

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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

(Type all entries-- complete applicable sections)

1. NAME
 COMMON: Reward
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Williams Point Farm

2. LOCATION
 STREET AND NUMBER: Confluence of the Pocomoke River and Pocomoke Sound on Williams Point Road
 CITY OR TOWN: Shelltown CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First
 STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Somerset COFF: 050

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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input 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) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
 OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. William S. Morsell
 STREET AND NUMBER: Elkridge Estates
 CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE OF SURVEY:
 DATE OF SURVEY: [] Federal [] State [] County [] Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: MARYLAND
 COUNTY: SOMERSET
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Williams Point Farm, or the Reward, is located at the confluence of the Pocomoke River and Pocomoke Sound on Williams Point Road, about one mile southwest of Shelltown.

This one-and-one-half story dwelling has a steep gable roof with two diamond shaped chimney stacks piercing the east slope of the roof. The stacks join at the top two courses and rise well above the roof peak. The main block of the house is three bays wide and two deep and constructed of whitewashed brick laid in Flemish bond.

The south gable end, overlooking the water, has a center door with a single window, twelve over twelve, in each flanking bay. The three gable windows are tall and narrow, having nine over nine lights. Above these windows the gable is covered with white clapboard.

The north end has two windows in the second story and the same clapboard treatment in the gable. To the north is a one-and-one-half story wing attached to the main block by a hyphen. The north end of this wing is Flemish bond brick and the east and west sides are beaded clapboard. Two small, two over two light windows in the gable flank an inside end chimney with one of its bricks bearing the date 1794. There is one dormer on both the east and west sides of the wing and two on the west side of the main block.

The main block has a double parlor and a stair hall, each with a corner fireplace. The fireplace in the east parlor has two reeds in the pilasters and end blocks. The center tablet has two small squares of herringbone patterned reeding each surrounded by reeded concentric squares. In the west parlor the fireplace also has two reeds in the pilasters. The end blocks have a reeded herringbone motif and the center tablet has an Adamesque over sunburst with incised five-point stars in the spandrels. The fireplace in the stair hall is very simple with some reeding. The stairway is one run with winders and has simple round balusters. A bookcase on the north wall was formerly a doorway.

This small dwelling is nationally significant for its architectural interest as one of the few examples of diamond-shaped chimney stacks of an early period in this county.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th 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/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Two diamond shaped chimney stacks give the Reward, or Williams Point Farm, unique architectural distinction in Maryland; no other building has been found in the state with this type of chimney. "What is almost as unusual as the discovery itself is that the date of these chimney stacks is as late as 1794, if the carving on the kitchen chimney is an indication. The diamond stack, meaning a chimney stack or shaft set diagonally on its base, originated in medieval England. In the late sixteenth century it seems the unusual chimney stacks were set square or diamond-like, and were built singly or in groups. The Reward is fortunate in having both types of shaft on the main house: a single square stack on the west side, and twin diamonds on the east....This dwelling was a major discovery for the history of southern architecture."¹

In 1796 Thomas Williams (d. 1804) acquired 212 acres near the Pocomoke River, and is probably the builder of the structure now standing. The Federal Direct Tax Assessment for Somerset County for 1798 lists a house of similar dimensions and description as belonging to the heirs of Thomas Williams, and as occupied by his wife Martha Williams:

Situate on the mouth of Pocomoke River adjoining a fast landing on said River. 1 dwelling house 30 x 30 one story high with 3 windows 5 1/2 x 3 and 2 windows 4 1/2 x 2 1/2 and 4 windows 3 1/2 x 2 1/2. Brick walls and wood roof. 1 kitchen 18 x 22 with a covered way from said kitchen to the dwelling house of wood. 1 wood milk house 9 x 8 and 1 meat house 12 x 12 and 1 carriage house 22 x 10 all wood. Valued \$500.²

¹Henry Chandler Forman, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens, (New York: 1956), p. 23, 25.

²Federal Direct Tax Assessment. 1798. Somerset County, Particular List, Dwelling Houses, Pocomoke Hundred. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. The Thomas Williams referred to in the Tax Assessment was the father of the builder of the house.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 1

STATE		S-69
Maryland		
COUNTY		
Somerset		
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

(Number all entries)

Reward

Number 8. Significance continued.

After Thomas Williams' death his lands were partitioned and that portion upon which the house was located was devised to his nephew Thomas Williams Wilkins, who sold it to Lodewick Milbourn in 1809. In his will, written in 1825, Milbourn left his property to his three sons, who appealed to the Chancery Court in 1838 for an equitable division of the estate.³ All that part of the real estate described as "Pocomoke Farm" was subsequently sold to Moses C. Smith, the owner of a hotel in Princess Anne. Advertisements listing estate sales were regularly put up at his hotel in the 1840's, as well as at a hotel belonging to Theodore G. Dashiell and at the courthouse.

The Reward is located on part of a 400 acre tract of land which was known as Glyneath in 1663 when it was granted to Jenkin Price. Re-surveyed in 1683 for 850 acres, the enlarged tract was renamed the Entrance.

Williams Point was called Penfax Point in the 1670's, after Jenkin Price sold Glyneath to Daniel Penfax of London. Somerset court records for 1696 described an early road which ran from Penfax Point to the courthouse, in a northwesterly direction, along the west side of the Pocomoke River. Jenkin Price was himself a road surveyor for Somerset County in 1666, empowered "to act according to the Act of Assembly in regard to making a highway."

A portion of the Entrance was acquired in 1687 by Stephen White, and granted by him to Elias White, his brother, in 1752. Their father, John White, played a prominent role in Somerset County affairs. Arriving in Maryland about 1664, he was made a member of the Commission of the Peace for the Eastern Shore in 1665 and 1666, sat on the first court for Somerset County in 1666, and was named in successive commissions to the court in 1669, 1672, 1675, and 1676. In 1669 John White was made the captain of a company of horse in 1678 he served as a representative from Somerset County to the Lower House of the Maryland Assembly, and in 1681 he was appointed county sheriff.

³Chancery Papers #8427, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PRIMARY SOURCES, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.
 Chancery Papers.
 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, of 1798. Somerset County.
 Somerset County Judicial Records.
 Somerset County Land Records.

SECONDARY SOURCES
 Clark, Charles B. The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia:

(See Continuation Sheet)

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				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	37°	58'	06"	75°	39'	32"			
NE	37°	57'	56"	75°	39'	12"			
SE	37°	57'	46"	75°	39'	21"			
SW	37°	57'	59"	75°	39'	39"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 32 acres

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 Hill, Summer Intern and Lois Snyderman, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: Nov. 7, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Local

Name Orlando Ridout, IV

Title State Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland

Date November 19, 1973

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 _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 2

S-69

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Somerset	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Reward

Number 9. Major Bibliographical References continued.

- 3 volumes. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1950.
- Forman, Henry Chandlee. Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens.
New York: Bonanza Books, 1956.
- Richardson, Hester Dorsey. Side-Lights on Maryland History. 2 volumes.
Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins. 1913.
- Torrence, William Clayton. Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of
Maryland. reprint. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company. 1966.

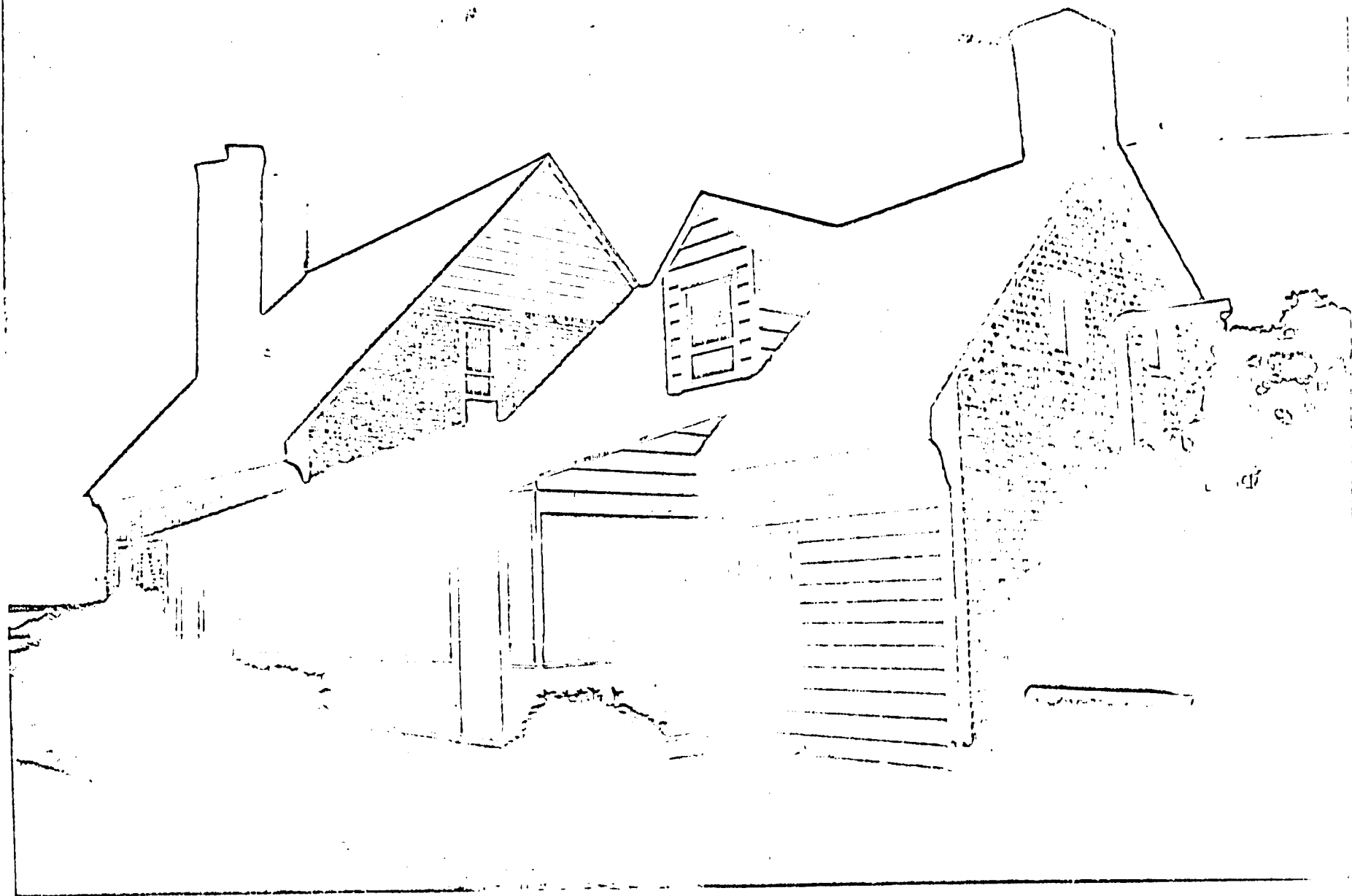
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

S-69

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Reward	Williams Point Farm	
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Maryland	Somerset	Shelton
STREET AND NUMBER		
Confluence of the Pocomoke River and Pocomoke Sound on Williams Point Road		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Anthony O. James	6/73	Maryland Historical Trust 2525 Riva Road Annapolis, Maryland 21055
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

S-69



(July 1938)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

S-69

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Reward	Williams Point Farm	
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Maryland	Somerset	Shelltown
STREET AND NUMBER		
Confluence of the Pocomoke River and Pocomoke Sound on Williams Point Road		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map Saxis Quadrangle	1942	1:24000
REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW		


2000695004

Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE COUNTY Somerset TOWN Shelton VICINITY STREET NO. ORIGINAL OWNER --- ORIGINAL USE Dwelling PRESENT OWNER Mr. Williams PRESENT USE Dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION Flemish Bond Brick NO. OF STORIES 1½	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY	
	2. NAME Williams Point Farm S-69 DATE OR PERIOD late 17th century w/ STYLE Maryland Colonial/1794 addition ARCHITECT BUILDER	3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <p>This is a very unusual house of the colonial period. The main house is almost a square. It is three bays wide and three bays deep. The first storey windows are 12/12 while those on the second storey are 9/9. On the sides of the house the windows have flat brick arches. On the gable ends the arches are segmental. The door is in the center bay on the pediment^{gable} end. There is a simple water table of square protruding brick. Although the brick is now painted, random glazed headers and stretchers can be seen. On the gable ends the brick steps short of the roof peak to leave a triangular section of clapboard. Possibly the original roof may have been a jerkin one. The unusual feature of this house are the double diamond-shaped chimneys which rise from one side wall. They are very high and are decidedly a Jacobean hangover. This is possibly the only house in Maryland to have such medieval chimneys.</p> <p>A low 1½ storey colonnade connects the main house to a 1½ storey 3 bay Flemish Bond Brick kitchen wing. There is an enclosed chimney at one end of this wing with a brick in it dated 1794.</p> <p>This house has suffered some unfortunate alterations such as the addition of large dormers to the roof and sections of modern aluminum siding. Because of its very unusual chimneys it should be preserved.</p>	OPEN TO PUBLIC No
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE	Endangered Interior Exterior

Well-maintained

	6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)	7. PHOTOGRAPH
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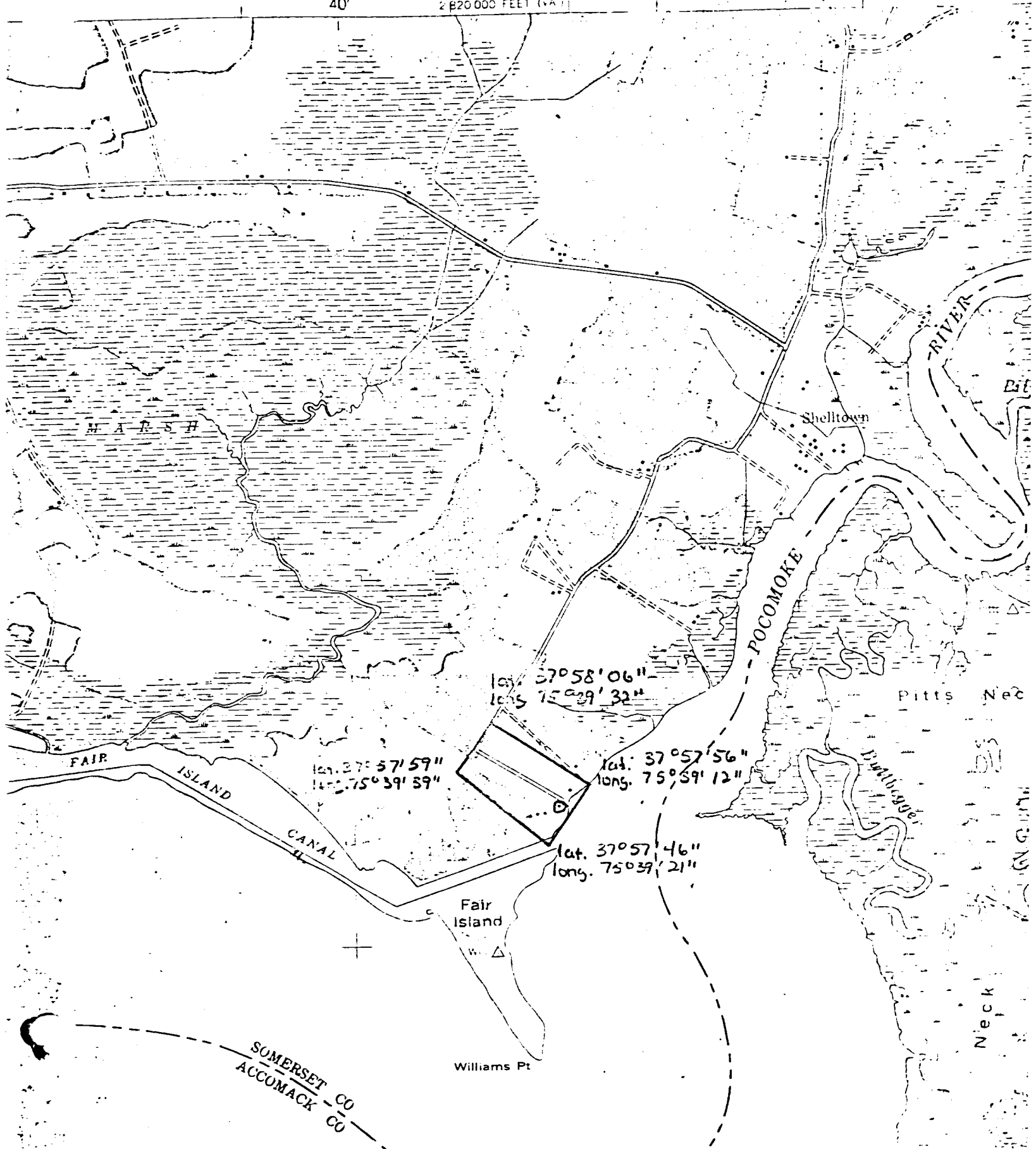
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. See "The Reward" - in Forman, H.C. Tidewater Md. Arch + Gardens 1967 p. 23-25, 43.	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Paul A. Brinkman DATE OF RECORD 8/8/67
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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

5-69

SAXIS QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGR)

40' 2820000 FEET (VA)



SOMERSET CO
- CO
- CO
ACCOMACK CO



5-69

W. Hiams Point Farm
Somerset

Photographed by
DANIEL C. CHURCH



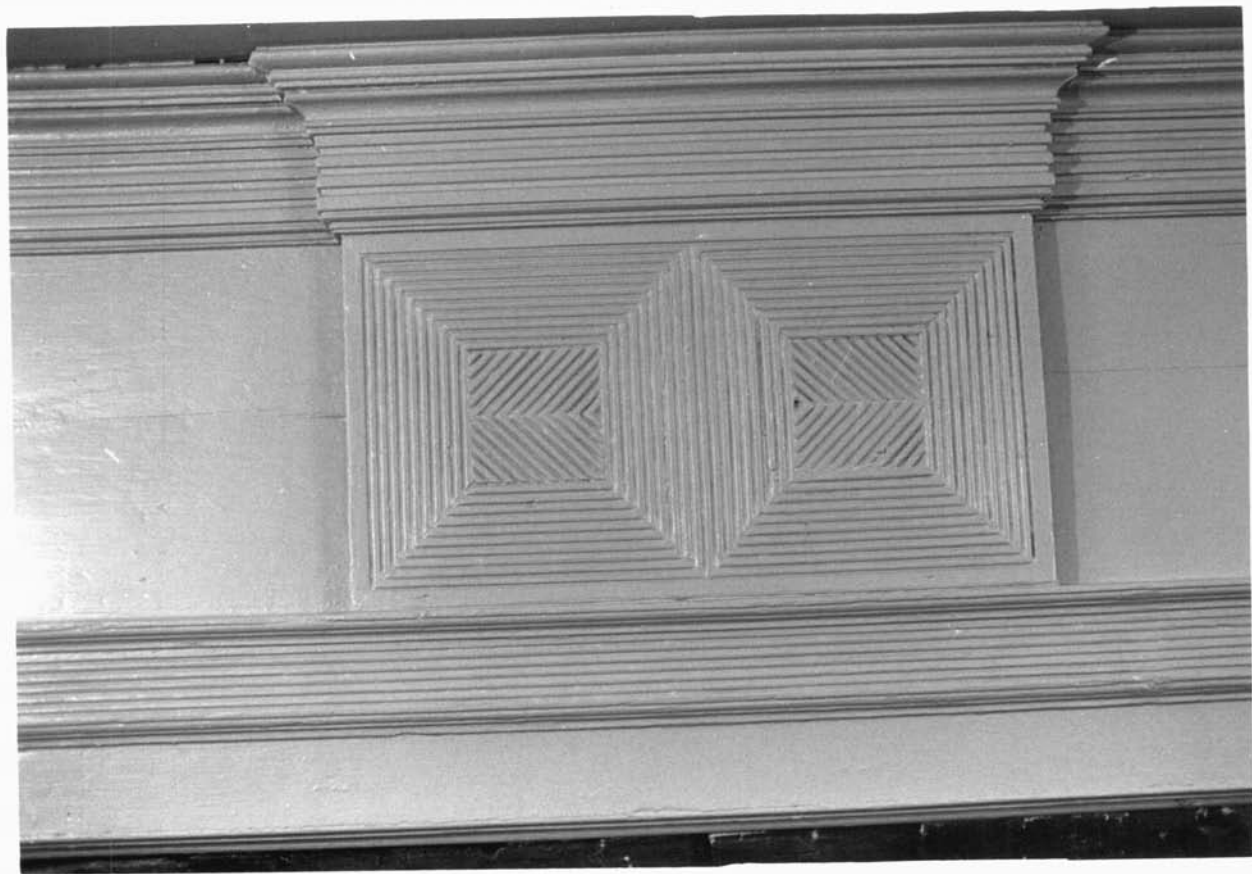
Reward

S-69

William's Point, Somerset County
Federal Mantel

8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Reward

S-69

William's Point, Somerset County

Federal Mantel Detail

8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Reward

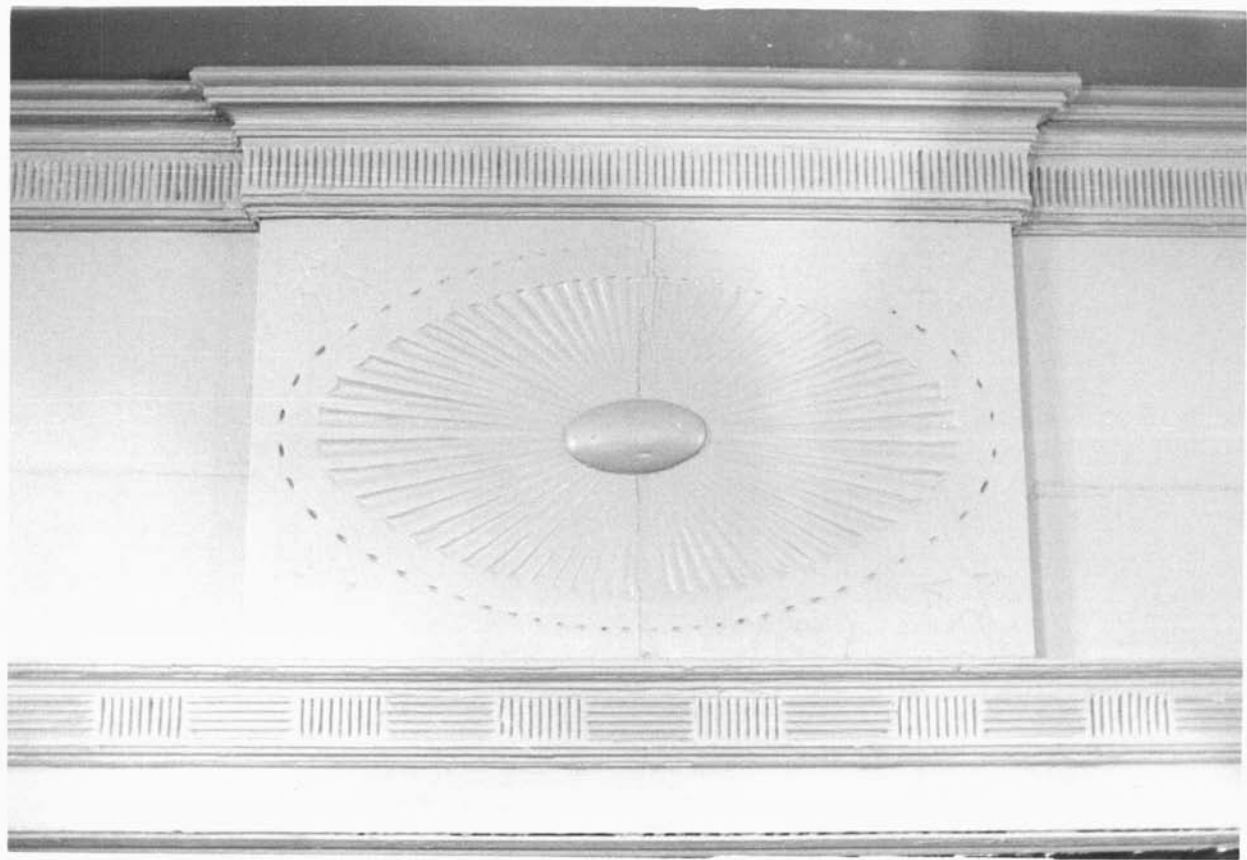
S-69

William's Point, Somerset county

Federal Mantel

8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Reward

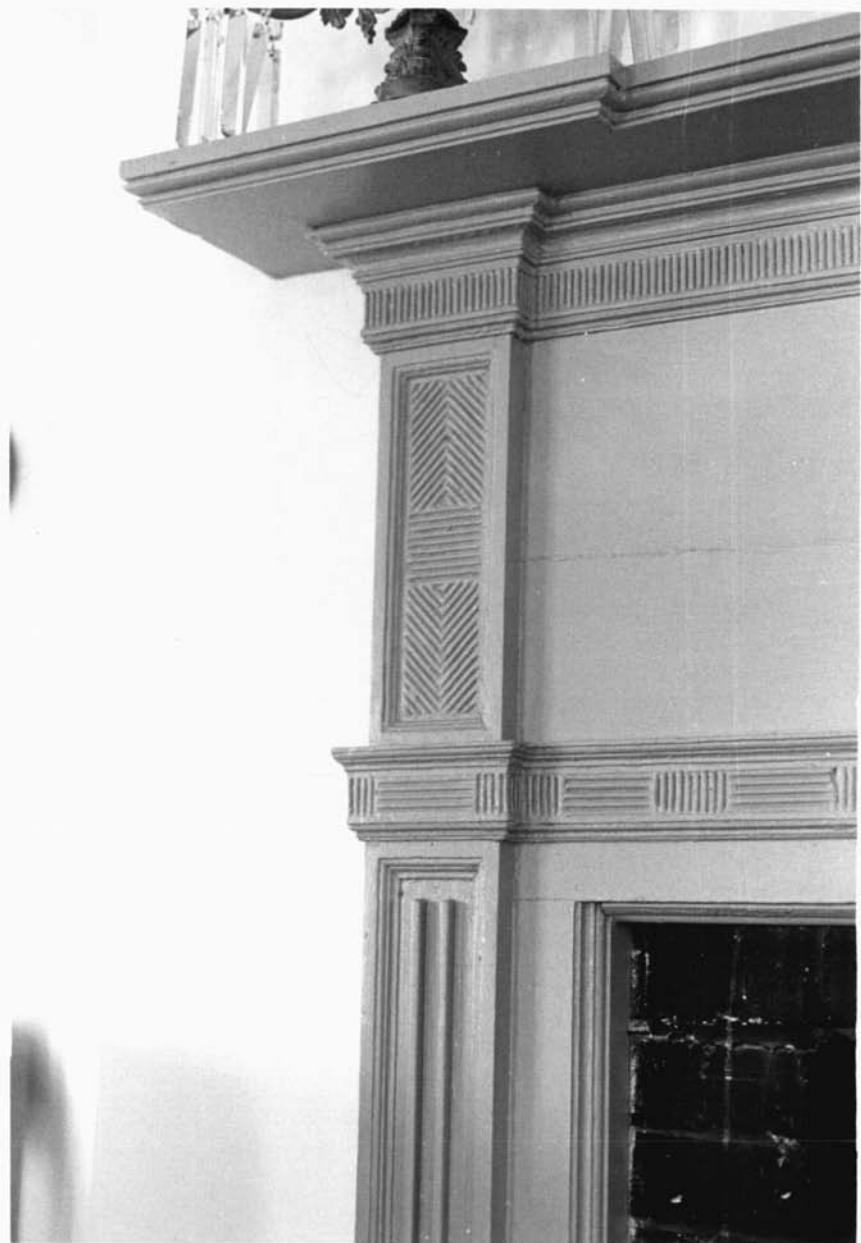
S-69

William's Point, Somerset County

Federal Mantel Detail

8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Reward

S-69

William's Point, Somerset county

Federal Mantel Detail

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Neg./Md. Historical Trust