MAGI # 2400022204

WO-2

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: Worcester
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Beverly

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Driveway west of Colona Road, .9 miles south of Cedarhall Road

CITY OR TOWN: Approximately 4.5 miles SW of Pocomoke City.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Worcester	047

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: Mr. and Mrs. John F. Butler

STREET AND NUMBER: Beverly

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Pocomoke City	Maryland	24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Worcester County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Snow Hill	Maryland	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

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Worcester
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(If known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On the east bank of the Pocomoke River approximately six miles southwest of Pocomoke City off Cedarhall Wharf Road stands Beverly, a Georgian style house. Two stories plus an attic, Beverly is five bays wide by three deep. The west or river facade has a central door surmounted by a small, heavy fanlight with a gauged brick arch. Directly above the door is a narrow Palladian-style window with narrow shutters. On both the first and second stories of each remaining bay is a 12 over 12 window. The first story windows have fine-panel shutters while those on the second have louvered shutters. The flat arches above the windows are of gauged brick. The rose-colored brick is laid in Flemish bond. Encircling the house between the first and second stories is a three-course belt of rubbed brick. Along the roof is a heavy modillion cornice with a dentil frieze. The house sits on a brick foundation laid in Flemish bond and has a molded brick water-table. The steps leading to the door have wrought iron railings and a delicate, wrought iron arch.

Covering the three center bays of the east facade is a two-story, pedimented portico. There are plain, square corner columns while the two center ones are fluted Greek ionic columns. The cornice treatment on the pediment is identical to that on the house.

The north end has a nine over nine light window in each of the three bays on the first and second stories. One four over four light window is centered in the gable.

There is an inside gable end chimney on both the north and south ends.

The south end has a single nine over nine light window on the first and second stories of the west bay. In the gable are 3 four over four light windows. Extending from the center and east bays is a one-story hyphen of beaded clapboard connected to a two-story plus attic wing.

The wing adjoining Beverly on the south is two bays wide by two deep. On the south end there is a door in the east bay and a narrow, nine over six light window in the west bay. The two bays on the second floor each have a nine over six light window. In the gable, flanking the inside end chimney, are 2 four over two sash windows. This wing is covered with beaded clapboard.

Beverly has six rooms on its first floor. In the center are two separate halls. The exterior door in the east facade opens into one hall and the door in the river facade opens into the other, which is the stair hall. There are two rooms flanking

The northwest room is completely paneled. The fireplace centered on the north wall has a rectangular opening surrounded by a plain, black marble architrave in the center of which is a white marble keystone. Fluted pilasters with full entablature in ressaut frame the chimney breast. Flanking the fireplace are two closets with four-panel doors and H-L hinges.

(See continuation sheet No. 1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Worcester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Beverly

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

On the west wall are two 12 over 12 light windows with paneled recesses and a single horizontal panel beneath the window above the window seat. The room has a heavy cornice with dentil molding and a bolection chair rail.

The northeast parlor is much less elaborate. The fireplace wall is fully paneled. The fireplace has a rectangular opening framed by fluted pilasters with square-spiral end blocks. The center tablet has an Adamesque sunburst. Two closets flank the fireplace. The window recesses are paneled as in the northwest room. The room has a simple cornice and paneled wainscot.

The east hall has an exterior door with 32 lights above which is a deeply recessed fanlight. The hall has a simple cornice and paneled wainscot. Separating this room from the stair hall is a round arch supported by fluted pilasters on pedestals; it has a fluted key. Flanking the arch are fluted pilasters, also resting on plain pedestals, with a full entablature in ressaut.

The graceful, scrolled, two-run stairway in the west hall has three block-and-turned balusters per tread with a composite of four balusters forming the newel. The step ends are scrolled. The window recess has the same treatment as in the northwest room. There is a simple cornice and paneled wainscot.

The small southwest room also has a paneled wainscot and simple cornice, but no paneling in the window recesses.

The corner fireplace has a small rectangular opening with a simple architrave and mantel shelf. In the wainscot on the north wall are two tiny two-panel doors leading to closets under the stairs.

The fireplace in the southeast dining room is the same as in the northeast room except for the center tablet which in the dining room is plain. To the right of the fireplace is a door with six panels and four lights. To the left of the fireplace the paneled wall angles toward the southeast. In this wall are two closets. Next to this an eight-panel door leads into the hyphen containing a modern kitchen. The dining room has a simple cornice, paneled wainscot and window recesses. The old kitchen has a large fireplace and exposed beams in the ceiling.

Northwest of the house near the river is a brick, circular ice house, similar to that at Kingston Hall in Somerset County, Maryland. Laid in common bond with two courses of stretchers to each course of headers, it has a low conical roof with fishscale shingles. At the peak is a carved wood acorn finial.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

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

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	☐ Science	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Sculpture	
☒ Architecture	☐ Landscape Architecture	☐ Social/Humanitarian	
☐ Art	☐ Literature	☐ Theater	
☐ Commerce	☐ Military	☐ Transportation	
☐ Communications	☐ Music		
☐ Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The size and elegance of Beverly on the Pocomoke in Worcester County, a Georgian mansion of 1770's date, reflects the prominent position held in the county by its builders, Littleton Dennis and his wife, Susanna Upshur Dennis. It is larger than the average house of the period in this county and it is more formal, exhibiting a local adaptation of the high style of the time. The original paneling and woodwork, which shows characteristics of both the early and late Georgian periods as well as a few Federal touches, is still retained in the house. An ice house, uncommon by its circular shape, survives to the northwest. It is original to the house.

Littleton Dennis (1728-1774), a successful lawyer, began the construction of Beverly probably in the late 1760's or early 1770's. After his death, the house was reputedly completed by his wife Susanna.[1] In Dennis's will, dated 1768 and probated in 1774, he devised "unto my son John Dennis . . . all the lands whereon I live with the land thereunto adjoining except the marsh land . . . ."[2] His wife was made the executor of his estate. The inventory of his goods and chattels taken in August of 1774 showed Dennis to be an extremely wealthy man. In addition to Beverly, called the Manor, he owned four other properties: the Mill Plantation, the Swamp Plantation, Caldegut Plantation, and the Sea Side Plantation. He had fifty-one slaves at Beverly and the total worth of his personal property came to £9598.16.11, exclusive of approximately £2,000 worth of debts owed to him.[3]

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[1]Katherine Scarborough, Homes of the Cavaliers (Reprint of 1930 ed.; Cambridge, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1969, p. 387.

[2]Will JW 4/231, Worcester County Probate Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

[3]Inventory JW 9/268, Worcester County Inventories, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

(See continuation sheet No. 2)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Worcester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued Beverly

John Dennis (1771-1806), son of Littleton and Susanna and the inheritor of Beverly, was for ten years a member of the U.S. Congress, serving his first term in the Fifth Congress at the age of 26. In 1800 he was one of the five Federalist Congressmen who changed his vote from Aaron Burr to Thomas Jefferson to break the deadlock in the presidential election.

In 1798 Dennis obtained a warrant to resurvey several tracts in Worcester County. This land, containing about 870 acres, included that which he had inherited from his father. It was patented in 1800 as Dennis's Union. A 25-foot rise in the level of the Pocomoke River and errors in the original survey of one tract led to an exchange of letters about the patent between the Eastern and Western Shore Land Offices in 1802.[4]

Four years later, John Dennis sold all but eighty-two acres of this land to his brother Littleton Dennis (1765-circa 1831). The deed reads: ". . .all that plantation lying . . . on Pocomoke River in Worcester County which was heretofore devised to said John Dennis by his deceased father Littleton Dennis. . .one tract called Dennis's Union under a resurvey made by the said John Dennis. . . ."[5] Littleton was a lawyer and a Judge of Appeals in Worcester County from 1801 until 1806. In 1831 his sons Littleton Upshur Dennis (1804-1833) of Somerset County and John Upshur Dennis (1793-1851) of Worcester County recorded a deed as follows:

> . . .whereas said Littleton and said John. . . hold in common divers lands situated in Accomack County, Virginia and Worcester and Somerset Counties in Maryland all which lands descended to them from their father Littleton Dennis and whereas the said parties. . .agree to a partition of the same. . . determined in manner following. . .[6]

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[4]Letters in the Gift Collection, Hall of Records, Annapolis.
[5]Deed Y/313, Worcester County Land Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.
[6]Deed AX/317, Worcester County Land Records.

(See continuation sheet no. 3)

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Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #3

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Worcester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Beverly

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

John took possession of the lands in Accomack and Worcester Counties except for a "piece of marsh" in the latter, and Littleton took possession of that marsh and all the land in Somerset County. Their father did not leave a will so the lands left to his sons are never listed specifically.

John Upshur Dennis, who by the deed of partition would have received Beverly,[7] was a successful planter and merchant. He exported cypress staves to the West Indies in his own ships and imported cargoes of molasses.[8] At his death in 1851, he owned five farms in Virginia and Worcester County, a mill, and a blacksmith shop. He had 159 slaves of which fifty, the largest number at any single place, were at Beverly.[9]

In his will, probated in 1851, John Upshur Dennis left his "plantation whereon I live called Dennis' Union and Williams Desire" jointly to his sons Samuel King Dennis and Arthur Emmerson Dennis after the death of their mother Louisa.[10] The house descended at about the turn of the 19th century to Samuel King Dennis' five sons. He was a member of the State legislature for several years and several of his sons also held prominent positions in politics and the law in Maryland. Beverly was sold out of the Dennis family in 1927.

