

D-20

Twin Willows Farm
Meekins Neck
c. 1860-70
Private

The Twin Willows farmhouse is a two-and-a-half story hall/parlor plan frame dwelling that stands on a remote site on Meekins Neck overlooking the Chesapeake Bay. Built around 1860-70, the braced frame structure features architectural finishes and construction practices characteristic of the third quarter of the nineteenth century, and it is a relatively late example of the hall/parlor plan that had been favored in Dorchester County since the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Indicative of its date is an attached service wing and mixture of hand-made and factory produced elements.

Comprising parts of "Meekins Hope," "Mason's Vineyard," and "Hooten's Lot," this Hooper's Island farm was long held by the Meekins family during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Following the death of Samuel J. Meekins (1806-1854) and a succeeding chancery court case, the farm was purchased by Levin T. Dunnock, who amassed a huge agricultural estate on the northern end of Hooper's Island during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. His residence was located at the northern tip of the island near a former bridge that crossed over to Taylor's Island, and he held as well numerous other farms as well as what is still known as Dunnock's Island. The Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas records him in the atlas patron list with 1,000 acres in 1877. He bought the "Meekins Hope," "Mason's Vineyard," and "Hooten's Lot" acreage, comprising 170 acres, in 1870. An exception in the deed allowed access to the family cemetery that included the graves of Samuel J. Meekins and John D. Meekins (1766-1826). The third quarter of the nineteenth century architectural finishes point to a

construction date of the extant house during Levin T. Dunnock's tenure, and ownership of the Chesapeake Bay front farm remained in Dunnock family hands until 1923 when it was sold to Leland Mills. For more than fifty years past, the farm has been owned by Percy A. Ransom and his descendants.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-20

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other Twin Willows Farm

2. Location

street and number 3470 Meekins Neck Road not for publication

city, town Cambridge vicinity

county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owner)

name Richard R. Ransome

street and number 1008 Highland Avenue telephone

city, town Cinnaminson state NJ zip code 08077

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 590 folio 34

city, town Cambridge tax map 84 tax parcel 8 tax ID number 6-091466

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	_____	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1	_____ Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	_____	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	_____	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	_____	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	

7. Description

Inventory No. D-20

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Twin Willows farm is located at 3470 Meekins Neck Road, and a two-and-a-half story, three-bay, hall/parlor plan frame house stands on a ridge of land framed by Chesapeake Bay and surrounding marsh and fields. Dating around 1860-70, the 3-bay frame house is supported on a brick pier foundation, and the exterior is clad with plain weatherboard siding. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the south gable end is a story-and-a-half kitchen wing. The interior of the main block is finished with third quarter of the nineteenth century woodwork. The house faces east with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis. Located just south of the house along a dirt lane to a dock is a Meekins family graveyard. Two of the earliest marked burials are Samuel J. Meekins (b. 7.21.1806, d. 10.23.1854) and John D. Meekins (d. 7.28.1826, aged 60 years)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Twin Willows farm is improved by a mid nineteenth century frame house that stands at the end of a dirt farm lane with an address of 3470 Meekins Neck Road in the Hooper's Island Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland. Supported on a brick pier foundation, the braced timber frame structure is sheathed by plain weatherboards, and it is covered by a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof.

The east (main) elevation is a three-bay façade with an off-center entrance fitted with a partially glazed door and topped by a three-light transom. To each side are six-over-six sash windows. The second story is defined by three unevenly spaced six-over-six sash windows. Trimming the base of the roof is a boxed cornice that extends around the gable end corners with returns. Fixed atop the gable roof is a mid twentieth century dormer.

The north gable end is defined by an exterior corbelled base chimney stack laid in common bond. To each side are six-over-six sash windows that light the first and second floors. The attic is lighted by small windows without sash or panes. The single flue chimney stack pierces the extended eave.

The west side elevation is a three-bay façade that was formerly extended by a two-story shed roofed addition which has been torn away, exposing a section of plastered wall surface and interior doors. The north third of the wall surface that was not covered by the former addition is pierced by six-over-six sash windows on each floor. A mid twentieth century dormer is centered on the roof.

The south gable end of the main block is largely covered by a story-and-a-half kitchen wing, two bays across by one-room deep. An exterior brick chimney rises against the south gable end, and the base is covered by a shed roofed addition. The gable end is flush, and small attic window openings flank the stack.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-20

Name Twin Willows Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

The two-bay front and rear walls are defined by six-over-six sash windows. A gable roofed dormer, each fitted with a six-over-six sash window, defines the roof slopes. The dormers have narrow pilasters on each side of the windows, and the sides of the windows are sheathed with diagonal boards.

