

1987

S-217
Costen Tenant House No. 2
Near Wellington
Private

c. 1800-1815

Architecturally, this small frame house that stands abandoned in an open field is one of the most significant one-room plan houses to survive in Somerset County. Despite its diminutive size, both the exterior and interior details surpass the architectural sophistication found on much larger houses. The pedimented entrance is complimented by a delicate modillioned cornice. Also surviving are original 12/12 and 12/8 sash windows. Inside the first floor room has flat-panel wainscoting and a tight winder stair. The adjacent single-story kitchen wing is also worthy of note with its interior horizontal board sheathing and exposed beaded joists.

Architectural features point to a c. 1800-1815 date of construction but little else is known about the early history and occupants. The house stands on part of "Costen's Care," a tract of land owned and farmed in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries by various generations of the Costen family. The first mention of this specific house is located in the Chancery Court papers, drawn up to settle William M.N.B. Costen's estate in 1892.

The land on which this house stands was apportioned to Marietta Costen Clarke, widow of Edward H. Clarke of Worcester County. It is not known whether Mrs. Clarke ever occupied the house.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-217

Magi No. 2002175304

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Costen Tenant House No. 2

2. Location

street & number West Side of Cokesbury Road not for publication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 type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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 James Cottman

street & number _____ telephone no.: _____

city, town Princess Anne state and zip code MD 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 MD 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-217

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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 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 Costen Tenant House is a c. 1800-1810 two-story, three-bay frame house located in the middle of a plowed field west of Cokesbury Road, near Wellington, Somerset County, MD. The house faces north with the gable running on an east/west axis.

Supported by a common bond brick foundation, the two-story frame house is sheathed with a combination of plain and beaded weatherboards and covered with a medium sloped wood shingle roof. The two-story house consists of two sections. The c. 1800-1810 one-room plan house was enlarged with a two-story, one-room plan addition around 1890-1900. The roof to this portion has fallen in. Extending to the rear of the turn-of-the 20th century additon is a single story one-room plan kitchen wing which appears to date from the same period as the main house.

The north (main) elevation is three bays across with the western two bays comprising the c. 1800-1810 house. A pedimented entrance with a semi-circular transom light and dentil molding under the cornice tops a raised six-panel door. Directly west (to the right) of the entrance bay is a 12/12 sash window and located above are two 12/8 sash windows. Stretching across at the base of the roof is a finely crafted boxed cornice, embellished with crown molding, end boards and delicate modillion blocks. In addition the fascia is scored with a pattern of vertical lines interrupted by six-point stars. Under the modillions is a row of dentils. The c. 1890-1900 addition is lighted on both floors by 2/2 sash windows. The roof has fallen in.

The west gable end of the house is plainly finished with a combination of beaded and plain weatherboards. Two seams in the siding to the right of the internal chimney indicate the location of previous windows. A small window opening still lights the attic to the right of the stack. A molded barge board finishes the gable end, while a narrow brick chimney is finished with a corbelled cap.

The south side of the house is detailed in a similar manner but without as much decoration around the door. The six-panel back door is framed by a simple door surround. Window openings remain in the same location but only one section of sash remains in place. The cornice is finished with the same end boards, modillion blocks and dentils, but the fascia was left plain. The south side of the c. 1890-1900 additon is primarily covered by the single-story kitchen wing, which rests on a brick pier foundation and is sheathed with a combination of beaded and plain weatherboards. The west side of the kitchen has two openings. A six over six window pierces the left bay, while an old door opening (now window) occupies the right bay.

The south gable end of the kitchen has a single door opening on the first floor and a single window opening on the second floor. The door is located to the right ~~of the internal brick stack~~ of the internal brick stack, while the window is located to the left.

The east side of the kitchen wing is pierced by two window openings, one of which has been boarded up.

Inside the c. 1800-1810 portion, the first floor walls are covered with flat panel wainscoting below the chair rail. Ovolo molded back band surrounds ~~the~~ frame the east wall door as well as the door openings on the front and rear walls. The entrance transom is treated in a special way with a decorative keystone block that interrupts the header molding. The transom muntins spread out in a radiating spoke pattern.

