United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic Schoolridge Farm; School House Ridge

and or common Schoolridge Farm (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Maryland Route 361 n/a not for publication

city, town Upper Fairmount X vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Somerset code 039

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Donald R. McClelland

street & number 2906 N Street, N. W.

city, town Washington ___ vicinity of state D. C.

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court

street & number Somerset County Courthouse

city, town Princess Anne state Maryland 21853

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes X no

date 1967 ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	X original site
X good	ruins	X altered	moved date n/a
fair	unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	3	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	3	Total

Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: 0

Original and historic functions and uses: agricultural, residential

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Schoolridge Farm is located on a slight rise above the Annemessex River marshes near Upper Fairmount in Somerset County, Maryland. Built by prominent land owner Henry Miles around 1800-1815, the house is a two-story two-bay side hall/double pile brick house which rests on a partially excavated cellar and is covered by a steeply pitched wood shingle roof. The Flemish bond brick walls have a rare banding of light and dark brick; this is especially evident on the east gable end. The first floor is lighted by 12/12 sash while the second floor has 12/8 sash windows. A six-panel door topped by an arched transom opens into a side hall with quarter-turn stair. Two unequal-sized rooms are located to the right of the hall and heated by corner hearths. Each room is fitted with Federal period mantels, chair rail and baseboards. The second floor is divided in the same manner and finished in a simpler way. The attic stair is enclosed. Extending to the rear is a single story late 19th-century frame kitchen. Attached to the west gable end is a modern 1½ story three-bay frame addition. The yard immediately east of the house is enclosed with a fence and contains a 19th-century frame smoke house, modern utility building and a screened-in gazebo. The first two buildings have a simple gable roof and a pyramidal roof covers the gazebo. Standing farther east is a gambrel-roofed barn. The Ballard family cemetery is located due south of the house and is surrounded by an ankle-high fence. A small long outbuilding standing on the south side of the small pond was moved to the farm.

For General Description, see Continuation Sheet No. 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Schoolridge Farm is located on the south side of MD 361 and west of Upper Fairmount, Somerset County, MD. Branches of Hall Creek, a tributary of the Big Annemessex River, border the 92-acre farm. Facing south, the c. 1800-1815 two-story, two-bay side hall/double pile brick house rests on a partially excavated brick cellar. The Flemish bond brick walls are covered by a steeply pitched wood shingle roof. Extending to the rear (north) is a single story frame kitchen wing. To the west is a modern 1½-story three-bay frame addition.

Accompanying the house is a gambrel roofed frame barn and a Ballard family cemetery. The yard surrounding the house contains mature shade trees and cedars.

The south (main) facade is divided into two bays with an entrance in the west (left) bay. A semi-circular transom is divided by radiating muntins. The six-panel front door is framed by a simple beaded surround. The adjacent bay has a 12/12 sash window topped by a stuccoed jack arch. The sills are concrete. Covering the first floor is a hip-roofed screened-in porch. Two 12/8 sash windows light the second floor and are also topped by jack arches. The boxed cornice stretches across at the base of the roof with a crown molding and dentiled bed molding.

The east gable end is symmetrically arranged with 12/12 sash on the first floor, 12/8 sash on the second floor and two six-pane windows to light the attic. A gable end chimney rises out of the east wall and is finished with a corbelled cap. A small gabled entrance into the cellar is located below the southern first floor window. An unusual aspect of this gable end involves the intentional banding of darker and lighter brick; this is especially evident within the gable above the second floor windows.

The north side is partially covered by the single-story frame kitchen wing which has an interior end brick chimney. The walls are sheathed with weather-boards and covered by an asphalt tile roof. Two 12/8 window sash pierce the second floor of the brick house.

The west end is largely covered by the modern 1½-story frame addition which rests on a brick foundation and is covered by a medium sloped wood shingle roof. Two 6/6 sash dormers light the second floor, while the front wall surface is divided into three bays, each with a 6/6 sash window. The remaining sides of the wing are finished in the same manner.

The gable end of the brick house has one 12/12 sash on the first floor and two 12/8 sash windows on the second floor. The attic story is lighted by two six-pane windows. A small window with a header arch lights the cellar.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The side hall contains a quarter-turn flight of stairs to the second floor. A slender, turned newel post and three rectangular balusters to each tread support a simple handrail. The stair stringer is plain and the area below is plastered. A four-panel door opens into the closet below the stair. Window and door architraves have three-part moldings with a combination of small ovolos and cavettos. The arched entrance surround has a scrolled keystone which interrupts the header molding. The transom soffit is paneled. Six-panel doors open into the two adjacent rooms, each heated by a corner hearth. In addition the back portion of the hall is partitioned into a small room. The front room or parlor is trimmed with early 19th-century baseboard and chair rail. The Federal period mantel features a five-part frieze with paneled frieze blocks. Stretching below the frieze is a row of intricate gougework: two short vertical gouges alternate with three short horizontal gouges. A similar row stretches beneath the broken mantel shelf.

The study, slightly smaller than the parlor, is finished with similar molding profiles. The mantel follows along the same format but does not have the gougework.

The second floor is divided into four rooms. The open string stair rises with a quarter turn to the spacious second floor hall. The stair to the attic aside from four exposed steps, is enclosed behind a flat six-panel door. A small four-panel door allows for access under the stair.

The remaining space is divided into three rooms. The northwest room was converted to a bathroom while the other two rooms serve as bedrooms. A corner hearth is located in the northeast room. The molded hearth surround supports a molded mantel shelf. The walls are trimmed with molded baseboard and chair rail.

The attic has been finished and divided into two rooms.

The single-story kitchen wing has been refitted with modern applicances and kitchen cabinets. The rough sawn beams have been exposed. A four-panel door opens into a pantry.

The modern gable end addition is divided into two rooms. An open stair hall is separated from a large living room.

Standing immediately east of the house is a small walled ganden. The southeast corner of the garden has a modern pyramidal-roofed screen gazebo. Two small frame outbuildings, including an early 19th-century smoke house and a modern frame storage building, stand along the north wall. East of the house is a gambrel roofed frame barn and to the south is the Ballard family cemetery. An ankle-high fence encloses a dozen 19th-century markers. A lone cedar rises from the cemetery plot. On the south side of the small pond is a small log outbuilding that was moved to the property.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates **Builder Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: C
Applicable Exceptions: none
Level of Significance for Evaluation: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Schoolridge Farm derives its significance from its architecture. The two-story, Flemish bond brick, side hall/double pile house is a fine example of the Federal period plantation houses found in Somerset County. The substantial brick house stands on the first appreciable rise in terrain above the marshes of the Annemessex River. Both the exterior and interior retain most of the original c. 1800 architectural fabric. The mantels, doors, chair rail and stair are well-executed Federal period forms.

For History and Supporting Documentation, see Continuation Sheet No. 3

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The original survey of "School House Ridge" was drawn in 1753 for Richard Waters, who sold the ninety-eight acres two years later to shipwright, Joshua Hall, for five shillings.[1] Joshua Hall owned the property for thirty years and then sold the tract to Isaac Hall, eldest son of Charles Hall on 12 April 1785.[2] The following April brought a third transfer from Isaac Hall to Henry Miles. This deed identifies the property as "Halls Choice" in addition to another tract of land called "School House Ridge" and also part of a tract of marshland called "Hall's Hammock" and a tract called "Addition to Halls Hammock." According to Harry Benson's "Somerset County Maps of Land Surveys and Resurveys," "Halls Choice" and "School House Ridge" are neighboring properties, whereas Hall's Hammock is a separate parcel located along the shoreline of Halls Creek.[4]

In 1798, Henry Miles of Great Annemessex Hundred was assessed for:

> Part of 3 tracts of land called Halls Choice, part of School House Ridge, 165 acres; part of Halls Hammock, 50 acres; addition to Halls Hammock, addition to School House Ridge, 43½ acres; in the whole 258½ acres on which is 1 dwelling house built of wood, 37 feet by 18 feet one storey high; 1 kitchen, 20 by 18 feet; 1 milk house, 12 by 9 feet; 1 barn 32 by 20, the above house very old and rotten.[5]

This last line suggests that Henry Miles occupied the old Hall family house until the turn of the 19th century and then replaced the crumbling structure with a new two-story Flemish Bond brick house. Henry Miles lived to enjoy his new house until his death around 1816. He died intestate, so his property entered Somerset County's Circuit Court. On 2 June 1819, "School House Ridge," then 176½ acres, was sold to Daniel Ballard for $2,007.[6] Daniel Ballard never lived on "School House Ridge" for his "home farm" was located on Back Creek near present-day Manokin. Daniel Ballard clearly stated in his will, proved on 10 April 1847, that his son, Thomas Emory Ballard, should inherit "all my farm lying on the eastward and southward side of the County road leading down Potato Neck and which formerly belonged to Henry Miles.[7] Thomas E. Ballard and his first wife, Kitty, as well as his children, Elizabeth and Thomas L., are listed in the 1850 Somerset County census. Thomas E. Ballard's farm was valued at $4,000.[8] Kitty died in 1856 and Thomas married Rosina Turpin the following year.[9] At his death in 1879, "School House Ridge" passed to his son, Robert T. Ballard.[10] Twenty-four years later the property was transferred to S. Cooper Tyler, who held onto the farm until 1933.[11] His daughters, A. Louise Tyler and Rose E. Whittington, inherited the property and finally sold their interests to Arthur and Doris Beverly-Giddings on 8 February 1946.[12] During their ownership of "Schoolridge Farm" Arthur Beverly-Giddings authored two romatic novels, The Rival Shores and River of Rogues. "Schoolridge Farm" and Somerset County were featured as the main settings in both books. The present owners acquired the 92-acre farm in 1971.[13]

See continuation Sheet No. 4

Footnotes

[1]Somerset County Land Records B/117, Somerset County Courthouse.

[2]Somerset County Land Records H/17, Somerset County Courthouse.

[3]Somerset County Land Records, H/137, Somerset County Courthouse.

[4]Somerset County, Maryland Land Surveys and Resurveys, compiled by Harry L. Benson, 1942.

[5]1798 Direct Tax Assessment, Great Annemessex Hundred, Henry Miles.

[6]Somerset County Land Records, L O 5/12, Somerset County Courthouse.

[7]Somerset County Will Book, JP 5/136, Somerset County Register of Wills, Somerset County Courthouse.

[8]1850 Somerset County Census, compiled by Ruth T. Dryden, p. 11.

[9]Somerset County Marriage Records, Somerset County Courthouse.

[10]Somerset Register of Wills, S.C.L. S/495-496, June 7, 1879.

[11]Somerset County Register of Wills, F.E.D., 34/4, February 18, 1933.

[12]Somerset County Land Records, B.L.B. 135/314, Somerset County Courthouse.

[13]Somerset County Land Records, 260/200, Somerset County Courthouse.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Benson, Harry L, Somerset County, Maryland. Land Surveys and Resurveys, 1942

Dryden, Ruth T., 1850 Somerset County Census.

1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Great Annemessex Hundred, Particular List of Dwelling Houses, Henry Miles.

Somerset County Land Records, various volumes, Somerset County Courthouse.

Somerset County Marriage Records, Somerset County Courthouse

Somerset Count Wills, various volumes, Somerset County Courthouse.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point in the field north of the entrance lane and northwest of the house and heading due south for 800 feet across said entrance lane to a point in the field southwest of the house, thence in an easterly direction across the low lands south of the pond for 800 feet to a point in the field southeast of the house, thence due north for 800 feet on the east side of the barn to a point in the north field, thence in a westerly direction for the remaining 800 feet to the place of beginning containing 14.9 acres more or less.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The fifteen acres which accompany this nomination comprise the immediate acreage surrounding the house. This property includes the adjacent outbuildings, the barn and the Ballard family cemetery. The boundary lines form a rectangle around these elements, excluding the surrounding fields and marshland which offer no additional contribution to the significance of the resource.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 14.9 acres

Quadrangle name Marion, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A			
B			
C			
D			
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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Paul Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Somerset County Historical Trust	date	3/4/84
street & number	424 North Somerset Avenue	telephone	651-1094
city or town	Princess Anne	state	Maryland 21853

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

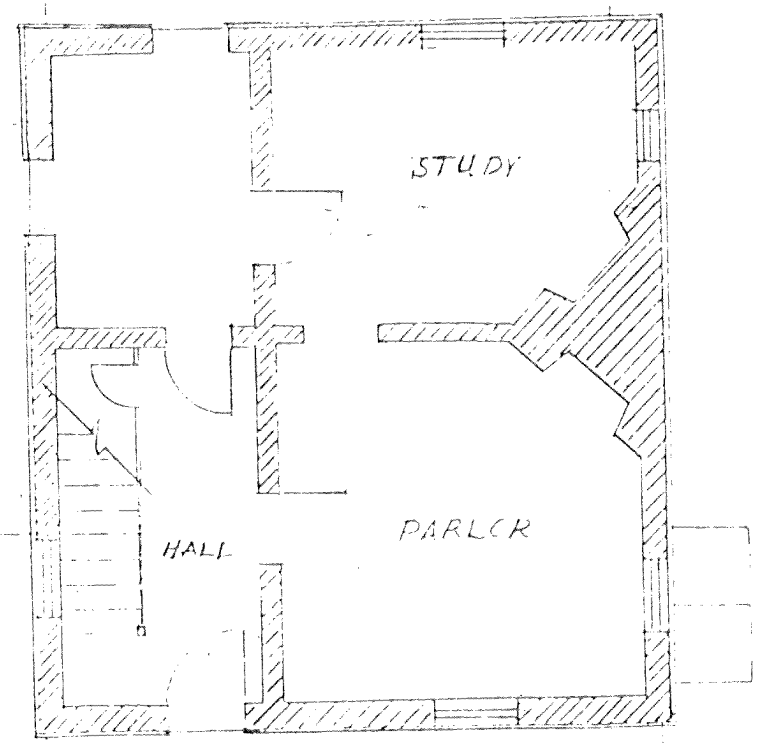
Attest: date

Chief of Registration

GPO 938 835

KITCHEN

MODERN ADDITION



1/8" = 1'

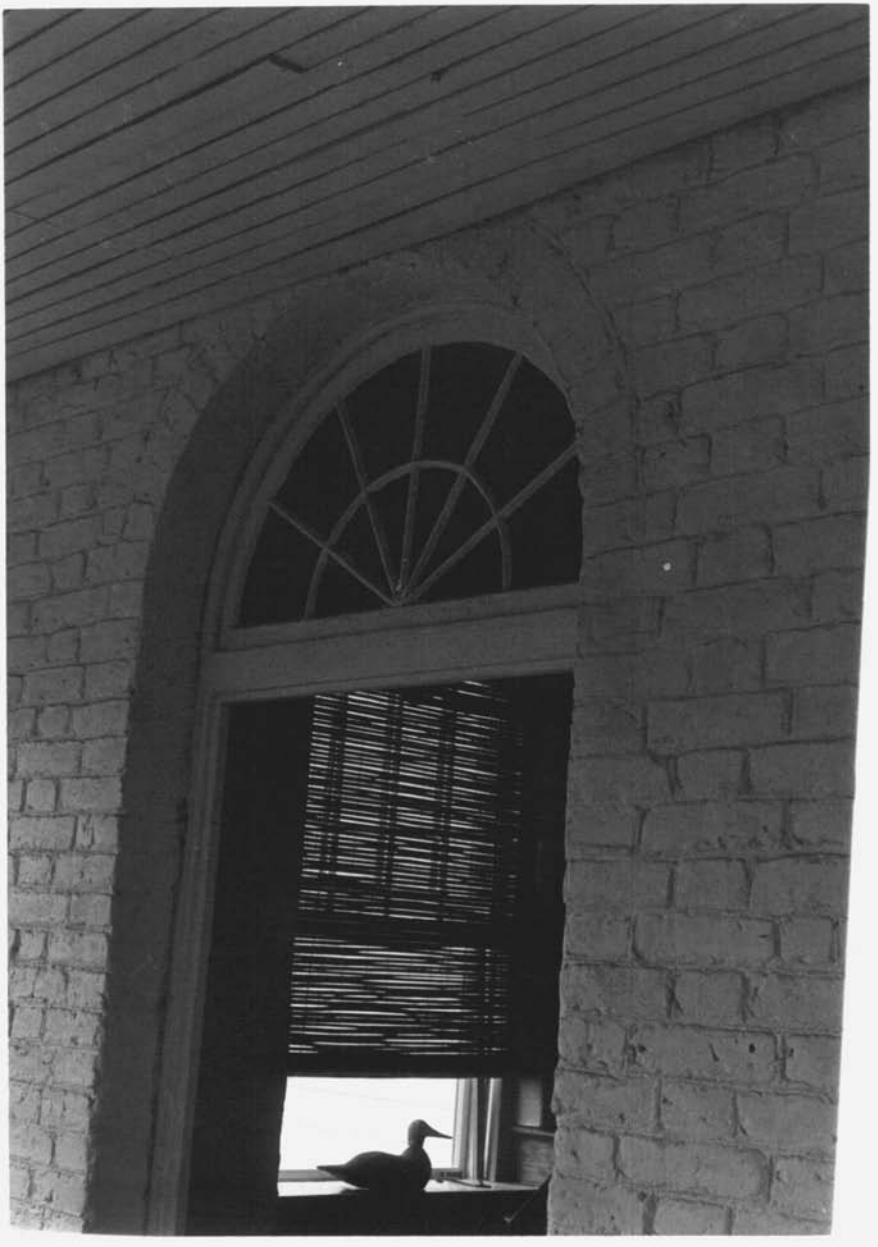
SCHOOLRIDGE FARM — FAIRMONT — 3-1-84 1ST — S-60

Cem
Fairmount Cem
Landonville
S-149
S-16
SCHOOLRIDGE FARM
Holland Point
ROAD
Fairmount
Hall
Creek
Noble
Myrtle Point
HOLLAND NECK
S-60
FAIRMOUNT NECK
E MANAGEMENT AREA
Persimmon Pt
Gales Creek
Charles Pt
Horsehead Pt
Moon Creek
Moon Bay
Mud Pt
Fords Cove
RIVER
ROAD
CANNON
Crane Cove
Moon
Sandy Pt
MARION
1972

Cem
Fairmount Cem
Landonville
S-149
SCHOOLRIDGE FARM
Holland Point
ROAD
Fairmount
Hall Creek
Noble
Myrtle Point
HOLLAND NECK
S-60
FAIRMOUNT NECK
E MANAGEMENT AREA
Persimmon Pt
Gales Creek
Charles Pt
Horsehead Pt
Moon Bay
Mud Pt
Fords Cove
Moon Creek
RIVER
ROAD
CANNON
Crane Cove
Moon
Sandy Pt
1972

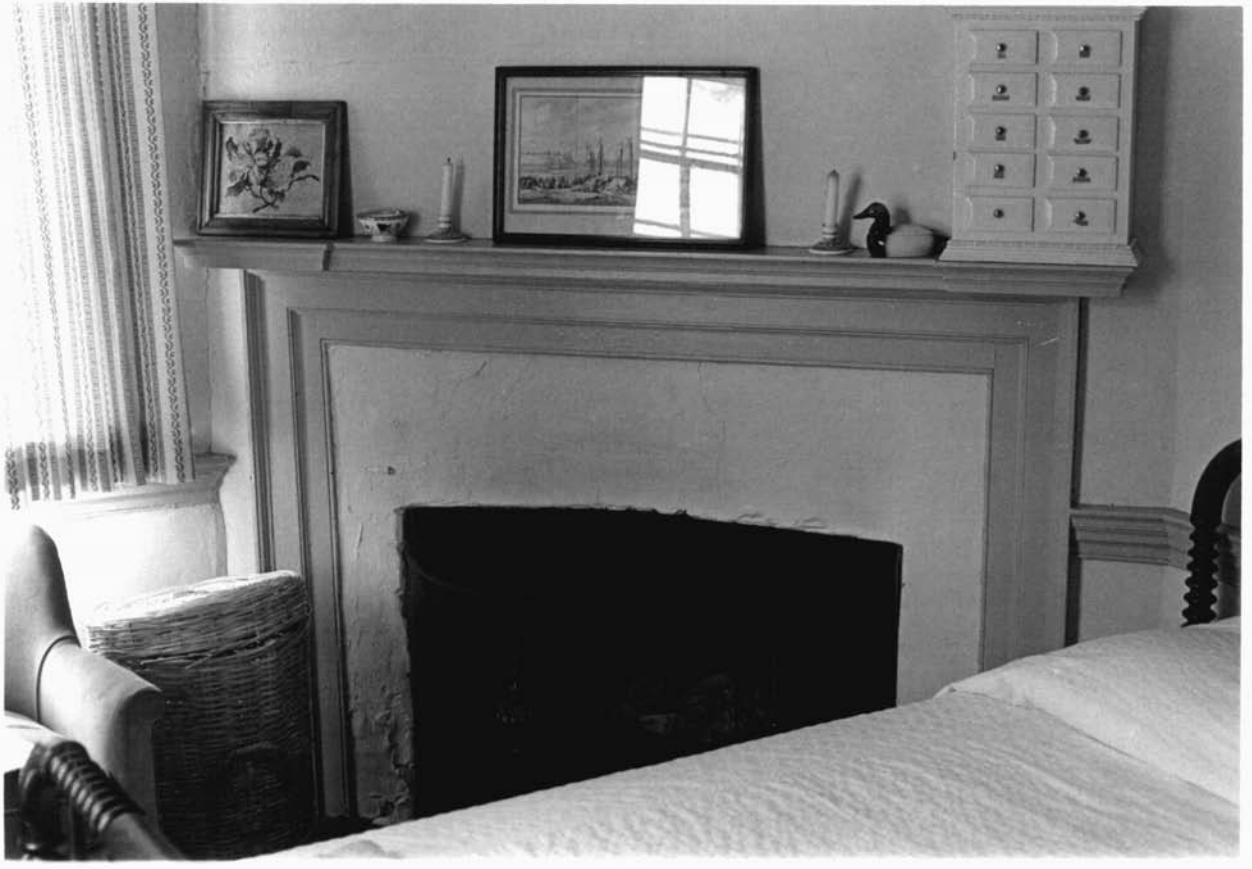
Schoolridge Farm S-60
Upper Fairmount vicinity
Somerset Co.,Md.
South Elevation
2/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

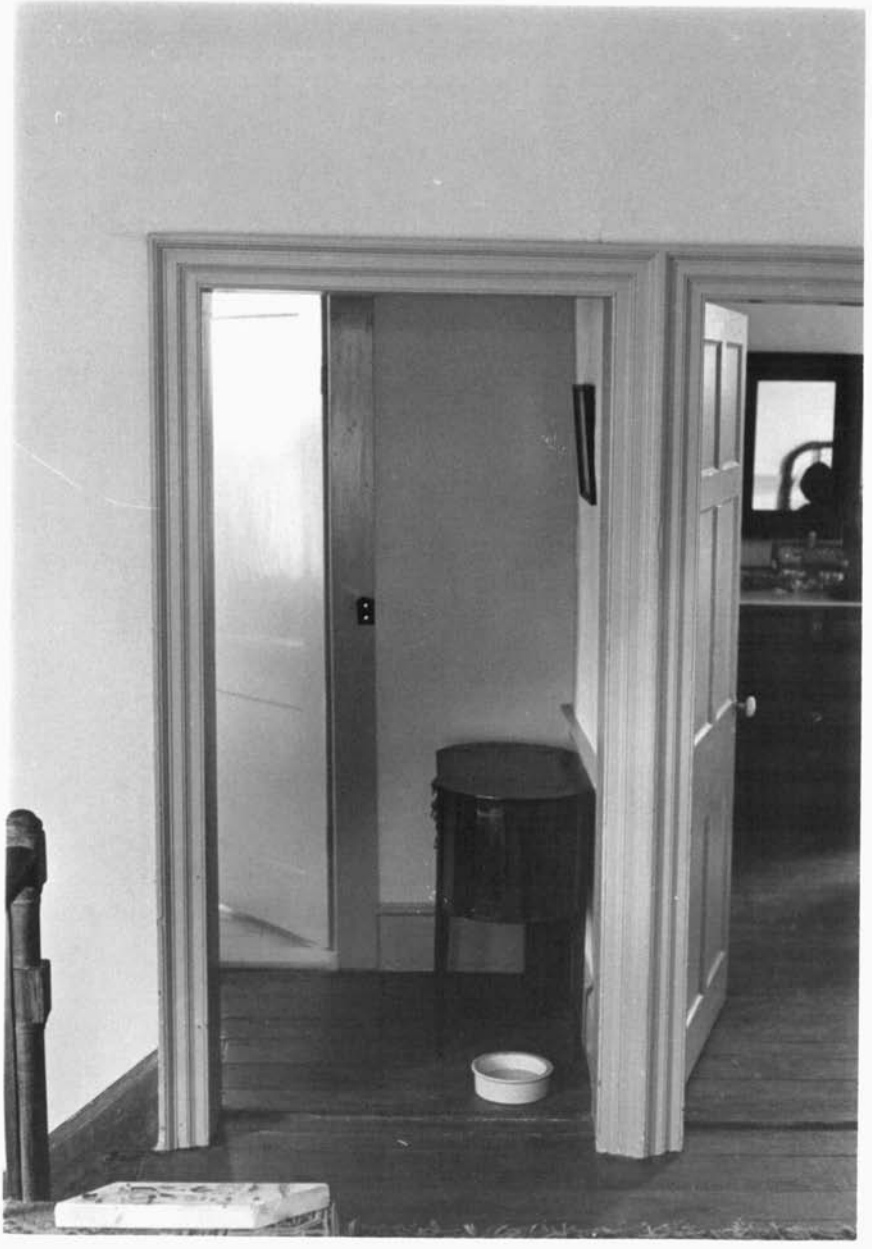
S-60



S-60

S-60





S-60

S-60

S-60

Schoolridge Farm

Somerset

S-60

Schoolridge Farm

Somerset

Interior 2nd floor staircase to attic