

S-49

1793

Workington (site)
Westover vicinity
private

Built for Henry and Elizabeth Wilson Jackson in 1793, "Workington" stood on the south side of Back Creek within sight of "Arlington" (S-51) and "Westover" (S-50), ^{two WILSON FAMILY HOUSES.} Continuing a family preference for large and spacious ^{dwelling,} ~~houses~~ "Workington" was planned on an elaborate scale with more attention to fine details than most houses erected in Somerset County during the last years of the eighteenth century. From photographs taken before the house burned, it is evident the first floor had a very generous ell-shaped stair hall. The decorated staircase ascended four flights to the third floor, and raised panel arches supported by semi-circular Ionic columns divided the passage. The parlor and dining room doorways were framed with the boldest architraves known to have been crafted for a Somerset County house. In addition, the walls were fitted with raised panel wainscoting and elaborate cornice moldings. The parlor, by far the most formal interior space, was richly decorated with a combination of Federal ^{and GEORGIAN PERIOD WOODWORK, CENTERED} style mantel with intricate gougework ^{THE END WALL WAS A FEDERAL} decoration. The center tablet carried a basketful of flowers design, and the flanking panels were intricately detailed as well. Framing the windows were unusually crossetted surrounds with a scrolled base molding, and paneled interior shutters were hidden within the window jambs. The room was also finished with an elaborate modillioned cornice. Some of these interior features parallel the woodwork at Tudor Hall (S-55), Liberty Hall (S-52), and the Tull farmhouse (S-29). The superior finishes were not confined to the principal rooms, for the second floor passage was executed with paneled arches, raised panel wainscoting and dentiled cornice molding.

Significant not only for its superior architectural qualities, "Workington" was the principal residence of Henry and Elizabeth Wilson Jackson, two influential land holders during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Henry Jackson owned the "Beckford" tract as well as other properties, and Elizabeth inherited the Back Creek lands through her brother Levin's will of 1791 (EB 17/174). "Workington" was comprised of two tracts known as "Mount Ephraim" and "Mother's Care" which totaled 1120 acres by the time of the 1798 tax assessment. In addition to a full complement of support buildings, the Jackson house and the domestic outbuildings were described as,

"1 Dwelling House built of Brick 54 by 38 feet two story high 12 windows 7 ½ feet by 3 feet 8 inches, 8 windows 6 ½ feet by 3 feet 8 inches 4 garret windows 4 feet 5 inches by 3 feet 9 inches, 1 kitchen built of brick 28 feet by 21 feet two story high 6 windows 4 feet 8 inches 3 feet by 2 feet 4 inches 7 windows 3 feet 8 inches by 2 feet 4 inches, smoke house 12 feet square-logs, 1 milk house 16 feet long by 12 feet wide, 1 stable 20 feet by 10 feet-sawed logs, 1 carriage house 26 feet by 20 feet not finished" Value \$2500

The other plantation buildings included another dwelling house, 47 by 21; 1 negro house, 24 by 20; 1 lumber house 30 by 20; 1 weaving house, 24 feet by 12; 1 blacksmith shop, 15 feet square; 1 corn house, 40 by 8; 1 barn 44 by 32; and two other barns supposed to be 20 feet square. The assessed number of slaves totaled 59 with 24 between the ages of 12 and 50.

As dictated by Levin's will, "Mount Ephraim" and "Mother's Care" was to pass to his nephew, Robert, after Elizabeth's death, and in the event of Robert's death the land would go to George Wilson Jackson, Robert's younger brother. In 1823 George Dashiell, Sheriff of Somerset County, sold the 1200-acre estate of the late George W. Jackson to John C. Wilson (GH 1/101). After the death of John C.

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Wilson, the "Workington" plantation was purchased by Colonel John P. Gale in October of 1837 (GH 9/248), but Colonel Gale died within two months. His will devised, "my real estate commonly called Workington to my children, William, Francis, George and Maria as joint tenants " (JP 5/52). The Gale children held onto the property for the following twenty-six years, and then sold the property to Grantham Reynolds in March of 1863 (LW 7/672). Between 1865 and 1911 "Workington" was bought and sold eleven times, until Ralph P. Thompson purchased the farm on April 6, 1914 from Augustus C.F. Wolfe (WJS 66/578). After his purchase, Ralph Thompson proceeded through a meticulous restoration of the brick house, but ~~was~~ ~~was~~ ^{SOLD} ~~was~~ the farm several years later. In 1922 the house burned to the ground.

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Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE COUNTY Somerset TOWN Raccoon Point VICINITY STREET NO. ORIGINAL OWNER Dr. Tall ORIGINAL USE Dwelling PRESENT OWNER --- PRESENT USE Site & dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION --- NO. OF STORIES ---		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY 2. NAME ^{5700, Wrens...} The Tall Property S-49 DATE OR PERIOD STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <p>This is a site where the Manokin River flows into the Bay. Originally there was a large brick manor house here, probably similar to Arlington or Almodington. It had fine boxwood gardens which swept down a lawn almost to the waters edge. The house is now gone and only an overgrown foundation marks the site. An out building of squared lot construction remains, along with a small 2½ storey house, c. 1830 or 1840, of no architectural importance. This plantation was one of the original Lord Baltimore Grants.</p>		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE OPEN TO PUBLIC No	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Paul A. Brinkman DATE OF RECORD 7/31/67	

PHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTO



Workington (Site)
Documentary Photograph taken of
South Elevation @ 1916
Unknown Photographer
Copied 12/83 Paul Touart
Wainwright Collection
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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Wor~~k~~ington

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Westover, Somerset Co., Md.

Documentary Photograph, c. 1918

Robert Hughes and Co. - Photographer

Neg./ Md. Hist Trust



Workington (Site)

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Documentary Photograph taken of

First Floor Hall @ 1914

James Hughes and Company - Photographer

Baltimore, Maryland

Wainwright Colleciton

Copied 12/83 Paul Touart

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Workington (Site)

S-49

Documentary Photograph taken @ 1914

of Second Floor Hall

James Hughes and Company - Photographer

Baltimore, Maryland

Wainwright Collection

Copied 12/83 Paul Touart

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Workington (site) S-49
documentary photograph c. 1914 of parlor
taken by James Hughes and Company
Baltimore, Maryland
Wainwright Collection
Copied 12/83 Paul Touart
negative/Maryland Historical Trust



Workington (Site)

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Documentary Photograph taken @ 1914
of Hall Doorway

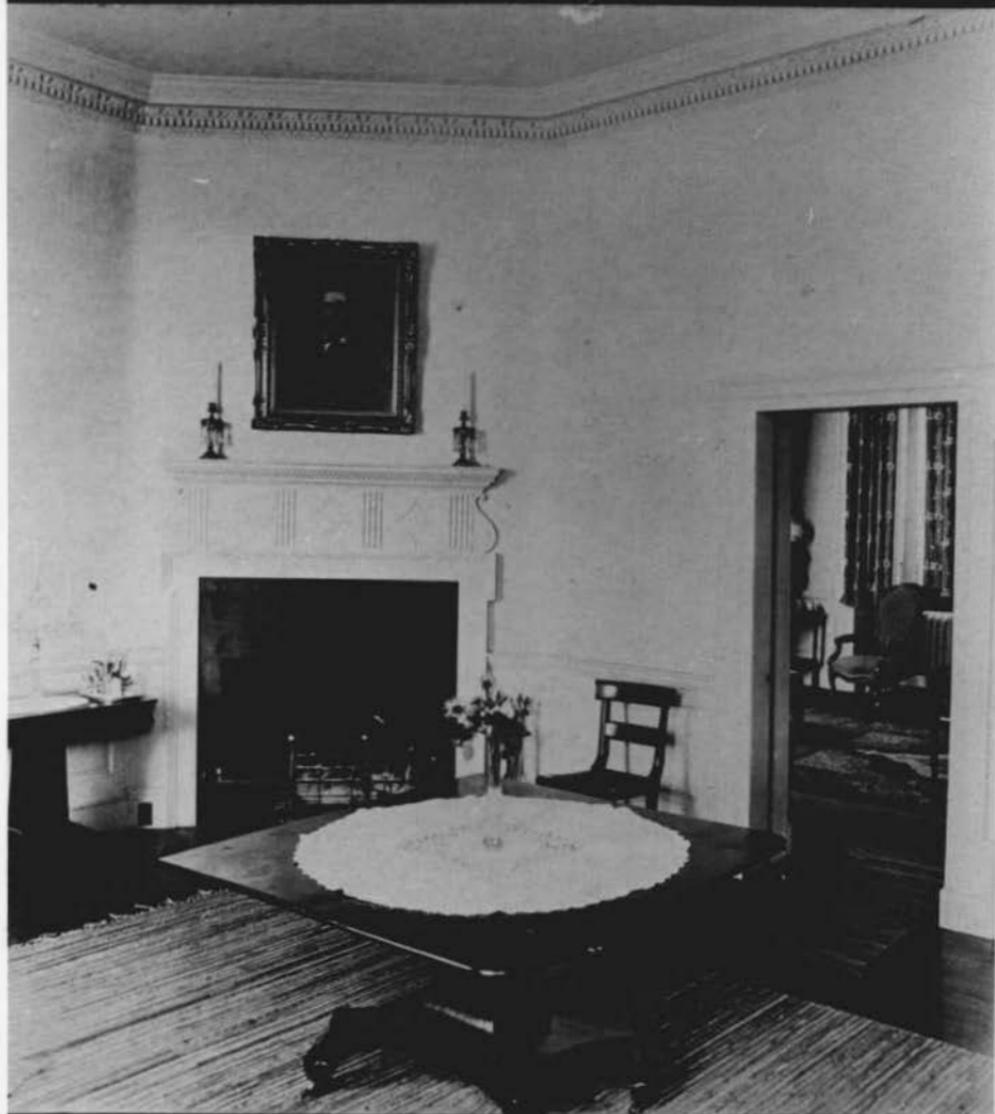
Taken by James Hughes and Co.

Baltimore, Maryland

Wainwright Collection

Copied 12/83 Paul Touart

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Workington

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Westover, Somerset Co.,Md.

Interior - Dining Room

Documentary Photograph, c. 1918

James Hughes and Co.



Workington (Site)
Documentary Photograph taken @ 1914
of Staircase
Taken by James Hughes and Co.
Baltimore, Maryland
Wainright Collection
Copied 12/83 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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"Workington" (site)

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Near Westover, Somerset County
Documentary Photograph, c. 1918
James Hughes and Co-Photographer
Collection of Mrs. Charles Wainwright
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



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Near Westover, Somerset County

Documentary Photograph, c. 1918

James Hughes and Company - Photographer

Collection of Mrs. Charles Wainwright

Neg./Md.Historical Trust



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Near Westover, Somerset County
Documentary Photograph, c. 1918
James Hughes and Co., Photographer
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Neg./Md. Historical Trust



"Workington" (site)

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Near Westover, Somerset County

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