The stair is located in the northwest corner with three exposed steps. The remaining winder stair is enclosed behind by a flush six-panel door with spring lock. The mantel has been removed as have the stair balusters and handrail.

The stair rises under a sloped plaster soffit to the second floor. The second floor walls are covered with plaster over riven oak lath and finished with simply molded chair rail and baseboard. The stair continues to the unfinished attic. Each pair of sawn raf-

8. Significance

Survey No. S-217

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 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 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	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.

Architecturally, this small frame house is one of the most significant one-room plan houses to survive in Somerset County. Despite its diminutive size, both the exterior and interior details surpass the sophistication found on much larger houses. The pedimented entrance is complimented by a delicate modillioned cornice. Also surviving are original 12/12 and 12/8 sash windows. Inside, the first floor has flat-panel wainscoting and a tight winder stair.

The single story kitchen wing is also worthy of note with its interior horizontal board sheathing and exposed beaded joists.

Architectural features point to a c. 1800-1810 date of construction, but little else is known about the early history and occupants. The house stands on part of "Costen's Care", a tract of land owned in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries by various generations of the Costen family. The first mention of a house at this location is recorded in the Chancery Court papers, drawn up to settle William M.N.B. Costen's estate in 1892. The land on which this house stands was apportioned to Marietta Costen Clarke, widow of Edward H. Clarke of Worcester County. It is not known whether Mrs. Clarke ever occupied the house.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. S-217

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage 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		
------------	---------------------------------------	--	--

organization	Somerset County Historical Trust	date	4/22/84
--------------	----------------------------------	------	---------

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

city or town	Princess Anne	state	Maryland 21853
--------------	---------------	-------	----------------

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.

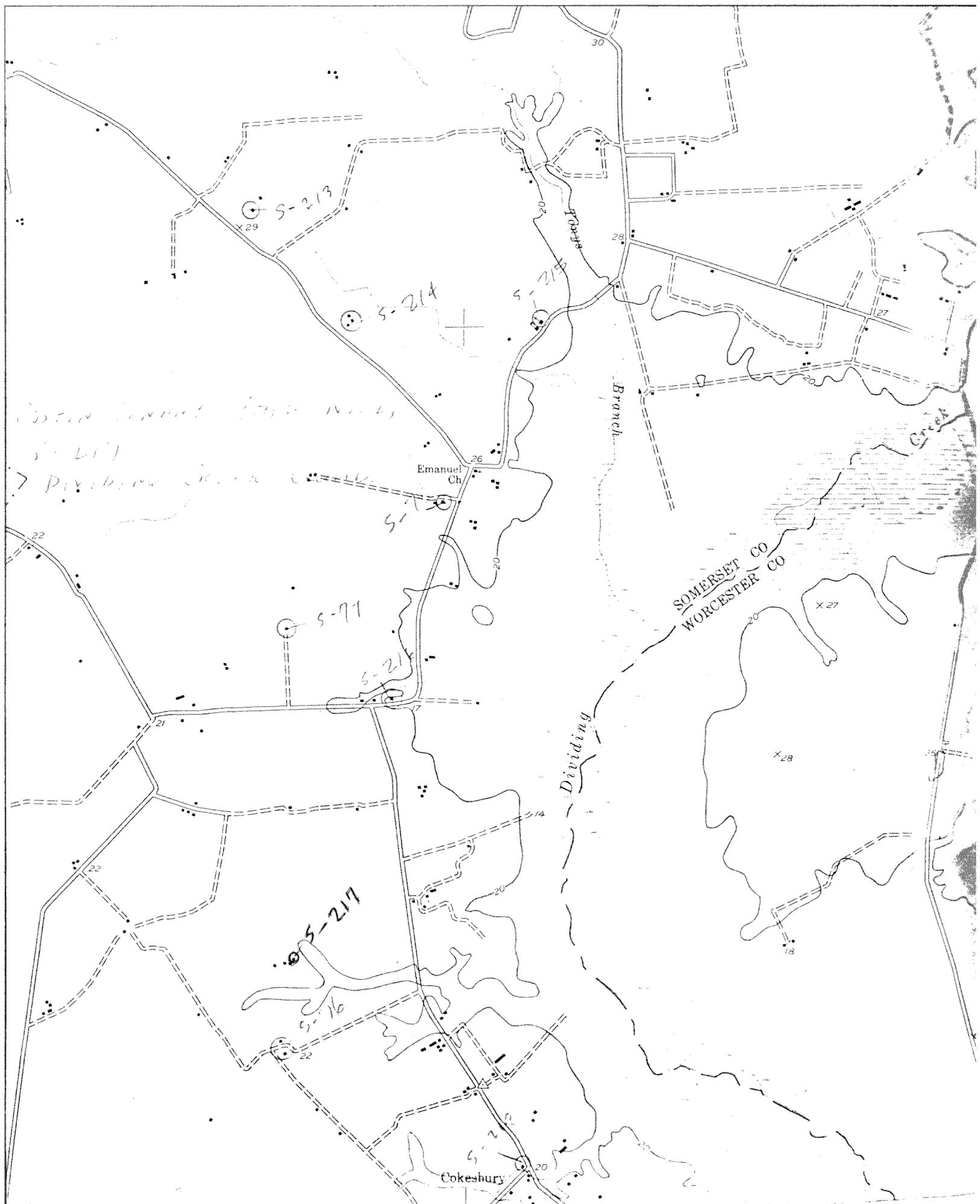
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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

S-217

ters is stabilized by a collar beam with a half-dovetailed lap joint and a double-struck cut nail. Lying on the attic floor is a board and batten door with a pair of butterfly hinges. The hinges were evidently reused.

The interior finish of the c. 1890-1900 addition consists primarily of plaster walls and simple baseboards. The kitchen, on the other hand, survives with portions of horizontal board siding and beaded floor joists. An enclosed stair rises in the southwest corner to the loft above. The kitchen^{loft} has been rebuilt, but empty mortises on the north gable end the beam indicate the previous gable end wall studs.



POSTAL SERVICE (Map No. 4)
 S-217
 7 PLYMOUTH CHURCH

1:24000 FEET

35
 26 MI TO U.S. 15 24 MI TO MD. 164

(WINDYMOKE CITY)
 SCALE 1:24000

U.S. Survey



S-217

Costen Tenant House No. 2

Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
South Elevation

2/84 Paul Touart

Neg. / Maryland Historic Trust



S-217

Costen Tenant House No. 2
Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
Northwest Corner
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



S-217

Costen Tenant House No.2
Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
South Elevation
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



S-217

Costen Tenant House No.2

Near Cokesbury, Somerset County

North Elevation

2/84 Paul Touart

Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



S-217

Costen Tenant House No. 2
Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
Eave Detail
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Maryland Historic Trust



S-217

Costen Tenant House No.2
Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
Cornice Detail
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



S-217

Costen Tenant House No. 2
Near Cokesbury , Somerset County

~~East Elevation~~

5/84 Paul Touart

Neg./Maryland Historic Trust

NORTHWEST CORNER
OF ~~HOUSE~~ HOUSE



William Costen Tenant House No. 2

S-217

Near Cokesbury, Somerset County

North Cornice

Photographer, Paul Touart, 1/85

Neg./MD Historical Trust

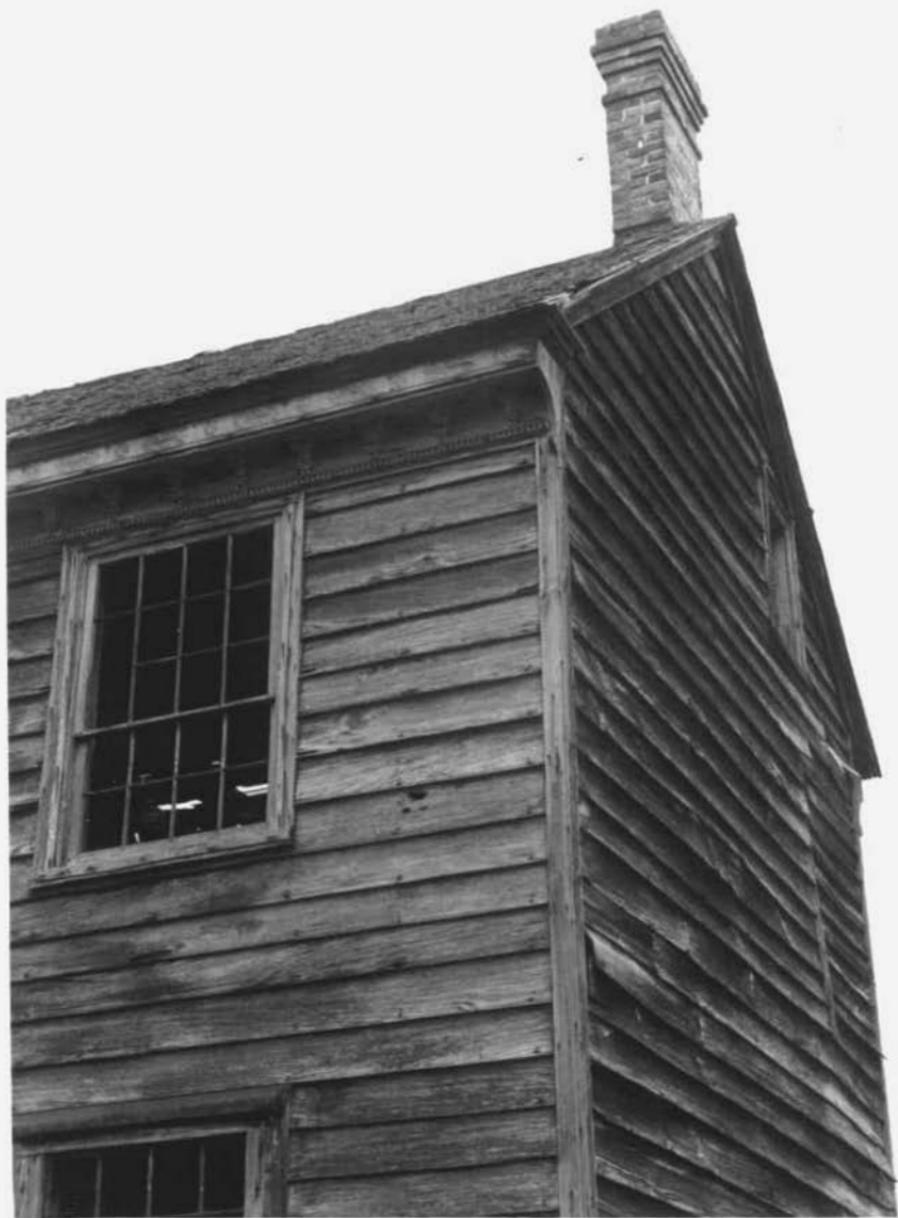


Costen Tenant House No. 2 S-217
Wellington vicinity, Somerset Co., Md.
Arched Chimney Support
2/86, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



S-217

Costen Tenant House No. 2
Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
West Elevation
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



William Costen Tenant House No. 2 S-217
Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
Northwest corner
Photographer, Paul Touart, 1/85
Neg./MD Historical Trust

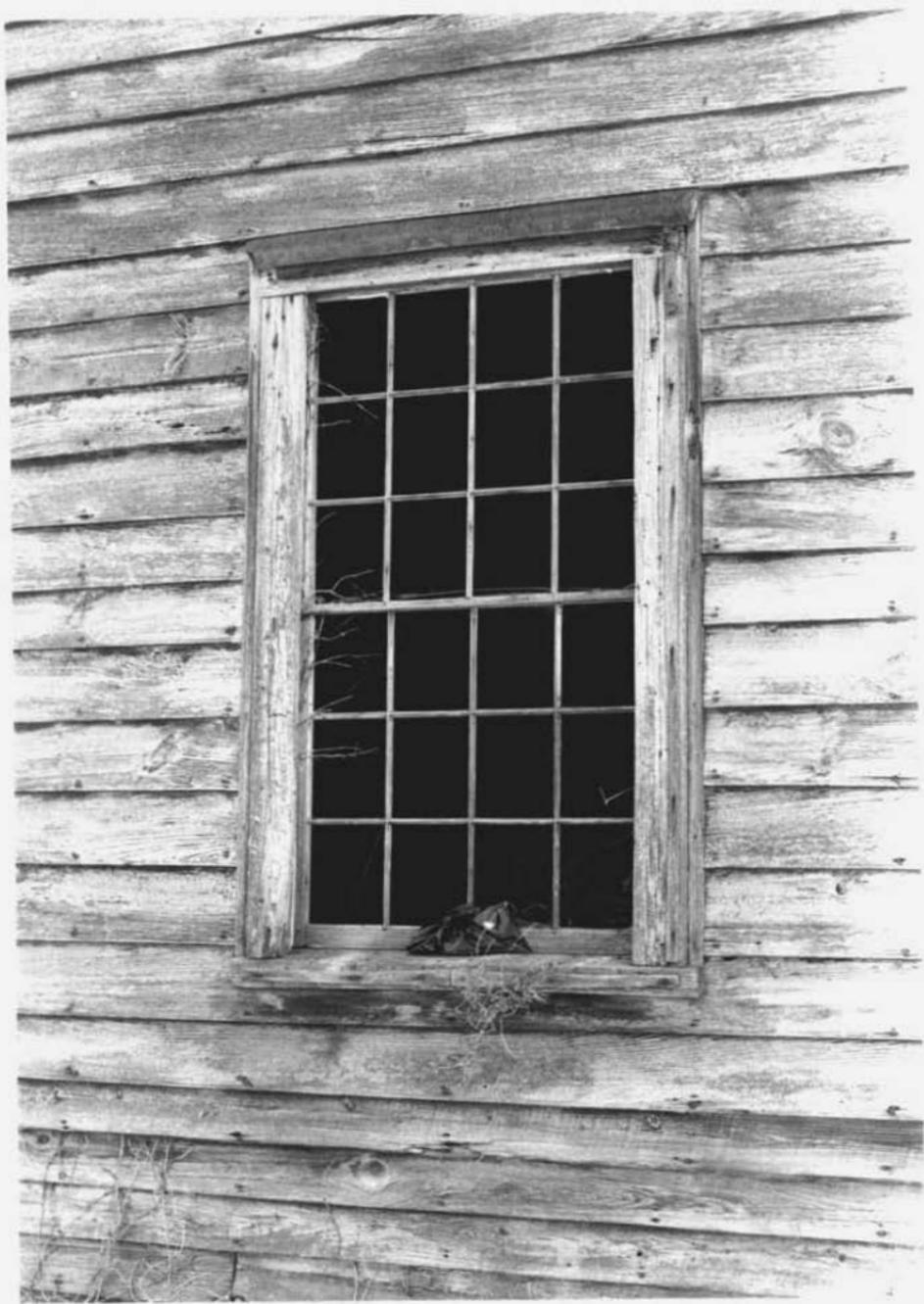


William Costen Tenant House No. 2 S-217
Near Wellington, Somerset County
Front Door-North Elevation
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg/MD. Historical Trust



S-217

Costen Tenant House No.2
Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
Front Door-North Elevation
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



S-217

Costen Tenant House No.2

Near Cokesbury, Somerset County

North Window

2/84 Paul Touart

Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



S 217

Costen Tenant House No. 2

Near Cokesbury, Somerset County

~~Front Door Transom~~

2/84 Paul Touart

Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust

Handwritten notes:
Costen Tenant House
Somerset County, Md.



William Costen Tenant House No. 2 S-217
Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
Butterfly Hinges
Photographer, Paul Touart, 1/85
Neg./MD Historical Trust



S-217

Costen Tenant House No.2

Near Cokesbury, Somerset County

2nd floor stair

2/84 Paul Touart

Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



S-217

Costen Tenant House No.1

Near Cokesbury, Somerset County

~~West Elevation~~

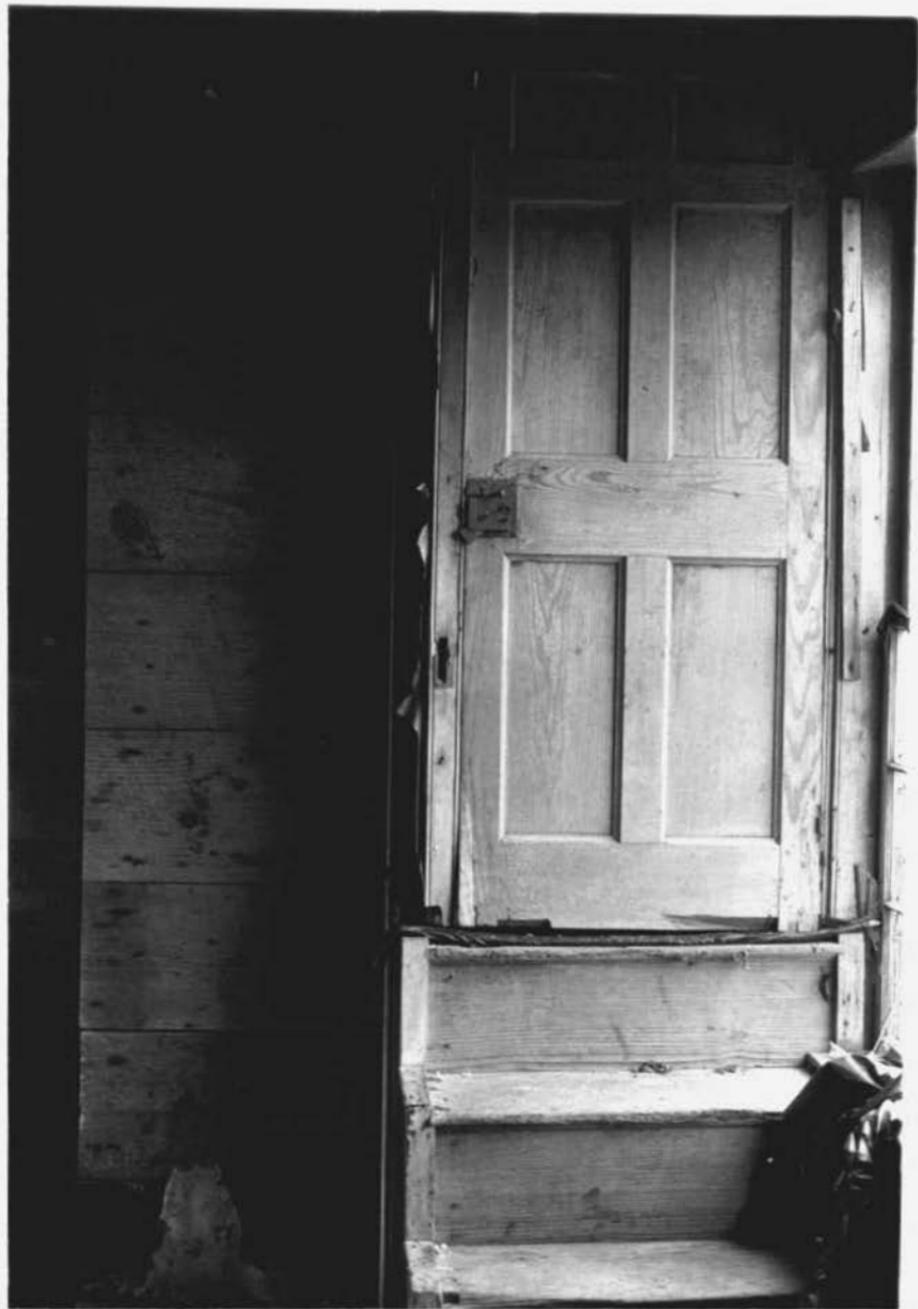
5/84 Paul Touart

Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



S-217

Costen Tenant House No. 2
Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
Corner Stair
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



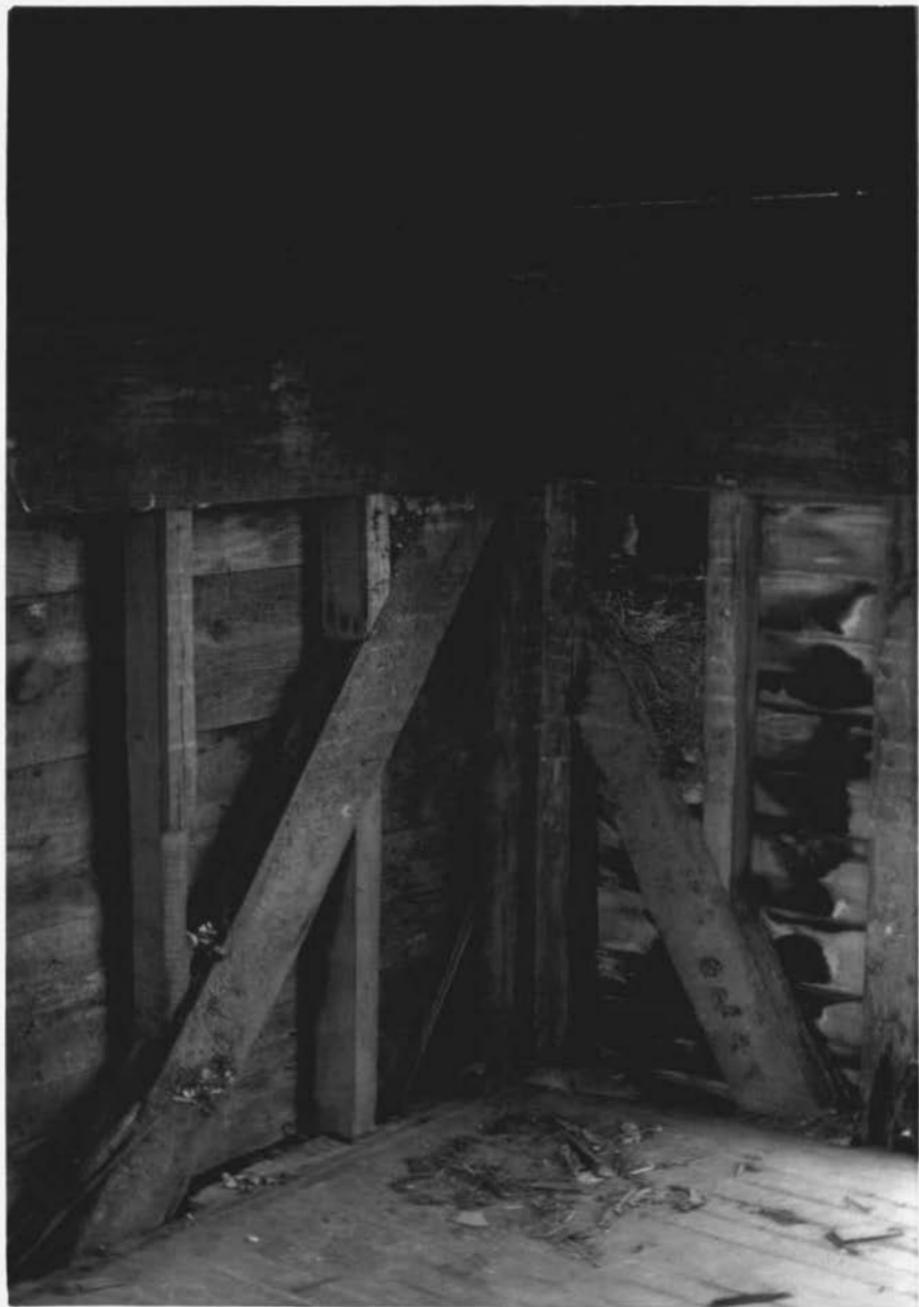
S-217

Costen Tenant House No.2

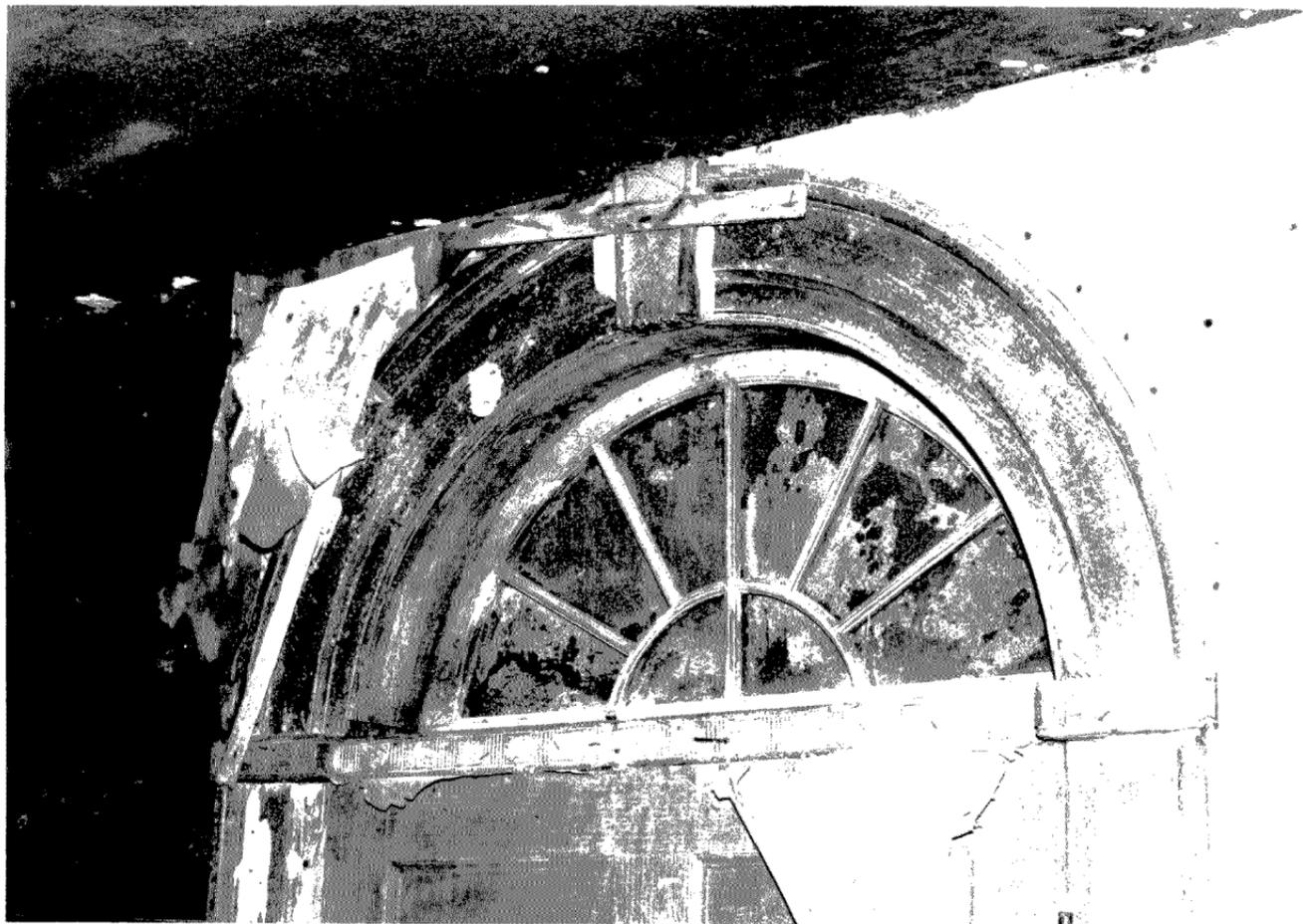
Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
Corner Stair

2/84 Paul Touart

Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



William Costen Tenant House No. 2 S-217
Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
Ell corner posts
Photographer, Paul Touart, 1/85
Neg./MD Historical Trust



S-217

Costen Tenant House No. 2
Near Cokesbury Somerset County
Front Door Transom
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



William Costen Tenant House No. 2 S-217
Near Wellington, Somerset County
Front Door
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./MD Historical Trust



William Costen Tenant House No. 2 S-217
Near Wellington, Somerset County
Cornice - South Elevation
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./MD Historical Trust