

MOVE TO RIGHT MARGIN



S-269  
Whittington Grain Elevator  
Marion  
private

Early Twentieth  
Century

The Whittington Grain Elevator and storage silos are a visually dominant and once vital business located at the southwest end of town. These silos offered grain processing as well as safe storage of the crop before export on the railroad. However, the Crisfield branch of the railroad has been unused since the early 1970<sup>s</sup>, therefore rendering these massive silos useless. Nevertheless, this agriculturally-oriented industrial site is a significant visual landmark for this flat rural landscape. It also documents the important role of shipping grain by rail during the early twentieth century.



# 7. Description

Survey No. S-269

|                                    |  |   |   |                    |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|--------------------|
| <b>Condition</b>                   |  | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                  |                    |
| <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 Whittington grain elevator and storage silos constitute a large industrial complex at the southwest end of Marion between MD 667 and the old track bed of the Philadelphia, New York and Baltimore Railroad. The grain elevator is a massive asbestos clad frame structure that dominates the complex at the north end.

The center, main portion of the mill that rises above the rest of the structure is a rectangular frame structure topped by a gable-roofed penthouse which contains pulley and belt systems. Underneath the asbestos shingles is a layer of weatherboards which covers diagonal plank construction. The medium pitched gable and shed roofs have a layer of asphalt shingles.

Attached to the north side is a bi-level squarish frame section topped with a variety of machinery and hardware. Extending to the southwest of the center portion is a single-story gable roofed warehouse type of structure with an irregular fenestration. One service door pierces the southeast side.

At the south end of the complex is a series of seven corrugated iron round silos as well as a loading bay for grain cars. A spur of the rail line enters into a bi-level frame loading bay with shutes entering through the roof. A complex system of pipe lines and grain shutes runs along the top and bottom of the six silos. A plaque with "Public Warehouses, Douglas-Guardian Warehouse Corp." is riveted to the exterior of the bins.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. S-269

| 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 checked="" 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/<br>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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications         | <input checked="" 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<br>and/or<br>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 Whittington grain elevator and storage silos are a visually dominant and once vital <sup>business</sup> operated for Marion and all of southern Somerset County. These silos undoubtedly offered processing as well as safe storage of grain harvests before export on the railroad. However, the Crisfield branch of the railroad has been unused since the early 1970s, therefore extinguishing a need for these massive silos. Nevertheless, the agriculturally-oriented industrial site is a significant visual landmark on this flat rural landscape, while it documents the important role shipment by rail played during the first half of the 20th century. Railroads replaced grain transport by ship, a labor-intensive and costly method of transport in contrast. In turn, truck farming has largely outdated shipment of agricultural products by rail on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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## 10. Geographical Data

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

Quadrangle name Marion

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

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 1/11/85

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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  
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 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 269-2438



S-269  
Whittington Grain Elevator  
Marion, MD Quadrangle, 1972



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Trails
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route

MARION, MD.  
N3800—W7545/7 5

1972

AMS 5860 III SE—SERIES V8330

(SAXIS)  
5859 / NW



Whittington Grain Elevators S-269  
Marion, Somerset County  
South Elevation  
4/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./MD Historical Trust



Whittington Grain Elevators S-269

Marion, Somerset County

Southeast Elevation

10/84, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./MD Historical Trust



Whittington Grain Elevators S-269

Marion, Somerset County

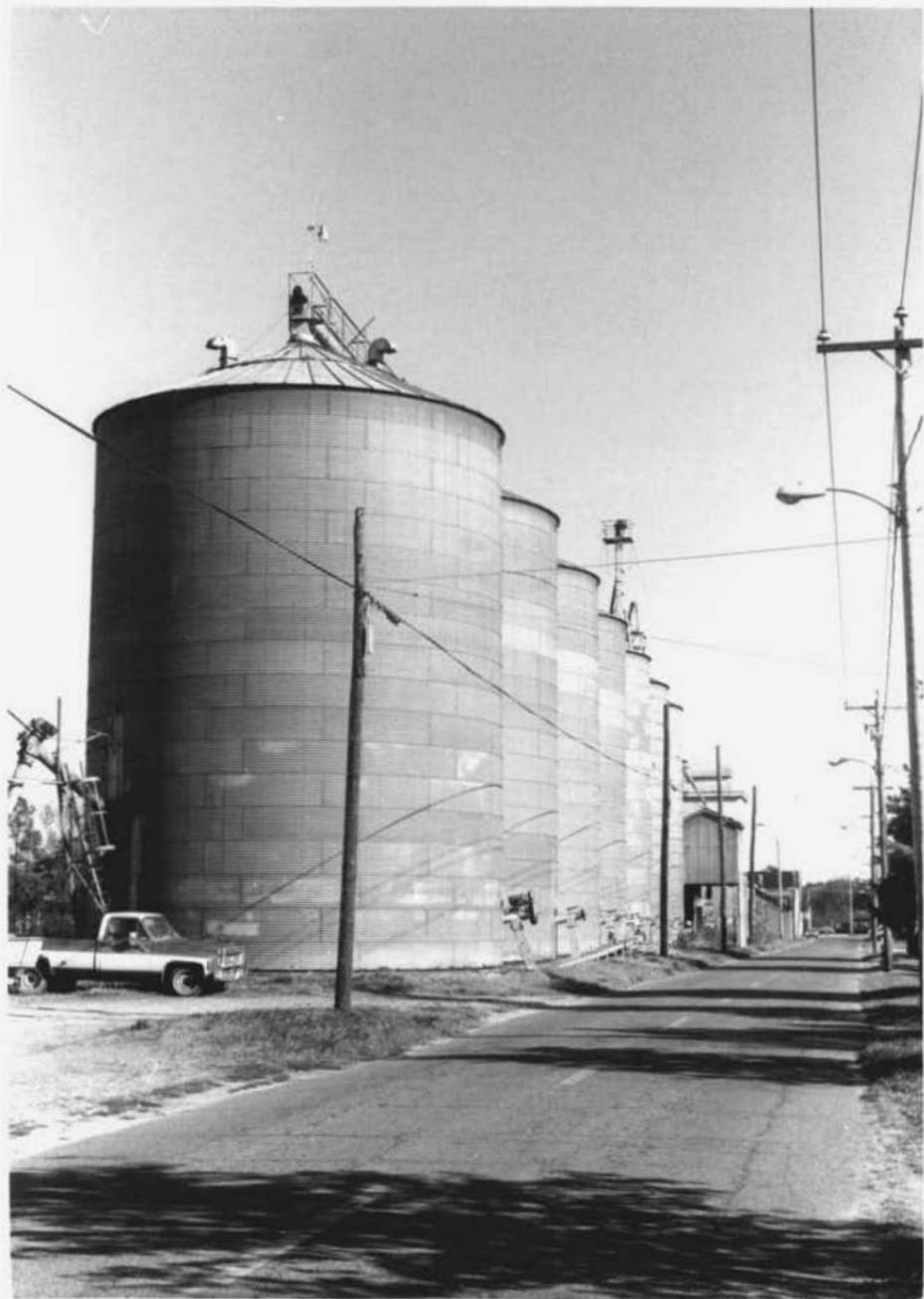
Northeast Elevation

10/84, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./MD Historical Trust



Whittington Grain Elevator      S-269  
Marion, Somerset County  
East Elevation  
10/84, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./MD Historical Trust



Whittington Grain Elevator     S-269  
Marion, Somerset County  
South Elevation  
10/84, Paul Touart, Photographer  
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