

# 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 publicationcity, town Deal Island  vicinity of  congressional district Firststate Maryland  county Somerset

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Various Owners

street &amp; 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 &amp; 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

Survey No. S-371

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

Survey No. S-371

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

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> 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 significant 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.



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 than on the land for support.  
(Wallace, pp. 13-14)

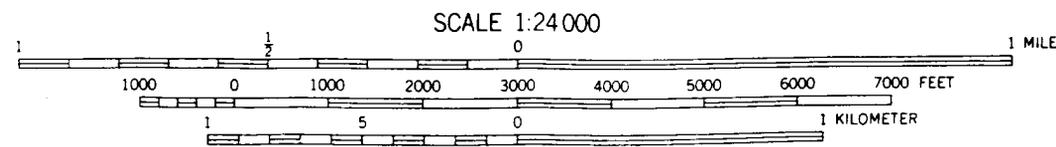
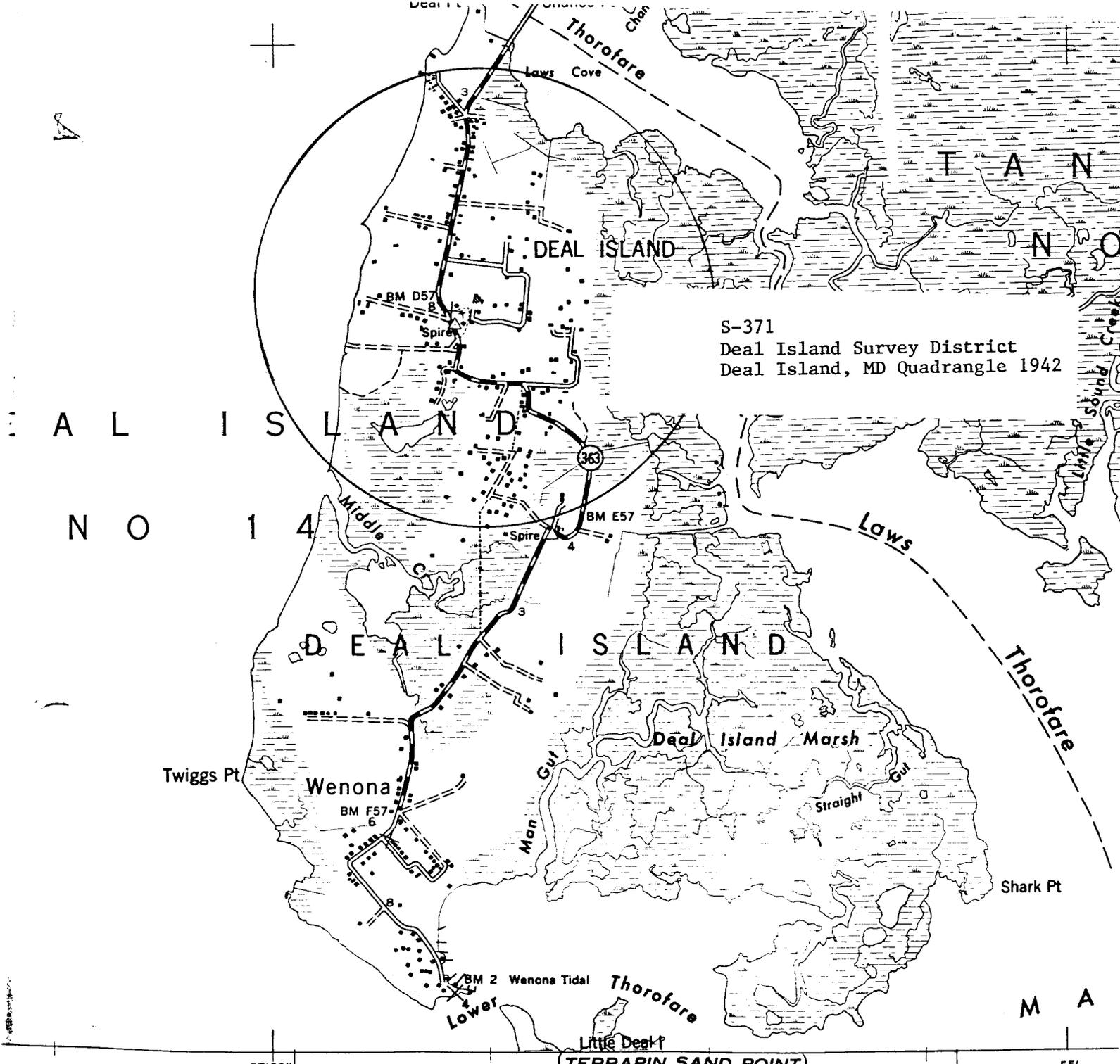
The fourth quarter of the nineteenth century brought additional growth, and by the last years of the nineteenth century, Deals Island was the second largest community in Somerset County. Boasting a population of 1,500 residents, the community was served by five general stores, two blacksmiths, a flour 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 stabilizing 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 <sup>SOUTHERN</sup> Somerset County in an effort to stabilize early, rural <sup>MAIN</sup> Methodist congregations. He is buried immediately south of the chapel. The church is a large Gothic Revival frame church executed with attention to fine interior detail. St. Johns is one of handful of Somerset County churches that retains a fully covered pressed tin interior.



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



Anderson's Store

5-371

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 M.D.

Deal Island Steamboat Wharf <sup>5-371</sup>  
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