Survey No. S-371

Magi No. 2003715638

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Deal Island Survey District

2. Location

street & number End of Md. 363, Deal Island Road ___ not for publication

city, town Deal Island ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
_x_ district	___ public	_x_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	_x_ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	_x_ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	_x_ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	_x_ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Various Owners

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_x_ original site
_x_ good	___ ruins	_x_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

Deal Island Survey District description

The community of Deal Island is located at the end of MD Route 363 (Deal Island Road) in Somerset County, Maryland. Separated geographically from the mainland by a watercourse known as Laws Thoroughfare, a two-lane wooden bridge currently connects the two land masses. Princess Anne, the county seat and the largest nearby town, is located approximately sixteen miles to the east.

Characterized by low, poorly drained soil surrounded by broad tidal marsh, Deal Island is surrounded by Tangier Sound to the south and west, and Laws and Upper Thoroughfare are located to the north and east. Maryland Route 363 traverses the island from its northern tip to Wenona, the principal harbor on the island. The road snakes somewhat in an effort to follow the highest ground.

The buildings that define Deal Island include approximately one-hundred structures that face MD 363 or the few side streets located east and west of the main road. The houses are set relatively close to the road within ten to fifteen yards of the road shoulder. A few of the more prominent dwellings are sited farther back from the road or along a private lane. Consisting primarily of single family dwellings, the Deal Island community also has three church buildings, a fire hall, and a modern school.

The houses located on Deal Island largely date from the second half of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries when Deal Island prospered from the lucrative seafood industry. Similar to the other watermen communities in Somerset County, the house proportions tend to the smaller sized two-story, two- or three-bay frame dwellings with center or side halls. Brick pier foundations support the weatherboard frame that is covered by a steeply pitched gable roof. In some instances the houses retain original weatherboards, Victorian sash windows, and exterior decorative trim. In other cases the exteriors have been covered with artificial siding. Attached to the back of a small group of Deal Island houses is a semi-detached summer kitchen. Usually attached by a porch or hyphen, the kitchen is often one story high with a one room plan. The Isabella White house (S-369) is an exception with its two-story rear kitchen. The interiors are largely finished with plasters walls and late nineteenth-century woodwork. The Noah Webster house (s-45) is an exceptional house not following the standard waterman type dwelling. Two full stories of a center hall, double-pile house are covered by a modified mansard roof punctuated by Gothic arched dormers. The tee-plan service wing is treated in an identical manner.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	x agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	___ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
x 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B __C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state __local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

SIGNIFICANCE

Deal Island, Somerset County, Maryland is a moderately well-preserved watermen's community located on Tangier Sound. The modest single story or two-story frame houses are well maintained for the most part, although many have been covered with artificial siding. Several houses retain their historic integrity with exposed layers of weatherboard siding, original sash windows, and decorative trim. Located in Deal Island is a group of late nineteenth-century houses built with attached or semi-detached summer kitchens, a house form largely discarded in other parts of the Eastern Shore by the mid nineteenth century. This stepped appearance is especially evident with the Isabella White house (S-369), located at the south end of the community. The most significanct religious sites in the community are the two churches, the Joshua Thomas Chapel and St. Johns Methodist Episcopal Church. The two buildings offer an interesting contrast between antebellum Greek Revival and postbellum Gothic Revival designs. The two church buildings also mark the large increase in membership between 1850 and the end of the century.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Deal Island, first known as Devil's Island and later spelled Deil's Island, time as the rest of Somerset County. Land patents were issued as early as 1673 for "Graves End," and 1675 for "North Foreland." Additional patents were executed through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and as recent as 1923 for a tract known as "Two Sisters."

During the eighteenth century the island tracts were owned by various individuals including Captain Nehemiah King of "Beverly," who owned three tracts, "all on Devil"s Island." His resident tenants, John Webster and Isaac Gibson, occupied modest frame or sawed log houses measuring twenty by sixteen. Sited on a tract called, "Purgatory," in 1798 was the dwelling of Nicholas Roe, a single story, 20 by 18, brick structure with one window measuring 3'8 by 2'4". Also located around the Roe house were support buildings including a 14' by 12' kitchen, a 9' square smoke house, and a 10' by 6' corn house.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Deal Island **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart - Architectural Historian

organization Somerset County Historical Trust **date** 7/9/86

street & number 424 N. Somerset Ave. **telephone** 651-0077

city or town Princess Anne **state** Maryland 21853

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

One of the highest valued properties on the island during the last years of the eighteenth century was the plantation of Reverend David Wallace, assessed at $1370. His dwelling was a single-story frame house which measured 32' by 20', while a kitchen (15' by 14'), a milk house (10' by 8'), a smoke house (10' by 10'), a barn (24' by 20' with 10' sheds on each side), and one corn house (16' by 7') surrounded the house. Three tenant houses were also assessed on the seven-hundred acre plantation. Reverend David Wallace's dwelling is also remembered as the location of many island marriages and religious meetings. The Wallace house site is occupied presently by the Federal/Greek Revival dwelling built by Captain William Price around 1840 (S-47).

By the second half of the nineteenth century Deil's Island, (The v was dropped from Devil's as a result of the strict Methodism that spread throught the island), had expanded into a bay-oriented community of one thousand residents. Deil's Island was reached by a ferry which crossed lwas Thoroughfare until a wooden bridge was erected around 1870. A description of the island was published by Adam Wallace in 1872,

> Deal's (or as they were formerly called Devil's) Islands, are two in number and are situated to the northeast of Tangier, near the main, and not between the sound and the bay. The larger one, (on which there is a good sized Methodist Church, and where camp meetings have been held most of the years isnce 1828) is about three miles in length by one in width. It is a very productive soil, suitable for almost any species of grain, fruit, or vegetables. An immense quantity of sweet potatoes is raised there, as also a large yield of corn and some excellent wheat. But, the population like that on the smaller islands, has to depend more on the water that on the land for support.
> (Wallace, pp. 13-14)

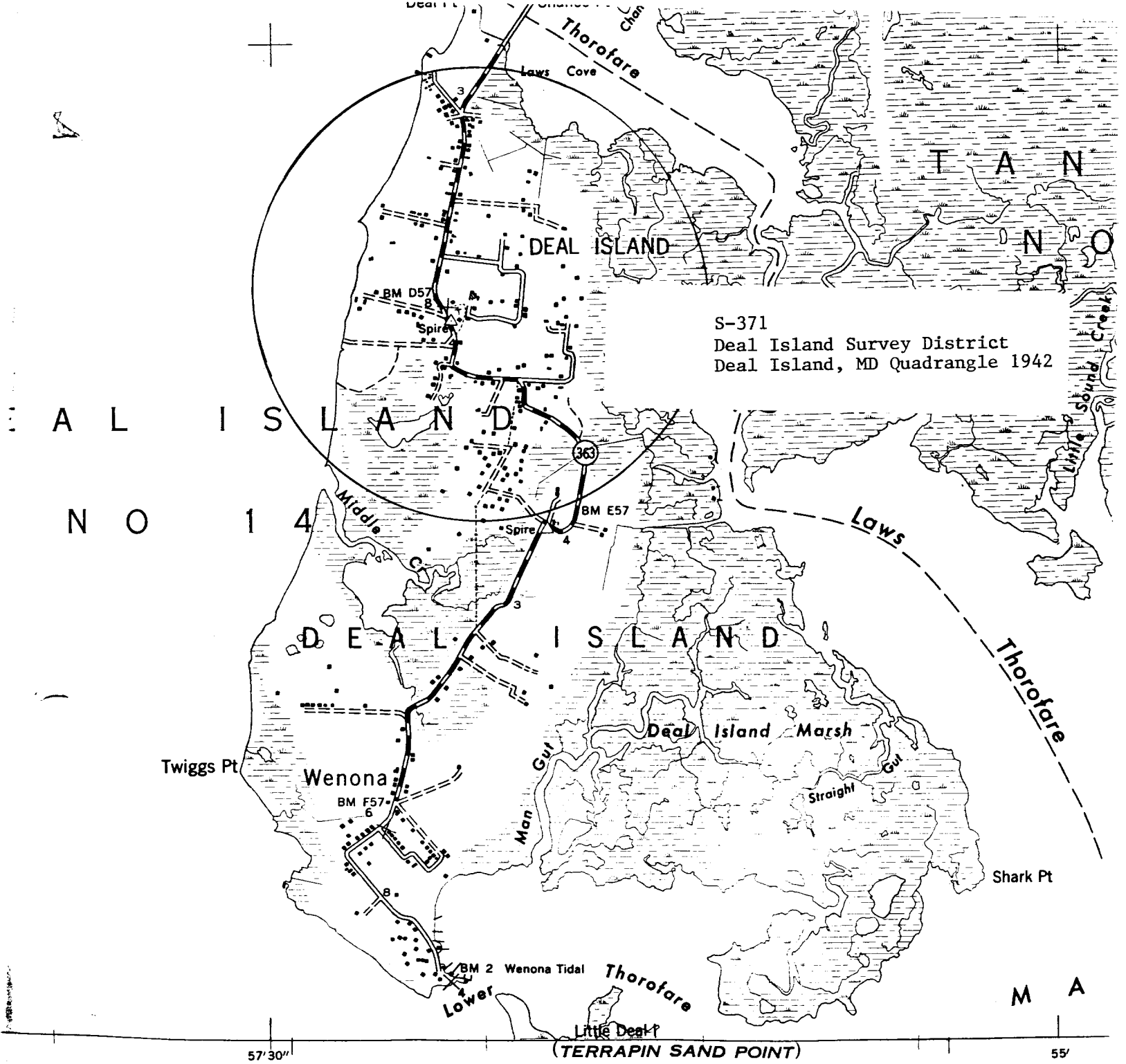
The fourth quarter of the nineteenth century brought additional growth, and by the last years of the nineteenth century, Deals Island was the second largest community in Somerset County. Boasting a population of 1,500 residents, the community was served by five general stores, two blacksmiths, a flour and grist mill, a sail loft, and a veterinary surgeon. By the turn of the century a large hotel and store complex operated by Captain Levin Anderson stood at the norht end of the island near the quarter-mile steamboat wharf. Along with the principal shipments of bay seafood additional business took advantage of the regular trips to Baltimore and other markets. During the early twentieth century canning factories as well as an ice plant were erected near the wharf, and by 1912 a branch of the Bank of Somerset was established.

The first decades of the twentieth century also brought an increased population which totaled 2,500 by the 1930s. However, a devastating hurricane ravaged island businesses and property in 1933, and the island entered a slow period of decline through the middle years of the century. Recently, increased interest in Deal Island as a retirement community has proved helpful is stablilizing the island population.

The oldest house sited within the vicinity of Deal Island is the old Bradshaw house (S-46) located on the southeastern periphery of the community. The two-story, two-room plan Federal style house dates to the first decades of the nineteenth century.

The only commercial buildings to survive in Deal Island include the old Deal Island Bank (S-366) and the Deal Island Barber Shop (S-368). The Deal Island Bank is the sole remaining brick structure, erected around 1912.

Centrally sited on a small knoll in Deal Island are the Joshua Thomas Chapel and the St. Johns M.E. Church. The antebellum Greek Revival chapel housed the island's early Methodist congregation, lead during the nineteenth century by Reverend Joshua Thomas, the "Parson of the Islands." Reverend Thomas traveled to Smith Island as well as southern Somerset County in an effort to stabilize early, rural Methodist congregations. He is buried immediately south of the chapel. The main church is a large Gothic Revival frame church executed with attention to fime interior detail. St. Johns is one of handful of Somerset County churches that retains a fully covered pressed tin interior.



SCALE 1:24 000

1 ½ 0 1 MILE

1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 .5 0 1 KILOMETER

MAXIMUM GROUND ELEVATION 8 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

10,000-FOOT GRID TICKS, MARYLAND PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, SHOWN IN BLACK
1000-METER GRID TICKS, UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR SYSTEM, ZONE 18, SHOWN IN BLUE

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A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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Anderson's Store
Deal Island, Somerset Co., Md.
Documentary photograph, c. 1933
Negative/Md. Historical Trust

Anderson's Store S-371
Deal Island, Somerset Co.,Md
Documentary photograph, c. 1910
Negative, Md Historical Trust

WHARF. & HOTEL. DEALS. ISLAND. MD.

Deal Island Steamboat Wharf 5-371
Deal Island, Somerset Co., Md
Documentary photograph, c. 1910
Negative/Md Historical Trust

Anderson's Store 5-371
Deal Island, Somerset County,Md
Documentary photograph, c. 1910
Negative/Md Historical Trust