S-1

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Somerset
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Beckford
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Beckford Avenue
CITY OR TOWN: Princess Anne
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First
STATE: Maryland | CODE: 24 | COUNTY: Somerset | CODE: 039

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building	☐ Public	Public Acquisition:	☐ Occupied	Yes:
☐ Site ☐ Structure	☒ Private	☐ In Process	☐ Unoccupied	☐ Restricted
☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being Considered	☒ Preservation work in progress	☐ Unrestricted
				☒ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☒ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Freedom Ainsworth
STREET AND NUMBER: 27 West 10th Street
CITY OR TOWN: New York
STATE: New York | CODE: 36

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Hall of Records
STREET AND NUMBER: St. John's College Campus
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis
STATE: Maryland | CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust
STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis,
STATE: Maryland | CODE: 24

Maryland
Somerset

7. DESCRIPTION

S-1

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	☒ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved	XX Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Beckford, a fine late Georgian dwelling on the west side of Beckford Avenue, in Princess Anne, is five bays wide by three bays deep, two stories with a hipped roof and two large interior chimney stacks. The Flemish bond dwelling rests on a raised basement of common bond, three rows of stretchers to one of beaders, with a molded brick watertable. The windows on the first story have nine panes over six and on the second story, six panes over six. Above each window is a flat, white stone, triple-key arch. Instead of a belt course there are slightly trapezoidal-shaped plaster panels between the first and second story windows. The center door is framed by finely reeded semi-circular, pilasters with an entablature of carved diamonds. A twisted rope molding surrounds the opening. A large screened porch of twentieth century date, covers the center three bays. A white wood cornice with paired brackets surrounds the roof, centered upon which is a 1920's dormer. To the north is a two-story, two bay wing of common bond and white clapboard with a hipped roof which was constructed in the second half of the nineteenth century. The east side is all brick with nine courses of stretchers to one of headers. The north end is part brick and part clapboard and the west side is clapboard.

The plan of Beckford has a large stair hall with one room to the north and south and two large rooms west of the hall. The two-run, open-string stairway has a ramped banister and half-rail along the wall. These are thin, square balusters, set on an angle, three per tread. The newel is a simple round post. The step ends are scrolled and there are recessed panels on the triangular wall under the stairway. This stairway conveys a feeling of great lightness. The southwest room is very elaborate and has some fine woodwork. The door and window frames and fireplace cornice have bead and reel moldings. The fireplace opening has a twisted rope edging. There is a very elaborate polychrome plaster cornice with a fruit motif. On the ceiling is a large circle in the center of which is an urn with vines encircled by floral swags. In the spandrels of the ceiling are vases of flowers with foliate scrolls. A chair rail surrounds the room and has a guilloche motif. Beneath the chair rail pilasters with recessed panels frame the window.

The northwest room is much less elaborate although still very fine. The fireplace, except for the applied carving, is identical to that in the southwest room. There are carved urns in the center tablet and end blocks with floral swags on the panels in between. Floral pendants grace the panelled

(See Continuation Sheet No. 1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	☒ 19th Century	

S-1

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal	☐ Education	☐ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☐ Religion/Philosophy	☒ Other *(Specify)* local history
☐ Historic	☐ Industry		
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Science	
☒ Architecture	☐ Landscape Architecture	☐ Sculpture	
☐ Art		☐ Social/Humanitarian	
☐ Commerce	☐ Literature		
☐ Communications	☐ Military	☐ Theater	
☐ Conservation	☐ Music	☐ Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Situated on the crest of the slope rising from the eastern bank of the Manokin River, Beckford derives architectural significance from several sources. It is primarily a good example of late Georgian domestic architecture, especially noteworthy because its exterior and interior features have remained largely unchanged since its construction early in the nineteenth century. The interior is marked by particularly fine plasterwork and carved moldings, ornamenting the two principal rooms of the mansion.

In addition, Beckford has architectural importance because its appearance gives support to the concept that new architectural styles spread rapidly in pre-industrial America. Located in one of the more remote areas of nineteenth century Maryland, the mansion utilized architectural elements which were just coming into favor in more populous areas of the state. The plaster panels at the belt course level, for instance, are similar to those found at Homewood, in Baltimore, constructed at approximately the same time.

The contemporaneity of Beckford's architecture reflected the growing economic importance of the town of Princess Anne, a busy port on the Manokin River.

The tract called Beckford was originally surveyed for Colonel William Stevens in 1679, and patented to Edmund Howard in 1681, for five hundred acres. Colonel Stevens (1630-1687) was a successful merchant, with extensive landholdings in Somerset County. He served as a Commissioner of the Peace in 1665 and 1666, and became the presiding judge of the first court held under the newly-created county of Somerset in 1666, continuing in that position for twenty-two years.

In 1743 an Act of the Maryland Assembly set aside twenty-four acres of the Beckford tract, for the erection of a new town, to be called Princess Anne Towne. The town limits did not include the portion of the tract upon which Beckford was built. In 1771, Henry Jackson, a merchant and planter, acquired the

(See Continuation Sheet No. 1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

#7 Description (Continued)

pilasters. The northeast room has a heavy cornice and molded chair rail. The projecting fireplace has pilasters en ressaut, plain panels, and dentil molding under the cornice.

The second story rooms are much simpler. The same treatment is given to the fireplaces in the northwest and southwest chamber. Both have simple architraves with dentil molding beneath the mantel shelves. Over the door leading from the northwest chamber into the stairhall in the wing is a three-light transom. The main stairway continues from the second story to the attic.

#8 Significance (Continued)

property, and it was his son, George W. Jackson who in 1803 deeded the tract to John Dennis, the probable builder (1771-1807). Although their overall architectural composition is quite different, there are striking similarities in architectural detailing between Beckford and the Teackle Mansion (c. 1803) in Princess Anne, indicating that Beckford was probably built about the same year by Dennis. The fine plaster work found at Beckford is echoed in the principal room of the Teackle Mansion, as are the plaster panels at the belt course level. In addition, the plain but elegant design of the front door in the two structures is very similar.

John Dennis, born at Beverly in Worcester County, was a prominent political figure in Somerset County. He served for two terms in the Maryland House of Delegates and , at the age of 25, was elected as a Federalist to the Fifth Congress. He sat in the three succeeding Congresses, serving from March of 1797 to March of 1805. He was one of the five Federalists who transferred their votes to Thomas Jefferson during the 1801 presidential election, thereby breaking the deadlock between Jefferson and Aaron Burr. In 1798 Congressman Dennis was a member of the committee appointed by the House of Representatives to conduct impeachment proceedings against William Blount, a Senator from Tennessee.

After his death, Beckford eventually passed to his son, John Dennis, II (1807-1859), who was born in the mansion. Also a prominent political figure, John Dennis II was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates, served in the 25th and 26th Congresses (March, 1837-March, 1841) as a Whig, and was a delegate to the state constitutional convention in 1850. He

(See Continuation Sheet No. 2)

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) No. 2

STATE	
Maryland	S-1
COUNTY	
Somerset	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

#8 Significance (Continued)

died at Beckford in 1859.

The name "Beckford" may be derived from the old meaning of the word "back" (creek) and "ford" (a shallow wading place), with "Beckford" referring to a wading place across the creek, or the Manokin River..