[7]Beverly itself apparently stands on the land that was known as Dennis's Union. Another tract, called Williams Desire, adjoins it and was owned by both Littleton Dennis and his son John Upshur Dennis. This latter tract was passed through deeds rather than by will and was for a time owned by the Thomas Dickersons, Sr. and Jr. (Will TT 8/29, Deeds AP/22 + AM/362).

[8]Scarborough, p. 389.

[9]Inventory GBG 1/57, Worcester County Inventories.

[10]Will GTB 3/402, Worcester County Probate Records.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Forman, Henry Chandlee, Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland. Easton, Maryland: By the Author, 1934.

Scarborough, Katherine. Homes of the Cavaliers. Cambridge, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1969.

GPO 921-724

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PRIMARY SOURCES: Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.
Land Records of Worcester County.
Probate Records of Worcester County.
Worcester County Inventories.

SECONDARY SOURCES:

Covington, Harry Franklin, ed. "The Worcester County Militia of 1794." Maryland Historical Magazine, XXI (June, 1926), 149-169.

(See continuation sheet)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	38°	00'	31"	75°	37'	14"		°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	38°	00'	40"	75°	36'	58"							
SE	38°	00'	22"	75°	36'	52"							
SW	38°	00'	22"	75°	37'	10"							

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 45.9

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; Pamela James, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Maryland Historical Trust	February 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:
21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Annapolis	Maryland	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 ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date _____

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

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1973—729-147/1442 3-1

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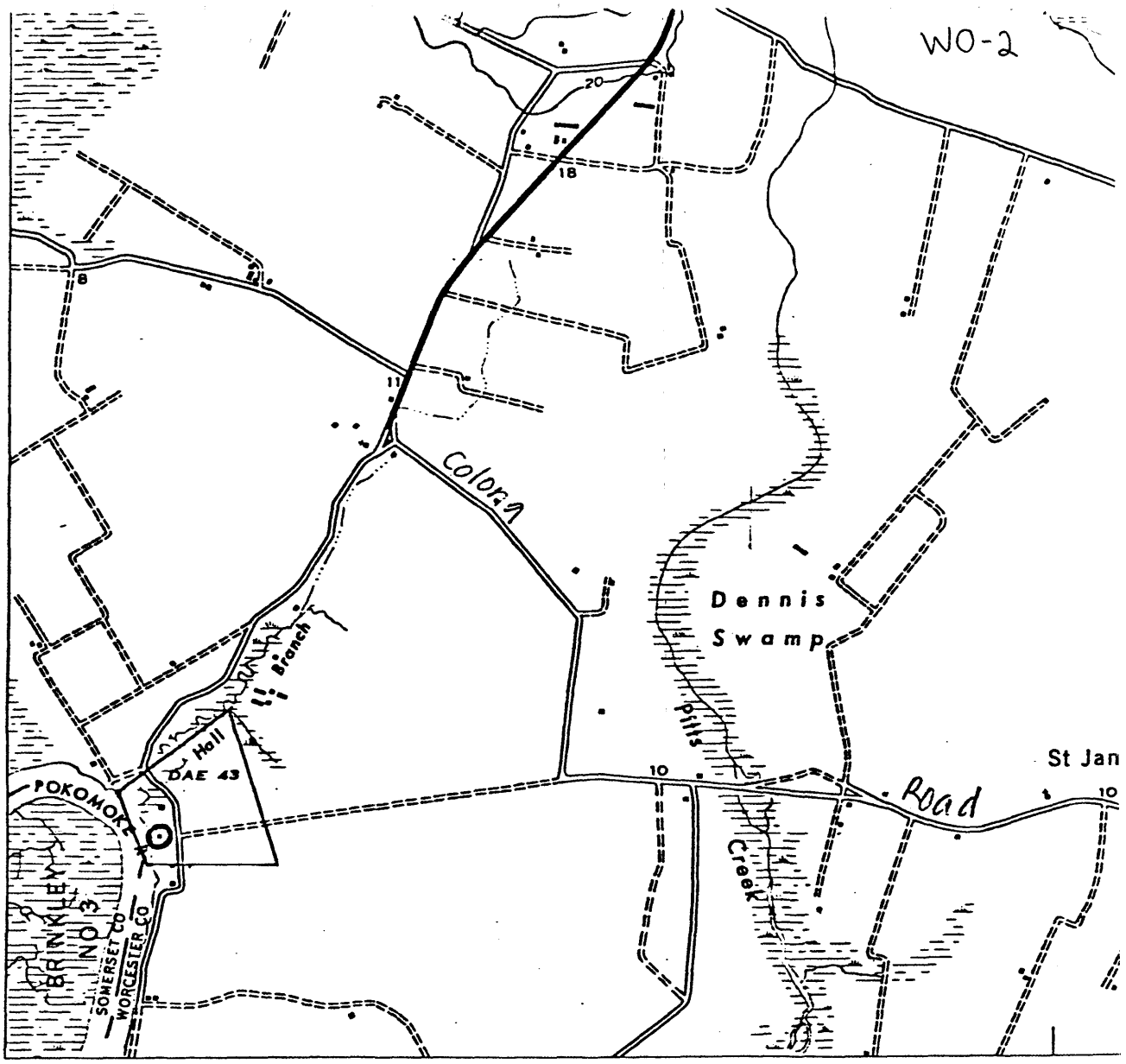


