

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCERS use only

received

date entered 3/28/85

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

DESTROYED

1. Name

removed from NR 25 July 94

historic Costen, William, House (preferred)

and/or common Old Costen Homestead

2. Location

street & number Courthouse Hill Road n/a not for publication

city, town Wellington vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Somerset code 039

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 See Continuation Sheet No. 1

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset 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 eligible? yes 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
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u> n/a </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

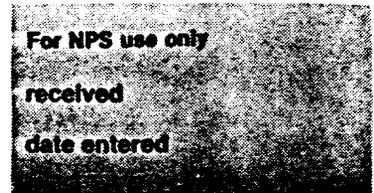
DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The William Costen House, constructed in 1829, is a 2-story, three-bay, gable-front side-passage/double pile frame house which rests on a common bond brick foundation, located near Wellington in Somerset County, Maryland. The walls are uniformly sheathed with beaded weatherboards; the steeply pitched gable roof is covered with wood shingles. The cornices as well as the gable end pediment are embellished with modillions in addition to arched and drilled fascias. The main house has two entrances; one in the north facade and a formal double-leaf entrance in the east gable end. Nine over six sash light the first floor, while six over six sash light the second floor. A brick interior end chimney rises out of the west gable and has an exposed chimney back as well as a date brick documenting the 1829 construction date. The interior retains most of its period woodwork. A well-proportioned open stair rises four flights to the finished attic. Three of the five first and second floor rooms have fireplaces; each hearth retains its original mantel. Other trim includes paneled doors, chair rail, and window and door architraves. Extending to the rear is a c. 1830-1850, two-story, two-bay kitchen wing. The exterior retains its period appearance, but the interior has been remodeled. Attached to the west side of the wing is a two-story shed addition with first floor kitchen and second floor porch. Accompanying the house are a common bond brick dairy, and a remodeled timber-frame outbuilding now used as a tack house. Also on the property are a gambrel-roofed barn and concrete-block dairy; these 20th-century structures do not contribute to the significance of the resource. A family cemetery is located south of the house.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

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Continuation sheet Costen, William, House Somerset County, Maryland Item number 4 Page 1

OWNERS OF PROPERTY:

Harry James Cottman, Route 2, Princess Anne, Maryland 21853

Mrs. Rebecca C. Benton, 124 May Drive, Salisbury, Maryland 21801

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Barringer, 115 South Rolling Road, Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Mr. Charles B. Cottman, Route 2, Box 180 B, Snow Hill, Maryland 21863

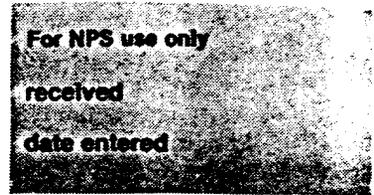
Mrs. Vickie C. Bromley, Box 409 Jeffery Lane, Princess Anne, Maryland 21853

Mr. William W. Cottman, Route 1, Box 412, Princess Anne, Maryland 21853.

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United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet Costen, William, House Somerset County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The William Costen House stands on a 176.5 acre farm situated on the west side of Cokesbury Road near Wellington, in Somerset County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay house presents an unusual variation of the traditional side passage, double-pile house form, in which the principal formal entrance is located in the east gable end, which is oriented to the primary approach and is emphasized by a bold pedimented cornice. A secondary entrance occupies the typical location in the east bay of the north elevation.

Dated by an inscribed brick to 1829, the house rests on a common bond brick foundation and is covered by a steeply pitched wood shingle roof. A uniform sheathing of beaded weatherboards covers each wall surface. Extending to the rear is a two-story, two-bay by one-room kitchen wing that was added around 1830-1850.

Accompanying the house is a common bond brick dairy which stands directly west of the kitchen wing. To the northeast is a gambrel-roofed frame barn with an adjacent rusticated concrete block dairy. Also standing north of the house is an earlier frame outbuilding which has been largely remodeled. A Costen family cemetery is situated south of the house in the middle of a field.

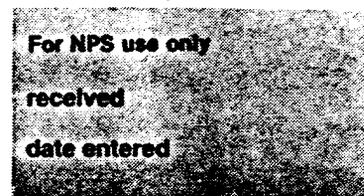
The north facade of the house is three bays across with an entrance in the eastern bay. A flat six-panel door is topped by a three-light transom. The door surround molding consists of a narrow double half-round. Two 9/6 sash windows occupy the remaining first floor openings, while three 6/6 sash windows light the second floor. Each window is flanked by louvered shutters which are held back by simple cast-iron shutter dogs.

The east or gable entrance facade is three bays across with a center double door flanked by 9/6 sash windows. A single-bay pedimented porch with Tuscan columns covers the entrance bay. The double-leaf, six-panel door is topped by a four-light transom. Three 6/6 sash light the second floor. The gable is pedimented, and features a modillioned cornice with an arched and drilled fascia; two 6/3 windows are located within the pediment. The cornice continues across the north elevation.

The south facade is covered entirely by the two-story, two-bay kitchen wing. The east side of the wing has a smaller gable-front porch which protects the flush six-panel door. A 6/6 sash window is located to the south of the door, and two 6/6 sash windows light the second floor. Like the main house, the windows are flanked by louvered shutters.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

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National Park Service

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Costen, William, House

Continuation sheet Somerset County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 3

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The south end of the kitchen has been sheathed with plain weatherboards. Originally, the kitchen wing was two bays longer, but at some point, the end section was removed. An interior end brick chimney is flanked by later, single pane sash windows.

The west side of the kitchen is covered by a two-story shed. The first floor is enclosed for a modern kitchen, while the second floor remains as a porch with square posts and sawn eave decoration. A square balustered railing stretches between the posts.

Finally, the west side of the main block is distinguished by an exposed common bond brick chimney back. Flanking the chimney back are two unshuttered 9/6 sash windows. On the second floor two 6/6 sash windows light individual rooms. The attic story is pierced by 6/3 sash windows which flank the interior end brick chimney. The chimney is finished with a corbelled cap. An inset date brick is located slightly below the cap and contains the 1829 date as well as the initials "W.C."

Inside the main house is divided into three rooms with a side hall on the east and two rooms with corner hearths on the west.

The plaster interior retains most of its late Federal period woodwork. The dog-leg stair rises in the southeast corner of the hall. A slender turned newel post and rectangular balusters (two per tread) support a circular-profile handrail. The stringer is decorated with scrolled trim. The triangular space under the stringer is plastered. Access under the stair is gained through a flat six-panel door. The stair rises four flights to the attic level.

In addition to the stair, the hall is trimmed with early 19th-century chair rail, door and window surrounds and baseboards. The north room is trimmed with the same baseboard and chair rail as well as flat panel wainscoting and a corner hearth. The mantel design consists of two half-round columns which flank the hearth and visually support the single-panel frieze. A thin shelf with bed moldings completes the mantel.

The south room is slightly smaller than the north, and has flat panel wainscoting, but an earlier style mantel. The Federal period design consists of paneled pilasters and a five-part paneled frieze. A guilloche molding stretches along the bottom edge of the frieze. The mantel shelf is broken at each end and has a series of bed moldings.