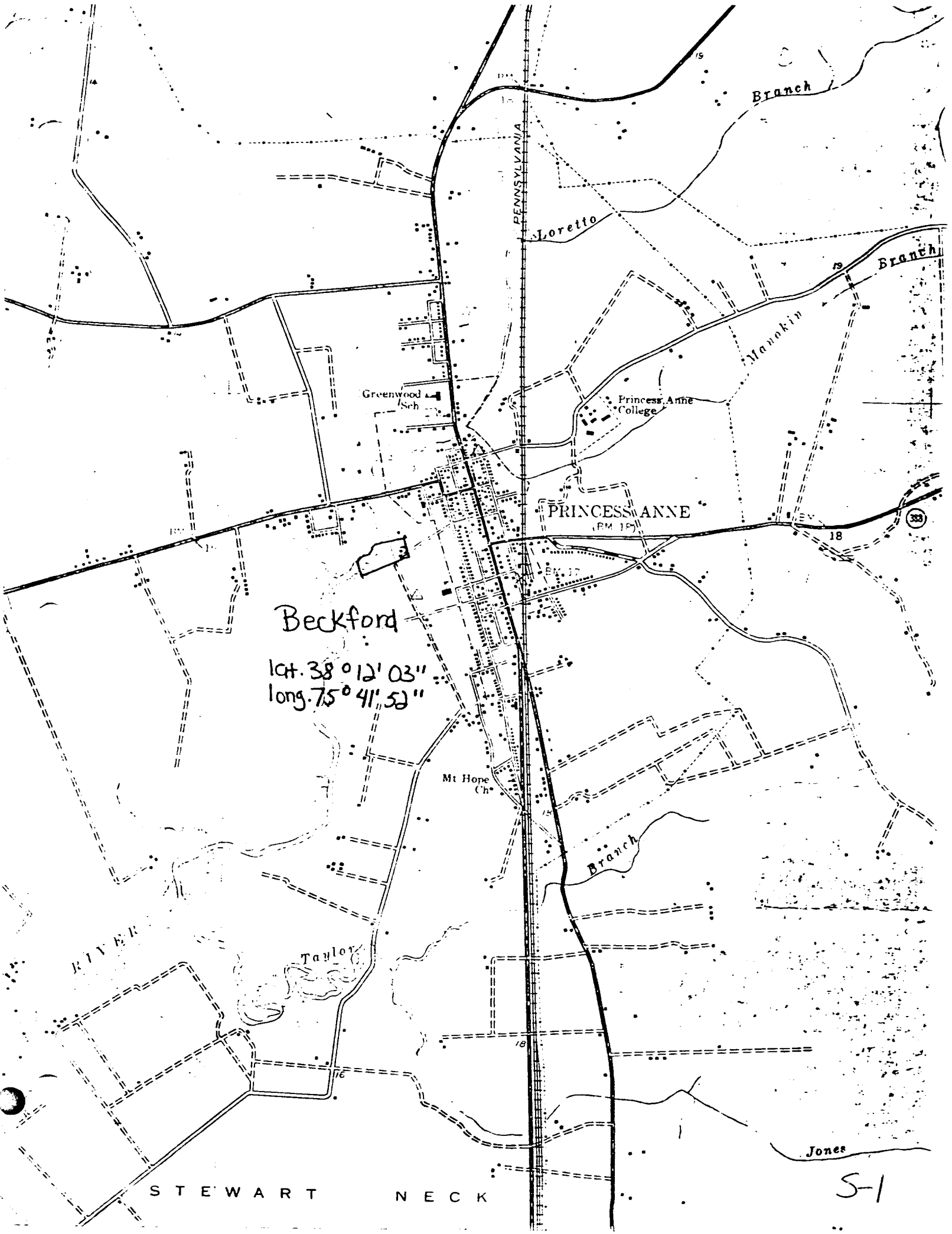
#9 Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

House of Document #442. Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1961. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1961.

Skirven, Percy G. and Swepson, Earle. Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore. Baltimore: Munder-Thomas Press, 1916.

Earle, Swepson. The Chesapeake Bay Country. Baltimore: Thomas-Ellis Company, 1923.

Torrence, Clayton. Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Baltimore: Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1966.


Branch
PENNSYLVANIA
Loretto
Branch
Manokin
Greenwood Sch
Princess Anne College
PRINCESS ANNE
(BM 18)
18
Beckford
lat. 38°12'03"
long. 75°41'58"
Mt Hope Ch
Branch
RIVER
Taylor
STEWART NECK
Jones
S-1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Primary Sources:

Somerset County Judicial Records. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.
Somerset County Land Records. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

Secondary Sources:

Board of Education of Somerset County. Maryland's Historic Somerset. Princess Anne: Board of Education of Somerset County, 1969.

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

CORNER	LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	38° 12' 04"	75 ° 42 ' 02 "
NE	38° 12' 06"	75 ° 41 ' 51 "
SE	38° 12' 02"	75 ° 41 ' 50 "
SW	38° 11' 59"	75 ° 42 ' 01 "

OR

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

LATITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
38 °	12 '	03 "	75 °	41 '	52 "

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: ten

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Ann E. Hill, Summer Intern & Lois Snyderman, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust
DATE: 7/73 & 11/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis
STATE: Maryland
CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [X] Local [ ]

Name [signature] Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date January 21, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

2000012204

Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Somerset
TOWN Princess Anne VICINITY
STREET NO. Beckford Avenue

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE Dwelling
PRESENT OWNER HENRY LANKFORD ((6/70))
PRESENT USE Dwelling
WALL CONSTRUCTION Flemish bond brick
NO. OF STORIES 2 1/2

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY S-1

2. NAME Beckford

DATE OR PERIOD 1776
STYLE Georgian
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION — OPEN TO PUBLIC no

This house is the finest Georgian mansion in Princess Anne. It occupies a large plot of ground on the edge of town. The house is five bays wide with a hipped roof. There are two chimneys set near the center of the roof. The first floor windows of the house are 9/6, the second storey ones are 6/6. The building is constructed of Flemish bond brick. The mortar joints are lace-edged, like the Ridout House in Annapolis, Maryland. It has a high basement and a molded water table. Instead of a belt course, the mansion has recessed plaster panels between the first and second storey windows. The panels are not perfect ~~squares~~ rectangles, but taper in slightly to form trapezoids. These panels set a precedent and established a local style carried through in the Teackle Mansion. The front door of the house has finely reeded pilasters with an entablature of diamond shaped carvings. It is all surrounded by a carved rope molding. The windows are surmounted by white flat ~~stone~~ arches ~~with triple keystone motifs and ornamentation along the length of the cornice~~ triple keystone.
A white wooden cornice with paired ~~modillions~~ brackets surrounds the roof. The interior of the house is notable for its fine panelling and large brass locks. The ceilings are 12 feet high. no panelling!
There is a two bay 2 storey wing of commond bond brick to the right of the house. There is a large c. 1920's dormer which has been added to the house. Other than this the house is all original.
There are very interesting small brick out buildings on the property. The garden, now overgrown, was originally composed of concentric circles of box-wood. The fine detail and sophistication of style used throughout this building make it well worth study and preservation.

This property appears to be deteriorating.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

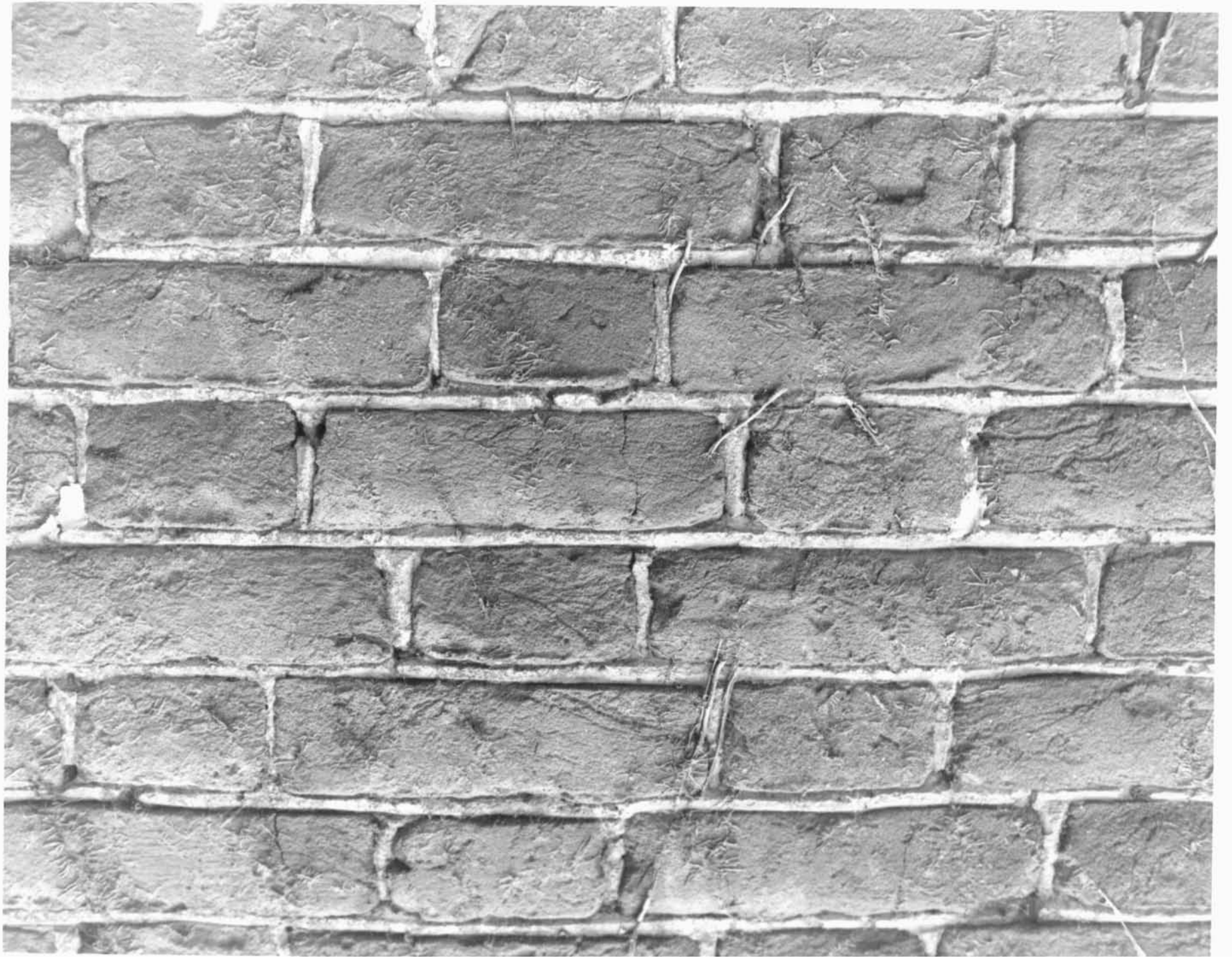
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Paul A. Brinkman

DATE OF RECORD August 1, 1967

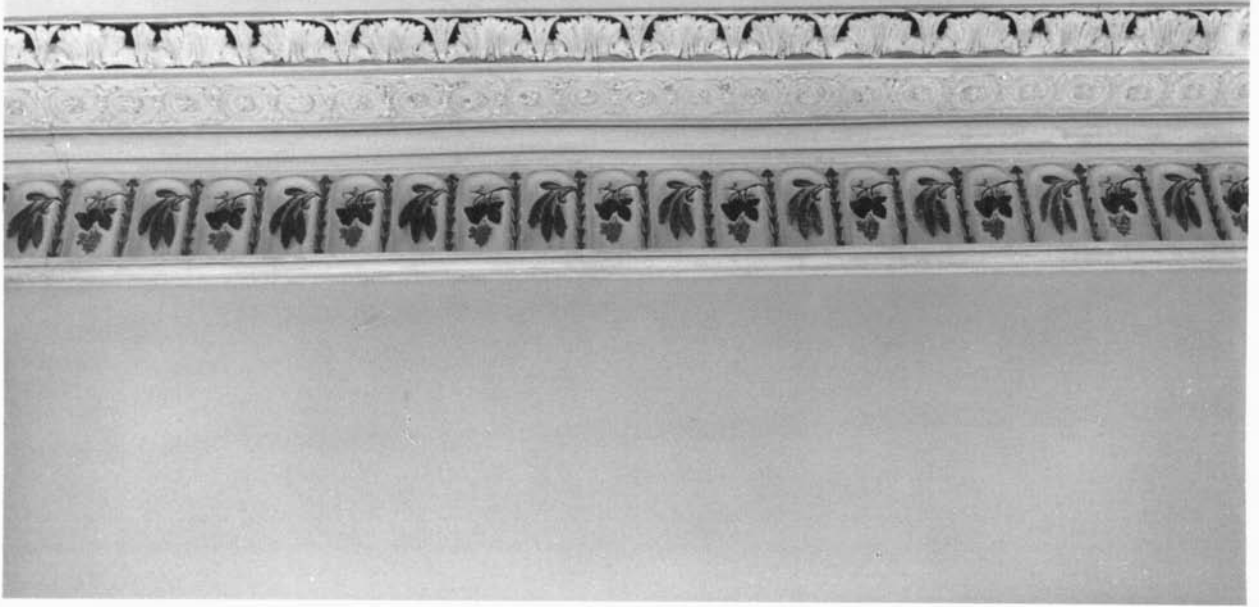
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