WO-2

Beverly

NW 38° 00' 31"
NE 38° 00' 40"
SE [illegible]° 00' 22"
W [illegible]° 00' 22"

NW 75° 37' 14"
NE 75° 36' 58"
SE 75° 36' 52"
W 75° 37' 10"

Prepared under the direction of the Chief of Engineers by the Army Map Service (AMS), U. S. Army, Washington, D. C. Copied in 1946 from Maryland, 1:31,680, AMS, Sheet 5860 II SE, 1943. Original map compiled by USC&GS: planimetry from aerial photography by photo-planimetric methods; topography by planetable methods. Horizontal and vertical control by USC&GS. Map field checked, 1943. Scale changed and marginal data revised, 1946. This map complies with the national standard map accuracy requirements.

LEGEND

ROAD DATA 1943

Hard surface, heavy duty road, more than two lanes wide — 3 LANE / 4 LANE

Hard surface, heavy duty road, two lanes wide; Federal route marker — 101

Secondary, hard surface, all-weather road, two lanes wide; State route marker — 57

Loose surface, graded, dry-weather road

Trail; Dirt road

Railroad in street; Carline in street

RAILROADS	Single track	Double track	UNDER CONSTRUCTION Single track	UNDER CONSTRUCTION Double track	ABANDONED Single track	ABANDONED Double track
Standard gauge						
Narrow gauge						
Single track carline			Double track carline			

BOUNDARIES

International

State

County (with monument)

County subdivision

Reservation

Military reservation — MIL . RES

School; Church

Cemetery

Mine

Triangulation station

Bench mark

Spot elevation — X 168

Woods

Woods-brushwood

Brushwood

Orchard

Intermittent lake

Intermittent stream

Dam

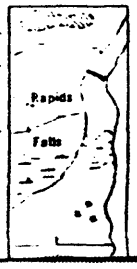
Rapids; Falls

Large rapids and falls

Swamp, marsh

Rocks awash at low tide

Wharf, pier



HISTORICAL TRUST
BOX 1704
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

WO-2
Beverly
Boonsboro City Vicinity, Worcester
County, MD - Southwest
Elevation
9/88, Michael Harrison, Day
photographer
Neg./ MD Hts. Trust

WO-2

BEVERLY

POCOMOKE CITY VICINITY, POCOMOKE CITY, MARYLAND

9/98, MICHAEL HARRISON DAY, PHOTOGRAPHER

EAST ELEVATION

NEGATIVE / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

WO-2
BEVERLY
POCOMOKE CITY VICINITY, WORCESTER COUNTY, MD.
EAST ELEVATION
9/88, MICHAEL HARRISON DAY, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

"BEVERLY" WO-2

11/69

Michael BOURNE

WO-2
BEVERLY
POCOMOKE CITY VICINITY, WORCESTER COUNTY, MD.
IRON ENTRANCE GATE - WEST ELEVATION
9/26/98
PHOTOGRAPHER, MICHAEL HARRISON DAY
NEG. / M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

WO-2

BEVERLY

POCOMOKE CITY VICINITY, WORCESTER CO., MD.

LIVING ROOM - END WALL PANELING

9/88, MICHAEL HARRISON DAY, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

WO-2

BEVERLY

POCOMOKE CITY VICINITY, WORCESTER COUNTY, MD.

9/88, MICHAEL HARRISON DAY, PHOTOGRAPHER

DINING ROOM - END WALL PANELING

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

WO-2

BEVERLY

POCOMOKE CITY VICINITY, WORCESTER CO., MD.

STAIRHALL

9/88, MICHAEL HARRISON DAY, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

WO-2
BEVERLY
POCOMOKE CITY VICINITY, WORCESTER COUNTY, MD.
PARLOR PANELING
9/00, MICHAEL HARRISON DAY, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEL. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

Beverly - WO-2

E2-109

Beverly - river facade - WO - 2

6.01 - 25

MAB - 3/68