

1987

S-45
Noah Webster House
Deal Island
private

c. 1883

Notably unusual for its large size and distinctive mansard roof, the Noah Webster house attracts notice while one is traveling through Deal Island. A mature group of shade trees currently surrounds the late nineteenth-century frame house. The principal elevation is a symmetrical five-bay ~~facade~~ ^{facade} with a center entrance and flanking sash windows. The unconventional mansard roof is pierced by five pointed arch dormers. Attached to the back of the house is a large service wing detailed in the same manner as the main block.

Commonly known as the "Noah Webster Homeplace" for the past century, it is thought Noah Webster financed the building of this impressive dwelling after his purchase of part of the Williams Evans estate in 1883 (BFL 6/460). Prior to Webster purchase the property was owned by John Tignor and his wife Mary Catherine, who had bought the land from the Evans estate trustee, John W. Crisfield, in 1870 (LW 12/154). The estate plat indicates a dwelling on the property, but the former house must have burned since architectural evidence indicates this structure dates from the fourth quarter of the century. Furthermore, local traditions credit Noah Webster with its construction.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Noah Webster House

2. Location

street & number End of dirt lane off MD 363 (Deal Island Road) 7-14-81 not for publicationcity, town Deal Island vicinity of congressional district Firststate 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	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 Becky Thomas

street & number P.O. Box 72 telephone no.:

city, town Deal Island state and zip code Maryland 21821

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 Maryland Historic Site Inventory

date 1967 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD. 21401

7. Description

Survey No. S-45

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.

Noah Webster House Description

The Noah Webster house stands at the end of a dirt entrance lane that branches from Deal Island Road (MD 363) within the southern limits of the village of Deal Island. The large ~~wood shingle~~ story frame house faces east with the roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built on a continuous common bond brick foundation, this large three-story, center hall frame house is sheathed with vinyl siding and covered by an unconventional asphalt shingle mansard roof. The steepest portion of the roof, formerly covered with wood shingles, is now sheathed with imitation shingles. Large brick chimneys with corbelled caps rise from the center of the house. Attached to the back of the main block is a three-story service wing.

The east (main) elevation is a symmetrical five-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking six-over-one sash windows. A molded lintel has been added to the top of each window along with louvered aluminum shutters. The heavily molded front door is framed by sidelights and a transom. The second floor is lighted by five evenly spaced six-over-one sash windows, and the third floor is marked by five pointed arch dormers with two-over-two sash windows. Stretching across the first floor is a hip roofed porch supported by turned posts and decorated with sawn brackets. A small cross gable is centered on the porch above the entrance bay.

The north and south ends of the main block are similarly finished with two windows on each floor and two dormers lighting the attic. A few original six-over-six sash windows remain on the south side.

The three-story service wing is two bays across by two rooms deep, and the side walls are finished in a similar manner as the front block. A third brick chimney rises from the center of the tee-plan wing. Two-over-two sash dormers light the attic of the wing as well, and one dormer on the north side retains its pointed arch shutters. Some modern windows have been added on the first floor of the north side.

The interiors have remained essentially intact. An open string stair rises in the hall, and it is distinguished by a turned newel post, turned balusters and a molded handrail. Four-panel doors framed by molded surrounds with bulls-eye blocks open into each room. Victorian mantels remain in several rooms, but the house has always been heated through stoves. The rear wing is finished with the same Victorian woodwork. A tight winder stair rises in the northwest corner of the back room.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-45

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 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: A B C D
and/or

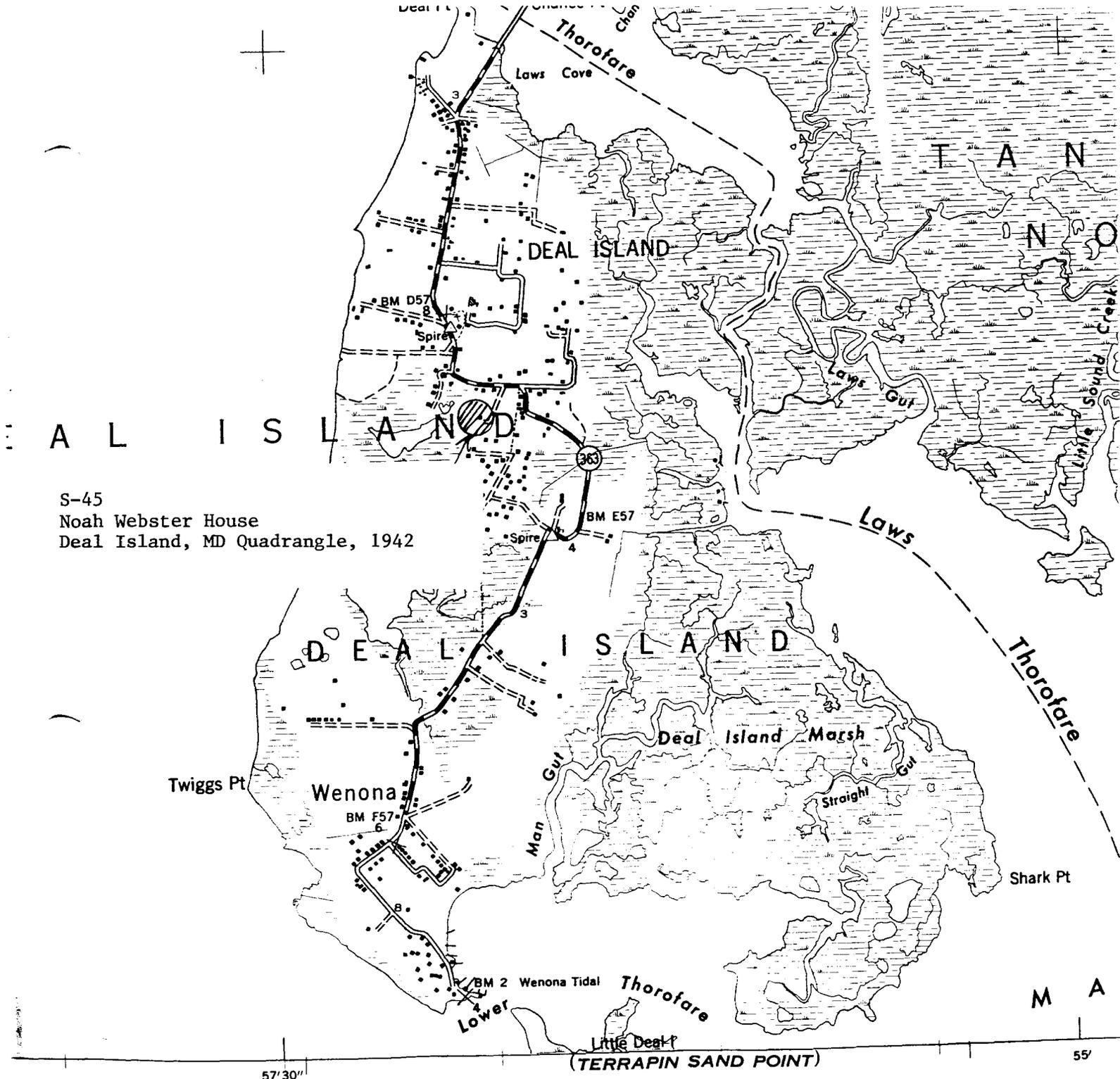
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

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

Significance

The Noah Webster house is significantly larger than most nineteenth-century Deal Island houses with its three story elevation and center hall, double pile plan. In addition, the amount of decorative Victorian trim exceeds that which is normally found on houses in water-oriented communities. The hip-on-mansard roof is an unconventional adaptation of the standard mansard roof where the top portion of the roof is not visible from the ground.



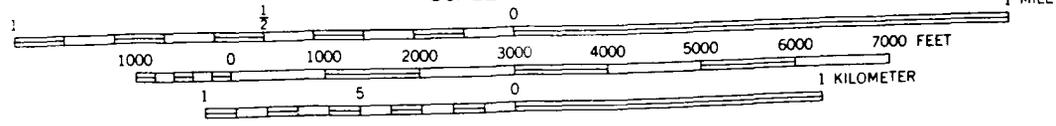
S-45
 Noah Webster House
 Deal Island, MD Quadrangle, 1942

57°30'

55'

(TERRAPIN SAND POINT)

SCALE 1:24 000



MAXIMUM GROUND ELEVATION 8 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

10,000-FOOT GRID TICKS. MARYLAND PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, SHOWN IN BLACK
 1000-METER GRID TICKS. UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR SYSTEM, ZONE 18. SHOWN IN BLUE

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S-45

MARYLENE MITCHELL TRUST
2:25 PM 1967
AUG 1 1967

DG 1967



Noah Webster House
Deal Island, Somerset County, Md.
South Elevation
6/86 Photographer - Paul Touart
Neg/Md. Historical Trust

S-45



Noah Webster House

S-45

Deal Island, Somerset Co. Md.

Service Wing

7/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg/Md. Historical Trust



Noah Webster House
Deal Island, Somerset Co. Md.
East Elevation
7/86, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg/Md. Historical Trust

S-45

NOAH WEBSTER HOUSE
DEAL ISLAND, MARYLAND
EAST ELEVATION
7/86