NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

**United States Department of the Interior**
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name ARLINGTON

other names/site number S-51

## 2. Location

off

street & number State Route 361 on Millard Long Road N/A [ ] not for publication

city, town Westover [X] vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Somerset code 039 zip code 21871

## 3. Classification

**Ownership of Property**
- [X] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

**Category of Property**
- [X] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

**Number of Resources within Property**

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 0 | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 1 | 0 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards for J. Rodney Little 4-20-92

Signature of certifying official STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- [ ] entered in the National Register.
  [ ] See continuation sheet.
- [ ] determined eligible for the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet.
- [ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
- [ ] removed from the National Register.
- [ ] other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)**

GEORGIAN

**Materials (enter categories from instructions)**

foundation BRICK
walls BRICK
roof ASPHALT SHINGLE
other WOOD

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Arlington is a prominent mid-eighteenth century Flemish bond brick dwelling that stands on the south side of Back Creek in the vicinity of Westover, Somerset County, Maryland. Built around 1750 by Ephraim Wilson, the two-story, center hall, single-pile house is highlighted by glazed checkerboard brick patterns on each wall. Finely laid rubbed brick jack arches span the south (main) facade window openings, while segmental arches with alternating glazed bricks top the side and rear window openings. A Federal period porch, trimmed with a paired modillion block cornice, shelters the front entrance. Finishing the base of the roof are plastered cove cornices. The main house was enlarged around 1947 with a single story brick kitchen wing. The interior survives with its original turned baluster walnut stair with a ramped and molded handrail. Like several houses on the lower Eastern Shore, the Georgian woodwork was removed from the first floor rooms during the early twentieth century. The second floor survives with several original six-panel doors framed by period surrounds. Exposed in the unfinished attic is a common rafter roof system carried to tilted false plates. There are no outbuildings accompanying the house in nomination.

[X] See continuation sheet No. 1
For GENERAL DESCRIPTION

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Arlington is situated on the south side of Back Creek near Westover, Somerset County, Maryland. A long lane that intersects MD 361 a half mile west of MD Route 413, enters the farmstead which borders Back Creek. The mid-eighteenth century two-story center hall plantation house faces south with the roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1750-1760, Arlington is a two-story, five-bay Flemish bond brick house covered by a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof distinguished by plastered cove cornices on the north and south sides. Attached to the northeast corner of the main block is a single-story brick wing added around 1947.

The symmetrical five-bay south elevation is marked by a center entrance and flanking nine-over-one sash windows on the first floor and sixteen-over-twelve sash windows on the second floor. A large six-panel door, which was originally made as a double leaf door and then reworked as a single-leaf door, is topped by a three-light transom. A Federal period hip roofed porch shelters the center entrance, and the original Tuscan half columns remain fixed against the wall surface. Wrought-iron tie rods fasten the porch to the house. The square outside posts have been replaced. Enriching the porch cornice is a row of paired modillion blocks as well as decorative gougework.

The south facade displays the most elaborated mid-eighteenth century brickwork finishes. The wall is highlighted by an expertly laid checkerboard pattern of glazed bricks, and a molded beltcourse stretches across at the second floor level. The first and second floor window and door openings are accented by rubbed brick borders as are the outside corners of the house. Each opening is also topped by a rubbed brick jack arch. Stretching across at the top of the second floor is the plaster cove cornice which is trimmed with the original bed and crown moldings.

The west gable end is a symmetrically balanced Flemish bond wall with horizontal beltcourses defining the second and third floor levels. A pair of bricked up window openings mark the first floor, while the second floor retains four-over-four sash windows. All of the window openings, including the two that were bricked up on the first floor, retain segmental arches highlighted with alternating glazed bricks. Rising through the gable end is an internal end brick stack, and portions of the original molded bargeboards remain in place to finish the ends of the roof.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

The north side has been partially altered with the reconstruction of the northeast corner and the addition of the late 1940s brick kitchen wing. The western portion of the north wall retains its original finish of random glazed bricks. The second floor beltcourse stretches across the north wall, and the first and second floor window openings are spanned by segmental arches with alternating glazed bricks. Large sized nine-over-one sash windows fill the first floor window openings, while sixteen-over-twelve sash remain on the second floor. A plastered cove cornice finishes the base of the roof.

On the east gable end there is a distinct shift in material between the mid-eighteenth century Flemish bond wall and the rebuilt northeast corner of the house. No windows pierce the first floor, and a 1940s window illuminates the bathroom that occupies the northeast corner of second floor. A single four-pane window flanks the interior end brick chimney stack.

The interior follows a standard center hall, single-pile plan. A turned baluster stair rises in three flights to the second floor. A spiral ended walnut handrail, supported by a series of turned balusters, has a steep ramp as it reaches each landing post. The stringer below features a series of bold scrolled bracket step ends. Underneath the third flight the stair soffit is finished with raised panels, and a raised panel door opens into a small storage closet below the first landing.

The rooms to each side of the hall were reworked during the early twentieth century when the mid-eighteenth century paneling was removed. Plain neo-classical mantels frame the fireplaces. Slender Tuscan columns, supported on square bases, rise to a thin mantel shelf. Within the past twenty years wainscoting has been added to the perimeter of the west room or parlor.

The second floor retains original material in the upstairs hall where raised six-panel doors framed by original mid-eighteenth century surrounds provide access to three bedrooms. The west bedroom, now used for storage, is the largest space. A neo-classical mantel frames the fireplace, and six-panel doors that open into adjacent closets are located to each side. An access door in the ceiling of the north closet provides an entrance into the attic.

The east bedroom is a much smaller space since the northern third of the room was partitioned off to create a bathroom during the 1940s. An identical columned mantel frames the east bedroom fireplace as well.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

The attic is unfinished. A common rafter roof system is carried on tilted false plates, and the individual rafter pairs are stabilized by lapped collar beams.

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

## 8. Statement of Significance



Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

| Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) | Period of Significance | Significant Dates |
|---|---|---|
| Architecture | c.1750-1760 | c.1750-1760 |

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Not known

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Arlington, built around 1750-1760, is a crucially significant dwelling in Somerset County as one of those houses that represent an extreme in architectural achievement in the county. From the mid-eighteenth century, only four other houses in Somerset County, (Westover, Almodington, Hayward's Lott, and Waterloo) equal the high construction and design qualities found at Arlington. Erected in the best manner of mid-eighteenth century brick masonry craftsmanship, Arlington displays finely executed glazed brick checkerboard patterns on each elevation as well as finely rubbed jack arches on the main facade. The front corners of the house, in addition to the edges around the front door and adjacent windows, are treated with rubbed brick borders also. The window and door openings on the other sides are enhanced with segmental arches of alternating glazed bricks. Finishing the base of the roof is a rarely found plastered cove cornice, which survives on only two other county houses (Almodington, and Cherry Grove). Sheltering the front entrance is a Federal period porch enriched with a cornice of paired modillion blocks and original Tuscan half columns against the back wall.

☒ See continuation sheet No.5

For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification, A.D. 1680-1815

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Known Design Source: None

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

For many Somerset planters in the early and mid-eighteenth century, profits earned through the mixed agriculture and trade economy financed the rebuilding or replacement of seventeenth century housing. In contrast to houses common in the preceding century, these new brick and frame dwellings were erected with more permanent building practices, including brick foundations. In addition, changes in social habits during the eighteenth century demanded more complex floor plans that could provide family privacy and room specialization. Finely crafted paneled interiors enhanced domestic life and offered elaborate settings for private as well as public functions. Professional masons, carpenters, joiners, and related craftsmen engaged in the construction of an impressive class of plantation architecture. These buildings not only have survived to modern times in remarkable repair, but the standards of design and craftsmanship they have set have lasted with them.

While the significance of these houses is readily apparent, the bias inherent in their survival distorts the modern view of pre-Revolutionary War building in Somerset County. These houses are best understood as the cream of domestic architecture from the period and in no manner representative of the average dwelling. Indeed, it is only because of their superior construction and finish with above-average materials that they have survived.

The second quarter of the eighteenth century in Somerset County witnessed an increase in the number of expertly executed Georgian houses with elaborate exteriors and interiors. Arlington, Westover (S-50), Almodington (S-40), Hayward's Lott (S-74), and Waterloo (S-31), are the extant examples of these houses. The construction of these dwellings marked more than the flowering of a fine school of local carpentry and masonry. More important, these buildings satisfied the desire of Somerset planters to establish permanent seats of residence where they could display their accumulated wealth and hold public and private gatherings in settings comparable to those of their English contemporaries.

During the quarter century preceding the revolution, this desire for better built, more ostentatious dwellings developed on more than one level. At that time, a group of planters in Somerset County financed the construction of brick plantation houses that outdistanced all other dwellings known to have stood on the lower Shore at that time. These pretentious houses were assembled with more sophisticated exterior features and more formal floor plans than those that had gone before. Most significant, a center hall or passage allowed for entrance

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

into a public rather than a private space, controlling access into more intimate rooms. Finely paneled parlors with built-in cupboards provided elaborate backdrops for formal entertaining as well as daily activities.

Standing on the south shore of Back Creek is Arlington (S-51), a mid-eighteenth century dwelling reflecting these new interests. The two-story, five-bay Flemish bond brick house boasts expensive masonry details such as glazed brick checkerboard patterns and rubbed brick finishes highlighting doors and windows. In addition, the front corners of the building and the south beltcourse are constructed of decorative rubbed brick. Inside the house, the floor plan follows a straightforward center hall plan with a large room to either side of a wide passage. The turned baluster stair survives in the passage, but the formal mid-eighteenth century paneling has been removed from both first floor rooms.

In his will of 1750, David Wilson bequeathed to his son, Ephraim, "My plantation on the south side of Back Creek called Wilson's Lott."[1] Considering the architectural features of the dwelling, Ephraim probably financed construction of the impressive brick house within the next few years and certainly prior to his death in 1777.[2] To his daughter, Peggy Wilson, Ephraim left, "the plantation whereon I now live called Wilson's Lott." Peggy C. Wilson married her cousin, John Custis Wilson, who inherited neighboring Great Hopes plantation (now commonly known as Westover) from his father Samuel in 1790.[3] Before Samuel Wilson's death in 1790, John C. and Peggy Wilson resided in her father's house on the south side of Back Creek. In 1783 John Wilson (of Samuel) was taxed for the Wilson's Lott land along with other property totalling over 2,000 acres. The improvements and grounds were described as a "two story brick dwelling house, midling good repair, kitchen unfinished, quarter barns indifferent, midling good orchard, other improvements midling good." The total assessment in 1783 reached a tremendous £5,020.[4] After 1790 John and Peggy Wilson apparently relocated to Great Hopes across the creek and tenanted out Wilson's Lott to a John Ellis, who is listed as the occupant in the 1798 federal tax assessment.[5] In 1798 the federal tax assessors found on the plantation,

> 1 Dwelling house built of brick 50 feet by 24 feet two story high 7 windows 4 feet by 3 feet 11 windows 3 feet by 5 feet 1 kitchen 24 feet by 25 feet built of brick two story high 1 smoke house 12 by 14 feet 1 stable 16 feet by 18 feet. Value $300.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

The land assessment mentions 600 acres as well as 1 barn, 1 negro house and a corn crib. The property appears to have operated under the same tenant arrangement until Peggy Wilson's death in the early 1830s. Upon her death, Wilson's Lott was divided between her three sons, John C. Wilson, Jr., Edward H.C. Wilson, and Henry P.C. Wilson. Through two deeds executed during the early 1830s, John Rider acquired Wilson's Lott and the adjacent tract known as Totanias.[6] Arlington, the singular name for the property, is referenced first in a mortgage between Littleton D. Handy and George Handy, executed on August 16, 1843.[7] In June 1860, John W. Crisfield, the administrator of the will of Littleton D. Handy, sold Arlington to William S. Walker.[8] Arlington was later the property of William and Anna Gale, who sold it in 1866 to Jesse and Catherine Cook.[9] Jesse M. Cook is listed in the 1877 county atlas patron schedule as the owner of a 612-acre farm having moved to Somerset County from Mercer County, New Jersey.[10] The Ring family, the present owners, acquired Arlington through several deeds beginning in 1912.[11]

The interior of Arlington has suffered the loss of much of its original mid-eighteenth century woodwork. Like many houses on the peninsula, the elaborate Georgian paneling that once finished several rooms was sold during the early twentieth century. Simple neo-classical mantels and plain plaster walls were substituted instead. What does survive is the original turned baluster Georgian stair with a ramped and molded handrail. Remaining on the second floor are several raised six-panel doors framed by original mid-eighteenth century surrounds. Also significant to the house is the common rafter roof system carried on tilted plates.

See Continuation Sheet No. 9

1. Register of Wills, Somerset County Courthouse, EB 14/40, Princess Anne, Maryland.

2. Register of Wills, Somerset County Courthouse, EB 1/78, Princess Anne, Maryland.

3. Register of Wills, Somerset County Courthouse, EB 17/185, Princess Anne, Maryland.

4. 1783 Federal Assessment, Somerset County, Great Annemessex Hundred, Somerset County Library, Princess Anne, Maryland.

5. 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Somerset County, Great Annemessex Hundred, Somerset County Library, Princess Anne, Maryland.

6. Somerset County Clerk of Court, Land Record GH 6/37 and GH 6/38, Somerset County Courthouse, Princess Anne, Maryland.

7. Somerset County Clerk of Court, Land Record BH/3, Somerset County Courthouse, Princess Anne, Maryland.

8. Somerset County Clerk of Court, Land Record LW 6/549, Somerset County Courthouse, Princess Anne, Maryland.

9. Somerset County Clerk of Court, Land Record LW 9/623, Somerset County Courthouse, Princess Anne, Maryland.

10. Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas, Fairmount District Schedule, p.54.

11. Somerset County Clerk of Court, Land Record SFD 60/260, Somerset County Courthouse, Princess Anne, Maryland.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

S-51


Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

Somerset County Tax, Land, and Will records, Somerset County Courthouse, Princess Anne, MD.

...las of Somerset County. Lake, Griffing and Stevenson, 1877.

Touart, Paul Baker. Somerset: An Architectural History. Published for the Maryland Historical Trust and the Somerset County Historical Trust, 1990.


☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 3 acres

USGS Quad: Princess Anne, Maryland

UTM References

| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | 18 | 435620 | 4211010 |
| B | | | |
| C | | | |
| D | | | |

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet No. 10

Boundary Justification

☒ See continuation sheet No. 11

## 11. Form Prepared By


name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 10/29/91

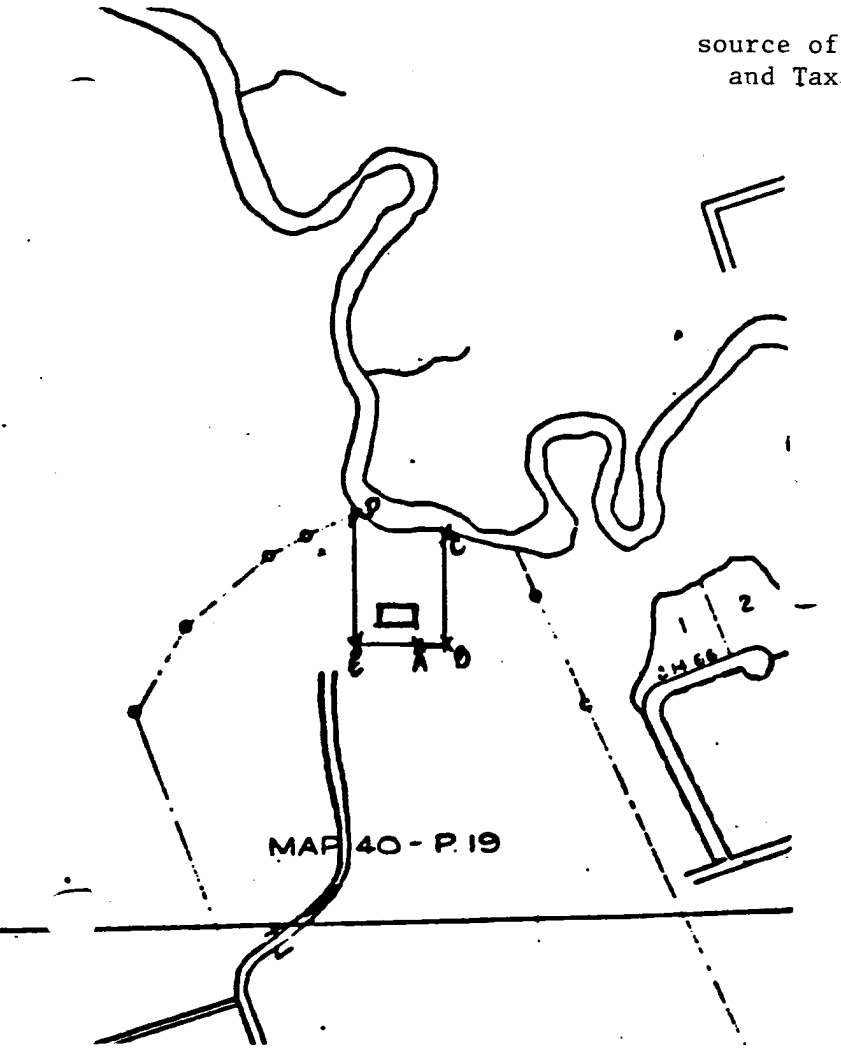
street & number P.O. Box 5 telephone (410) 651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland zip code 21871

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Beginning at the southeast corner of the two-story brick house known as Arlington in order to establish a firm reference point and measuring out into the Arlington yard for a distance of 75' to the first point labeled "A" on the accompanying Somerset County tax map, thence in an easterly direction for another 75' to a point labeled "B" and thence in a northerly direction for approximately 375' to a point labeled "C" located on the south bank of Back Creek, thence by and with the course of the south back of the said creek in a westerly direction for approximately 300' to a point labeled "D" on the south side of said creek, thence in a southerly direction for 450' to a point labeled "E" in the yard of said house, thence in an easterly direction for approximately 225' to the place of beginning containing three (3) acres more or less.

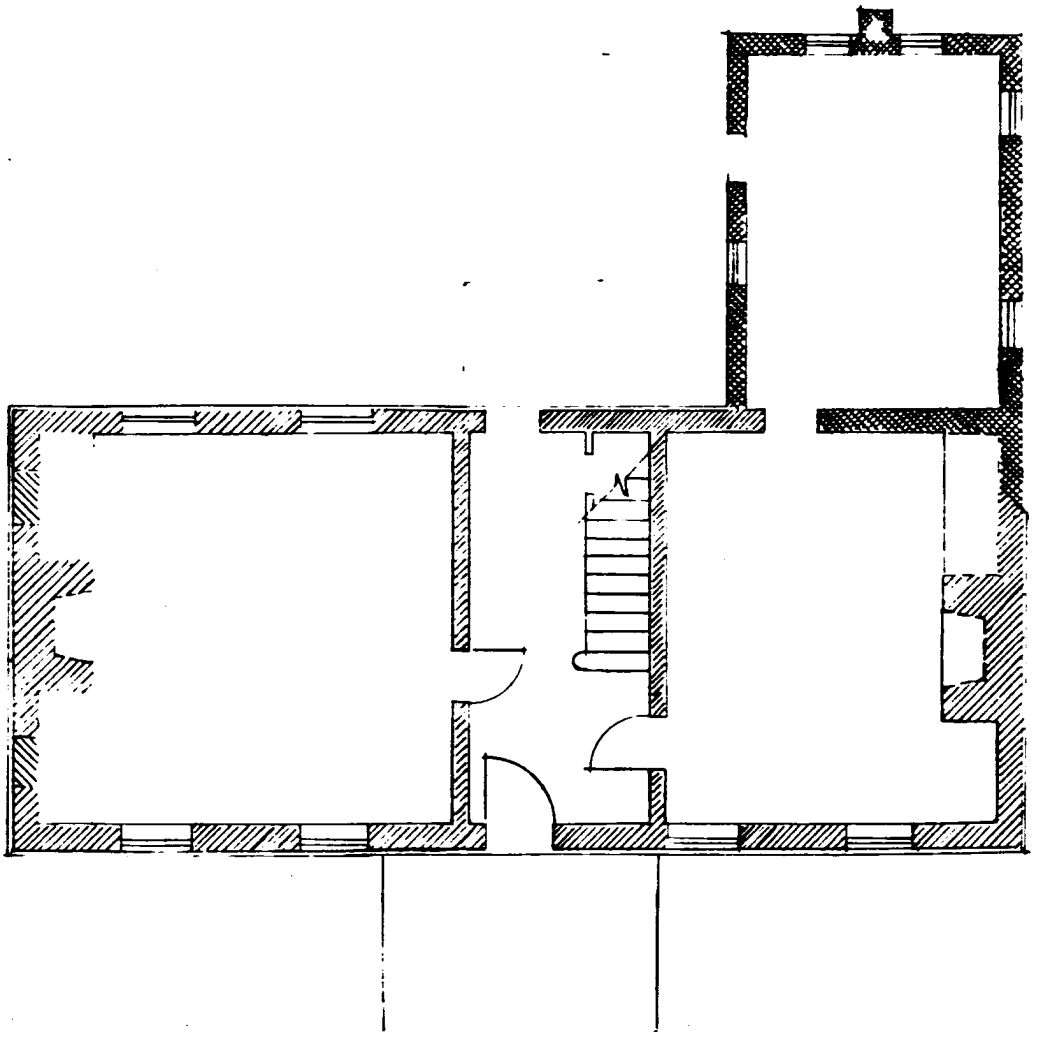
source of map: State Department of Assessment and Taxation, Somerset County, Map 40, Parcel 19.



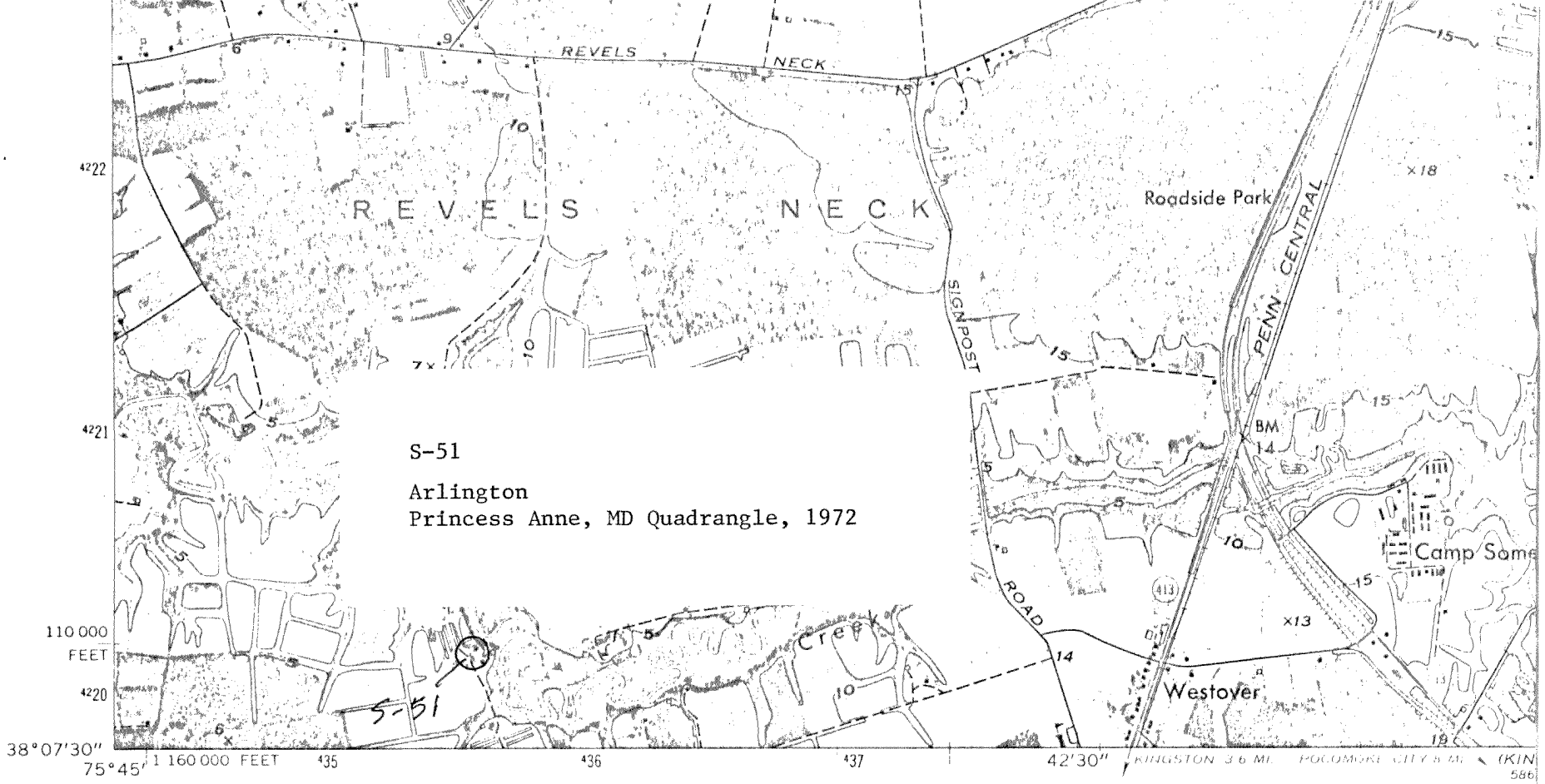

See Continuation Sheet No. 11

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The approximately three acres included in nomination with this house comprise the immediate area around the dwelling. Three lines of the boundary are arbitrary, while the fourth line that follows Back Creek is coincidental with an historic border for the property. The nomination separates the house from the adjacent farmland that is significant to the architectural character of the house.



1ST PERIOD, c. 1750
2ND PERIOD, c. 1750-176(
3RD PERIOD, 1947-1948




(MARION)
5860 III SE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

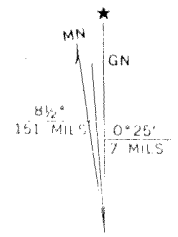
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Orthophotomap prepared from aerial photograph taken April 5, 1972. Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1972
Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1942

Selected hydrographic data from USC&GS Chart 555 (1973)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Maryland coordinate system (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum

Only landmark buildings in urban areas




UTM GRID AND 1972 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE

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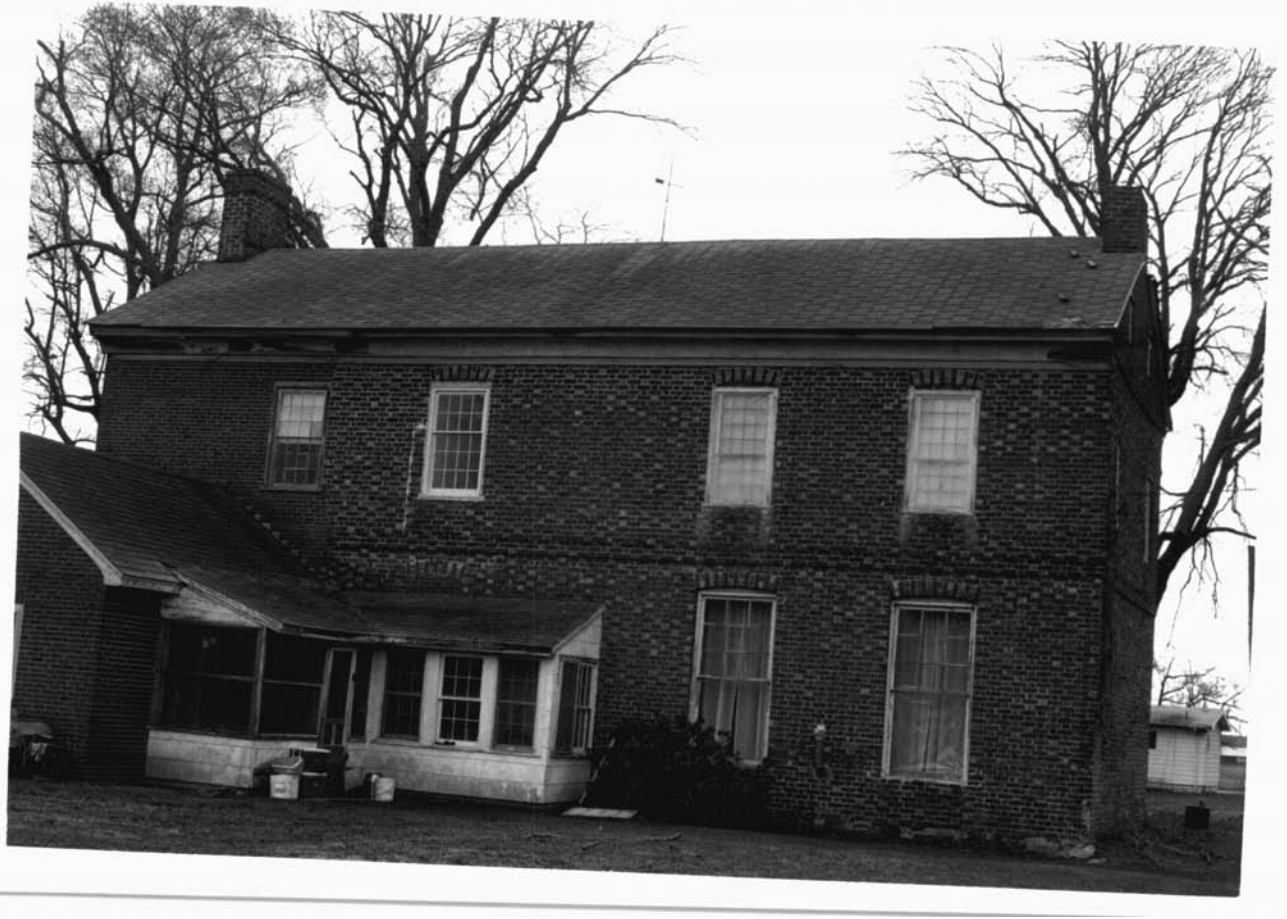
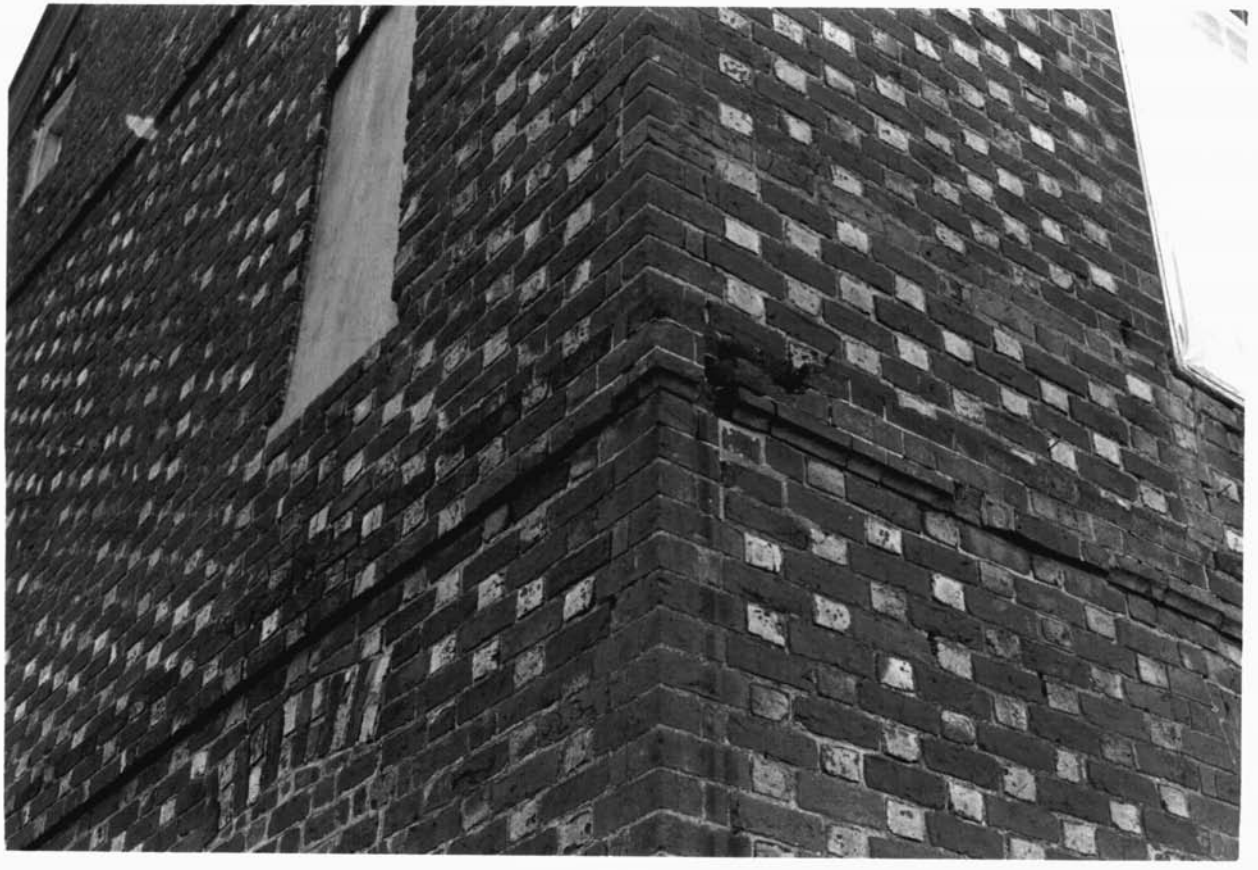
Arlington S-51
AK Westover-Somerset County
Southwest Elevation
12/83 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

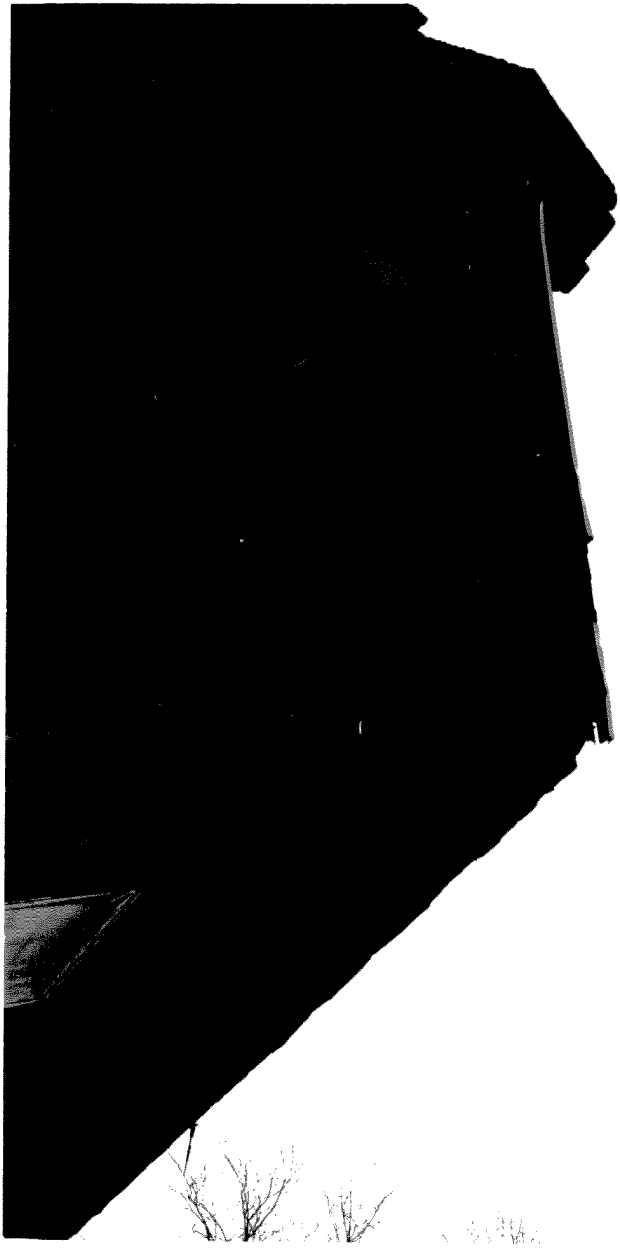


Arlington S-51
MK Westover-Somerset County
North Elevation
12/83 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

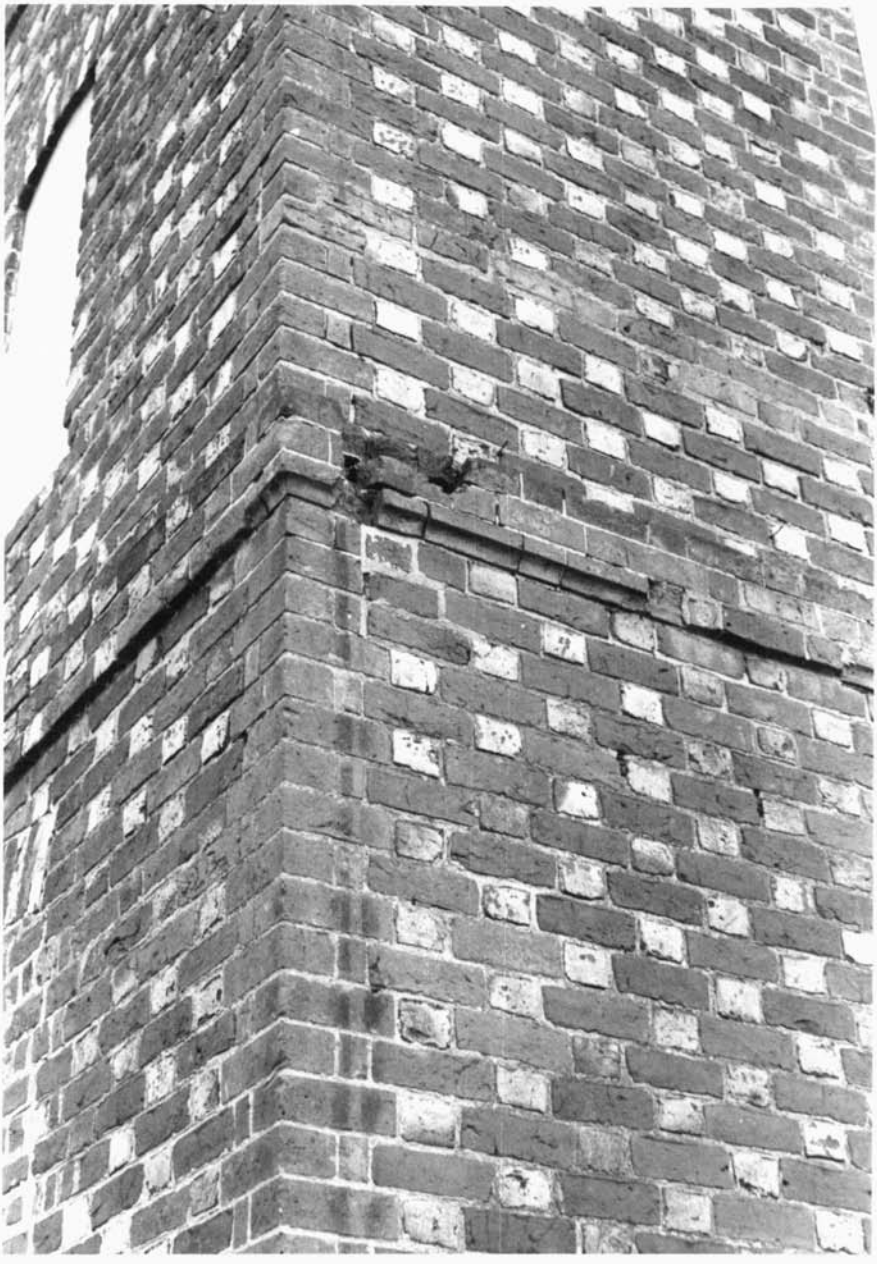


Arlington S-51
NR Westover-Somerset County
Southwest Corner
12/83 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

Arlington S-51
MR Westover-Somerset County
South Wall-2nd Floor
12/83 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Arlington S-51
NR Westover-Somerset County
Southwest Corner
12/83 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



S-51

ARLINGTON

WESTVERLY [illegible], [illegible]

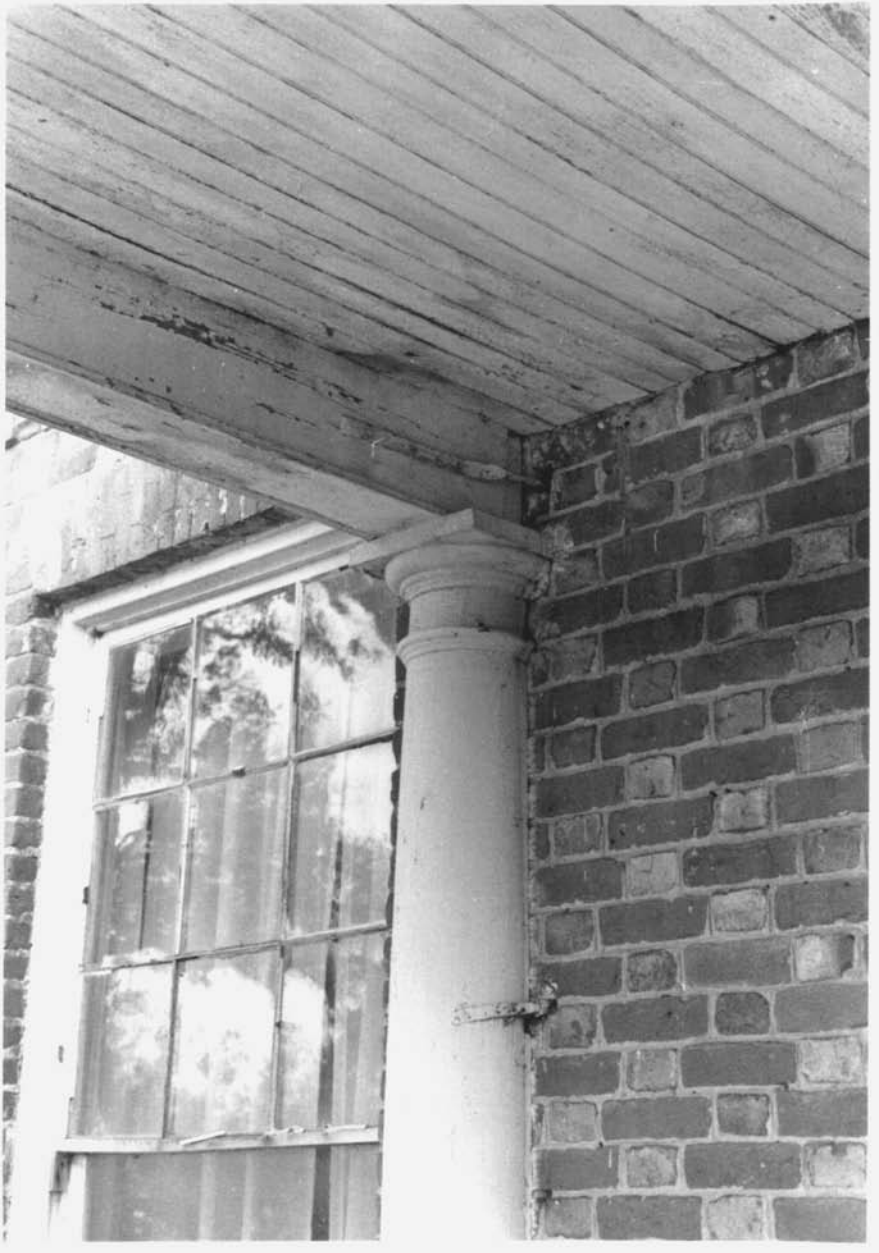
SOUTHWEST [illegible]

1/94, [illegible]

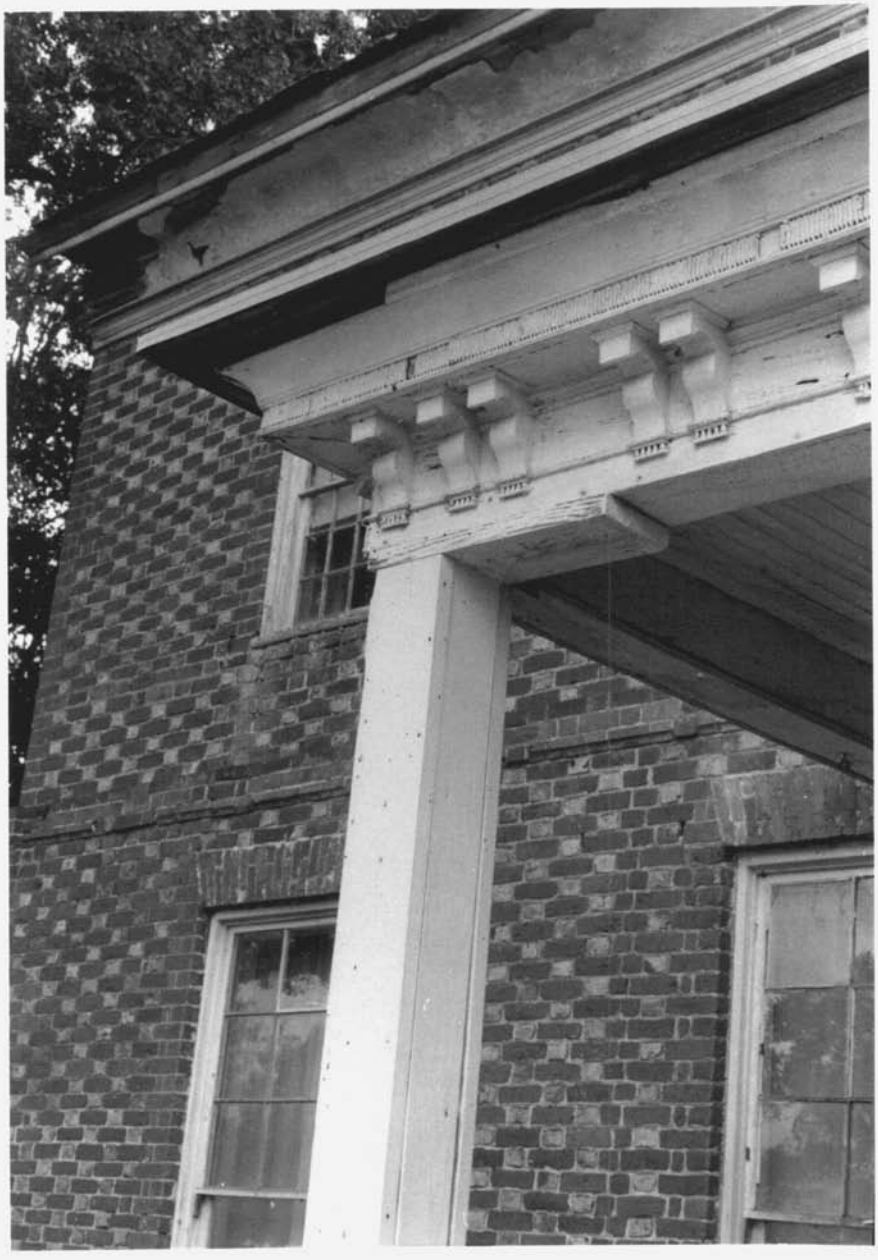
[illegible]

Arlington S-51
NR Westover-Somerset County
West Elevation
12/83 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

Arlington S-51
Westover-Somerset County
North Elevation
12/83 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



S-51
Arlington
Nestored Vicinity, Dimitrie
County, Maryland
The Irons Fire Pole
9/91, Paul Touart,
Photographer
Neg./MD Historic Trust



3-51

Arrangement

Westover [illegible]

County Pennsylvania

Porch Detail

9/91 Paul Tenpart, [illegible]

Nepeuse/MD [illegible]

S-51

ARLINGTON

WESTERN [illegible]

COUNTY MARYLAND

FRONT [illegible] - SOUTH [illegible]

9/91, PAUL TOUART [illegible]

NEG/MD [illegible]

5-51

Arlington

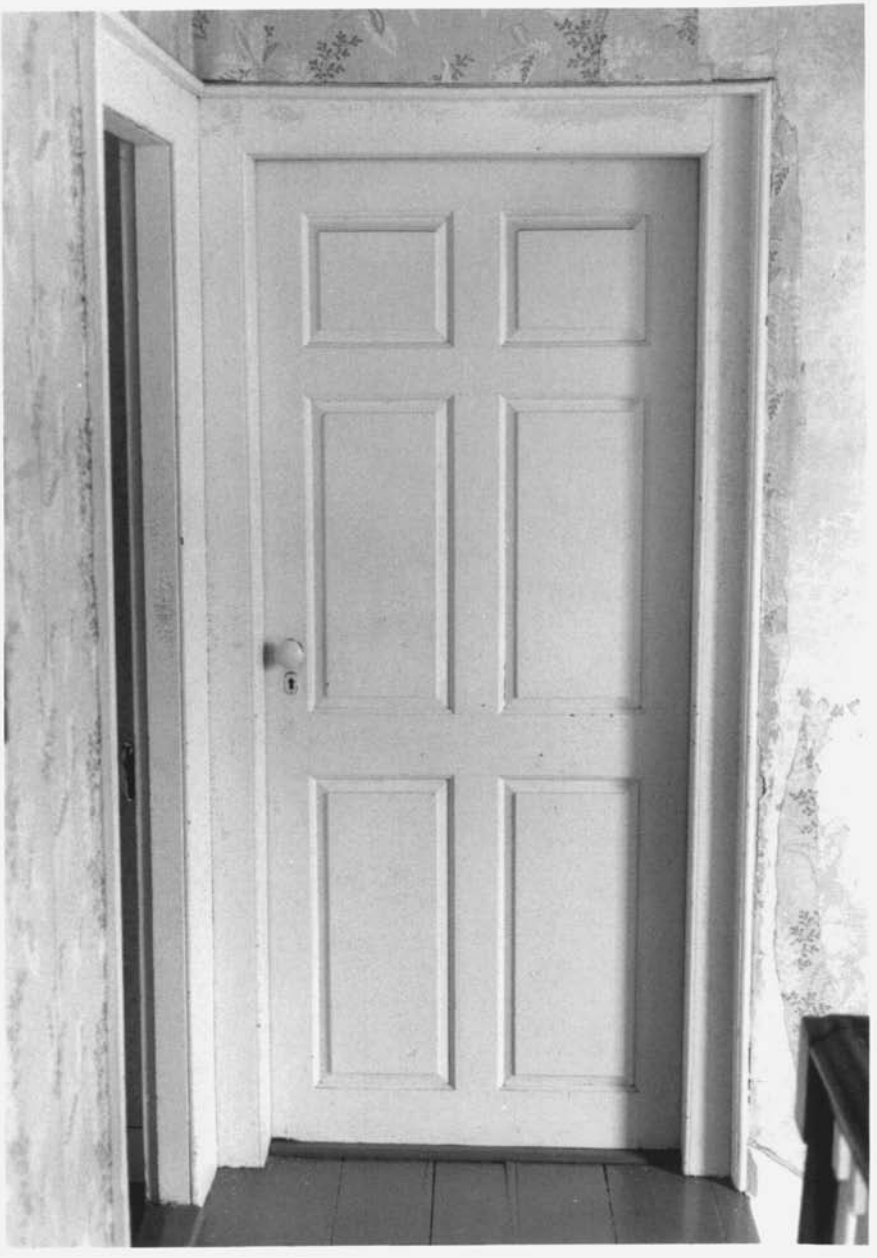
Westover [illegible]

County Map [illegible]

Parcel [illegible]

[illegible]

Neg/Mod Historic Trust



S-51

Arkansas

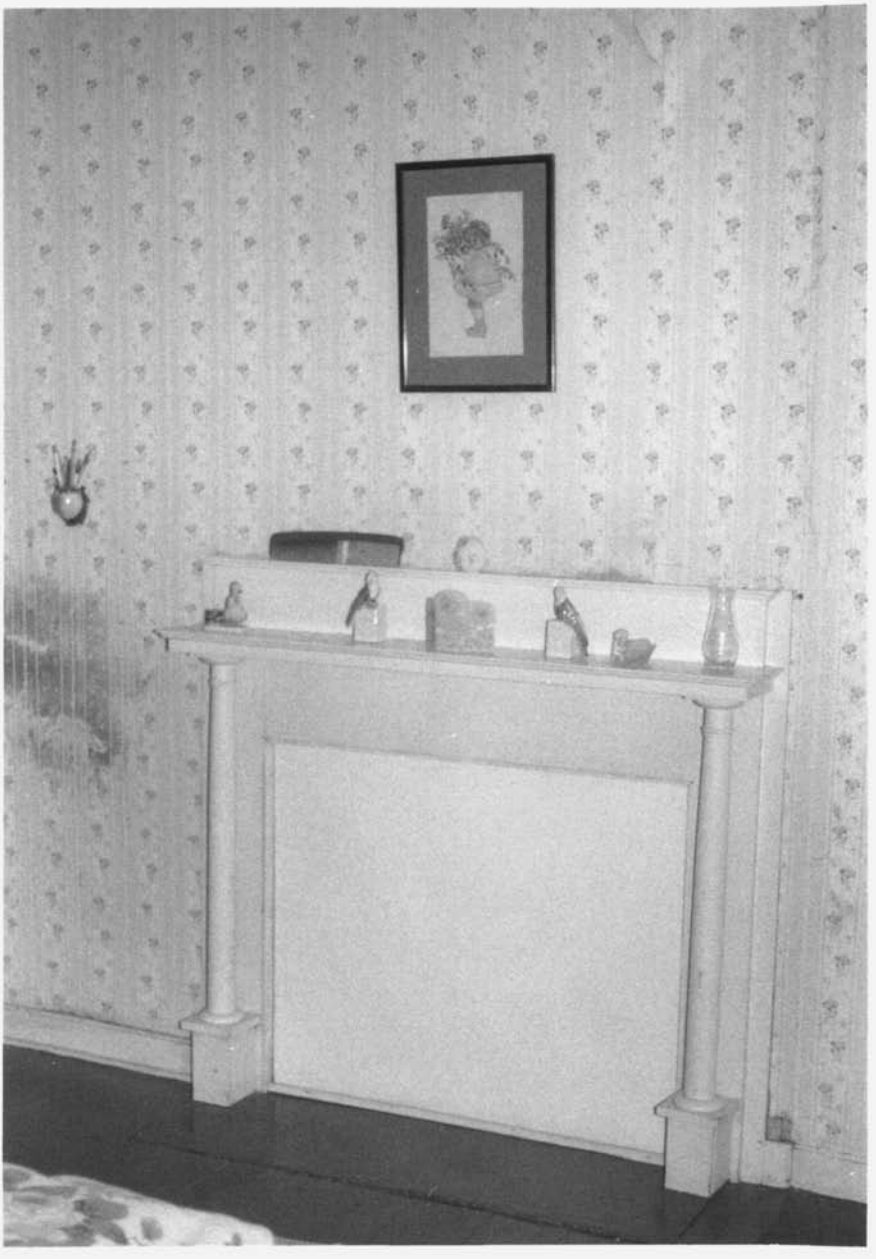
Westover Vicinity, Vicinity

County [illegible]

West Bedrock [illegible]

7/91, Paul [illegible]

Nec/Ind Historical Trust



S-51

Arlington

Westinghouse [illegible]

County [illegible]

Second Floor Stair

9/91, Pam Tower [illegible]

[illegible] / MD [illegible]

Trust

S-51

Sm51

Arlington

Westover [illegible] [illegible]

County, Maryland

Stair Railing

9/91 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Nec. Md. Histor[illegible] Trust

S-51

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

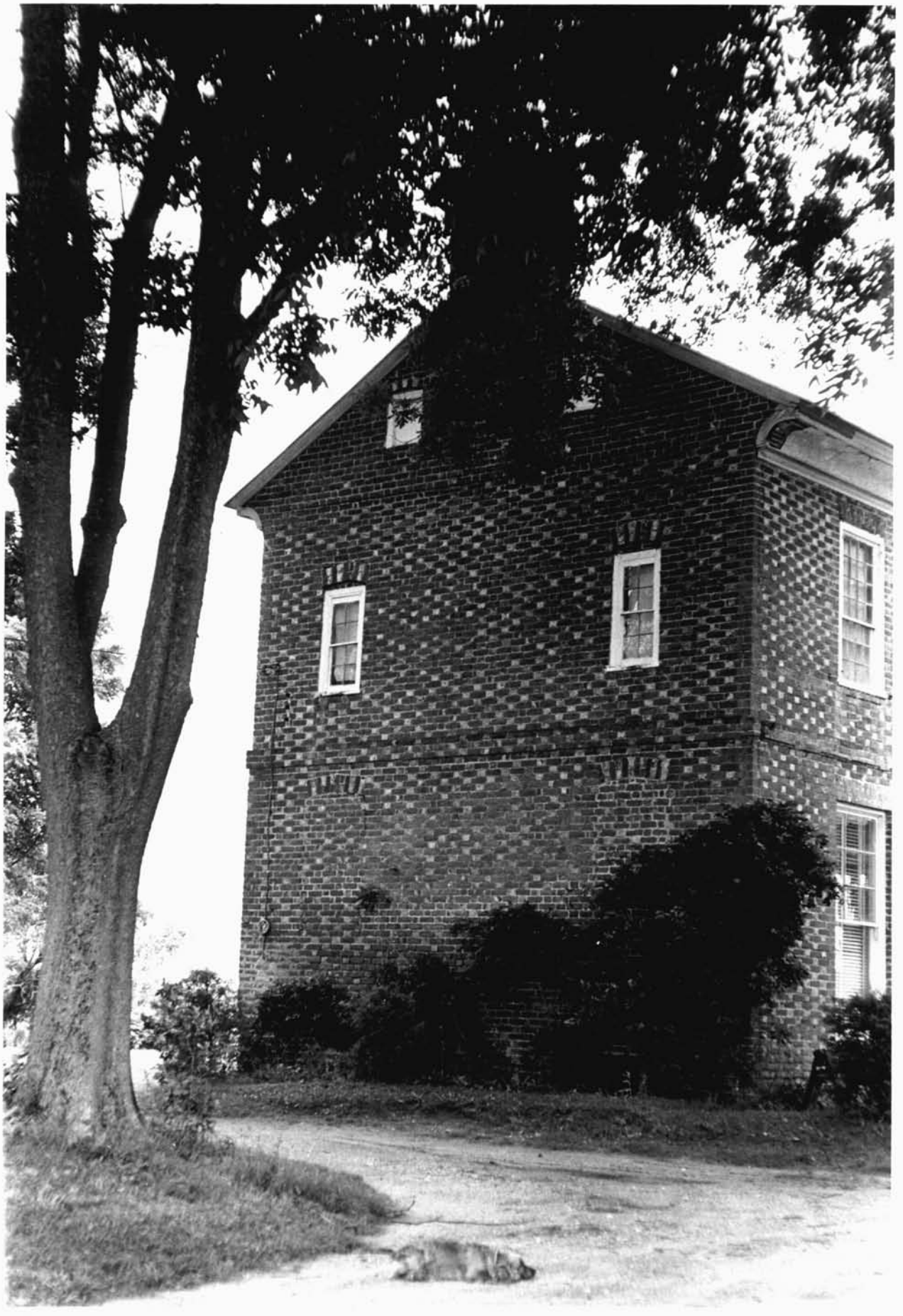
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

S-51



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-Arlington- Side View

Sanemet

Photographed for
DANIEL C. CHURCH