Photographed by
DANIEL C. CHURCH



Beckford S-1
Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Md.
Plaster Medallion
4/87, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

Beckford S-1
Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Md.
Parlor Mantel Detail
4/87, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



BECKFORD 5-1

PRINCESS ANNE VICINITY, SOMERSET CO, MD.

CORNICE DETAIL

4/97. PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHER

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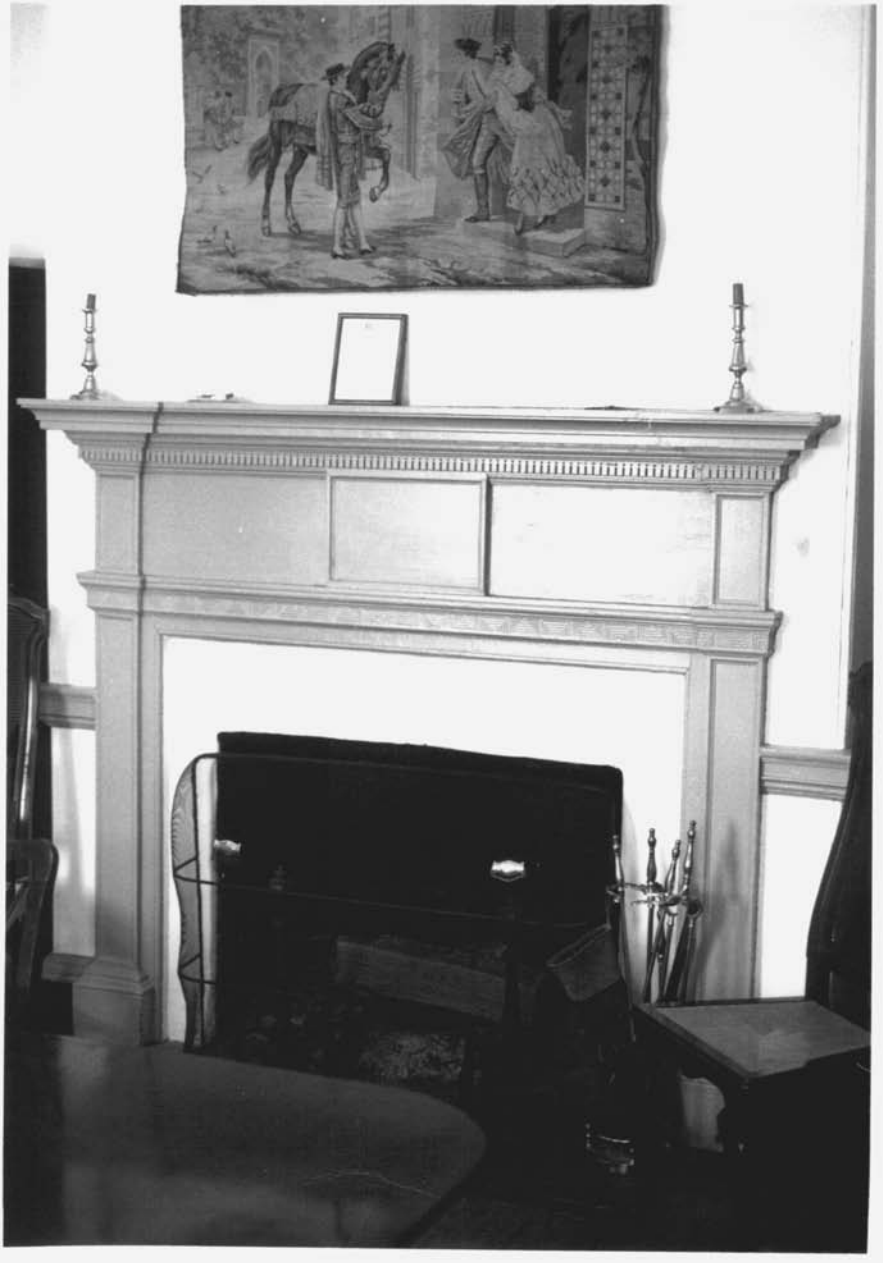
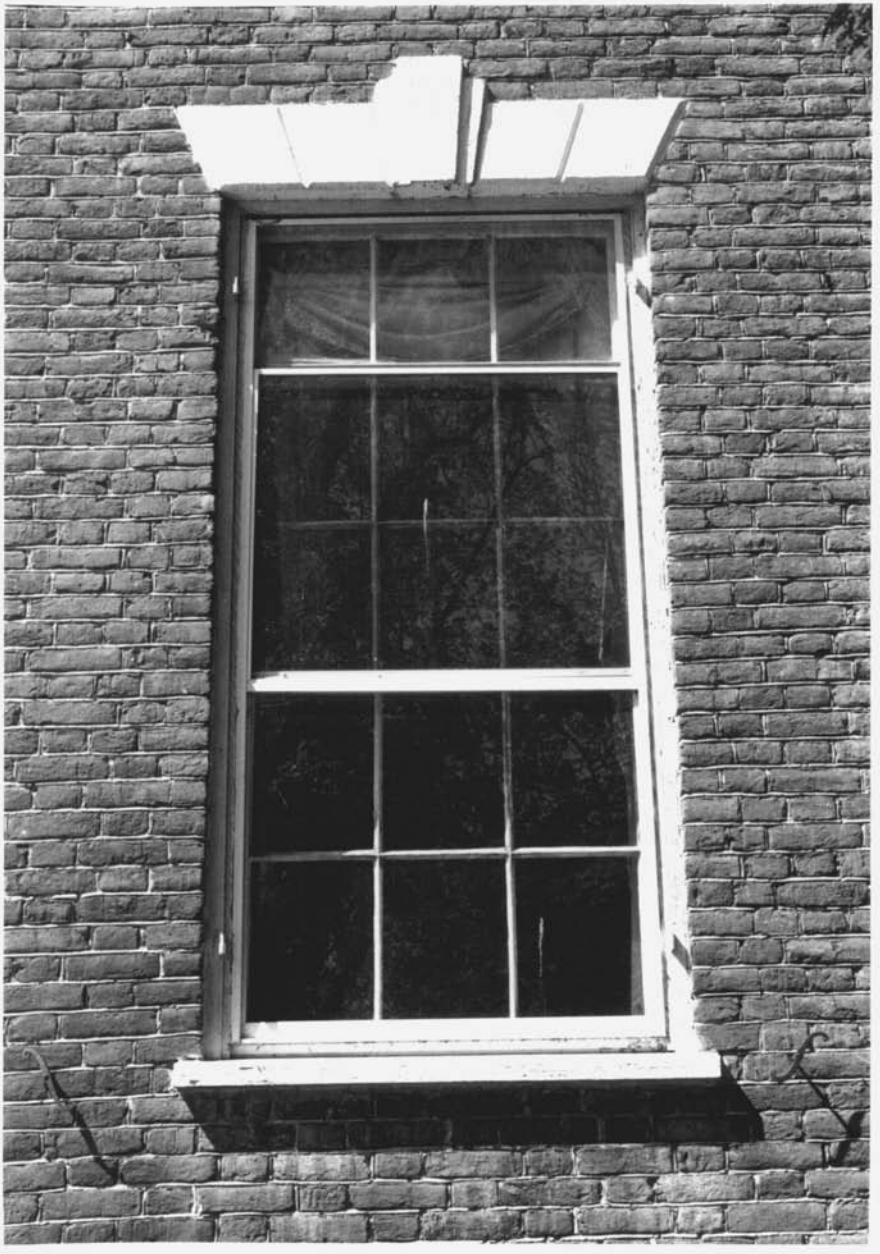


Beckford S-1
Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Md.
Dining Room Mantel
4/87, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

Beckford S-1
Princess Anne, Somerset Co.,Md.
Parlor Mantel
4/87, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Beckford S-1
Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Md.
Window - East Wall
4/87, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust