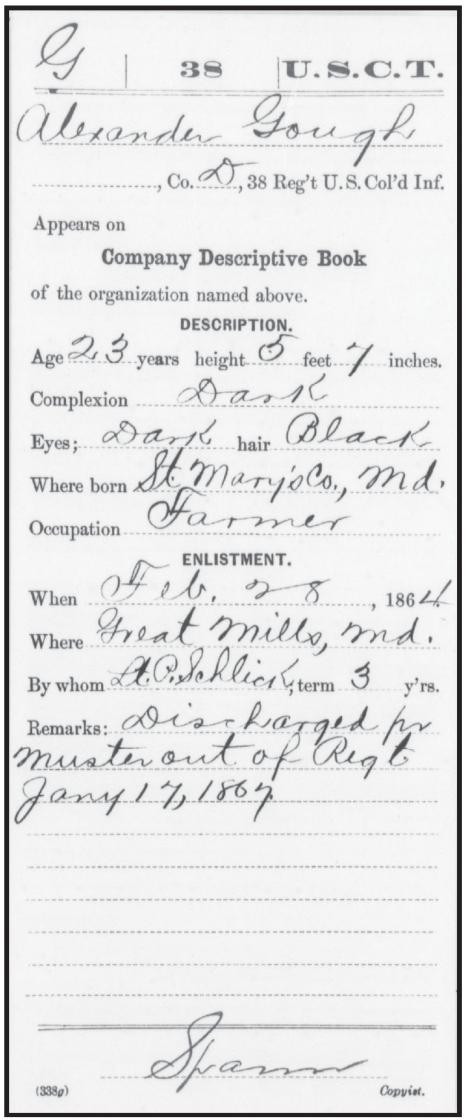
From Brock "'all of us would walk together'" (2013)

Date	Owner	Name of Slave	Sex	Age	Physical Condition	Term of Servitude	How Free	Emancipated by State; Left w/ Military; Enlisted*	Compensation
12 March 1868	Dr. John M. Broom	Hiram Bennett							
		Hiram Bennett	M	55	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Ada Biscoe	F	22	Good	For Life	Left w Military	1 August 1863	
		Lottie Biscoe	F	19	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Grace Biscoe	F	14	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Jack Biscoe	M	21	Good	For Life	Left w Military	1 April 1863	
		Hillary Biscoe	M	17	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Becky Biscoe	F	10	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Philo Biscoe	F	7	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		John Neale	M	4	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Hilly Dyson	F	20	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		George Dyson	M	18	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Lott Biscoe	M	35	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Henny Biscoe	F	30	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Julia Biscoe	F	12	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Henry Biscoe	M	10	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Dollie Biscoe	F	6	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Henrietta Biscoe	F	4	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Abraham Lloyd	M	44	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Zora Campbell	F	27	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Sallie Walthon	F	62	Good	For Life	Left w Military	1 April 1863	
		Washington Walthon	M	30	Good	For Life	Left w Military	1 August 1862	
		Sarah Jane Gross	F	21	Good	For Life	Left w Military	1 August 1862	
		Thomas Whalte	M	80	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Ned Biscoe	M	21	Good	For Life	Left w Military	1 April 1863	
		Lewis Lacy	M	16	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
12 March 1868	Mrs Ann B Ashcomb	Richard Hornbo	M	44	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Elizabeth White	F	28	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Josephine White	F	8	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Jim White	M	4	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	
		Henry Lee	M	13	Good	For Life	Left w Military	1 January 1863	
		William Gross	M	25	Good	For Life	State	1 November 1864	$100 from MD

Transcription of list of enslaved persons on St. Mary's Manor (1867) – 2/2

From Brock "'all of us would walk together'" (2013)

USCT enlistment records (Alexander Gough and William Gross, St. Mary's Manor)



G | 38 | U.S.C.T.

Alexander Gough

....., Co. D, 38 Reg't U.S. Col'd Inf.

Appears on

Company Descriptive Book

of the organization named above.

DESCRIPTION.

Age 23 years height 5 feet 7 inches.

Complexion Dark

Eyes; Dark hair Black

Where born St. Mary's Co., Md.

Occupation Farmer

ENLISTMENT.

When Feb. 28, 1864

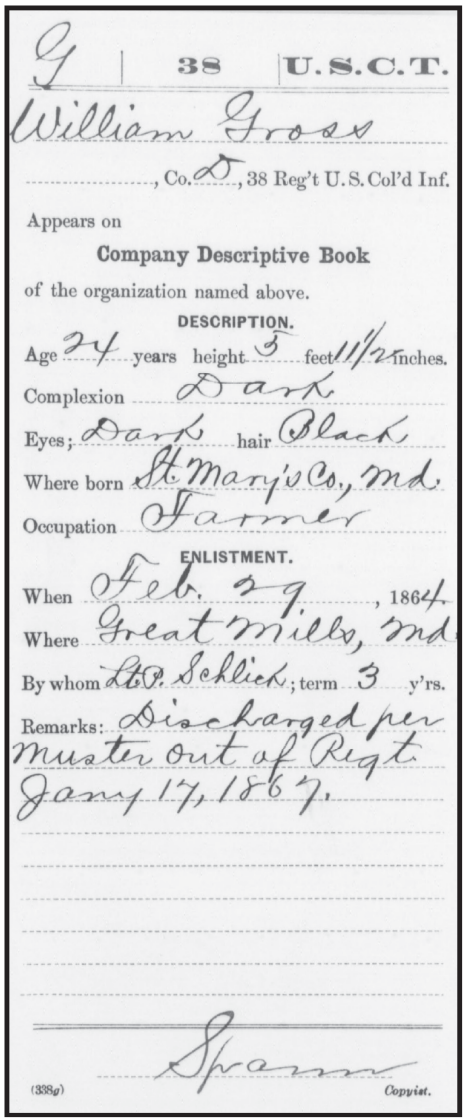
Where Great Mills, Md.

By whom Lt. P. Schlick; term 3 y'rs.

Remarks: Discharged per Muster out of Regt Jany 17, 1867

Spann

(338g) Copyist.



G | 38 | U.S.C.T.

William Gross

....., Co. D, 38 Reg't U.S. Col'd Inf.

Appears on

Company Descriptive Book

of the organization named above.

DESCRIPTION.

Age 24 years height 5 feet 11½ inches.

Complexion Dark

Eyes; Dark hair Black

Where born St. Mary's Co., Md.

Occupation Farmer

ENLISTMENT.

When Feb. 29, 1864

Where Great Mills, Md.

By whom Lt. P. Schlick; term 3 y'rs.

Remarks: Discharged per Muster out of Regt. Jany 17, 1867.

Spann

(338g) Copyist.

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Dwelling No.	Family No.	Name of Person	Color	Sex	Age		Single	Married	Widowed	Profession	sick or disabled?	idiotic?	Insane?	Attended School	Cannot Read	Cannot Write	Place of birth
1	1	John M. Broom	W	M	62			x		Farmer	good						Maryland
		Susan M. Broom	W	F	60	Wife		x		Keeping House	good						Maryland
		Sarah A. Broom	W	F	38	Daughter	x						x				Maryland
		Charles Gardner	W	M	13	Nephew	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Anne B. Ashcomb	W	F	88	Mother			x		good						Maryland
		Fannie Booth	W	F	15	Niece	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Lucy A. Booth	W	F	13	Niece	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Susan McKay	W	F	11	Cousin	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Lee E. McKay	W	M	9	Nephew	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Rosa McKay	W	F	5	Cousin	x				good						Maryland
		Lee Thomas McKay	W	M	17	Cousin	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		R. Grom (?)	W	M	3	Cousin	x										Maryland
2	2	William Wilton	W	M	47			x		Farmer	good						Maryland
		Catherine Wilton	W	M	42	Wife		x		Keeping House	good						Maryland
		John L. Wilton	W	M	23	Son	x			Laborer	good						Maryland
		Mary E. Wilton	W	F	21	Daughter	x				good						Maryland
		Laura E. Wilton	W	F	19	Daughter	x				good						Maryland
		Clara M. Wilton	W	F	17	Daughter	x				good						Maryland
		William Wilton	W	M	15	Son	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Katie M. Wilton	W	F	12	Daughter	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Carrie Brady	W	F	9	Cousin	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Samuel Brady	W	M	8	Cousin	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Blanch Brady	W	F	2	Cousin	x			None	good						Maryland
		Thomas McGall	W	M	36	None	x			Teaching School	good						Maryland
3	3	Griffin Lee	B	M	55			x		Farmer	good				x	x	Maryland
		Harriet Lee	B	F	35	Wife		x		Keeping House	good				x	x	Maryland
		Lewis Lee	B	M	30	Son	x			Laborer	good				x	x	Maryland
		Sanders Lee	B	M	16	Son	x			Laborer	good				x	x	Maryland
		Martha Lee	B	F	10	Daughter	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Julia Lee	B	F	8	Daughter	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Dillon Lee	B	F	##	Mother			x		good				x	x	Maryland

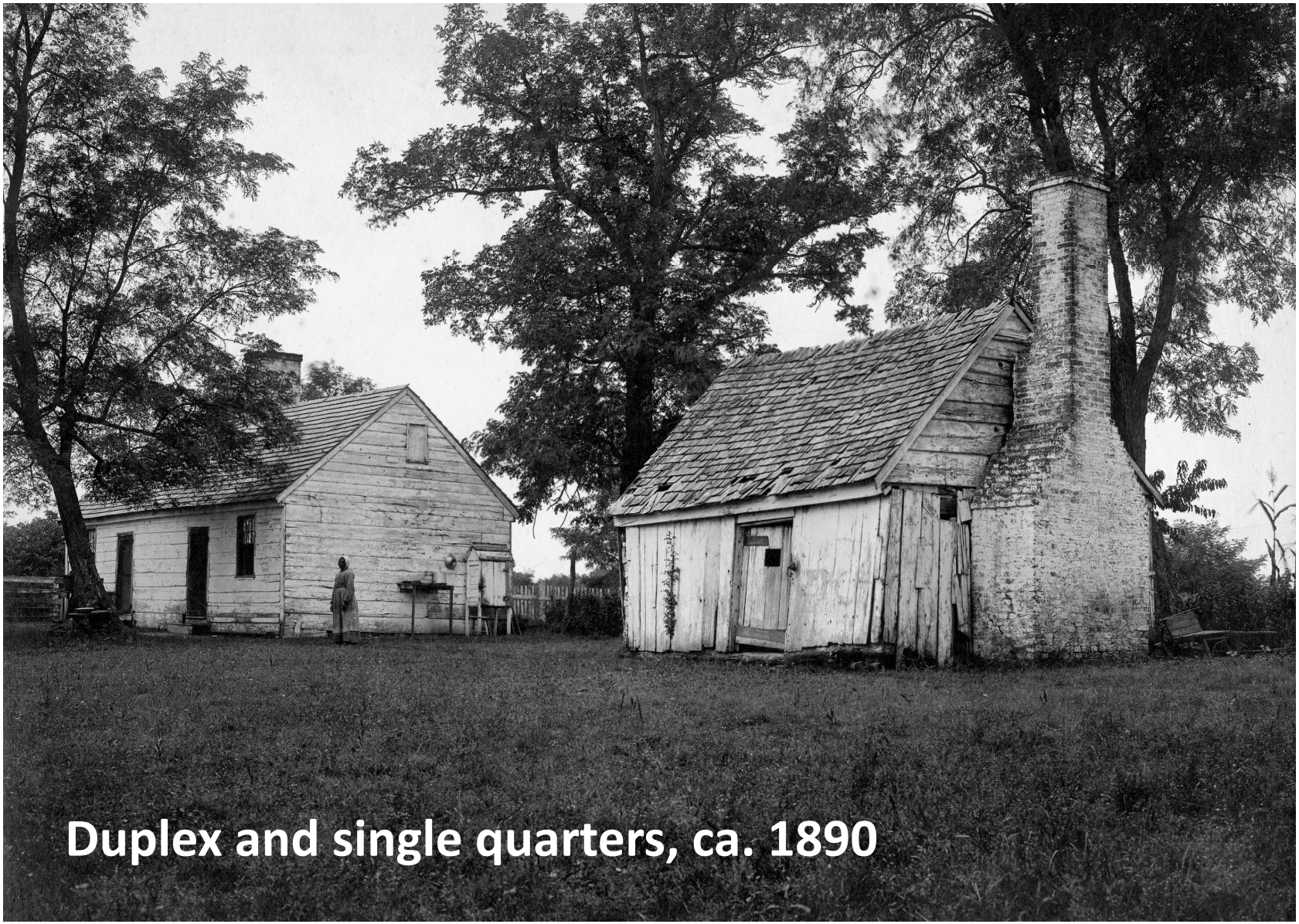
Transcription of residents of St. Mary's Manor (1880) – 1/2

From Brock "'all of us would walk together'" (2013)

Dwelling No.	Family No.	Name of Person	Color	Sex	Age		Single	Married	Widowed	Profession	sick or disabled?	idiotic?	Insane?	Attended School	Cannot Read	Cannot Write	Place of birth
		Nancy Taylor	B	F	66	None	x				good				x	x	Maryland
		Carolina Navis	B	F	40	Sister			x	Laborer	good				x	x	Maryland
		Edgar Navis	B	M	14	Nephew	x			Laborer	good				x	x	Maryland
		Mallie Navis	B	F	12	Niece	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Charles Navis	B	M	10	Nephew	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
	4	John Sommerville	B	M	26		x			Laborer	good				x	x	Maryland
		Susan Sommerville	B	F	15	Sister	x			Laborer	good				x	x	Maryland
		Marg Hawkins	B	F	22	None	x			Laborer	good						Maryland
		Alex Braxton	B	M	13	Cousin	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Georgiana Braxton	B	F	9	Cousin	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Alice Braxton	B	F	7	Cousin	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Randolph Braxton	B	M	5	Cousin	x			None	good	x		x			Maryland
		Francis Braxton	B	M	2	Cousin	x			None	good						Maryland
		Samuel Braxton	B	M	21	Cousin	x			Laborer	good						Maryland
		William Braxton	B	M	19	Cousin	x			Laborer	good						Maryland
4	5	George Hopewell	B	M	50			x		Farmer	good						Maryland
		Martha Hopewell	B	F	33	Wife		x		Keeping House	good				x	x	Maryland
		Benedict Hopewell	B	M	21	Son	x			Laborer	good				x	x	Maryland
		Mary Hopewell	B	M	18	Daughter	x			Laborer	good				x	x	Maryland
		Willie Hopewell	B	M	17	Son	x			Laborer	good				x	x	Maryland
		Henry Hopewell	B	M	16	Son	x			Laborer	good				x	x	Maryland
		Douglass Hopewell	B	M	12	Son	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Saphonia Hopewell	B	F	10	Daughter	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Ardinia Hopewell	B	F	8	Daughter	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Annie Hopewell	B	F	7	Daughter	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Julia Hopewell	B	F	4	Daughter	x				good						Maryland
		Joseph A. Bowman	B	M	13	Cousin	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Anne S. Bowman	B	F	11	Cousin	x			At School	good			x			Maryland
		Mary E. Bowman	B	F	3	Cousin	x				good						Maryland
		Annie Bennett	B	F	12	Cousin	x			At School	good				x	x	Maryland
		Gabe A. Bennett	B	M	4	Cousin	x				good						Maryland
		Mary L. Bennett	B	F	6	Cousin	x				good						Maryland
		Chanty Bennett	B	F	3	Cousin					good						Maryland
		Samuel Bennett	B	M	1	Cousin	x				good						Maryland

Transcription of residents of St. Mary's Manor (1880) – 2/2

From Brock "'all of us would walk together'" (2013)



Duplex and single quarters, ca. 1890



History of the Brome Plantation

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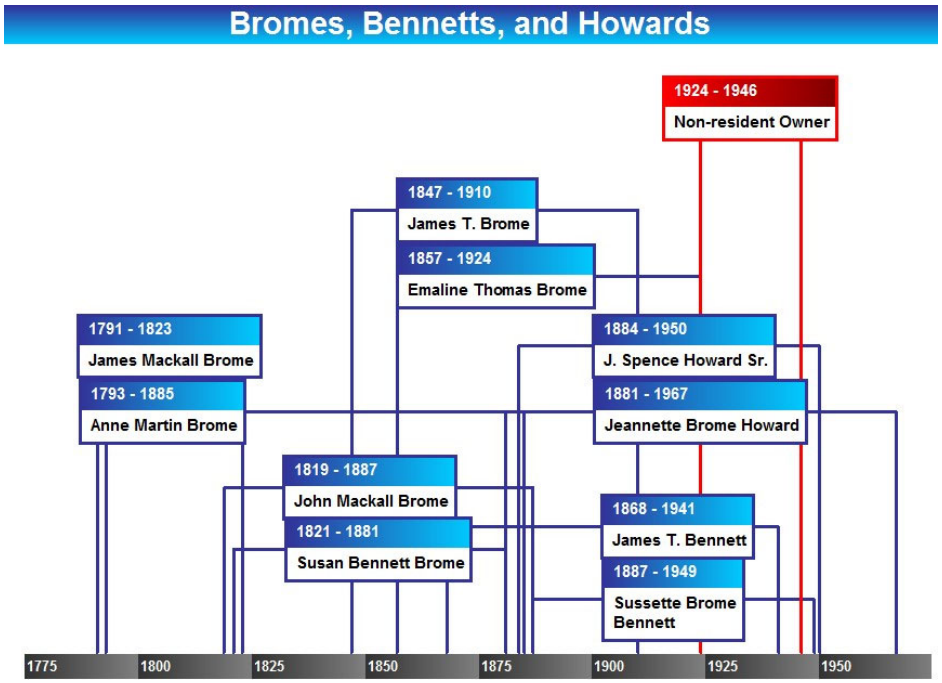
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1887: Brome dies, reduced property passes through family until 1980



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1887-1960s: St. Mary's Manor home to several families including Butlers and Milburns



Robert Butler (unconfirmed), ca. 1909





Duplex quarter, ca. 1915



HSMC Exhibit Development

Calvert House excavations, ca. 1980-1984





Brome-Howard House and reconstructed Calvert House foundations, ca. 1984-1985

Moving the Brome-Howard House, 1994





Path of Brome-Howard House relocation, 1994

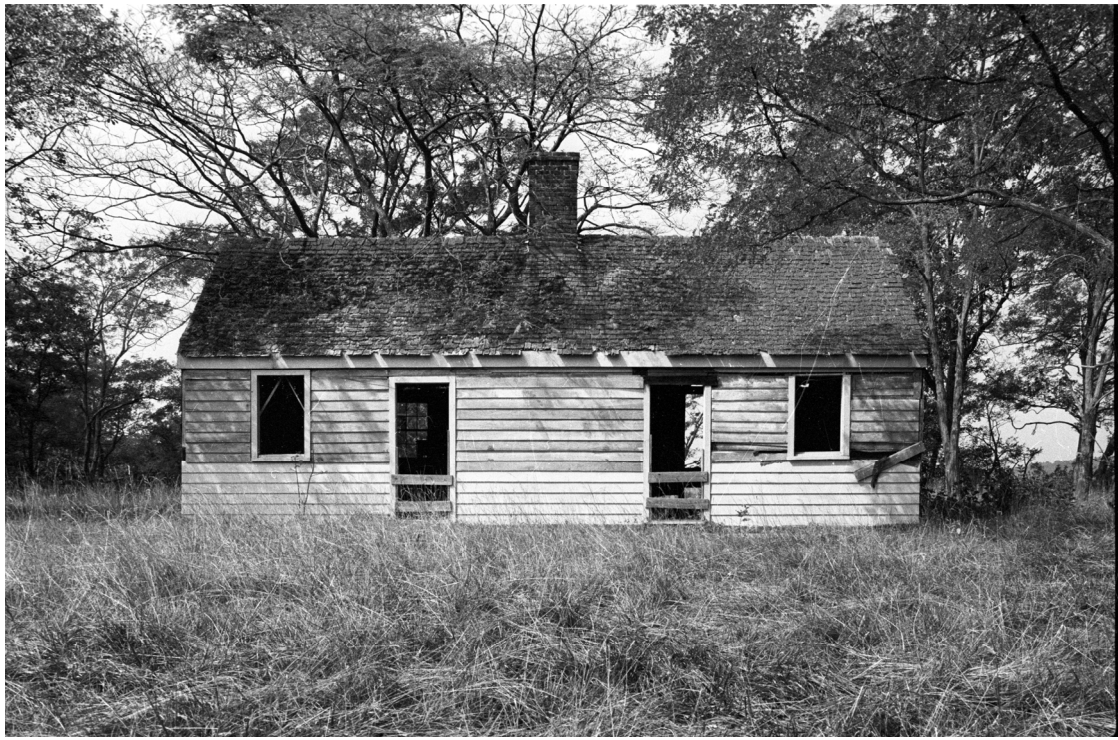
Inn at Brome-Howard, 2018





Duplex and single quarters, ca. 1890

Duplex quarter, ca. 1976

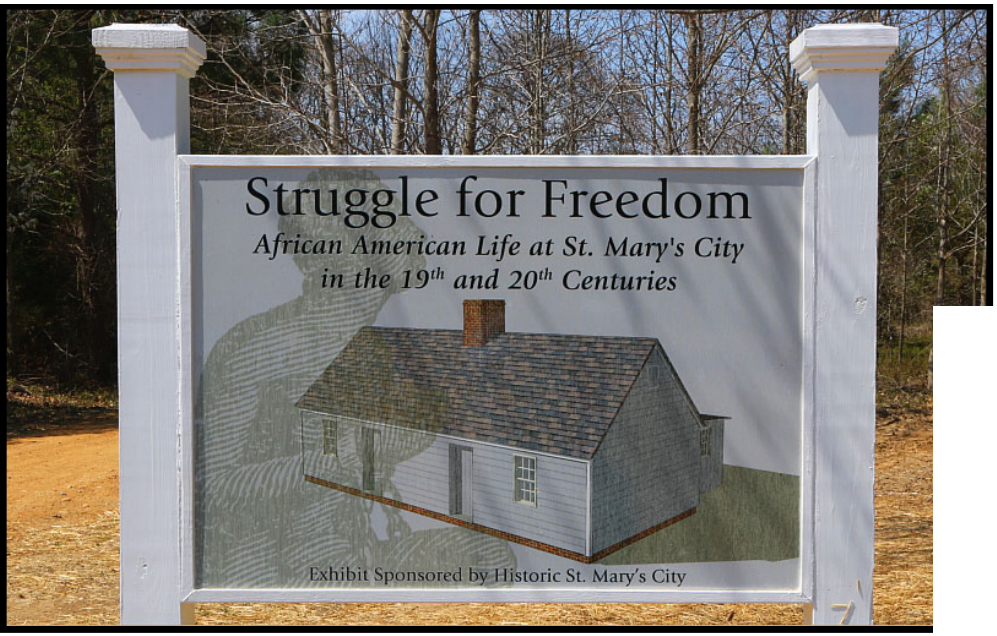


Struggle for Freedom Exhibit, 2018

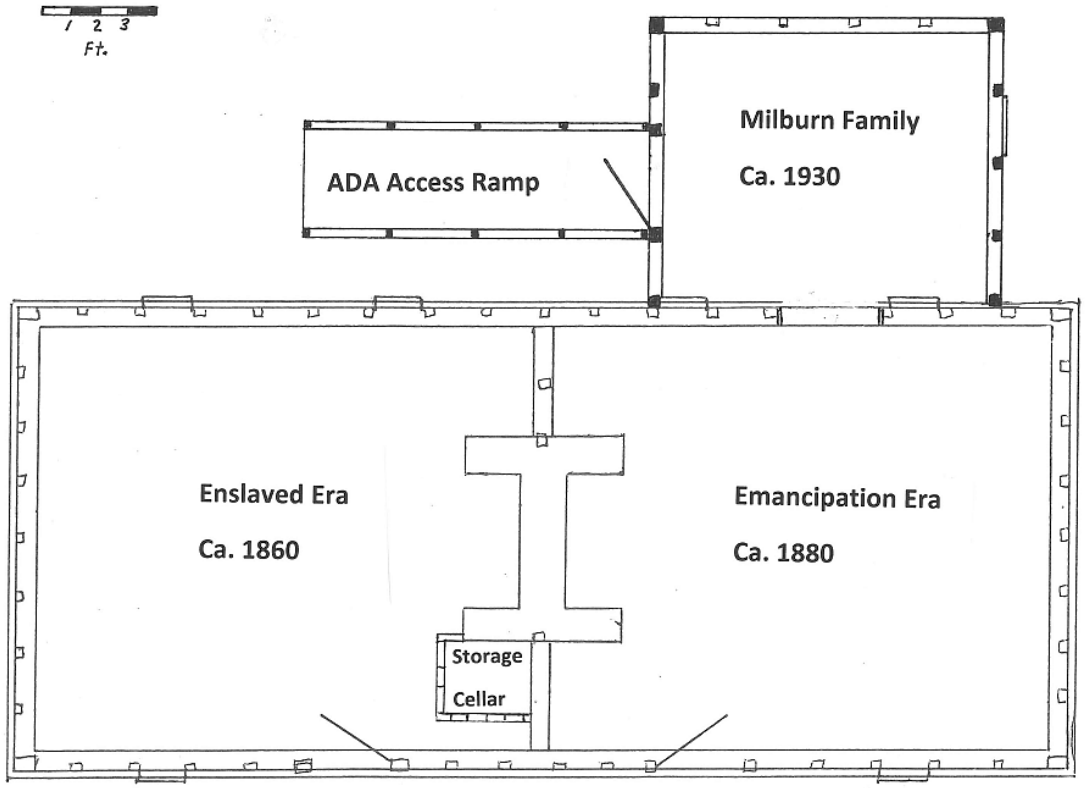


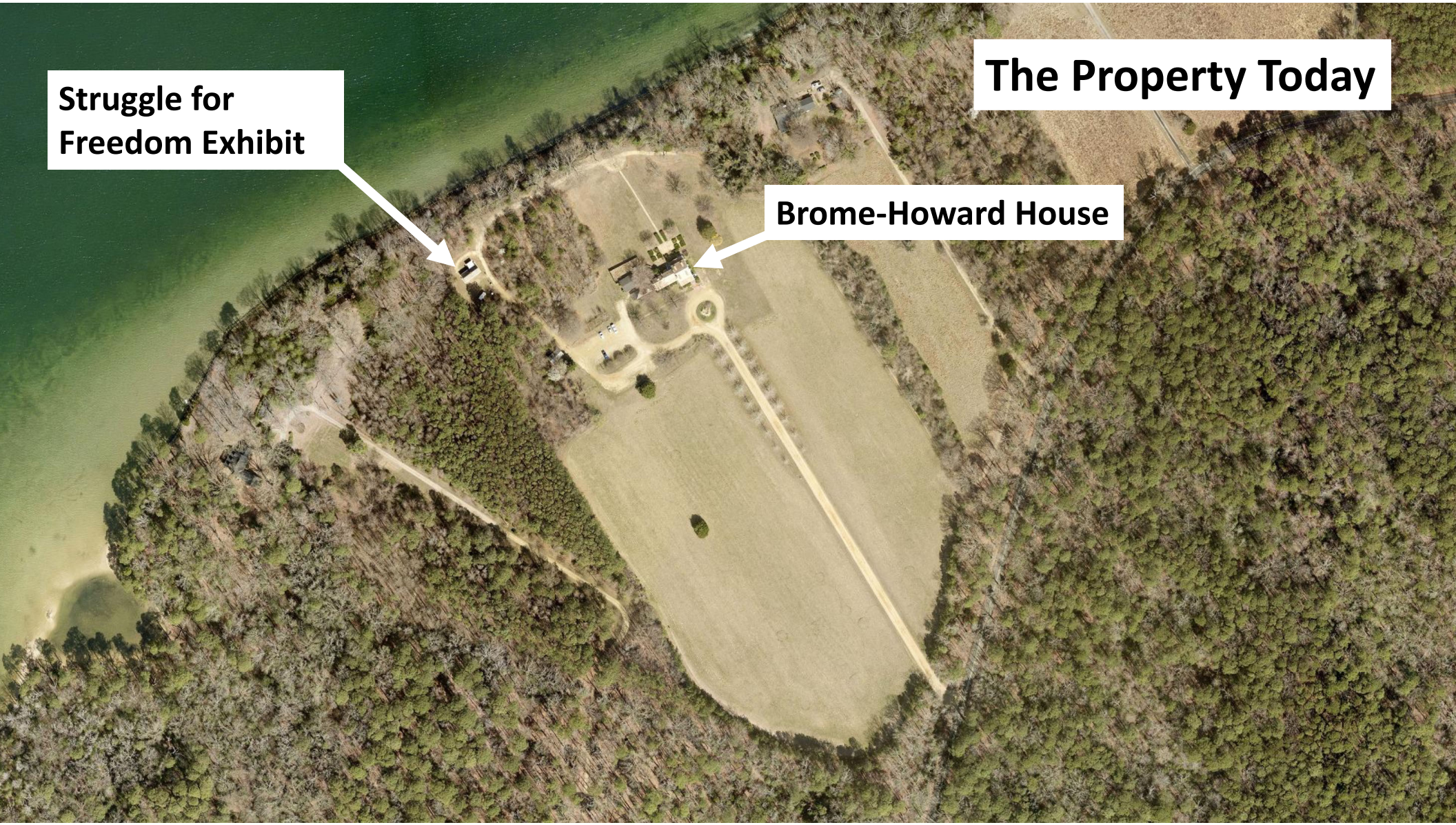


Milburn descendants at Struggle for Freedom Exhibit opening, March 25, 2018



Struggle for Freedom Exhibit floorplan

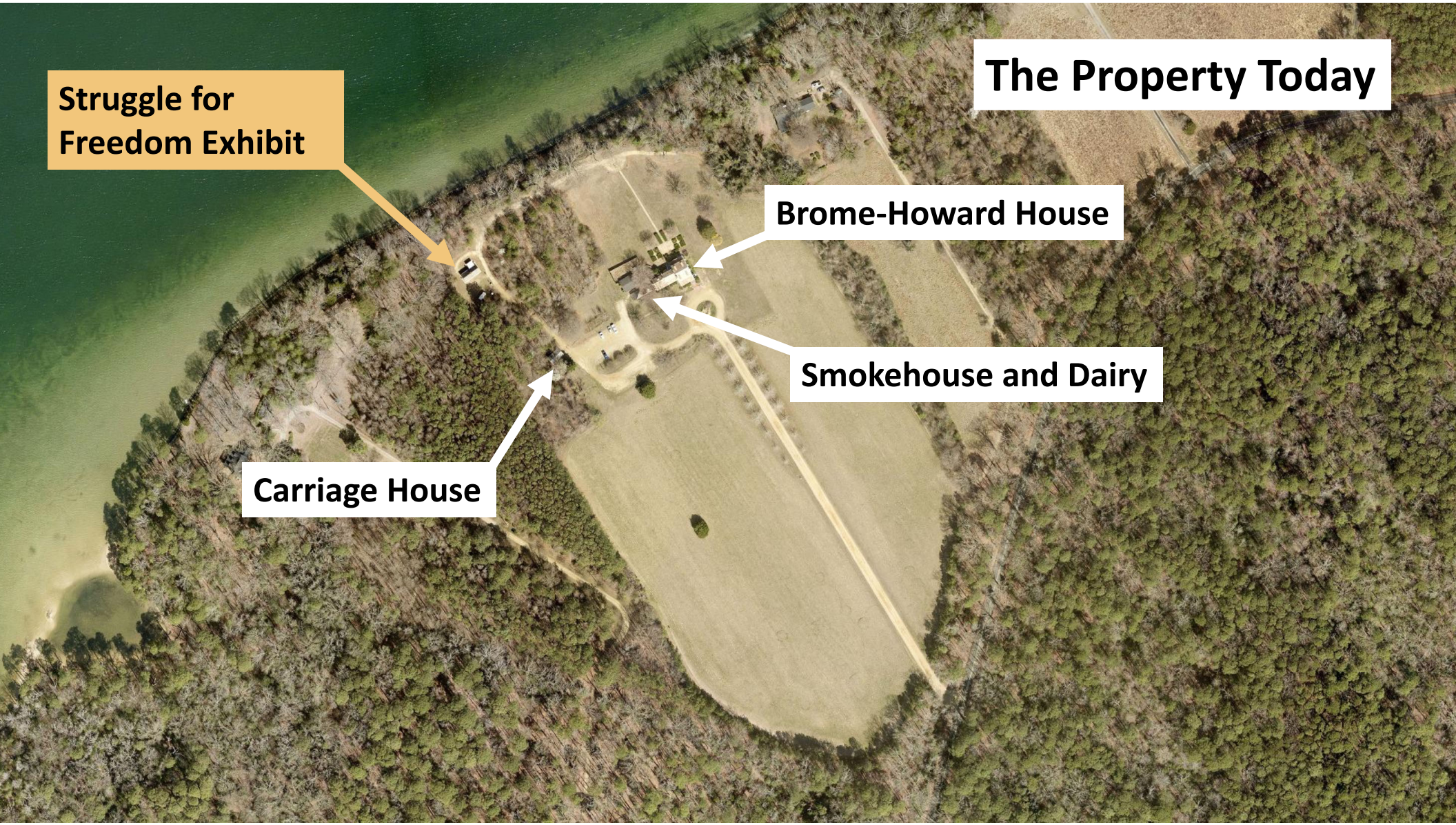



Struggle for Freedom Exhibit
Brome-Howard House
The Property Today

Brome-Howard House outbuildings, ca. 2022





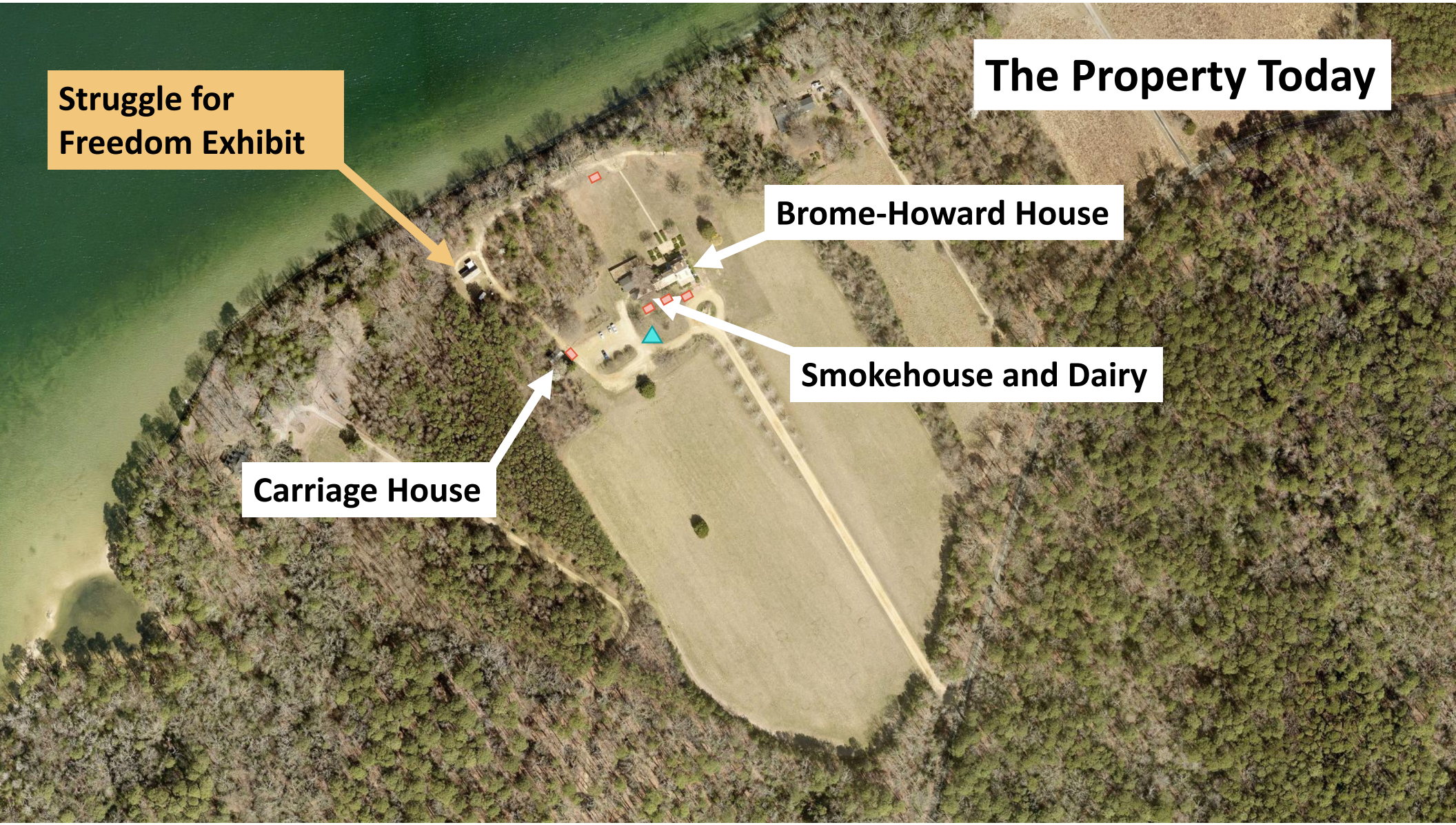

The Property Today
Struggle for Freedom Exhibit
Brome-Howard House
Smokehouse and Dairy
Carriage House

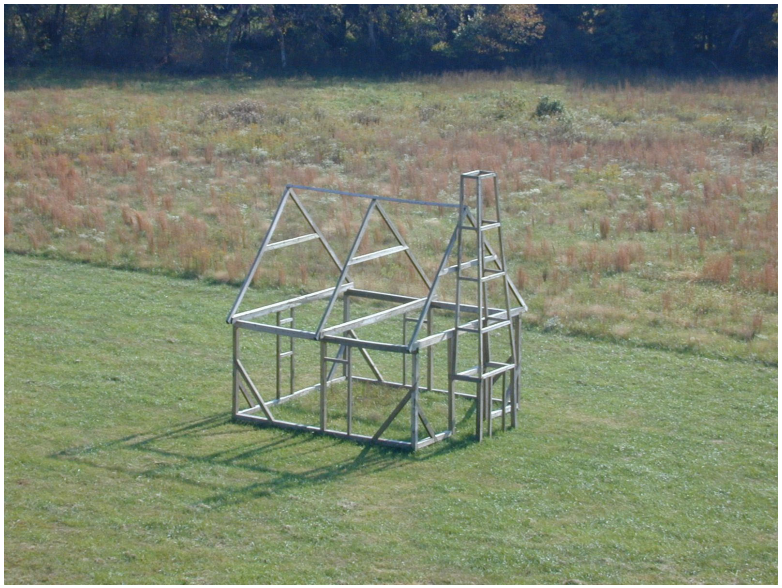


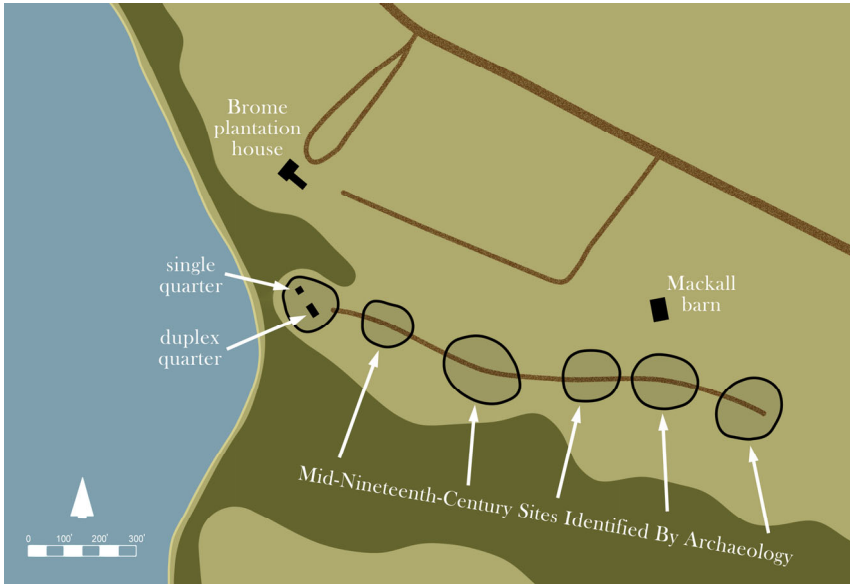


Current Project Ideas

- Exterior interpretive signage ($3,000 seed grant funds)

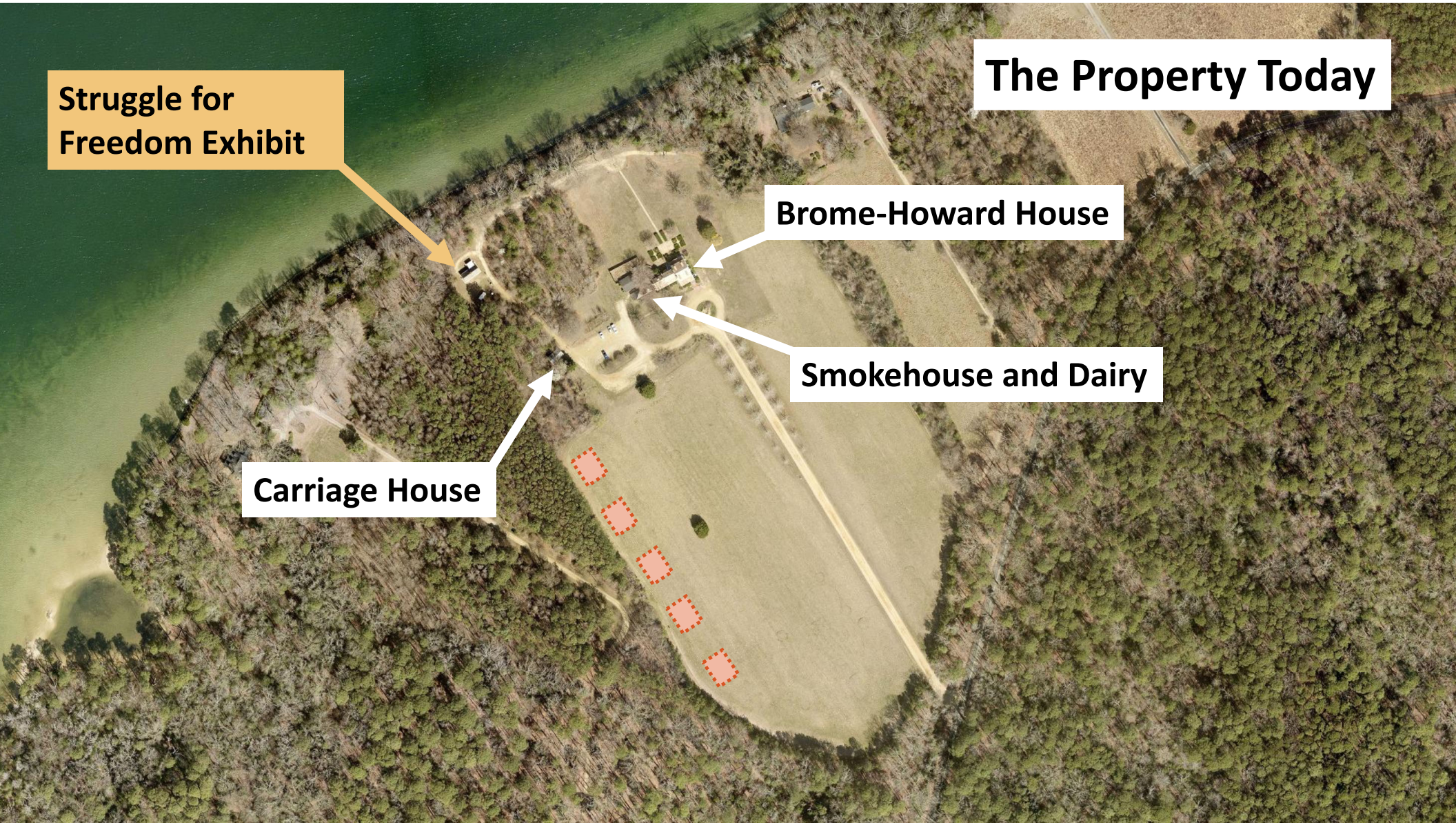

The Property Today
Struggle for Freedom Exhibit
Brome-Howard House
Smokehouse and Dairy
Carriage House





Current Project Ideas

- Exterior interpretive signage ($3,000 seed grant funds)
- Ghost frames to represent quarters


The Property Today
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- Exterior interpretive signage ($3,000 seed grant funds)
- Ghost frames to represent quarters
- Art piece/sculpture?







Current Project Ideas

- Exterior interpretive signage ($3,000 seed grant funds)
- Ghost frames to represent quarters
- Art piece/sculpture
- Combination/other thoughts?

Conclusion

We believe the Brome Plantation interpretation can be expanded to better contextualize the Struggle for Freedom Exhibit.

The only way to successfully accomplish this is in partnership with those connected to the Brome Plantation’s story.

We hope you might be interested in being involved.



Q & A

Travis.Parno@Maryland.gov



Get in touch: Travis.Parno@Maryland.gov