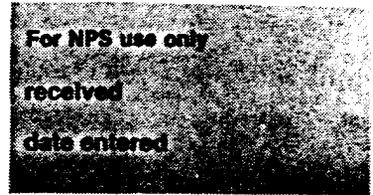
The kitchen wing has been remodeled with modern materials for the most part, but retains door and window architraves as well as flush six-panel doors.

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

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Continuation sheet Costen, William, House Somerset County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 4

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The second floor of the main house is divided into three rooms which are finished in a plain manner. The northwest bedroom contains a corner hearth which retains its mantel. Widely fluted moldings serve as pilasters in addition to frieze decoration. The mantel shelf is broken at each end and is supported by simple bed moldings. A chair rail stretches around each of the three rooms.

The room above the kitchen is simply treated. A mid 19th-century mantel survives on the chimney breast.

The third floor appears to have been finished around the turn-of-the-twentieth century with sawn lath and shallow four-panel doors which divide two rooms from the stair hall.

The common bond brick dairy stands west of the kitchen and is a simple gable-front structure with wood shingle roof and corbelled brick cornices to each side. A board and batten door pierces the north gable, while the south wall is pierced by a small louvered vent. Inside, a short flight of steps leads to the below-ground floor level. The walls are plastered, and remnants of original shelving are found on each side wall.

The gambrel-roofed frame barn is sheathed with narrow weatherboards and covered by corrugated tin. Large openings on the lower and upper levels allow access for cows as well as feed. A small rusticated block dairy building accompanies the barn.

Finally, a remodeled timber-frame outbuilding whose original use is unknown stands north of the house and west of the barn. The structure has been reworked with modern materials on the exterior. The eave remains exposed with its flat false-plate and wooden pins which drop through the plate and joist ends. Common rafter pairs are stabilized by lapped collars which have cut-nails. In all probability, this structure was the original barn.

The Costen family cemetery is located in the south field, but most markers have been moved and stacked into a large pile.

8. Significance

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 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 1829 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: C
 Applicable Exceptions: none
 Significance Evaluated: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The William Costen House is significant for its architecture. Constructed in 1829, the house remains one of the best preserved dwellings of the period surviving in rural eastern Somerset County. It retains most of its original fabric on both the exterior and interior, including such notable features as mantels, chair rail, door and window architraves, stair and balustrade, paneled doors, beaded weatherboard siding, and a bold modillioned cornice with arched and drilled fascia. The house presents an unusual variation of the traditional side-passage/double-pile house form, in which the principal entrance is centered in the gable-end elevation, rather than occupying the typical location in an end bay of a longitudinal facade. This variation may reflect a regional tradition, as similar examples occur elsewhere on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. The cornice is identical to that on the c. 1834 Lankford House nearby, establishing an interesting local design parallel.

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Continuation sheet Costen, William, House
Somerset County, Maryland Item number 8 Page 5

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

"Costin's Trouble," later resurveyed under the name of "Costin's Care," was patented to William Furniss in 1679.¹ Evidently the property was occupied by Comfort Furniss and her husband, Stephen Costin. In his will of January 1697, Stephen Costin (later spelled Costen) devised to his sons, Isaac and Stephen, portions of his plantation.² Isaac's portion passed to his son, Isaac, through his will of February, 1743.³ Stephen Costin died intestate and due to heirship, his portion of "Costin's Trouble" fell unto his son, Stephen Costen, but was subsequently sold to Matthias Costen by Stephen in March of 1749.⁴ Matthias and his wife, Elizabeth, occupied the family property through the balance of the 18th century. In 1794 "Costen's Trouble" was resurveyed as "Costen's Care"⁵ and in 1798 assessed in Dividing Creek Hundred. The valuation is as follows,

Situate in Somerset County near Dividing Creek about 5 miles from Pocomoke River 1 dwelling house 36 by 18 feet two storey high with 8 windows 2½ feet by 3½ feet built with 2 brick chimneys rest of wood 1 kitchen 24 by 16 and 1 milk house 12 by 10 and 1 cook house 16 by 6 all wood, \$200.⁶

Mathias Costen's lands were assessed as well and were found to include:

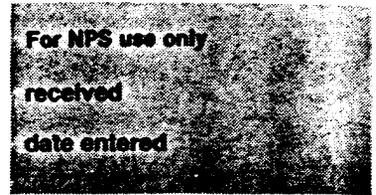
Part of a tract of land called Costen's Care and other adjoining tracts lying in Somerset County near Dividing Creek about 5 miles from Pocomoke River with 1 barn 40 by 24 and 1 mill house 28 by 28 and 1 corn house 40 by 7, all wood.⁷

The final assessment of slaves for Matthias Costen listed a total of twelve slaves, six of which were between the ages of twelve and fifty.⁸

Eight years later, Matthias Costen died and his plantation was willed to his son, William Costen.⁹ Born in 1779, William Costen was the fourth generation of Costens to farm the Dividing Creek property. In 1829, William Costen evidently decided to replace his father's house with a well-built and appointed two-story side hall/double pile frame house. A date brick of 1829 with the initials "W.C." is set into the upper portion of the chimney. William Costen died on 23 September 1842 intestate. In all likelihood his wife, Mary M. Costen, occupied the plantation until her death in October of 1854. Their son, William M.N.B. Costen, and his first wife, Henrietta Dickerson, apparently assumed full ownership of the family farm. Henrietta died in 1847, and William married Mary A. Costen. During William's ownership, the farm was assessed in 1860 for \$10,000.¹⁰ and in 1877 William's total property neared 4000 acres. At that time, William Costen was one of the most prominent land owners in Somerset County. On 12 October 1892 William M.N.B. Costen died intestate, and a court case ensued to settle William's vast real estate.

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Continuation sheet Costen, William, House 8 Page 6
Somerset County, Maryland Item number

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

William's surviving widow, Mary, was apportioned 190 acres of the "home farm" with covenants that provided access to portions of the dwelling house and outbuildings. William's son, Edward S. Costen, inherited 176½ acres that surrounded the house, in addition to a separate tract of 20 acres. The third and fourth portions of the "home farm," consisting of 102½ acres and 98½ acres respectively, were devised to Marietta Costen Clarke, widow of Edward H. Clarke of Worcester County.

In the early 20th century the home farm and dwelling house were transferred four times until Harry Thomas Cottman purchased the 196 acres in 1928.¹² Within the past fifty years the house was mainly used as a second property for Harry Cottman with the fields tilled by his brother, James Cottman, who owns the adjacent farm.

Footnotes

- ¹ Somerset County Rent Rolls, 1663-1723, compiled by Ruth T. Dryden.
- ² Somerset County Land Records, E/61, 12/12/1769, Somerset County Courthouse.
- ³ Somerset County Will Book, EB 9/230, 2/23/1743, Somerset County Courthouse.
- ⁴ Somerset County Land Records, A/91, 3/23/1749, Somerset County Courthouse.
- ⁵ Somerset County Maryland Maps Showing the outlines, etc. of land Surveys and Resurveys, Compiled and Drawn by Harry L. Benson, 1942.
- ⁶ 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Particular List of Dwelling Houses, Dividing Creek Hundred, Matthias Costen.
- ⁷ 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Particular List of Lands, Dividing Creek Hundred, Matthias Costen.
- ⁸ 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Particular List of Slaves, Dividing Creek Hundred, Matthias Costen.
- ⁹ Somerset County Will Book, EB 23/90, 6/7/1803, Somerset County Courthouse.
- ¹⁰ 1860 Somerset County Population Schedule, Dublin Election District, William N. Costen.
- ¹¹ 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas, Dublin Election District, Somerset County, Maryland.
- ¹² Somerset County Land Records, GWL 97/40, 8/3/1928, Somerset County Courthouse.

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National Park Service

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Costen, William, House

Somerset County, Maryland

Item number 9 and 10

Page 7

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

1860 U.S. Census, Population Schedule

1877 Lake, Griffing and Stevenson Atlas, Reprinted by the Wicomico Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Dividing Creek Hundred.

Somerset County Land Records, various volumes, Somerset County Courthouse

Somerset County Maryland Maps, showing the outlines, etc. of Land Surveys and Resurveys, compiled by Harry L. Benson, 1942.

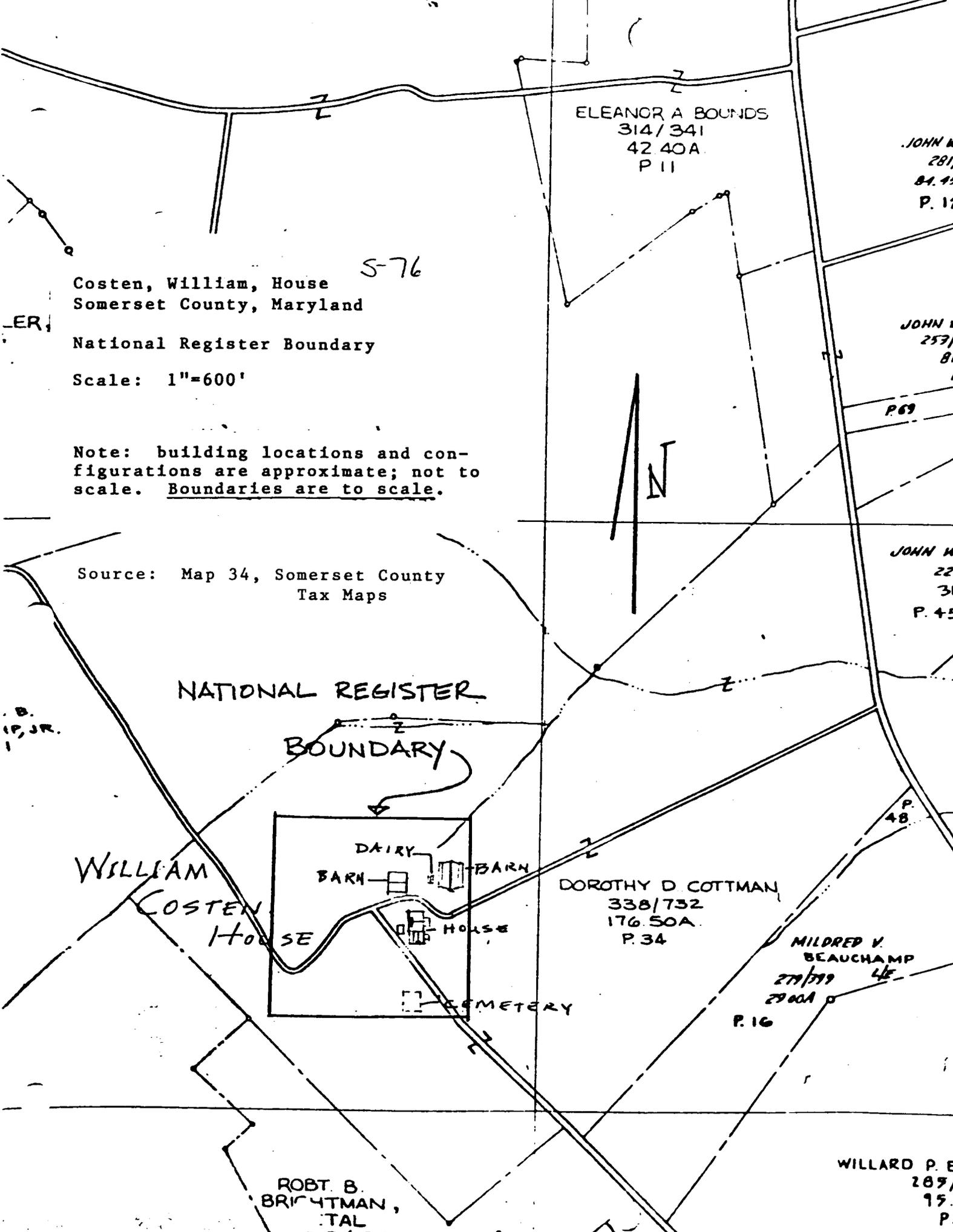
Somerset County Will Books, Various volumes, Register of Wills, Somerset County Courthouse.

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

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Boundary Description: Beginning at a point along the west shoulder of a dirt lane which connects the two Cottman farms and running due west for one thousand feet to a point in the northwest field, thence due south for another one thousand feet across a fallow field to a point in the aforementioned field, thence due east for another one thousand feet and running south of the Costen family cemetery to a point in the field east of the house, thence in a northerly direction for the last one thousand feet to a place of beginning, containing 22.9 acres more or less.

Boundary Justification: The 22.9 acres which accompany this nomination include the outbuildings around the house as well as the Costen family cemetery situated due south of the dwelling, and provide sufficient acreage to reflect the open rural setting historically associated with the buildings. The house site and immediate yard contains mature shade trees and is distinguished by its slightly elevated height. Each boundary line cuts across adjacent fields in an arbitrary manner so as to separate the house and cemetery lots from insignificant farm land.



ELEANOR A BOUNDS
314/341
42.40A.
P. 11

JOHN W.
281/A
84.45
P. 12

JOHN W.
257/6
81.
P.

P. 69

JOHN W.
226
311
P. 45

P. 48

DOROTHY D COTTMAN
338/732
176.50A.
P. 34

MILDRED V.
BEAUCHAMP
279/379
29.00A
P. 16

WILLARD P. E.
289/
15.
P.

ROBT. B.
BRIGHTMAN,
TAL
313/192

5-76

Costen, William, House
Somerset County, Maryland

National Register Boundary

Scale: 1"=600'

Note: building locations and configurations are approximate; not to scale. Boundaries are to scale.

Source: Map 34, Somerset County
Tax Maps

NATIONAL REGISTER
BOUNDARY

WILLIAM
COSTEN
HOUSE

DAIRY
BARN

HOUSE

CEMETERY

B.
19, JR.

9. Major Bibliographical References

5-76

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 22.9 acres

Quadrangle name Dividing Creek, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 8	4 4 7 9 6 0	4 2 2 0 6 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1 8	4 4 7 9 5 0	4 2 2 0 3 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1 8	4 4 7 6 3 0	4 2 2 0 3 4 0
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D	1 8	4 4 7 6 4 0	4 2 2 0 6 5 0
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E			
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F			
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G			
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H			
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.

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 3/14/84

street & number 424 North Somerset Avenue telephone (301) 651-1094 (Home)

city or town Princess Anne state Maryland 21853

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

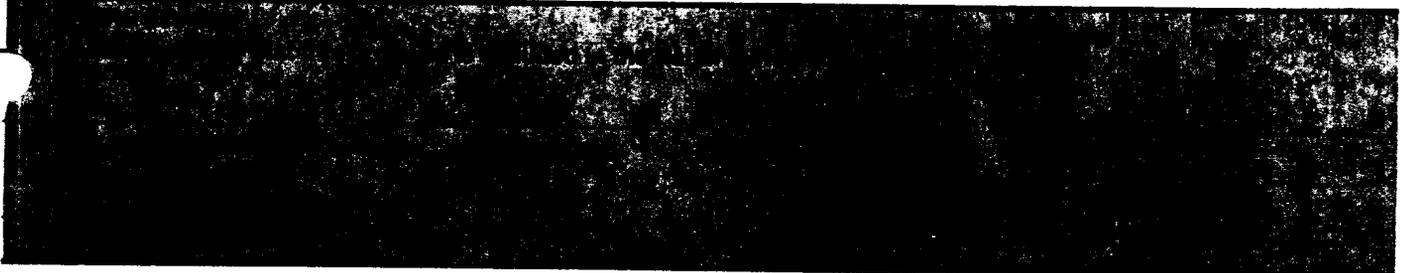
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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] 2-19-85

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date



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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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

DESTROYED

removed from NR 25 July 94

1. Name

historic Costen, William, House (preferred)

and/or common Old Costen Homestead

2. Location

street & number Courthouse Hill Road n/a not for publication

city, town Wellington vicinity of First congressional district

state Maryland code 24 county Somerset code 039

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 See Continuation Sheet No. 1

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset 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 eligible? yes no

date 1967 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

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National Park Service

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Continuation sheet Costen, William, House Somerset County, Maryland Item number 4 Page 1

OWNERS OF PROPERTY:

Harry James Cottman, Route 2, Princess Anne, Maryland 21853
Mrs. Rebecca C. Benton, 124 May Drive, Salisbury, Maryland 21801
Mrs. Elizabeth C. Barringer, 115 South Rolling Road, Catonsville, Maryland 21228
Mr. Charles B. Cottman, Route 2, Box 180 B, Snow Hill, Maryland 21863
Mrs. Vickie C. Bromley, Box 409 Jeffery Lane, Princess Anne, Maryland 21853
Mr. William W. Cottman, Route 1, Box 412, Princess Anne, Maryland 21853.

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources	
Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>2</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> Total

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

Original and historic functions and uses: agricultural, residential

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The William Costen House, constructed in 1829, is a 2-story, three-bay, gable-front side-passage/double pile frame house which rests on a common bond brick foundation, located near Wellington in Somerset County, Maryland. The walls are uniformly sheathed with beaded weatherboards; the steeply pitched gable roof is covered with wood shingles. The cornices as well as the gable end pediment are embellished with modillions in addition to arched and drilled fascias. The main house has two entrances; one in the north facade and a formal double-leaf entrance in the east gable end. Nine over six sash light the first floor, while six over six sash light the second floor. A brick interior end chimney rises out of the west gable and has an exposed chimney back as well as a date brick documenting the 1829 construction date. The interior retains most of its period woodwork. A well-proportioned open stair rises four flights to the finished attic. Three of the five first and second floor rooms have fireplaces; each hearth retains its original mantel. Other trim includes paneled doors, chair rail, and window and door architraves. Extending to the rear is a c. 1830-1850, two-story, two-bay kitchen wing. The exterior retains its period appearance, but the interior has been remodeled. Attached to the west side of the wing is a two-story shed addition with first floor kitchen and second floor porch. Accompanying the house are a common bond brick dairy, and a remodeled timber-frame outbuilding now used as a tack house. Also on the property are a gambrel-roofed barn and concrete-block dairy; these 20th-century structures do not contribute to the significance of the resource. A family cemetery is located south of the house.

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Continuation sheet Costen, William, House
Somerset County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The William Costen House stands on a 176.5 acre farm situated on the west side of Cokesbury Road near Wellington, in Somerset County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay house presents an unusual variation of the traditional side passage, double-pile house form, in which the principal formal entrance is located in the east gable end, which is oriented to the primary approach and is emphasized by a bold pedimented cornice. A secondary entrance occupies the typical location in the east bay of the north elevation.

Dated by an inscribed brick to 1829, the house rests on a common bond brick foundation and is covered by a steeply pitched wood shingle roof. A uniform sheathing of beaded weatherboards covers each wall surface. Extending to the rear is a two-story, two-bay by one-room kitchen wing that was added around 1830-1850.

Accompanying the house is a common bond brick dairy which stands directly west of the kitchen wing. To the northeast is a gambrel-roofed frame barn with an adjacent rusticated concrete block dairy. Also standing north of the house is an earlier frame outbuilding which has been largely remodeled. A Costen family cemetery is situated south of the house in the middle of a field.

The north facade of the house is three bays across with an entrance in the eastern bay. A flat six-panel door is topped by a three-light transom. The door surround molding consists of a narrow double half-round. Two 9/6 sash windows occupy the remaining first floor openings, while three 6/6 sash windows light the second floor. Each window is flanked by louvered shutters which are held back by simple cast-iron shutter dogs.

The east or gable entrance facade is three bays across with a center double door flanked by 9/6 sash windows. A single-bay pedimented porch with Tuscan columns covers the entrance bay. The double-leaf, six-panel door is topped by a four-light transom. Three 6/6 sash light the second floor. The gable is pedimented, and features a modillioned cornice with an arched and drilled fascia; two 6/3 windows are located within the pediment. The cornice continues across the north elevation.

The south facade is covered entirely by the two-story, two-bay kitchen wing. The east side of the wing has a smaller gable-front porch which protects the flush six-panel door. A 6/6 sash window is located to the south of the door, and two 6/6 sash windows light the second floor. Like the main house, the windows are flanked by louvered shutters.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

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Continuation sheet Costen, William, House Somerset County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 3

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The south end of the kitchen has been sheathed with plain weatherboards. Originally, the kitchen wing was two bays longer, but at some point, the end section was removed. An interior end brick chimney is flanked by later, single pane sash windows.

The west side of the kitchen is covered by a two-story shed. The first floor is enclosed for a modern kitchen, while the second floor remains as a porch with square posts and sawn eave decoration. A square balustered railing stretches between the posts.

Finally, the west side of the main block is distinguished by an exposed common bond brick chimney back. Flanking the chimney back are two unshuttered 9/6 sash windows. On the second floor two 6/6 sash windows light individual rooms. The attic story is pierced by 6/3 sash windows which flank the interior end brick chimney. The chimney is finished with a corbelled cap. An inset date brick is located slightly below the cap and contains the 1829 date as well as the initials "W.C."

Inside the main house is divided into three rooms with a side hall on the east and two rooms with corner hearths on the west.

The plaster interior retains most of its late Federal period woodwork. The dog-leg stair rises in the southeast corner of the hall. A slender turned newel post and rectangular balusters (two per tread) support a circular-profile handrail. The stringer is decorated with scrolled trim. The triangular space under the stringer is plastered. Access under the stair is gained through a flat six-panel door. The stair rises four flights to the attic level.

In addition to the stair, the hall is trimmed with early 19th-century chair rail, door and window surrounds and baseboards. The north room is trimmed with the same baseboard and chair rail as well as flat panel wainscoting and a corner hearth. The mantel design consists of two half-round columns which flank the hearth and visually support the single-panel frieze. A thin shelf with bed moldings completes the mantel.

The south room is slightly smaller than the north, and has flat panel wainscoting, but an earlier style mantel. The Federal period design consists of paneled pilasters and a five-part paneled frieze. A guilloche molding stretches along the bottom edge of the frieze. The mantel shelf is broken at each end and has a series of bed moldings.

The kitchen wing has been remodeled with modern materials for the most part, but retains door and window architraves as well as flush six-panel doors.

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

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Continuation sheet Costen, William, House Item number 7 Page 4
Somerset County, Maryland

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The second floor of the main house is divided into three rooms which are finished in a plain manner. The northwest bedroom contains a corner hearth which retains its mantel. Widely fluted moldings serve as pilasters in addition to frieze decoration. The mantel shelf is broken at each end and is supported by simple bed moldings. A chair rail stretches around each of the three rooms.

The room above the kitchen is simply treated. A mid 19th-century mantel survives on the chimney breast.

The third floor appears to have been finished around the turn-of-the-twentieth century with sawn lath and shallow four-panel doors which divide two rooms from the stair hall.

The common bond brick dairy stands west of the kitchen and is a simple gable-front structure with wood shingle roof and corbelled brick cornices to each side. A board and batten door pierces the north gable, while the south wall is pierced by a small louvered vent. Inside, a short flight of steps leads to the below-ground floor level. The walls are plastered, and remnants of original shelving are found on each side wall.

The gambrel-roofed frame barn is sheathed with narrow weatherboards and covered by corrugated tin. Large openings on the lower and upper levels allow access for cows as well as feed. A small rusticated block dairy building accompanies the barn.

Finally, a remodeled timber-frame outbuilding whose original use is unknown stands north of the house and west of the barn. The structure has been reworked with modern materials on the exterior. The eave remains exposed with its flat false-plate and wooden pins which drop through the plate and joist ends. Common rafter pairs are stabilized by lapped collars which have cut-nails. In all probability, this structure was the original barn.

The Costen family cemetery is located in the south field, but most markers have been moved and stacked into a large pile.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
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
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 1829 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: C
 Applicable Exceptions: none
 Significance Evaluated: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The William Costen House is significant for its architecture. Constructed in 1829, the house remains one of the best preserved dwellings of the period surviving in rural eastern Somerset County. It retains most of its original fabric on both the exterior and interior, including such notable features as mantels, chair rail, door and window architraves, stair and balustrade, paneled doors, beaded weatherboard siding, and a bold modillioned cornice with arched and drilled fascia. The house presents an unusual variation of the traditional side-passage/double-pile house form, in which the principal entrance is centered in the gable-end elevation, rather than occupying the typical location in an end bay of a longitudinal facade. This variation may reflect a regional tradition, as similar examples occur elsewhere on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. The cornice is identical to that on the c. 1834 Lankford House nearby, establishing an interesting local design parallel.

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Continuation sheet Costen, William, House
Somerset County, Maryland Item number 8 Page 5

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

"Costin's Trouble," later resurveyed under the name of "Costin's Care," was patented to William Furniss in 1679.¹ Evidently the property was occupied by Comfort Furniss and her husband, Stephen Costin. In his will of January 1697, Stephen Costin (later spelled Costen) devised to his sons, Isaac and Stephen, portions of his plantation.² Isaac's portion passed to his son, Isaac, through his will of February, 1743.³ Stephen Costin died intestate and due to heirship, his portion of "Costin's Trouble" fell unto his son, Stephen Costen, but was subsequently sold to Matthias Costen by Stephen in March of 1749.⁴ Matthias and his wife, Elizabeth, occupied the family property through the balance of the 18th century. In 1794 "Costen's Trouble" was resurveyed as "Costen's Care"⁵ and in 1798 assessed in Dividing Creek Hundred. The valuation is as follows,

Situate in Somerset County near Dividing Creek about 5 miles from Pocomoke River 1 dwelling house 36 by 18 feet two storey high with 8 windows 2½ feet by 3½ feet built with 2 brick chimneys rest of wood 1 kitchen 24 by 16 and 1 milk house 12 by 10 and 1 cook house 16 by 6 all wood, \$200.⁶

Mathias Costen's lands were assessed as well and were found to include:

Part of a tract of land called Costen's Care and other adjoining tracts lying in Somerset County near Dividing Creek about 5 miles from Pocomoke River with 1 barn 40 by 24 and 1 mill house 28 by 28 and 1 corn house 40 by 7, all wood.⁷

The final assessment of slaves for Matthias Costen listed a total of twelve slaves, six of which were between the ages of twelve and fifty.⁸

Eight years later, Matthias Costen died and his plantation was willed to his son, William Costen.⁹ Born in 1779, William Costen was the fourth generation of Costens to farm the Dividing Creek property. In 1829, William Costen evidently decided to replace his father's house with a well-built and appointed two-story side hall/double pile frame house. A date brick of 1829 with the initials "W.C." is set into the upper portion of the chimney. William Costen died on 23 September 1842 intestate. In all likelihood his wife, Mary M. Costen, occupied the plantation until her death in October of 1854. Their son, William M.N.B. Costen, and his first wife, Henrietta Dickerson, apparently assumed full ownership of the family farm. Henrietta died in 1847, and William married Mary A. Costen. During William's ownership, the farm was assessed in 1860 for \$10,000.¹⁰ and in 1877 William's total property neared 4000 acres. At that time, William Costen was one of the most prominent land owners in Somerset County. On 12 October 1892 William M.N.B. Costen died intestate, and a court case insued to settle William's vast real estate.

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Continuation sheet Costen, William, House
Somerset County, Maryland Item number 8 Page 6

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

William's surviving widow, Mary, was apportioned 190 acres of the "home farm" with covenants that provided access to portions of the dwelling house and outbuildings. William's son, Edward S. Costen, inherited 176½ acres that surrounded the house, in addition to a separate tract of 20 acres. The third and fourth portions of the "home farm," consisting of 102½ acres and 98½ acres respectively, were devised to Marietta Costen Clarke, widow of Edward H. Clarke of Worcester County.

