

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_  
no \_\_\_

Property Name: Thomas J. Dixon House Inventory Number: S-261  
Address: 6270 Charles Cannon Road Historic district: \_\_\_ yes  no  
City: Marion Zip Code: 21838 County: Somerset  
USGS Quadrangle(s): Marion  
Property Owner: Thomas Windsor et al. Tax Account ID Number: 046648  
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 131 Tax Map Number: 57  
Project: Proposed Tower Site: Marion, Somerset County, Maryland Agency: Maryland Dept. of Budget and Management  
Agency Prepared By: A.D. Marble & Company  
Preparer's Name: Stephanie Foell and Stacey Streett Date Prepared: 3/22/2005  
Documentation is presented in: Proposed Tower Site: Marion, Somerset County, Maryland  
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: \_\_\_ Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended  
Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible: \_\_\_ yes Listed: \_\_\_ yes  
Site visit by MHT Staff \_\_\_ yes  no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Architectural Description

Please refer to MIHP Form S-261 for previous survey information.

The Thomas J. Dixon House (S-261) is located at 6270 Charles Cannon Road, situated on the northwest side of the road. It was built in 1850, and is a two-story, three-bay-wide-by-one-room-deep, center-hall frame farmhouse. The expansive agricultural parcel also includes the Dixon family cemetery and outbuildings.

The hipped-roof dwelling faces southeast. A common-bond brick foundation supports the building. The foundation walls are pierced with small, openings which consist of horizontal, diamond, cross-sectioned bars. The exterior of the dwelling is sheathed in white, aluminum siding. The façade includes a central, two-story, cross-gabled projection. The façade is symmetrically arranged with a central entrance door and flanking six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. The multi-paneled door contains heavy moldings and is framed by four-light sidelights and a two-light transom. A first-story, shed-roof porch extends across the width of the cross-gabled projection, centered over the entrance bay, on the façade.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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MHT Comments:

Andrew Lewis  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

4/7/05  
Date

Patricia Kuntz  
Reviewer, National Register Program

4/7/05  
Date

2005 00858

The second story and attic level are lighted by six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. The gable ends contain single, rectangular windows, which are smaller versions of the other fenestration.

The northwest (rear) elevation is identical to the façade, except that a one-story, side-gabled, service wing extends from the west half of the rear elevation. It was formerly a kitchen.

Asphalt shingles clad the roof. The eaves are trimmed with cornice brackets. A pair of twin, brick chimneys rise from the center of the hipped-roof ridgeline. The tops of these chimney stacks are finished with corbelled and denticulated caps. A third brick chimney punctuates the apex of the cross gable roof at the northwest elevation.

Ornamental plantings of annual flowers and evergreen and flowering shrubs surround the residence.

Significance

Introduction

Marion, located in Somerset County, Maryland, is situated approximately six miles north of Crisfield. Marion is a small crossroads community that was established in the middle of the nineteenth century with the construction of the earliest residences. The town developed gradually throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Buildings more than 50 years of age in the Marion vicinity are generally in fair to poor condition. Many of the buildings in the commercial corridor have been altered, most substantially. The busy, four-lane Crisfield Highway (Route 413) bisects Marion and intrudes substantially on the historic character of the town, most notably on the commercial area.

Residential areas radiate out from the commercial area. The residences located closest to the commercial area are generally located along side streets and are closely spaced. However, moving outward from the commercial area, the residences are located on large parcels of land, many of which are actively cultivated. Primary crops include soybeans and corn. Modern poultry farming enterprises are also present.

The earliest buildings in Marion date to the middle of the nineteenth century. The majority of the buildings more than 50 years of age date from the early years of the twentieth century. However, numerous mobile homes and residences constructed within the last 30 years are located in the area.

The topography of Marion is generally flat with substantial stands of trees and forests as well as fields.

History of Marion

Marion is located in what was once a thriving agricultural region. Consequently, it grew into one of the larger villages within Somerset County during the second half of the nineteenth century. John C. Horsey donated a portion of his land for the railroad right-of-way, and in exchange he was allowed to name the resulting town after his daughter Marion. The village served the needs of the surrounding agricultural community. The 1877 Hopkins Atlas shows two carpenter shops, two blacksmiths, and two wagon shops in the town. A general store was located in Marion, and several churches were also established there. Approximately ten residences were located in Marion at this time. Later development was focused on areas south and east of the village.

Strawberries were one of the most important crops grown in Marion as well as other parts of Somerset County. An auction to establish the best possible market prices for strawberries was initiated in Marion in 1911. The auction was soon moved to the

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MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program Date

neighboring town of Princess Anne. Marion's strawberry crop was sent by rail car to urban markets, including Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. By the mid 1920s, many farmers had started to raise broiler chickens, and the long chicken houses became a common site in Marion and surrounding areas. Around the same time, soybeans became a popular crop among farmers. Depression-era government subsidies encouraged their cultivation, and the crop became even more widespread during World War II, when the need for soybean oil increased government incentives. Today, soybeans and corn are the most prominent crops on the landscape.

In 1914, the Bank of Marion was established. The same year, the organization constructed a new bank building in Marion. The simple building was typical of bank buildings constructed in small towns during this era. The establishment served the other merchants and farmers in the town. It is a good example of classically inspired bank architecture, and is part of the Marion Historic District.

By the end of the first quarter of the twentieth century, Marion suffered a period of decline. References generally point to the growth and prominence of Crisfield and Princess Anne as reasons for Marion's cessation of growth. Today, Marion has a high level of unemployment. Many residents commute to jobs in Salisbury.

#### Architectural Resources in Marion

The earliest residences in Marion date from the middle of the nineteenth century. The houses are primarily modest, typical vernacular farmhouses, often two stories in height with narrow facades. All of the earliest houses have been abandoned and many are in danger of collapse.

Vernacular farmhouses continued to be built in Marion into the first quarter of the twentieth century. I-houses were commonly constructed in the early years of the twentieth century. Many have steeply pitched cross gables superimposed onto the traditional I-house form. Farmhouses of this form are common throughout Maryland. Another prevalent form is a two-story folk Victorian form with a projecting, two-story, three-bay form extending from the façade. This form is commonly seen throughout the Chesapeake Bay area, most notably in Talbot and Somerset Counties. In some cases, the families have moved from the original farmhouses into trailer homes located directly next to the older home. Those that continue to function as residences have been substantially altered.

The majority of buildings more than 50 year of age in Marion date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Houses on smaller lots were the residences of those involved with the commercial activities of the town, such as banking. The houses located further from the center of town are generally larger farmhouses. The larger agricultural plots of land that contain these farmhouses generally lack agricultural buildings or outbuildings associated with agricultural practices. In a few cases, farmsteads contain poultry houses of recent construction dates.

Residences on a small segment of Charles Cannon Road are vernacular interpretations of styles and forms more commonly associated with streetcar suburbs of the early twentieth centuries. Some of these include Folk Victorian residences and American Foursquares. These are all on small parcels of land.

The residences which date from the 1930s and 40s are primarily modest cottages, most with enclosed porches. Trailers were placed throughout residential parcels in Marion during the 1960s and 70s. Today, small ranch houses constructed from the 1980s through the present day are prevalent and comprise much of the residential building stock in the vicinity. Other new residences are larger vacation homes along the Big Annemessex River.

#### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Six churches are in the vicinity of Marion. Four are modest frame chapels in the more agrarian portions of the APE. One is a larger brick Gothic Revival church. The Marion Baptist Church is the largest, and at one time perhaps the most impressive building in the town. It is a large brick building with characteristics of the Colonial Revival style, including an impressive portico. All are typical examples of sacred architecture found in the Mid-Atlantic.

The commercial architecture of Marion is typical of what is found in small communities throughout Maryland. There are two, small bank buildings and several small shops. The majority of the buildings have been altered, and approximately 35 percent are vacant and abandoned. Two rail-related buildings are in Marion, a freight station and a passenger station. Both buildings have been altered for use as retail space.

#### Determination of Eligibility

The property was evaluated for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. According to the National Register:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

The Thomas J. Dixon House is a typical example of a vernacular farmhouse in Marion. The front-facing, cross-gable form is found throughout Maryland, and is particularly prevalent on the Eastern Shore. The house is located on land that was once part of a large agricultural parcel owned by the Dixon family. Local tradition has maintained that an old Quaker meeting house was moved to the rear of the Dixon house, serving as a rear wing of the house. However, this wing burned in the early 1980s and is no longer extant, and this information cannot be confirmed.

The Thomas J. Dixon House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It is not associated with significant events that contributed to the history of Marion and is not eligible under Criterion A. Thomas J. Dixon, the original owner of the property, does not appear to be a significant person in the history of Marion; therefore the property is not eligible under Criterion B. The house is a typical example of a vernacular residence constructed during the mid 1800s. The house has been altered since its original construction, and since the previous 1987 survey. The house is clad in aluminum siding and replacement windows are found throughout. The property has suffered a loss of integrity of materials and design. Consequently, it is not eligible under Criterion C. The property was not evaluated under Criterion D.

#### Bibliography

Touart, Paul Baker. Somerset; An Architectural History. Annapolis: Maryland Historical Trust and Somerset County Historical Trust, Inc., 1990.

#### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

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MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Bibliography

Maryland's Historic Somerset. Princess Anne, Maryland: Board of Education, 1969.

Maryland Historical Trust. Maryland Inventory of Historic Property Forms and National Register of Historic Places Forms for Marion and surrounding areas of southern Maryland.

Touart, Paul Baker. Somerset; An Architectural History. Annapolis: Maryland Historical Trust and Somerset County Historical Trust, Inc., 1990.

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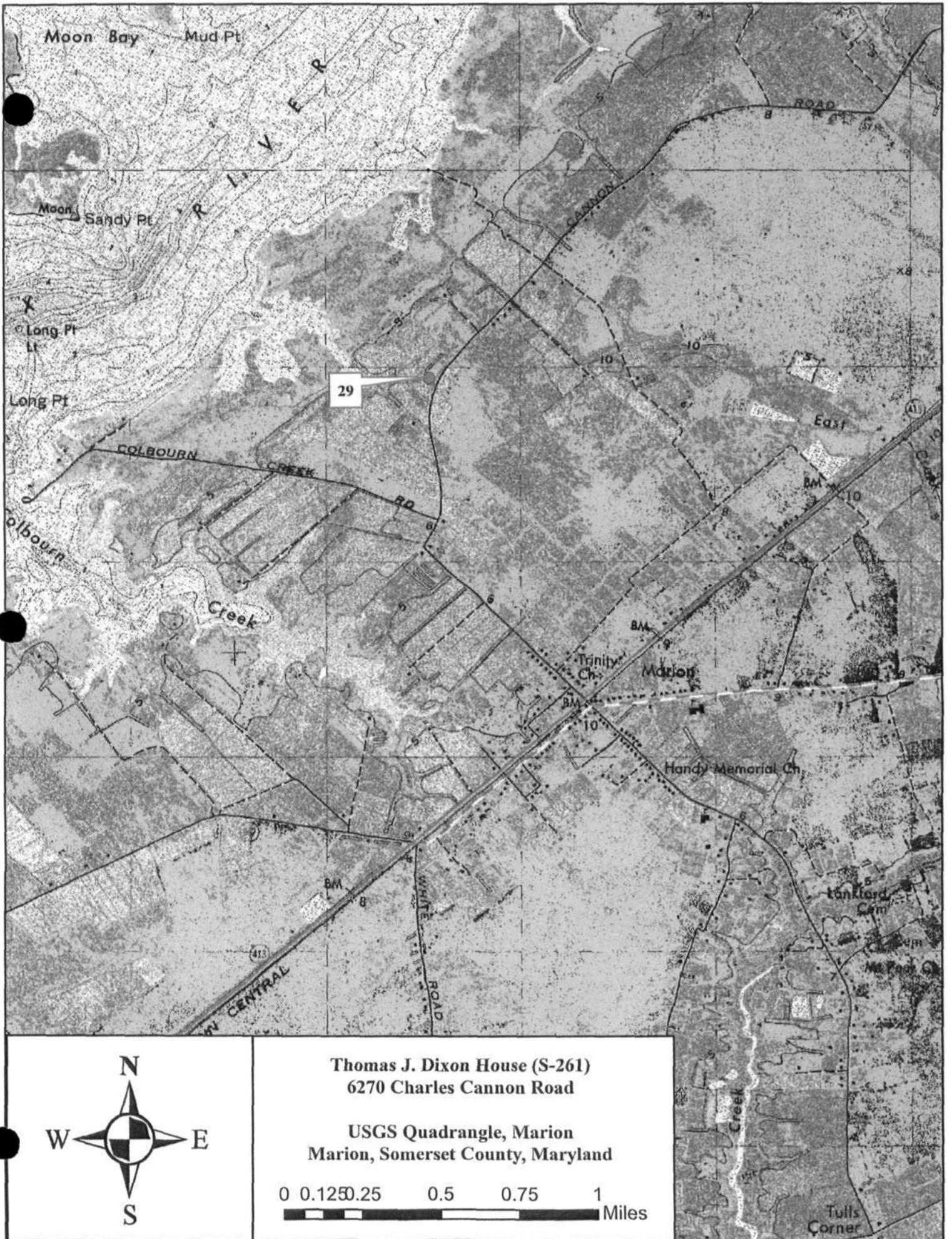
MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





MIHP# S-261

Thomas J. Dixon House  
Somerset County, MD  
Stacey Street

March 2005

Facade, taken from west side of Charles Cannon Rd.  
MD S#PO

1/5

ART-2611 <NO. 22 >B22  
409-7817 -1 N N-9-28 <B42>9



MIHP# S-261

Thomas J. Dixon House  
Somerset County, MD

Stacey Street#

March 2005

MD SHPO

Close-up of facade, taken  
from west side of Charles Cannon Rd.

2/5

ART-2611 <NO. 21 >021  
409 7817 -1 N W-6-29 (042)0



MIHP# S-261

Thomas J. Dixon House

Somerset County, MD

Stacey Streett

March 2005

MDS#PO

Overview of property, southeast corner of house.

3/5

ART-2611 <No. 20 >820  
409 7812 1 N N B 24 (0422)



MIHP # S-261

Thomas J. Dixon House

Somerset County, MD

Stacey Street

March 2005

MD SHPO

Southeast corner of house,

taken from west side of Charles Cannon Rd.

4/5



MDHP # S-261

Thomas J. Dixon House

Somerset County, MD

Stacey Street

March 2005

MD SHPO

Northeast corner of house,

taken from west side of Charles Cannon Rd.

5/5

ART-2611 <No. 18 > 818  
409 7817 -1 N N-4-69 <042> ©

S-261  
Thomas J. Dixon House  
Marion vicinity  
private

c. 1860

The Thomas J. Dixon house is a moderately significant example of a nineteenth-century farmhouse with a distinguishing hip roof and bracketed eaves. The exterior and interior have been remodeled with the application of artificial metal siding and board paneling.

This farm figures prominently in the early history of Somerset County as part of the Dixon family lands and as the site of Quaker meetings. It is an established local tradition that a former rear wing was the old Quaker meeting house which had been moved up to the house. This tradition remains unconfirmed since the rear wing burned several years ago.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-261

Magi No. 2002615504

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Thomas J. Dixon House

and/or common Solomon Tull Farm

## 2. Location

street & number N.W. Side of Charles Cannon Road  not for publicationcity, town Marion  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 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 Robert Ganister

street &amp; number telephone no.:

city, town Hatborough state and zip code PA

## 5. Location of Legal Description

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

street &amp; number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. S-261

<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 checked="" 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.

c. 1860-1870

The Thomas J. Dixon House is a two-story three-bay center hall frame house that stands on the northwest side of Charles Cannon Road near Marion, Somerset County, Maryland. The farmhouse is accompanied by the Dixon family cemetery.

Facing southeast, the hip roofed structure rests on a common bond brick foundation and is sheathed with aluminum siding. A center gable interrupts the roofline on both the front and rear facades, while the eaves are trimmed with covered-over brackets. A pair of twin brick chimney stacks rise from the center of the house and are finished with corbelled and dentiled caps.

The southeast (main) facade is symmetrically arranged with a center door and flanking 6/6 sash windows. The double two-panel doors have heavy mid 19th-century moldings and are framed by four-light sidelights and a two-light transom. The second floor and attic are lighted by 6/6 sash windows. Finally, a small shed roof porch covers the entrance bay, and the basement walls are pierced with small openings with horizontal diamond cross-sectioned bars.

Both gable ends have single window openings on each floor and bracketed eaves.

To the rear a modern service wing has been added in place of an earlier kitchen. Local tradition has maintained that part of the previously burned wing was the old Quaker Meeting House which was moved up to the Dixon House.

The interior of the main block has been largely remodeled but the third quarter of the 19th century stair, a heavily turned newel post and turned balusters remain intact.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. S-261

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 checked="" 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

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

The Thomas J. Dixon House is a moderately significant example of a third quarter of the 19th-century farmhouse with a distinguishing hip roof and bracketed eaves. The exterior and interior has been comprised with the application of modern materials. Most significantly, this farm is part of the Dixon family lands which figure prominently in the early years of Somerset history. The tradition of the Quaker Meeting House as part of the rear wing is unconfirmed.

## 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 

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 D 

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

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

 name/title Paul Touart - Architectural Historian

 organization Somerset County Historical Trust      date 12/14/84

 street & number 424 N. Somerset Avenue      telephone 651-0077

 city or town Princess Anne      state MD 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





Thomas Dixon House  
Near Marion, Somerset County  
East Elevation  
10/84, Paul Touart  
Neg./MD Historical Trust

S-261



Thomas Dixon House

S-261

Southwest Elevation

Near Marion, Somerset County

10/84, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./MD Historical Trust