

S-454  
Waters House  
Upper Hill  
Private

c. 1900

Generally labeled the Waters house by community residents, this two-story, tee-shaped frame dwelling dates to the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The asymmetrical form, with its uneven street elevation and block cornices, provides an alternative house form for this historic black community where most houses follow side and center hall floor plans with basically symmetrical two- or three-bay facades. The exterior features of the Waters house, the block cornices and uniform six-over-six sash windows, suggest that the tee-shaped dwelling was erected in one building period.

The chain of title research for this corner lot traces ownership back through to the early 1940s and the purchase of the property by R. Campbell and Bertie L. Waters in September 1941. Fourteen years later, in March 1955, R. Campbell and Bertie L. Waters transferred the title to R. Abbott and Sybil N. Waters, who retain control of the property. The history of the property for the period 1880 to 1920 has not been fully determined, but it appears the house and lot were owned by a white landowner and probably rented to a black family.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: WATERS HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: S-454

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):  
INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE  
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. S-454  
Magi No.  
DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common WATERS HOUSE

**2. Location**

street & number 8188 Upper Hill Road  not for publication

city, town Upper Hill  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 checked="" 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 R. Abbott and Sybil Waters  
% Cindy E. Miles

street & number 5458 S. Harper Avenue 1st Floor telephone no.:

city, town Chicago state and zip code Illinois 60615

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court liber 170

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio 447

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-454

<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.

The Waters house stands on the southwest corner of the intersection of Upper Hill and Joe Moore roads at 8188 Upper Hill Road, Somerset County, Maryland. The two-story, tee-shaped frame house faces east with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Dating to the late nineteenth century, c. 1880, this two-story, tee-shaped frame dwelling is supported on a brick pier foundation sheathed with metal sheeting impressed in imitation of rusticated concrete blocks. The exterior is clad with a layer of asbestos shingles over weatherboards, and the medium pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The east (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a recessed entrance wall infilled with single-story shed roofed porch. The second floor above the entrance is marked by a pair of six-over-six sash windows, and pairs of six-over-six sash windows light the first and second floor of the projecting leg of the tee-shaped house. The extended eave that trims the base of the roof features plain block modillions. Protruding through the center of the roof at the intersection of the two rooflines is a narrow brick chimney finished with a corbelled cap.

The north gable end is dominated by an early twentieth century exterior brick chimney that rises between pairs of six-over-six sash windows. The extended eave is trimmed with plain modillion blocks.

The south side of the tee-shaped house is three-bays across with a mid twentieth century enclosed shed roof addition that covers the first floor. The second floor is marked by three evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows, and the cornice is finished with a row of plain modillion blocks.

The west (rear) elevation of the house follows an asymmetrical fenestration with a centrally located rear door flanked by six-over-six sash windows. The rear cornice is blocked as well.

The interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

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/ 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: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

Generally labeled the Waters house by community residents, this two-story, tee-shaped frame dwelling dates to the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The asymmetrical form, with its uneven street elevation and block cornices, provides an alternative house form for this historic black community where most houses follow side and center hall floor plans with basically symmetrical two- or three-bay facades. The exterior features of the Waters house, the block cornices and uniform six-over-six sash windows, suggest that the tee-shaped dwelling was erected in one building period.

The chain of title research for this corner lot traces ownership back through to the early 1940s and the purchase of the property by R. Campbell and Bertie L. Waters in September 1941. (Somerset County Land Record, 121/76) Fourteen years later, in March 1955, R. Campbell and Bertie L. Waters transferred the title to R. Abbott and Sybil N. Waters, who retain control of the property. (Somerset County Land Record, 170/447) The history of the property for the period 1880 to 1920 has not been fully determined, but it appears the house and lot were owned by white families prior to 1900.



S-454  
WATERS HOUSE  
8188 Upper Hill Road  
Upper Hill, Somerset County, Maryland  
Chain of title

170/447                    R. Campbell Waters  
                             Bertie L. Waters

to

3/24/1955                R. Abbott Waters  
                             Sybil N. Waters

121/76                    Elizabeth Bowser, widow

to

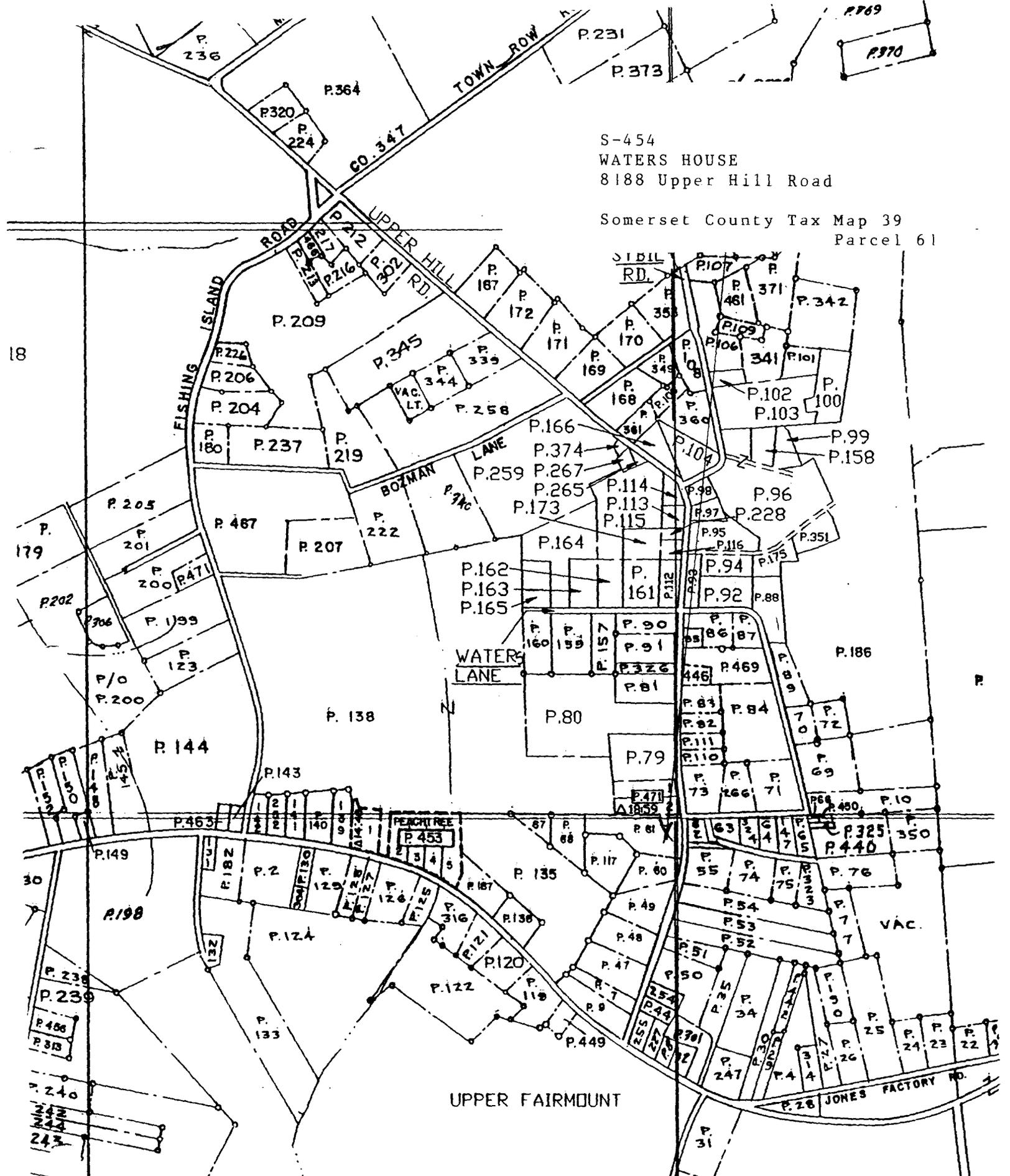
9/8/1941                R. Campbell Waters  
                             Bertie L. Waters

Conveyed to Elizabeth Bowser By 2 deeds

1. from E. J. Davy    May 1918  
                             WJS 74/580
2. from E. E. Tull    3/28/1919  
                             WJS 78/119    2 acres

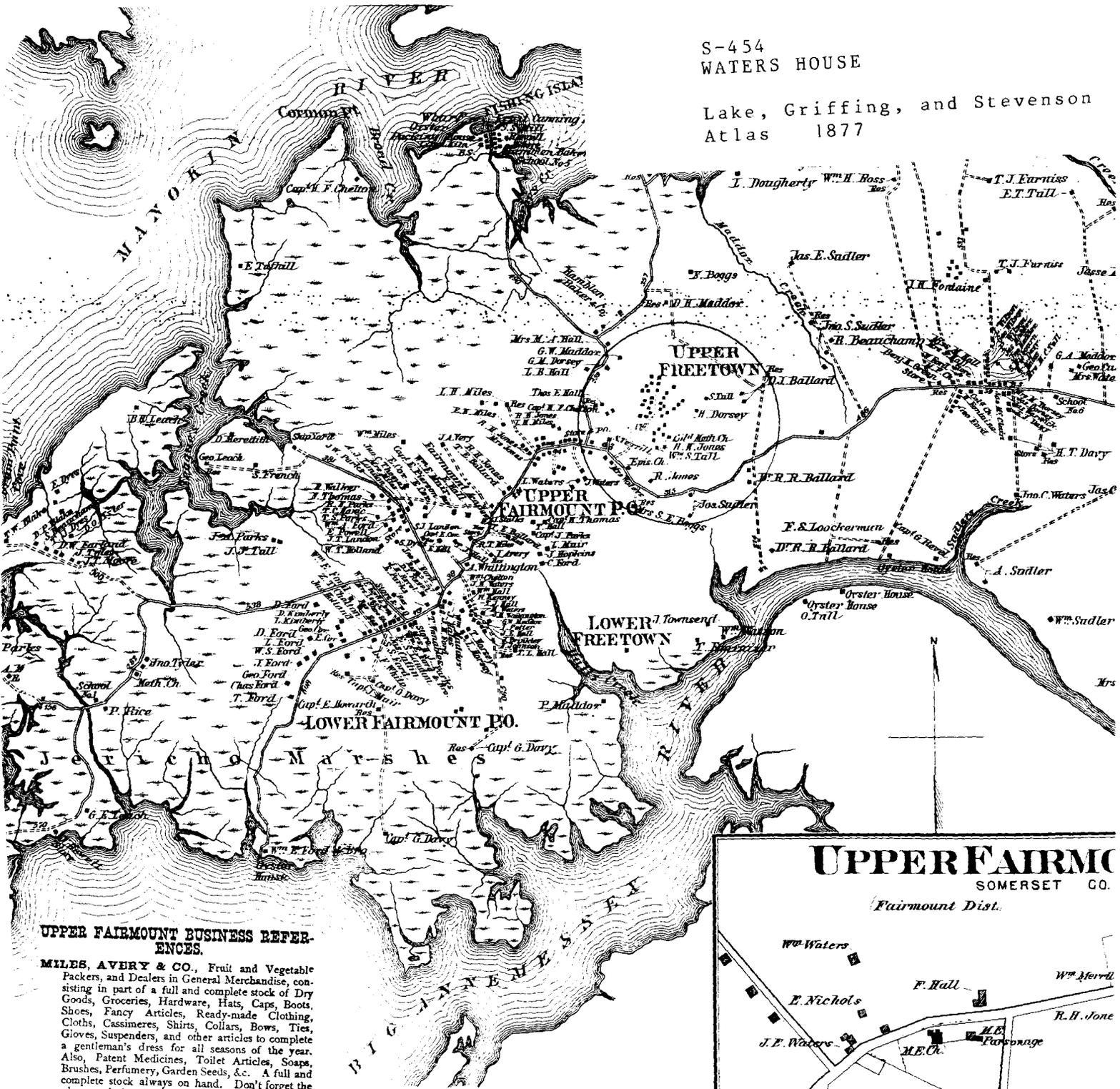
S-454  
WATERS HOUSE  
8188 Upper Hill Road

Somerset County Tax Map 39  
Parcel 61



S-454  
WATERS HOUSE

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson  
Atlas 1877

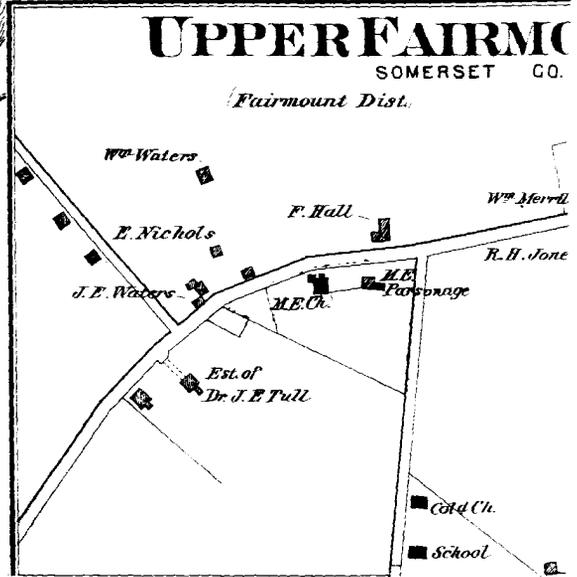


**UPPER FAIRMOUNT BUSINESS REFERENCES.**

- MILES, AVHRY & CO.**, Fruit and Vegetable Packers, and Dealers in General Merchandise, consisting in part of a full and complete stock of Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Fancy Articles, Ready-made Clothing, Cloths, Cassimeres, Shirts, Collars, Bows, Ties, Gloves, Suspenders, and other articles to complete a gentleman's dress for all seasons of the year. Also, Patent Medicines, Toilet Articles, Soaps, Brushes, Perfumery, Garden Seeds, &c. A full and complete stock always on hand. Don't forget the place, and give them a call.
- W. B. FORD & BRO.**, Oyster Packers and Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Notions, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Hardware, and General Merchandise. Lower Fairmount.
- Dr. H. E. MILES**, Physician and Surgeon.
- B. K. GREEN**, Dealer in General Merchandise, such as Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Queensware, Hats, Boots, Shoes, Notions, and all goods suitable for a first-class country store. Westover.
- W. B. LONG**, Dealer in Hardware, Tinware, Groceries, Notions, &c. Store near Westover, Md.
- JOSEPH GILPIN** offers a fine farm of 410 acres for sale. Westover.

**FAIRMOUNT**

Dist. No. 6  
SOMERSET CO.



MARION QUADRAI  
MARYLAND-SOMERS  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES ORTHOPHOTO

5860 III NE  
(MONIE) 429

430

47'30"

431

1 150 000 FEET

432

433



S-454  
WATERS HOUSE  
Upper Hill, Somerset Co., MD  
  
Marion, Maryland Quadrangle  
1972



S-454

WATERS HOUSE

UPPER HILL, SOMERSET COUNTY, MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

6/95, PAUL TOWERS, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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S-454

WATER'S HOUSE

UPPER Hill, Somerset County, MD.

NORTH ELEVATION

5/95, PAUL TOWARD, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. (MD. HISTORICAL TRUST)

2/3



S-454

WATERS HOUSE

UPPER Hill, SOMERSET Co., MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

6/95, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEB. / MD. HISTORIC TRUST

3/3