The interior of the house survives with some mid nineteenth century woodwork finishes including an enclosed staircase that rises against the off-center partition.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-20

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Twin Willows farmhouse is a two-and-a-half story, hall/parlor plan frame dwelling that stands on a remote site on Meekins Neck overlooking the Chesapeake Bay. Built around 1860-70, the braced frame structure features architectural finishes characteristic of the third quarter of the nineteenth century and is a relatively late example of the hall/parlor plan that had been favored in Dorchester County throughout the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Indicative of its date is an attached service wing and mixture of hand-made and factory produced elements.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Comprising parts of Meekins Hope, Mason's Vineyard, and Hooten's Lot, this Hooper Island farm was long held by the Meekins family during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Following the death of Samuel J. Meekins (1806-1854) and a resulting chancery court case, the farm was acquired by Levin T. Dunnock, who amassed a huge agricultural estate on the northern end of Hooper's Island during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. His residence was located at the northern tip of the island near the bridge that crossed onto Taylor's Island, and he held numerous other tenant farms as well as what is still known as Dunnock's Island. The Lake, Griffing and Stevenson atlas lists him with 1,000 acres in 1877.¹ He bought the "Meekins Hope," "Mason's Vineyard" and "Hooten's Lot" acreage, comprising 170 acres in 1870.² An exception in the deed allowed access to the family cemetery that included the graves of Samuel J. Meekins and John D. Meekins (1766-1826). The third quarter of the nineteenth century architectural finishes point to construction of the extant house during Levin T. Dunnock's ownership, and ownership of the Chesapeake Bay front property remained in Dunnock

¹ John L. Graham, ed. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*. Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, p. 85.

² Dorchester County Land Records, FJH 8/125, 20 November 1870, Dorchester County, Maryland.

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family control until 1923 when it was sold to Leland Mills.³ For more than fifty years past it has been owned by Percy A. Ransome, formerly of Riverton, New Jersey and his descendants.⁴

³ Dorchester County Land Records, JFD 13/598, 29 October 1923, Dorchester County, Maryland.

⁴ Dorchester County Land Record, RSM 58/617, 6 July 1946, Dorchester County, Maryland.

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Twin Willows Farm
3470 Meekins Neck Road
Hooper's Island, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 76, Parcel 3

MLB 590/34

Richard D. Ransome and Percy A. Ransome III

to

7.30.2004

Richard D. Ransome

\$166,753 Exhibit A, Items 8th and 9th

PLC 266/786

Ernest L. Ransome III and Percy A. Ransome III
Richard D. Ransome and Melon Bank (East) National Association

2.19.1991

Whereas P. Allan Ransome, Jr. died testate on April 10, 1990, domiciled in Burlington County, NJ, and Whereas by Order dated May 11, 1990, by the Burlington County, NJ, Surrogate's Court granted Letters of Testamentary to Ernest L. Ransome III, Percy A. Ransome, III, Richard D. Ransome and Melon Bank (East) National Association, as executors of the Estate of P. Allan Ransome, Jr., in proceedings recorded on Card #90-0884 in the Surrogate's Court for Burlington County, NJ, and Whereas, a certified copy of the Last Will and Testament of P. Allan Ransome, Jr. is duly recorded in the Will Record Books of Dorchester County, Maryland, and Whereas P. Allan Ransome, Jr. died seized and possessed of certain interests in real Property situated in Dorchester County, Maryland

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RSM 58/617

F. Leland Mills and Susie Martha Mills

to

7.6.1946

Percy A. Ransome, Riverton, New Jersey

239 acres in several deeds conveyed to F. Leland Mills from Mathias W. Dunnock, 10.29.1923, JFD 13/598; 2. from Etta Virginia Phillips, et al., 12.13.1945, RSM 57/312; from Charles R. Mills 8.7.1945, RSM 56/38; from Joseph R. Shenton, 4.9.1936, JFD 34/166

FJH 8/125

Solomon F. Kirwan, Trustee

to

11.20.1870

Levin T. Dunnock

\$4,500.25

Decree of Circuit Court, 1867, Eliza L. Meekins, complainant; George E. Meekins and others defendants

Mason's Vineyard; Hooten's Lot, Meekins Hope

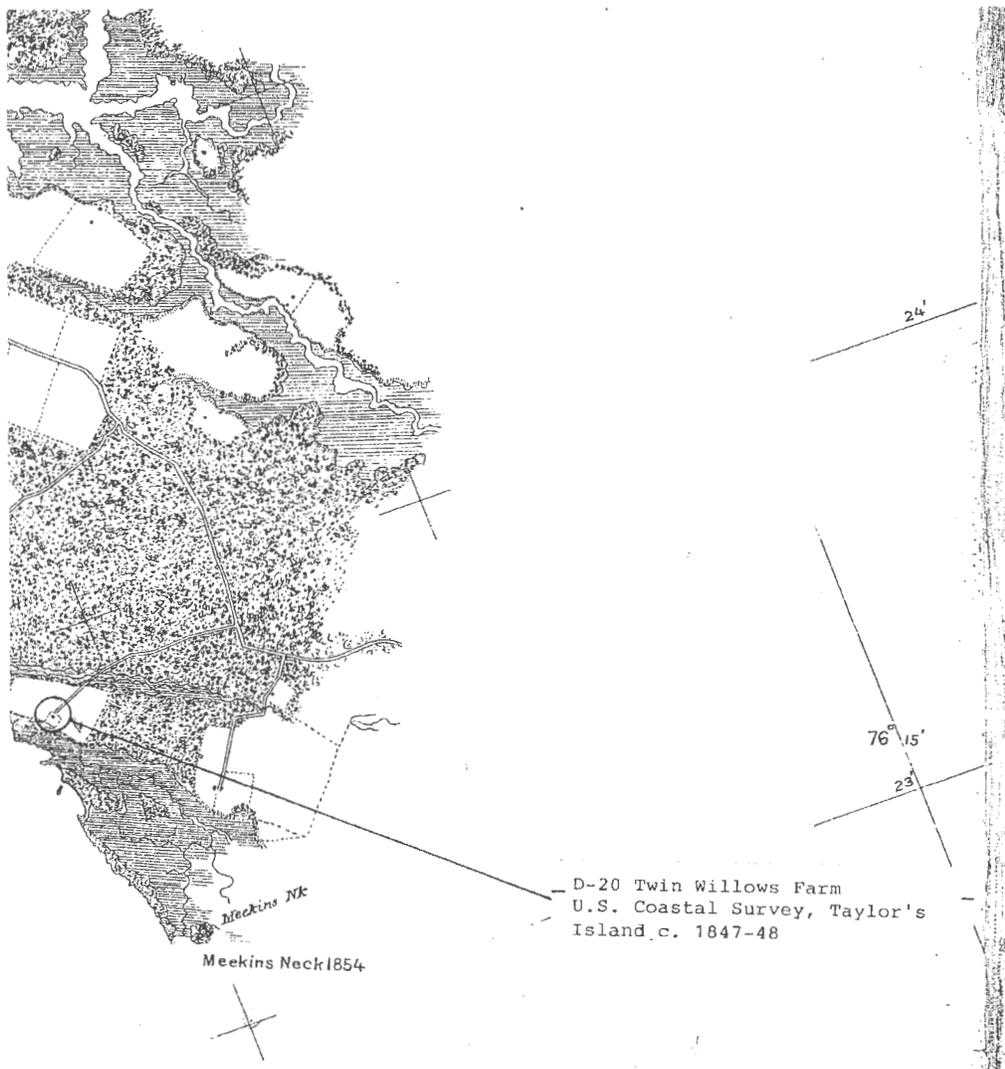
170 acres—with the exception of a reservation of the family burial ground of one acre...

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-20

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 10 acres

Acreage of historical setting 170 Acres +

Quadrangle name Taylor's Island Quadrangle Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	10.26.2012
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

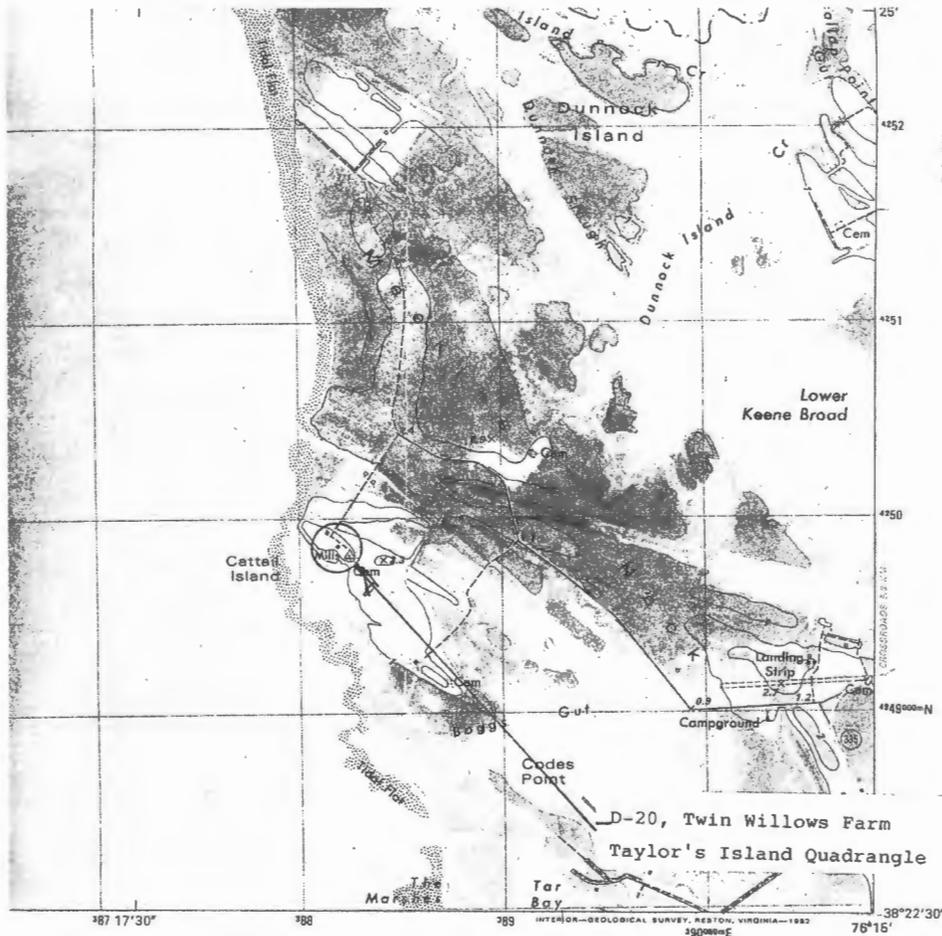
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-20

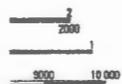
Name Twin Willows Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1



- 4 1.2192
- 5 1.3216
- 6 1.8288
- 7 2.1336
- 8 2.4384
- 9 2.7432
- 10 3.0480

To convert feet to a
meter multiply by 3.048
To convert meters to
feet multiply by 3.2808



QUADRANGLE LOCATION
CONTOURS AND ELEVATIONS
IN METERS

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Primary highway,
hard surface | Light-duty road, hard or
improved surface |
| Secondary highway,
hard surface | Unimproved road |
| Trails | |
| Interstate Route | U. S. Route |
| | State Route |

TAYLORS ISLAND, MD.
N3822.5-W7615/7.5

1982

DMA 5760 III NF-CDDISC 1/8220





D-20

TWIN WILLOWS FARM

MEEKINS NECK, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

10. 2012, PAUL B. TONART, PHOTOGRAPHER.
M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

#1 OF 4



D-20

TWIN WILLOWS FARM
MEEKINS NECK, DORCHESTER Co. MD.
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION
10.2012, PAUL B. TOUARD, PITTSV.
NECK / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2 OF 4



D-20

Twin Willows Farm

MEEKINS NECK, DOUGHERTY CO. VA.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

10.2012, PAUL B. TOUANT, PHOTO.

NEB. MID. HISTORICAL TRUST

3 OF 4



D-20

TWIN WILLOWS FARM

MEEKINS NECK, DOVERESTON C., MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

10. 2012, PAUL B. TOUANT, PITTY.

DRG./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

4 OF 4

1000205404

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME				
COMMON: Twin Willows Farm				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Meekins Neck Rd., 2 miles west of Rt. 335, Hooper Island				
CITY OR TOWN: Fishing Creek				
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Dorchester	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Percy A. Ransome				
STREET AND NUMBER: c/o Giles & Ransome, Galloway Rd. & Pa. Tpke.				
CITY OR TOWN: Cornwells Heights			STATE: Pennsylvania	
			19020	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dorchester County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER: High Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge			STATE: Maryland	
			21613	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): RSM 58/617				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building is included in this survey as an example of the type vernacular structure which was common during the first half of the 19th century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for Major Bibliographical References.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreege Justification:

District 6, Tax Map 76, p. 3
230 Acres

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: June, 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:
Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland 21401

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

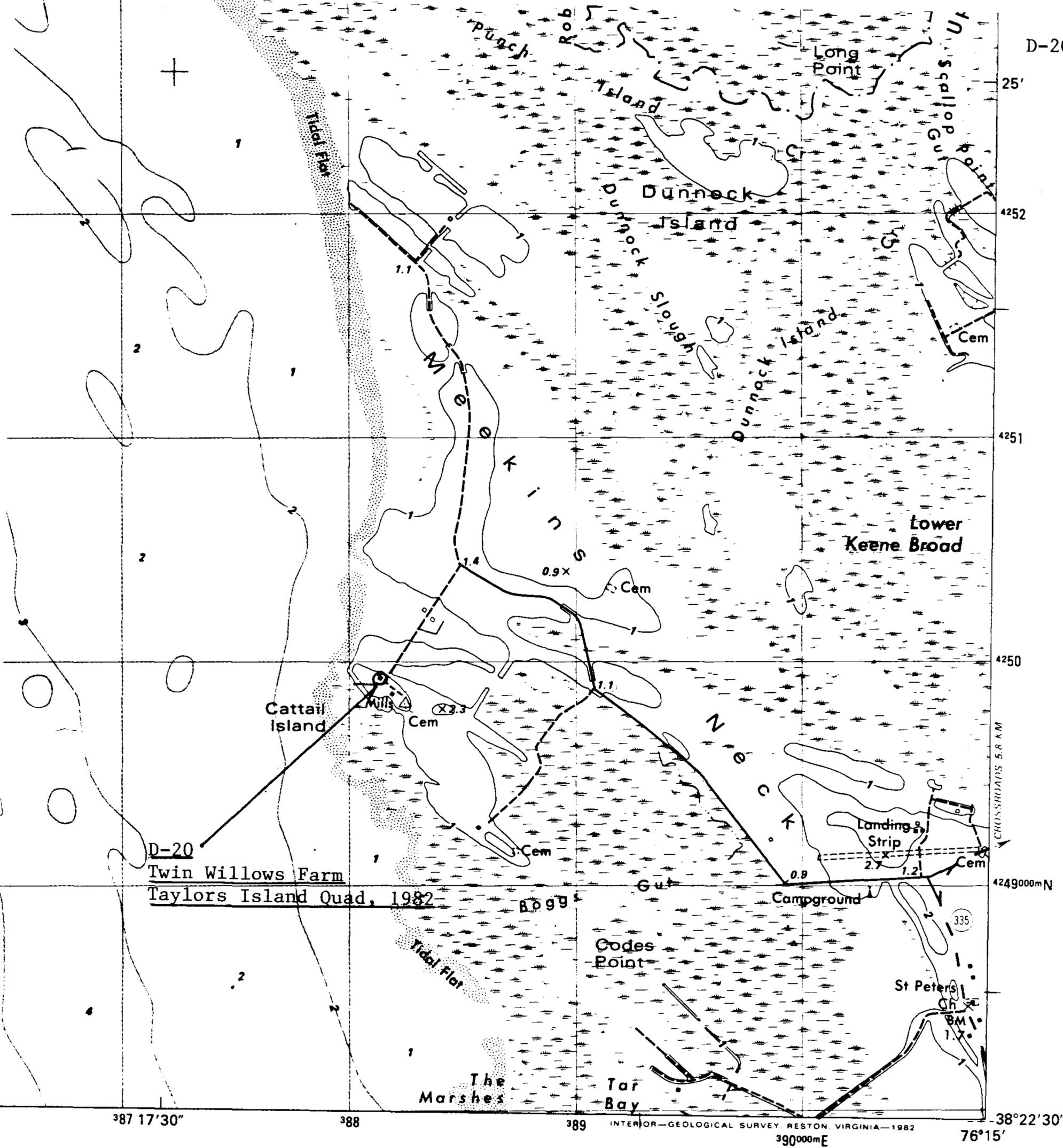
Significance of this property is:
National State Local

Signature

LEVEL	METERS
1	3.048
2	6.096
3	9.144
4	12.192
5	15.240
6	18.288
7	21.336
8	24.384
9	27.432
10	30.480

To convert feet to meters
multiply by .3048

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808



D-20
Twin Willows Farm
Taylors Island Quad, 1982

CROSSROADS 5.8 KM

4249000mN

387 17'30"

388

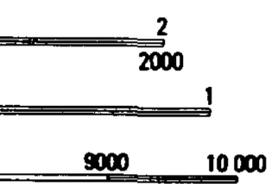
389

390000mE

38°22'30"

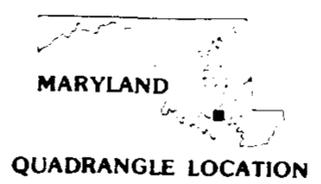
76°15'

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1982



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Trails
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road



CONTOURS AND ELEVATIONS
IN METERS

TAYLORS ISLAND, MD.
N3822.5—W7615/7.5

1982

DMA 5760 IV NE—SERIES V8330

92
REQUEST

(HONGA)
5760 I SW