

S-348

Eighteenth and nineteenth centuries

Thornton

Princess Anne vicinity

private

"Thornton" farm is situated on a high bank on the north side of the Manokin River west of Princess Anne. Patented in 1662 to William Thorne, the main tract encompassed six-hundred acres. The architectural survivals on the modern "Thornton" farm date to the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century, but located in the middle of a plowed fields is a small cemetery that contains two of the oldest grave markers in Somerset County. The large sandstone table marker was crafted for Alexander Brown, who inherited "Thornton" from Colonel David Brown around 1698. The tombstone bears the date 1712 and has an elaborately carved coat of arms. Also located in the cemetery is an anomalous marker for Captain John Blaney, born in Charleston, Massachusetts. Blaney died on January 5, 1715. The most remarkable aspect of this slate tombstone is the New England type carving that decorates the headstone as well as the footstone. A death skull flanked by wings tops the stone, and stars set in a circle head the side panels. Down each side are breast motifs set between leaves.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Thornton

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Thornton
End of Farm Lane off 363, Deal Island Road ___ not for publication

city, town Princess Anne 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Paul Twining

street & number Thornton Farm 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-348

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 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.

Thornton farm is located at the end of a long farm lane that intersects MD 363 (Deal Island Road) one mile west of Princess Anne, Somerset County, Maryland. The farm borders the north bank of the Manokin River.

The farm complex consists of a turn of the century farmhouse, a large dairy/hay barn, a corn crib, and a family cemetery that has two of the most elaborate and unusual tombstones in Somerset County.

The farmhouse is a t-plan frame dwelling supported by a partially excavated cellar with a brick foundation. The main house and the various additions are uniformly covered with asbestos shingles, and the steeply pitched roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Single-pane sash windows light the first and second floors, and diamond pane windows light the attic. A narrow brick stove stack rises through the north gable end. The interior has been converted to office space.

Standing north of the house is a bi-level board and batten frame dairy barn supported by poured concrete and brick foundation. The south wall has been rebuilt and covered with weatherboards. Defining the peak of the roof are two gabled vents with louvered openings. A concrete ribbed silo stands at the south end of the structure, and a concrete block milking room has been added to the west side. The first floor interior consists of two large spaces, the southern two thirds of the barn is used for dairy stanchons, while the northern third includes a through passage and crop storage space.

An ell-shaped corn crib stands due south of the barn and is supported by clay pot piers. The south section is covered with vertical slat siding, while the north ell has been covered with corrugated tin. Both sections have sheet tin roofs.

Located in the middle of the plowed field south of the modern ranch house is a small cemetery that contains two early eighteenth-century grave markers. The table stone is that of Alexander Brown, who inherited "Thornton" from Colonel David Brown around 1698. The tombstone bears the date 1712 and has an elaborately carved coat of arms. The sandstone monument is one of the earliest tombstones in Somerset County. Also located in the cemetery is an anomolous marker for Captain John Blaney, born in Charlestown, Massachusetts. He died on January 5, 1715. The most remarkable aspect of this tombstone is the New England type carving that decorates the headstone. A death skull flanked by wings heads the stone and stars set in a circle top the side panels. Down each side are breast motifs set between leaves.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-348

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 checked="" 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.

Most notable about "Thornton" farm is the survival of two early eighteenth-century grave markers; one with an elaborate coat of arms carved from sandstone and the other, a slate stone exhibiting New England style carving. Both stones were evidently imported into Somerset County. The farm buildings date to the late nineteenth century. The dairy/hay barn is one of the largest of its kind in the county.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. S-348

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

organization Somerset County Historical Trust date 7/9/86

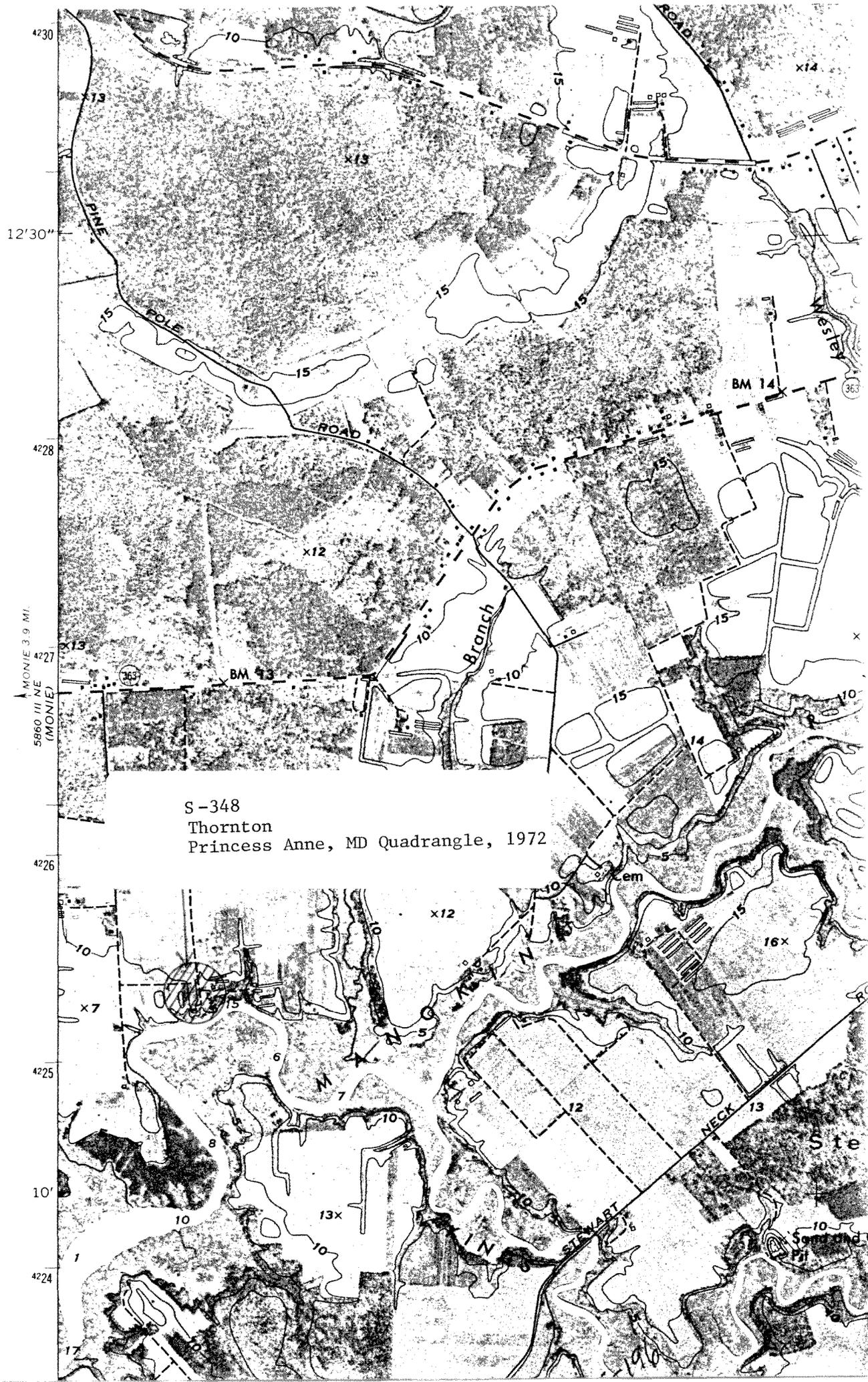
street & number 424 N. Somerset Avenue telephone 651-0077

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



4230
12'30"
4228
4227
4226
4225
10'
4224

MONIE 3.9 MI.
5860 III NE
(MONIE)

S-348
Thornton
Princess Anne, MD Quadrangle, 1972

1970



Thornton

S-348

Princess Anne Vicinity, Somerset Co., Md.

Farmhouse

6/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Thornton

S-348

Princess Anne Vicinity, Somerset Co., Md.

Dairy Barn

6/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Thornton

S-348

Princess Anne Vicinity, Somerset Co., Md.

Corn Crib

6/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Thornton

S-348

Princess Anne Vicinity, Somerset Co., Md.

Footstone of Captain John Blaney

6/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Here Lyes Buried The
Body of Cap JOHN BLATNEY
who was Born in Charlston
in New-England Aged 37
years And a Dayes Who
Deceased Jan 17 1700

Thornton

S-348

Princess Anne Vicinity, Somerset Co., Md.

Tombstone of Captain John Blaney

6/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust