

S--211  
John Lewis Porter Farm  
Near Wellington  
Private

c. 1870

The J.L. Porter farmhouse is a noteworthy variation of the standard Somerset County farm dwelling with its gable-front elevation and bracketed eaves. Also uncommon is its overall size as well as the two-story engaged porch on the south side of the kitchen wing. The smallest section of the house is reported to have been a slave quarter that was moved up to the service wing. If this tradition is accurate, it is one of a handful of quarters to remain in Somerset County.

Porter family occupation of this land dates back to a 1763 survey of land for a 319-acre tract known as "Porter's Purchase" near King's Creek. The exact location of the early house is unclear. This farmhouse was erected for John Lewis Porter (1829-1899) and his wife, Amanda T. Lankford Porter (1838-1905), around 1870. The property passed to Lynn Porter (1878-1976) after his father's death in 1899.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John Lewis Porter Farm, "Porters Purchase"

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Dublin Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Wellington  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input 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 (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Walter Porter

street & number Route 2 telephone no.: 651-2366

city, town Princess Anne state and zip code Maryland 21853

## 5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Somerset County Courthouse ; folio

city, town Princess Anne state Maryland 21853

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. S-211

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The John L. Porter Farm is situated on the southwest side of Dublin Road and on the north side of Mitchell Road, approximately six miles from Princess Anne, Somerset County, Maryland. The c. 1860-1870 two-story side hall/double pile farmhouse faces east with the primary roof running on an east/west axis.

A brick pier foundation supports the asbestos sheathed frame house, while the medium pitched roof is covered with asphalt tiles. Decorative brackets embellish the extended eaves of the front portion of the dwelling. A large brick chimney with a corbelled cap rises from the center of the house. Extending to the west (rear) is a service wing consisting of two sections. The large two-story four-bay dining room wing is contemporary with the front block, while the final single-story one-room plan section is reported to have been formerly a slaves quarter that was moved up to the house and used as a kitchen.

The east (main) facade is three bays across with a boarded-up entrance in the south bay and two adjacent 6/6 sash windows. A small entablature and pilasters frame the entrance. The second floor is lighted by three 6/6 sash window, and the gable end is pierced by a pointed arch 6/6 sash.

The south elevation is divided into four evenly-spaced bays, with four 6/6 sash windows lighting each floor. The north elevation, on the other hand, is divided unevenly with three 6/6 sash windows on each floor. The uneven spacing of windows is due to the location of the stair against the north wall.

The west gable end of the main house is fully covered by a slightly shorter two-story two-room plan wing which has an engaged two-story porch on the north side. A center brick chimney, identical to that of the main house, rises from the center of the wing. A combination of four-panel doors and 6/6 sash windows fill each floor. Tuscan columns are found on the first floor, while chamfered posts are on the second. The second floor retains its square-baluster railing.

The opposite side of the service wing has an uneven four-bay fenestration.

To the rear (west) is the single story one-room kitchen which formerly had a large cooking hearth and interior chimney, but it has been replaced by an exterior end stove stack. Small four-pane windows pierce the first floor as well as the loft. A small shed porch is attached to the front (south side).

The interior is largely unaltered, but in deteriorated condition. Plaster has fallen to expose the sawn lath fastened with cut-nails. The south side of the main house is divided into a spacious hall with a heavily turned newel post and turned balusters. The parlor and room behind it are finished in a standard mid-19th-century manner with third quarter of the 19th-century woodwork. The mantels are of the mass-produced post and lintel type and are relatively consistent throughout the primary rooms.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The J. L. Porter farmhouse is a significant variation of the standard Somerset County House with its gable-front elevation and bracketed eaves. Also uncommon is the two-story engaged porch on the south side of the kitchen wing. The smallest section is reported to have been a slave quarter that was moved up to the kitchen. If this tradition is accurate, it is one of the few quarters to remain in Somerset County.

History and Support

Porter family occupation of this land dates back to a 1763 survey of land for a 319-acre tract known as "Porter's Purchase" near King's Creek. The exact location of the 18th-century house site is not known. This farmhouse was erected for John Lewis Porter (1829-1899) and his wife, Amanda T. Lankford (1838-1905) around 1870. The property passed to Lynn Porter (1878-1976) after his father's death.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. S-211

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A                  
 Zone Easting Northing

B                  
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Paul Touart - Architectural Historian		
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organization	Somerset County Historical Trust	date	6/20/84
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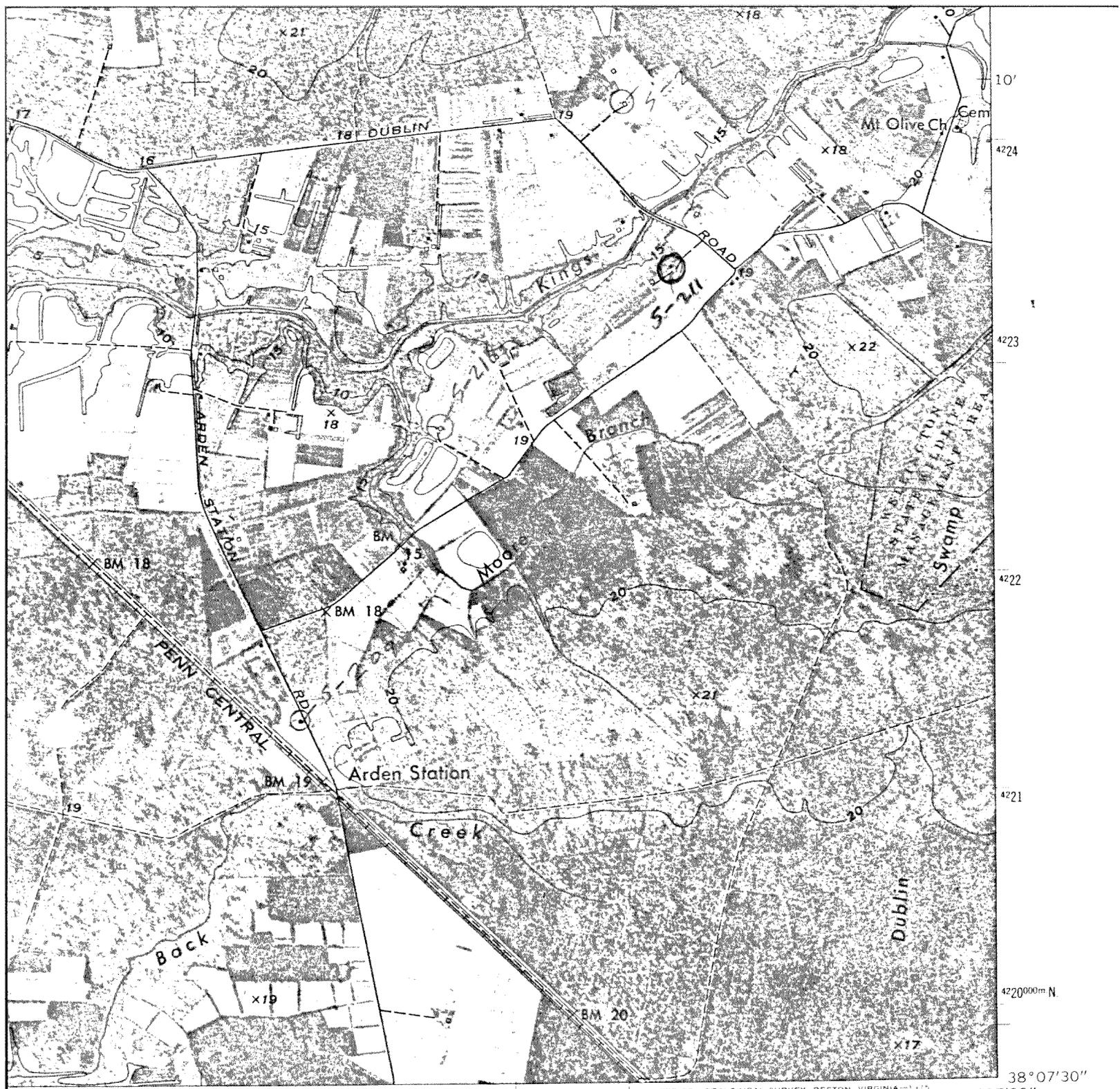
street & number	424 N. Somerset Avenue	telephone	651-1094 (Home)
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city or town	Princess Anne	state	Maryland 21853
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

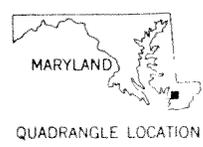
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
 Shaw House  
 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 269-2438



INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA  
 445000m E 75°37'30" 38°07'30"

**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

- Primary highway, hard surface \_\_\_\_\_
- Secondary highway, hard surface \_\_\_\_\_
- Trails \_\_\_\_\_
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface \_\_\_\_\_
- Unimproved road \_\_\_\_\_
- Interstate Route (circle with red border)
- U. S. Route (circle with blue border)
- State Route (circle with black border)



**PRINCESS ANNE, MD.**  
 N3807.5—W7537.5/7.5

1972

AMS 5860 II NW—SERIES V8330

RDS  
 2092  
 ON REQUEST

*John Lewis Porter Town, 5-211*

POCOMOKE C17  
 5860 II SE



S-211

John Lewis Porter Farm  
Near Wellington, Somerset County  
Southwest Elevation  
5/84 Paul Touart  
Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



S-211

John Lewis Porter Farm  
Near Wellington, Somerset County  
Northwest Elevation  
5/84 Paul Touart  
Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



S-211

John Lewis Porter Farm  
Near Wellington, Somerset County  
East Elevation  
5/84 Paul Touart  
Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust