

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

## 1. Name

historic Norman's Retreat

and/or common Norman's Retreat

## 2. Location

street & number 5325 Muddy Creek Road n/a not for publication

city, town Galesville  vicinity of congressional district Third

state Maryland code 24 county Anne Arundel code 003

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input 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

name Jean-Francois and Thackray Seznac

street & number c/o Saudi European Bank, s.a.

city, town Manama n/a vicinity of state Bahrain

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse

street & number Church Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date September 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

AA-228

**Condition**  
 excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               unexposed

**Check one**  
 unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**  
 original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources		Number of previously listed
Contributing	Noncontributing	National Register properties
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings	included in this nomination: <u>0</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites	Original and historic functions
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u> structures	and uses: agricultural; residential
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects	
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u> Total	

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Norman's Retreat is located at the headwaters of West River, near Galesville in southern Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The resource comprises an early 19th century dwelling, three 19th century outbuildings, and a bath house and gazebo of recent date. The house is of frame construction with a brick gable end, 2½ stories high with a symmetrical, five-bay facade. Originally, two-story porches spanned both longitudinal elevations; the south porch has been removed, and that on the north facade, facing the water, is a 20th century restoration. The interior is organized in a single-pile, center-hall plan (unusual for the period in rural Anne Arundel County), and retains the majority of its relatively sophisticated Federal-influenced decorative detailing. A modern frame kitchen wing is attached at the southwest corner of the building. Also on the property, and believed contemporaneous with the dwelling, are the ruins of a springhouse or dairy and a frame smokehouse or summer kitchen (now used as a pump house), in addition to a late-19th century well house. The modern bath house and gazebo do not contribute to the significance of the resource.

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Norman's Retreat

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Norman's Retreat is located on Ford's Creek at the headwaters of the West River, with access provided by a 0.8 mile private road off Muddy Creek Road (MD Route 468). The gently rolling site is bounded at the north and west edges by watercourses, at the east and south by open pasture and woodlands. Norman's Retreat consists of a two and one-half story, five bay, gable roof frame with brick end residence, with later kitchen additions at the west end, and five outbuildings of various dates: the ruins of a spring house or dairy; a frame structure now used as a pump house but probably a smoke house or summer kitchen when built c. 1812; a late nineteenth century well house; and a modern bath house and gazebo.

The residence is oriented on an east-west axis, with five bays at the north and south elevations and two bays at the east end wall. The house rests on a brick foundation that encloses a partial cellar. The frame north, south and east walls are sheathed with sawn weatherboards, 5-7" exposure at the east and south walls with evidence of considerable replacement, 8-12" exposure at the north facade. The east ends of the north and south walls have flat corner boards that do not return at the east end wall, and there is no sill board at any wall. A continuous wood boxed cornice runs the full width of the longitudinal walls, with simple stepped fascias serving as rakes at both gable ends. The roof is covered with sawn wood shingles and has four gabled dormers at the north and south elevations. The roof dormers have molded rakes, flush siding at the gable ends, horizontal weatherboards at the cheeks, and 6/6 double hung sash with lug sills. The west end wall is brick to the second floor line, with the masonry returning at both longitudinal walls five feet, creating a massive, but false, "brick ender" appearance (see interior description). The wall is laid in 5:1 common bond, and has a centered, corbeled chimney. A similar chimney with a later concrete cap is slightly inset at the east end wall.

The north elevation, facing the water, has a two story full width porch with shed roof supported on square posts echoing the five bay arrangement of the facade. Only the upper level is partially enclosed, with a molded handrail on square balusters. The half gables at the ends are sheathed with flush boarding, the rakes and cornice flat and unenriched. The underside of the second floor structure is exposed, showing 4"x 6" beams framed into a ledger at the north wall of the residence, and 2"x 6" longitudinal joists. This porch and its flagstone with brick curb terrace are mid twentieth century, replacing porches at both the north and south elevations.

Windows in the north elevation, two at each floor at either side of the central doors, are 6/6, cased with flat trim and wood lug sills. The entrance at the ground floor has its original six raised panel door, altered sensitively to include a 16 light glass section in place of the four upper panels. The entrance and its four light flat transom are cased similarly to the windows, and it is served by a modern two riser wood stair. The door at the upper level, leading to the porch, repeats the detailing of the first floor entrance.

See continuation Sheet No. 2

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The east end wall has two 6/6 sash at the first and second floors, and two four light casements at the attic level. Unlike the windows in the north and south elevations, the double hung sash in this wall are trimmed out with quirked torus casings. The attic casements have flat trim. A later entrance to the partial cellar with wood bulkhead doors is situated in the north corner of this elevation.

The south elevation is a mirror image of the north in all respects except that the doors are unaltered, with six raised panels at the first floor, four at the second. The second floor door opening is now protected by a wood balustrade, replacing the original two story porch, removed in the early twentieth century. Both doors have four light flat transoms. The ground level entrance is provided with a later wood platform, with side rails and benches and two wood risers on a brick step. The partial cellar is lit by four steel industrial type casements let into the brick foundation wall below the four windows in this facade.

The first floor section of the brick west end wall is partially obscured by the later kitchen additions, but does have a four light casement in the north bay of the first floor and two four light casements with wood casings in the second level. The attic floor gable end section is frame at either side of the projecting chimney, sheathed with sawn shingles and provided with a four light casement at both sections. The common bond brickwork in the end wall varies in bonding from 3:1 to 7:1, while that in the returns of the end wall at the north and south elevations is 5:1.

The kitchen addition is of three sections, the earliest (early twentieth century) at the north and connected to the main house by a one bay, recessed hyphen, four feet wide, sheathed with weatherboards and lit by a six light casement hinged at the top. The north wall of the 12'x 12' early kitchen has a 6/6 window to the right of a modern nine light glass panel door, both cased with flat trim. There is a 4" flat corner board and a boxed cornice. The roofing material is asbestos imitation wood shingles. The west wall of the kitchen is in two parts, the early north section with a projecting chimney with corbeled cap flanked by tilting casements at the first floor and louvered vents in the gable. The weatherboard-clad walls are terminated by 2" flat cornerboards. A later (mid twentieth century) 9'x 16' addition to the kitchen has a modern triple window in the west end wall, a 6/6 double hung window in the east bay of the south wall, and a glass panel door with two 6/6 windows at the right in the east end wall that projects beyond the south elevation of the original house. The kitchen addition is roofed as an extension of the earlier kitchen roof.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The plan of the original residence consists of two full depth rooms separated by a full depth center hall. The east room is entered through an opening in the north end of the hall, the opening cased with a stepped architrave with a cyma-reversa backband and bed mold and a quirked bead at the jambs and head. The door is in storage. All floors are pine, with a beaded base. There is no cornice in the east room, but there is a chair rail (beaded fascia surmounted by a deep cavetto with fillet-torus-fillet cap). The chair rail continues by the windows as the stool, with the windows cased at the interior with a beaded fascia with ovolo backband. A fireplace in the east end wall has a reeded surround with a quirked ovolo backband and a full width shelf with a cyma-reversa on cavetto bedmold and a cyma-recta on cyma-reversa crown mold.

The hall has the same door and window trim, base and chair rail as the east room, again with no cornice. The doors in the north and south walls are hung on square butt hinges and have brass rim locks. There is a double leaf board and batten door to a closet under the stairs, which are a straight run along the west wall of the hall. The stair has 13 risers, square newel and balusters and a molded rail, with wave brackets at the ends of the risers and a beaded skirt.

The base and chair rail found in the east room and the hall are repeated in the west room. The door casing is also identical, but here the same profile is used to case the windows. A six raised panel door to the hall is hung on five part self-rising butt hinges and has an iron rim lock. The brick end wall was either constructed in a curious manner, or has been altered, possibly when the kitchen was added. Measuring 60" deep at the exterior along the north and south elevations, it is only 30" deep at the interior, with the exterior depth reflected by a one inch swelling at the plastered walls. The central fireplace appears to have been reduced in depth and the opening blocked, but a brick hearth remains. The fireplace opening has a 6" surround with a cyma-reversa stepped fascia with quirk and bead at the inner edge and a quirked ovolo backband. The mantel shelf is supported by a bed mold consisting of a cyma-reversa fascia with cavetto on quirk and bead crown over a cavetto on bead and cyma-reversa bed mold. A six raised panel door to the left of the fireplace leads to the modern kitchen, while a nine-light on raised lower panel door at the right serves a pantry let into the later kitchen hyphen. The kitchen and hyphen are trimmed out with modern casings and finishes.

The second floor hall has an enclosed ladder stair along the west wall leading to the attic, which was finished as additional sleeping quarters c. 1975. The base, chair rail, window and door trim at the second floor central hall duplicate those used at the hall below. A six raised panel door to the east chamber has an iron rim lock with an elbow throw latch. The east chamber is trimmed like the room below, including the shelf support at a smaller fireplace in the east end, but the fireplace surround here is a simple stepped fascia with

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

a cyma-reversa and quirked ovolo backband. Modern closets have been added at each end of the four corners of this room, an easily reversible alteration.

A modern bath has been unobtrusively inserted into the southeast corner of the west chamber, with a raised panel door opening to the south bay of the hall. The west chamber repeats the details found in the east chamber, except for the fireplace in the west end wall (the wall has been reduced in depth like that at the first floor below). The opening has an ovolo backbanded surround and a shelf supported by a cyma-recta on fillet crown with a cavetto on astragal bed mold.

Two of the five outbuildings are situated just south of the southwest corner of the kitchen addition. The smaller of the two, closer to the kitchen, is a 6'x 6' well house of c. 1890 construction. It has a steep wood shingled roof with turned finial, flat fascias at the deep overhanging eaves, and novelty siding with flat corner boards. A later five horizontal panel door is located in the north wall, a two light casement in the west and a six light casement laid on its side in the east. A later doghouse has been appended to the south corner of this structure. A much earlier structure, 10'x 10' in plan with a wood shingled gable roof is located ten feet south of the well house. Of timber frame construction with rough sawn sheathing (10-14" exposure) secured with rose-head wrought nails, the end walls, trimmed with flat rakes, have louvered vents at the gable. The east (front) and west (rear) walls have a simple wood boxed cornice. The only original opening is centered in the east elevation and provided with a board and batten door hung on iron straps. The interior structure is exposed, showing considerable reused timbers. The sills now rest on later brick piers. Based on the interior details and the lack of openings other than the one door, it is speculated that this structure may have been a smokehouse, or possibly a summer kitchen, and that it probably dates from the c. 1812 construction of the house. It is now used as a pump house for the adjacent well.

The third structure of pre-twentieth-century construction is the ruin of what was either a dairy or a spring house, located approximately 50' east and 45' north of the northeast corner of the house. The wood floor was set 12" below grade, with stone rubble walls measuring 36" at their interior face. Window remains have timber sills and stone lintels let into the north, east and west walls, with a door in the south. There is later (early twentieth century) timber framing for upper walls, with plates set directly on the rubble lower walls. Nothing remains of the roof structure.

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

A mid-twentieth-century garden gazebo is located 65' east and 42' south of the southeast corner of the house, with a wood shingle hipped roof with a turned finial and a cornice enriched by a cyma-recta crown and modillions. The open walls have square corner posts with diagonal braces. The floor is flagstone, the underside of the roof matched tongue and groove paneling. The basic design of the gazebo is repeated at the c. 1950 bath house, north of the kitchen addition, except that the perimeter walls are frame with weatherboarding and flat corner boards. The rafter ends are exposed at the eaves. The south wall has a modern board and batten door, flanked by four light casements, the casements repeated at the north wall. The east and west walls have single six light casements. (The gazebo and bath house do not contribute to the significance of the property.)

The entire complex is situated on gently rolling, open land dotted with large specimen trees and significant outcroppings of bamboo and ground cover at the west and north water edges. The site is bounded by a post and rail fence at the east, separating it from a pasture, and is served by a tree lined dirt drive terminated at a turn-around southeast of the residence.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundaries are depicted on the attached plat, drawn to a scale of 1"= 400'.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property, 5 acres, encompasses all elements of the resource within their immediate setting and preserves the historic orientation to Ford's Creek.

# 8. Significance

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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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** c. 1812 **Builder/Architect** unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Applicable Criterion: C  
Applicable Exceptions: none  
Level of Significance for Evaluation: local

### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Norman's Retreat is significant for its architecture. The house exhibits several features which are uncommon in Anne Arundel County dwellings of the early 19th century, including its center-hall, single-pile plan, brick gable end, and the original use of two story porches spanning both facades. In addition, the house retains a great deal of original interior ornament which exhibits an unusually high degree of sophistication for a vernacular farmhouse of the period. The building's architectural integrity is largely intact, and the surviving complex of 19th-century outbuildings and unspoiled setting contribute to the significance of the resource.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The forty-acre site patented by William Norman in 1811 was originally part of a 1342 acre tract called Harrison's Security (Samuel Harrison, 1720) and the Addition to Fordstone of fifty acres (Fordstone was patented in 1666 by Thomas Ford). Surveyed in March 1810, 16 acres was assigned to Norman from Harrison's Security, 24 acres from the Addition on April 20 of that year (AA County Certificate of Survey 1078).

William Norman was one of five children born to Thomas (1748-1811) and Margaret (Deale) Norman. The Norman family had lived and owned land (including a tanyard) in the Herring Creek area of Anne Arundel County since before 1706. While the register of St. James Parish does not record the dates of birth for any of Thomas Norman's children, it is speculated that William Norman was born c. 1790 and had married by 1810. He was commissioned as an ensign in the Anne Arundel Militia (Captain Thomas Norris's Company, 2nd Regiment) in August 1807, and promoted to Captain in April 1812. Little else is known of William except that he died in 1848, survived by his wife Mary and two children, Mary and William R. There are no other properties in the county associated with Captain Norman.

William Norman's widow Mary continued in residence at the farmstead until her death in 1872, at which time the property passed to her son William through a trust administered by her daughter Mary C. Weems. The property is identified on the Hopkins Atlas of 1878 as owned by William R. Norman. William R. left the property to Robert and Queenie Bussey and their heirs in 1912. In 1936 Norman's Retreat was purchased by Worth B. Daniels, a prominent Washington, D.C. physician, son of Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy under Woodrow Wilson, and his wife Josephine. At the death of Worth B. Daniels his widow was willed the farm and held it until 1978, when it passed through two sales on the same day to Norman Creek Limited Partnership. The present owners purchased the property in July, 1982.

Architecturally, Norman's Retreat is significant for its center hall with flanking single room plan, unusual for this period in Anne Arundel County, the curious brick end wall that returns five feet at the exterior face of the north and south elevations yet is only 30" deep at the interior, and the use of relatively sophisticated molding profiles and mantel surrounds in the interior of what is basically a vernacular farmhouse. Also of architectural importance was the use of two story veranda-like porches at both longitudinal walls (the south removed, the north replaced in the first part of the twentieth century) served by transom-lit doors at both ends of the center hall at both floors. Its architectural significance is enhanced by the total environment, both visual and associative, created by the unspoiled setting and complex of residence and attendant outbuildings. The removal of the two porches and the replacement of one, as well as the sensitive kitchen addition do not seriously detract from the design integrity of the main building, and are easily reversible or can be restored.

# 9. Major Bibliographical Reference

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Patents JK #T:497 (Volume 151) 6/27/1811  
Birth dates (Index 28) and deaths (Index 29) Hall of Records  
Federal Direct Tax, Anne Arundel County (Index 68); Militia Appoint #1

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 5 acres  
Quadrangle name Deale, Maryland Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A	1 8	3 6 5 3 6 6	4 3 9 8 5 2 0	B	1 8	3 6 5 6 8 0	4 3 9 8 3 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 8	3 6 5 5 8 0	4 3 9 8 3 0 0	D	1 8	3 6 5 5 2 0	4 3 9 8 4 1 0
E				F			
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 1. Form Prepared By

name title Russell Wright, Consultant

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date December 8, 1983

street & number 49 Church Street telephone (401) 245-6261

city or town Warren state Rhode Island 02885

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

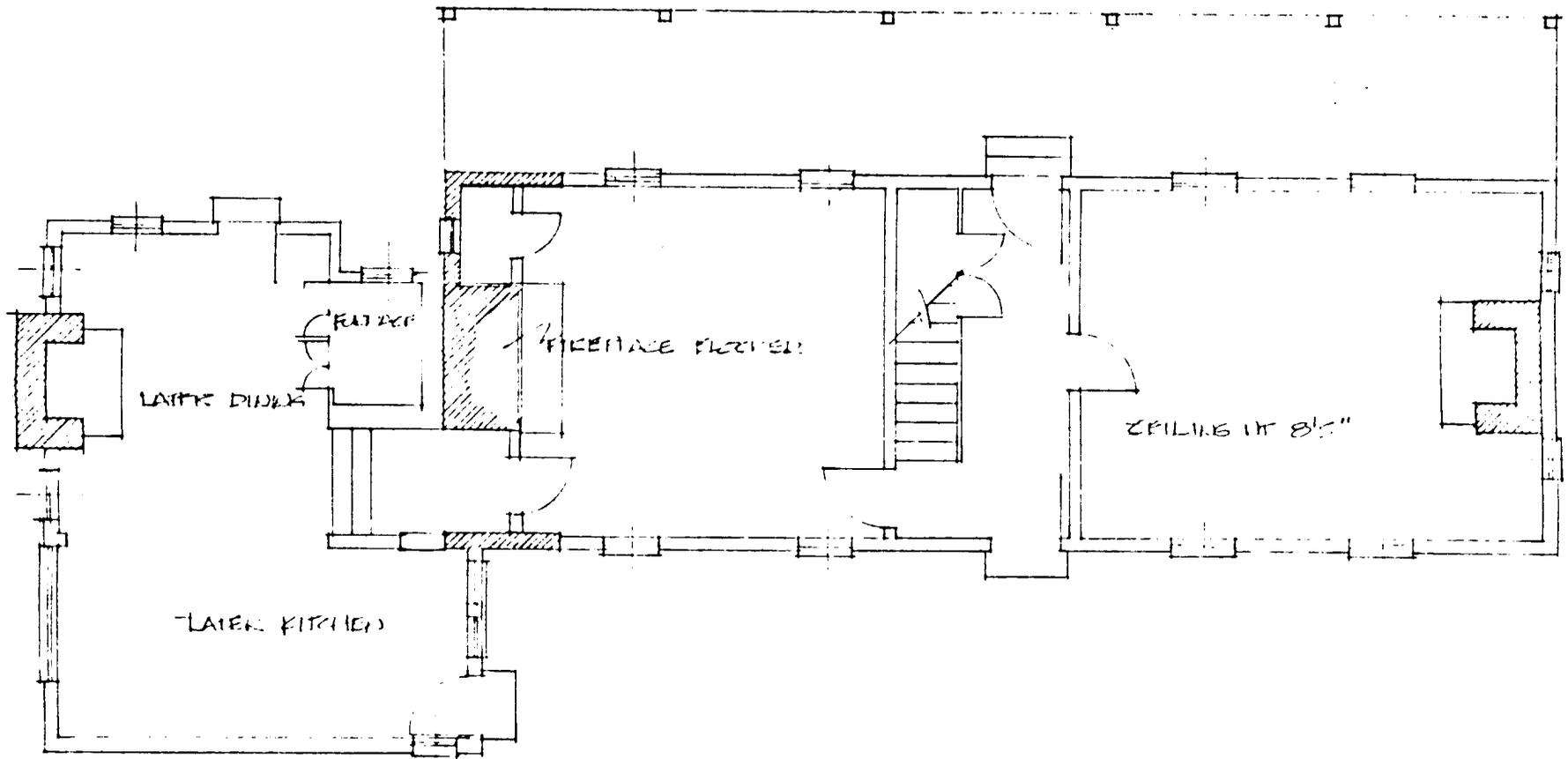
State Historic Preservation Officer signature *[Signature]* 7-24-84

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date \_\_\_\_\_

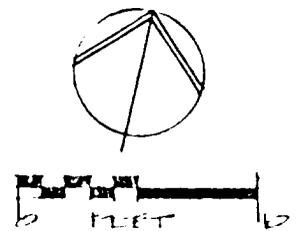
**Official Seal of the National Historic Register**

**Office of Registration**

*[Faded text and stamp area]*



FIRST FLOOR

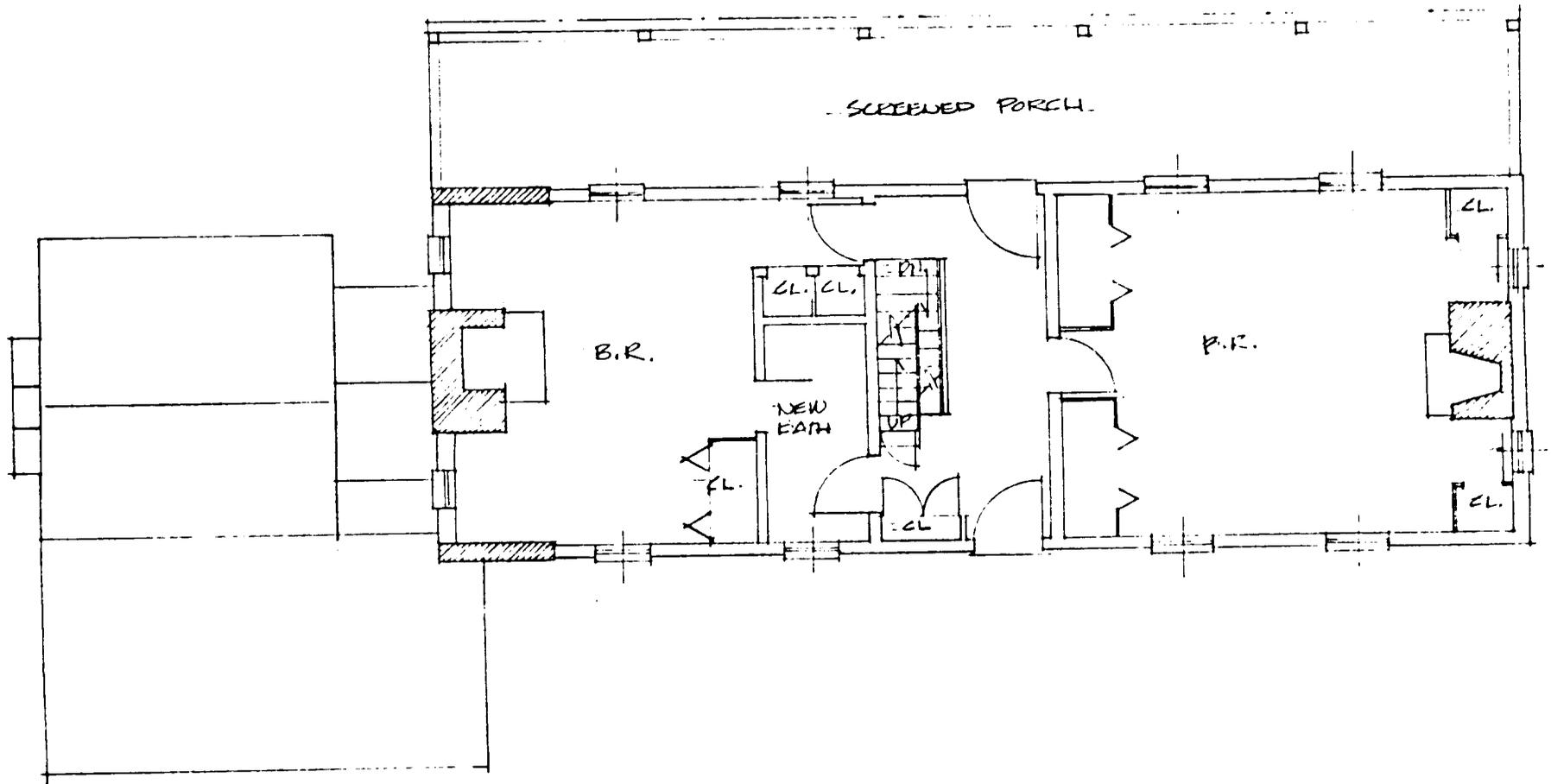


NORMAN'S RETREAT - WEST RIVER, MARYLAND

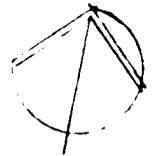
SCALE 1/3" = 10"

RO. ELL WRIGHT - 11/83

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°SECOND FLOOR°



NORMAN'S RETREAT • WEST RIVER, MARYLAND •

SCALE 1/8" = 1'0"

RUSSELL WRIGHT • 1/1850

71A.208





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 NORMAN'S  
 RETREAT  
 ANNE ARUNDEL  
 COUNTY,  
 MARYLAND

- A: 18-365660-4398520
- B: 18-365680-4398320
- C: 18-365580-4398300
- D: 18-365520-4398410



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AA-38-T-a (map 29)

"Norman's Retreat"  
South elevation

amb 12-74



AA-  
228

(map 29)  
AA-38-T-a

"Norman's Retreat"

North East Corner

ama 12-74.



AA-  
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aa-38-T<sup>(map 29)</sup>-a

"Norman's Retreat"  
diary

amb 12-74



AA  
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AA-38-T-a (map 29)

"Norman's Retreat"  
outbuilding

amh 12-74