In the early 20th century the home farm and dwelling house were transferred four times until Harry Thomas Cottman purchased the 196 acres in 1928.¹² Within the past fifty years the house was mainly used as a second property for Harry Cottman with the fields tilled by his brother, James Cottman, who owns the adjacent farm.

Footnotes

- ¹ Somerset County Rent Rolls, 1663-1723, compiled by Ruth T. Dryden.
- ² Somerset County Land Records, E/61, 12/12/1769, Somerset County Courthouse.
- ³ Somerset County Will Book, EB 9/230, 2/23/1743, Somerset County Courthouse.
- ⁴ Somerset County Land Records, A/91, 3/23/1749, Somerset County Courthouse.
- ⁵ Somerset County Maryland Maps Showing the outlines, etc. of land Surveys and Resurveys, Compiled and Drawn by Harry L. Benson, 1942.
- ⁶ 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Particular List of Dwelling Houses, Dividing Creek Hundred, Matthias Costen.
- ⁷ 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Particular List of Lands, Dividing Creek Hundred, Matthias Costen.
- ⁸ 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Particular List of Slaves, Dividing Creek Hundred, Matthias Costen.
- ⁹ Somerset County Will Book, EB 23/90, 6/7/1803, Somerset County Courthouse.
- ¹⁰ 1860 Somerset County Population Schedule, Dublin Election District, William N. Costen.
- ¹¹ 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas, Dublin Election District, Somerset County, Maryland.
- ¹² Somerset County Land Records, GWL 97/40, 8/3/1928, Somerset County Courthouse.

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Continuation sheet Costen, William, House
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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

1860 U.S. Census, Population Schedule

1877 Lake, Griffing and Stevenson Atlas, Reprinted by the Wicomico Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Dividing Creek Hundred.

Somerset County Land Records, various volumes, Somerset County Courthouse

Somerset County Maryland Maps, showing the outlines, etc. of Land Surveys and Resurveys, compiled by Harry L. Benson, 1942.

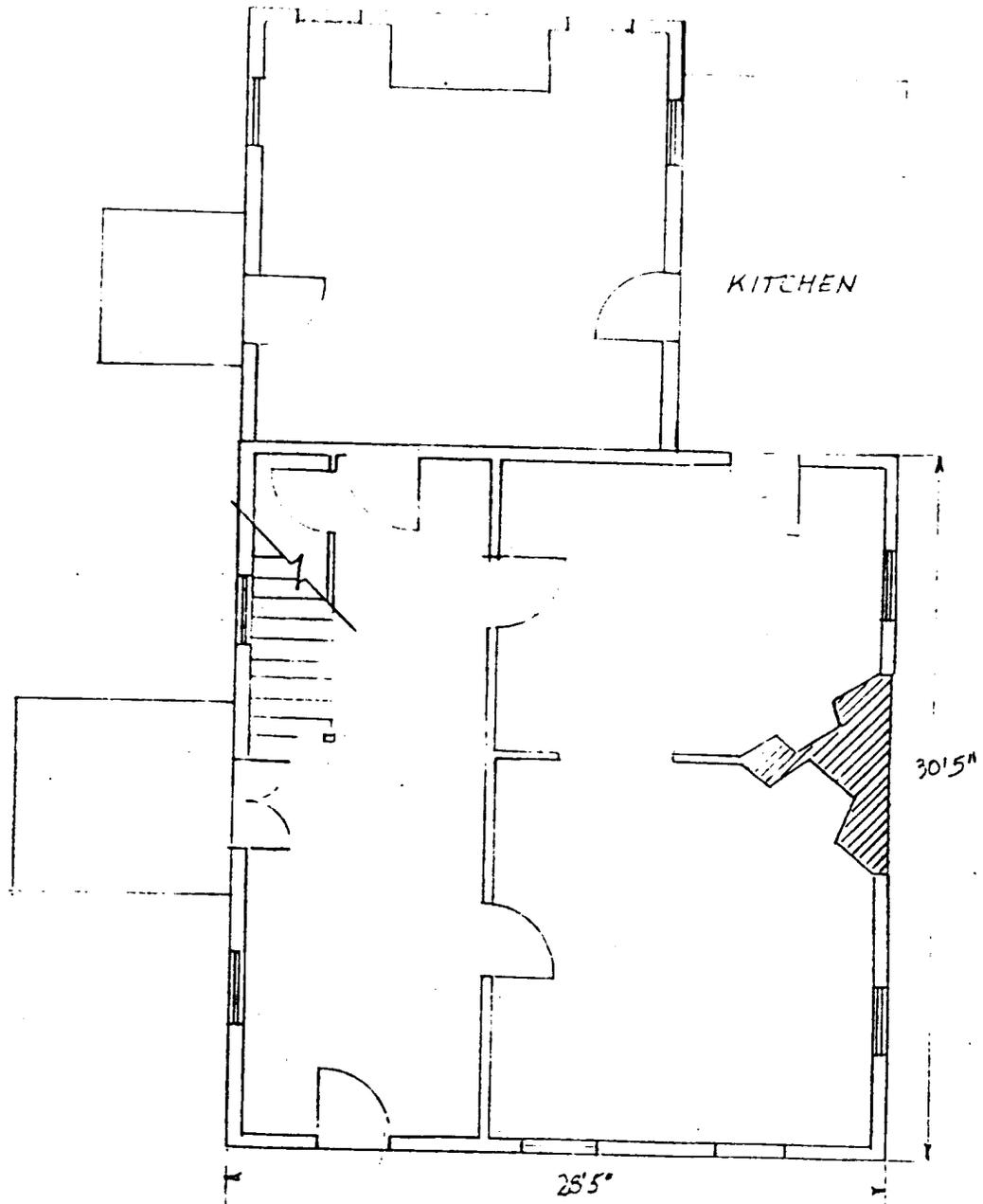
Somerset County Will Books, Various volumes, Register of Wills, Somerset County Courthouse.

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

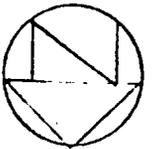
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Boundary Description: Beginning at a point along the west shoulder of a dirt lane which connects the two Cottman farms and running due west for one thousand feet to a point in the northwest field, thence due south for another one thousand feet across a fallow field to a point in the aforementioned field, thence due east for another one thousand feet and running south of the Costen family cemetery to a point in the field east of the house, thence in a northerly direction for the last one thousand feet to a place of beginning, containing 22.9 acres more or less.

Boundary Justification: The 22.9 acres which accompany this nomination include the four buildings around the house as well as the Costen family cemetery situated due south of the dwelling, and provide sufficient acreage to reflect the open rural setting historically associated with the buildings. The house site and immediate yard contains mature shade trees and is distinguished by its slightly elevated height. Each boundary line cuts across adjacent fields in an arbitrary manner so as to separate the house and cemetery lots from insignificant farm land.

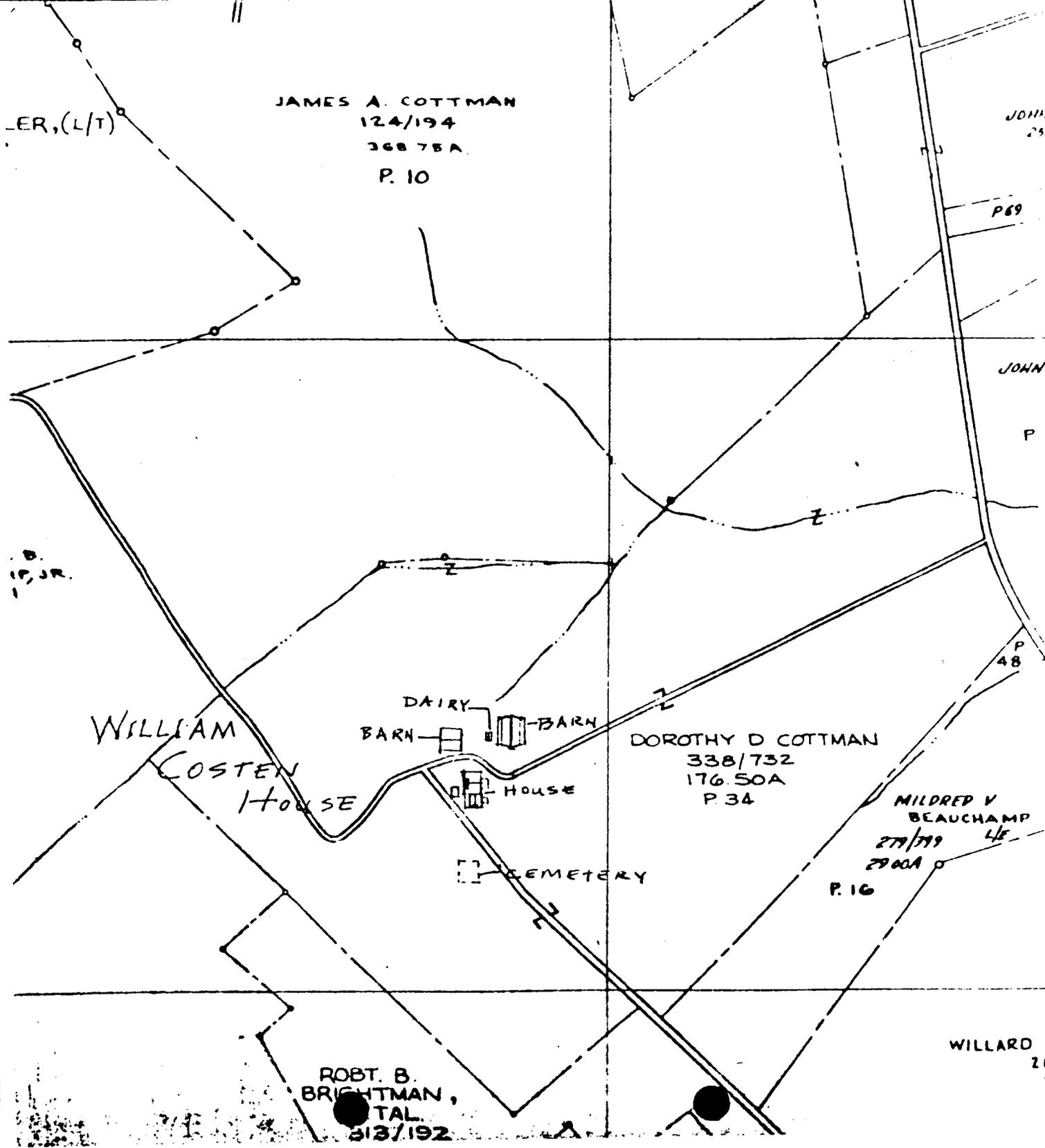


$\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'0''$



WILLIAM COSTEN HOUSE
NEAR WELLINGTON

5-76 PBT
1-9-84



ER, (L/T)

JAMES A. COTTMAN
124/194
368 75A
P. 10

JOHN
25

P 69

JOHN
P

P
48

WILLIAM
COSTEN
HOUSE

DAIRY
BARN
BARN
HOUSE

DOROTHY D COTTMAN
338/732
176.50A
P. 34

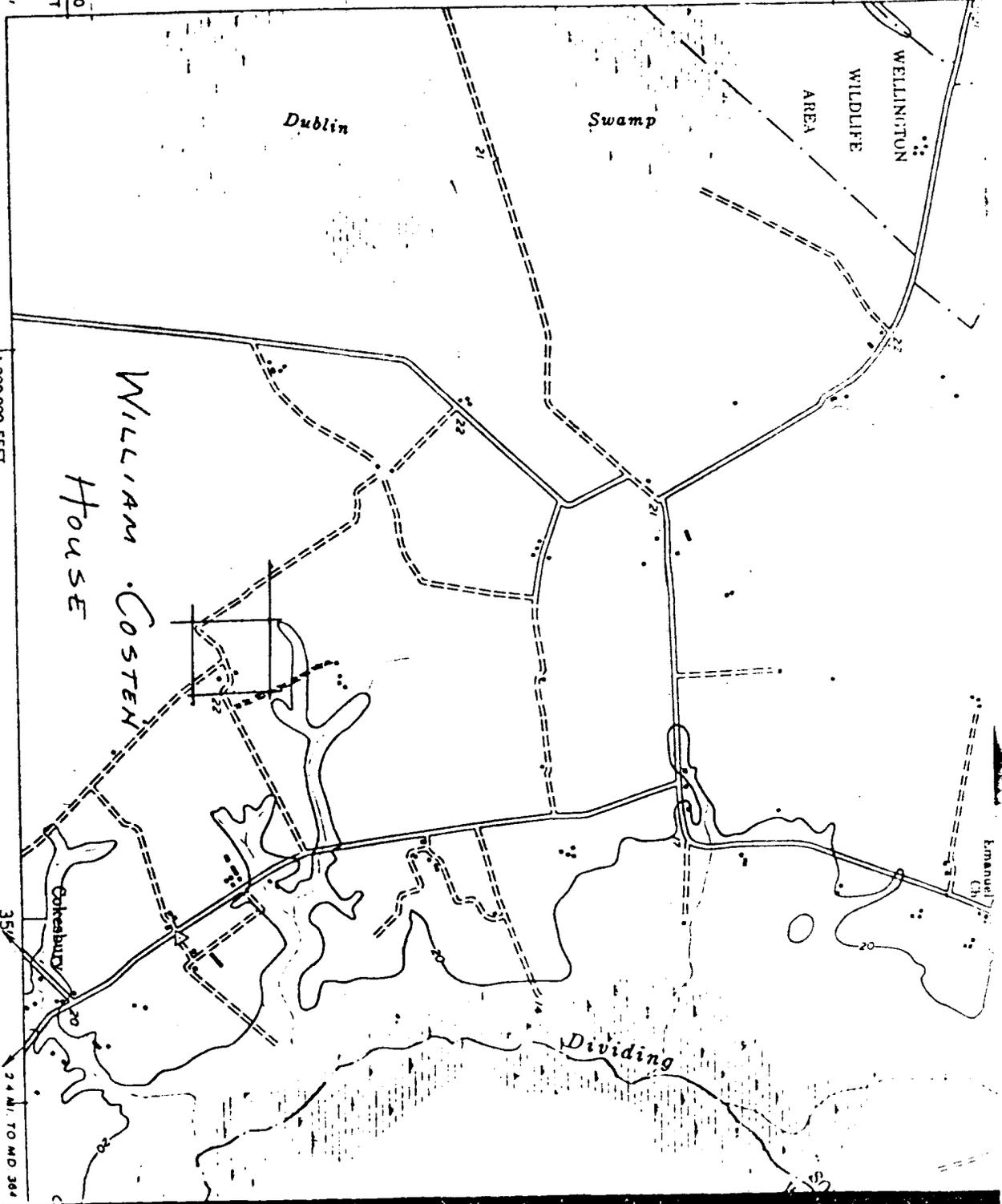
MILDRED V
BEAUCHAMP
279/719
2900A
P. 16

SEMETERY

ROBT. B.
BRIGHTMAN,
TAL.
813/192

WILLARD
21

DIVIDING CREEK
QUADRANGLE
1:24000
1942
S-76



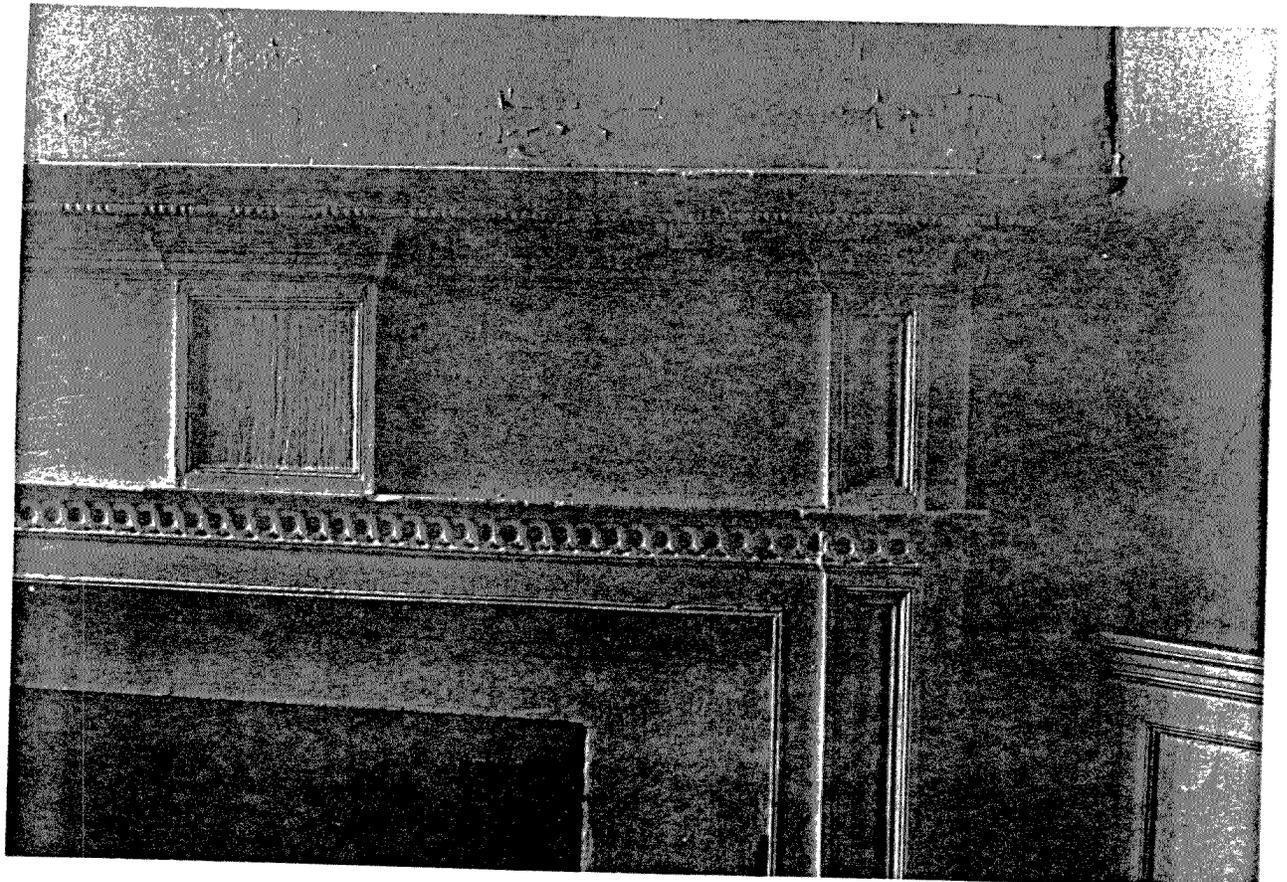
(KINGSTON)

110 000 FEET
38°07'30"
75°37'30"
1 200 000 FEET
Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by US&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1942 and plane-table surveys 1942
Polyconic projection 1927 North American datum
10 000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator zones

75
MAGNETIC NORTH
TRUE NORTH



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382

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Old Costen Homestead - S-76

William Costen House

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
2525 RIVA ROAD
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

D.G-1967





William Costen House s-76
near Wellington, Somerset County
East elevation of farmstead
2/84 Paul Touart
negative/Maryland Historical Trust
~~*****~~



William Costen House
near Wellington, Somerset County
East elevation of farmstead
2/84 Paul Touart
negative/Maryland Historical Trust

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William Costen House
Near Wellington, Somerset County
North Elevation-Cornice
1/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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William Costen House
Near Wellington, Somerset County
North Elevation
1/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

S-76



S-76

William Costen House
Near Wellington, Somerset County
West Elevation
1/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



William Costen House

76
S-~~76~~

Wellington vicinity, Somerset Co., Md.

Cornice

1/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical **Trust**





William Costen House
Near Wellington, Somerset County
East Elevation
1/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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WILLIAM COSTELLO

was born

7th day of June 1777

Departed this life

1st day of September 18

years 5 months & 16

days hence my grave

show you soon shall

be made in the fall

William Costen House
Near Wellington, Somerset County
Tombstone-
1/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

S-76

W.M.N.B. COSTER

BORN

Aug. 12, 1824,

DIED

Oct. 1, 1892.

AGED

68 yrs. 1 mo. & 19 days

The Lord gave, and the Lord
has taken away, blessed be the
name of the Lord.

Job 1: 21.

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William Costen House
Near Wellington, Somerset County
Tombstone of W.M.N.B. Costen
1/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust