

S-77  
Windsor Plantation  
Cokesbury vicinity  
private

1767 (?), and 1797

Although known as the Burton Cannon farm during a large part of the nineteenth century, the construction of this house and early history of the property involves the Costen family, to whom Burton Cannon was related. The main house dates from two distinct eighteenth century periods. The western half of the story-and-a-half house is a brick ended structure evidently erected during the 1760s by Isaac Costen and his wife, Sarah. A crudely etched date of 1762 or 1767 was found in the brick ended portion. The part brick, part frame "hall" plan house was enlarged in 1797 by Henry Costen, who financed the construction of two-room addition that gave the house an ell shape. A 1797 dated brick and the initials, "H. C." document its date and owner. The interiors of the first floor rooms retains notabled examples of eighteenth-century woodwork. The parlor is especially significant with paneled hearth wall and raised panel wainscoting.

Henry Costen's housed is situated on a tract of land which was resurveyed in 1793 under the name of "Windsor." Comprising parts of "Bear Point" and "Flatland," the "Windsor Plantation" contained 482 1/4 acres west of Dividing Creek. "Flatland" was a tract surveyed and granted to Isaac Costen in 1764, while "Bear Point" had remained under Costen family ownership since 1679 when the 500-acre survey was granted to Stephen Costen.

Isaac and Sarah Costen's son, Henry inherited the "Windsor" tract after his mother's death. Henry financed the addition to his parent's house in 1797, and he was assessed the following year for,

About 9 miles from Princess Anne, 1 Dwelling House 46 feet

long and 30 feet thereof 18 feet wide and the other 16 feet of its length is 30 feet wide, built one end brick rest wood, one story high.

Burton Cannon acquired title to the plantation in 1828 as the result of a court settlement involving the dower rights of Henry Costen's former wife, Anna. (GH 4/153) Burton and Matilda Harris Cannon occupied the house until the mid nineteenth century. In 1849, possession of the property was transferred to William M.N.B. Costen, who was in the process of developing one of the most impressive agricultural estates in the eastern portion of Somerset County. (WP 290) Mr. Costen probably used the property as a tenant farm since he lived a short distance south of this farm (see S-76). William Costen's son and administrator the farm to Levin J. Butler in 1892 (HFL 10/155), and Butler family ownership continued until 1914. (WJS 67/355). Between 1914 and 1957 seven different owners held title to the property. In 1957, John Truden purchased the house and eighty-one acres (GJB 184/142), executed a carefully planned restoration that saved the house from further decay. The present owners acquired the farm in 1974 (283/333).

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	Maryland
COUNTY	Somerset
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:	Burton Cannon House
RAND OR HISTORIC:	Windsor

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:				DUBLIN ROAD, ONE MILE EAST OF WELLINGTON	
CITY OR TOWN:		WELLINGTON			
STATE:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:		FIRST	
Maryland		24		Somerset	
				039	

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify): _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:	<del>Mr. John Truden</del> 5/75 Mr. Stephen BARNES
STREET AND NUMBER:	<del>P.O. Box 263</del> ROUTE 2, BOX 107
CITY OR TOWN:	Princess Anne -
STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:	Somerset County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:	Somerset Avenue
CITY OR TOWN:	Princess Anne
STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:	
DATE OF SURVEY:	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	
STATE:	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Maryland  
Somerset

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located north of Dublin Road about one mile east of Wellington is a one and one half story dwelling. The Burton Cannon House is four bays wide and two bays deep. The front, or south facade, is covered with beaded clapboard. The door is in the third bay from the west end, slightly off-center. There are two windows to the west and one window to the east of the door, each with nine lights over six. The gable roof is covered with "fishscale" shingles as is the hood over the door. There is a pedimented dormer directly over each window and the door. Each window has six over six lights. The house sits on a raised brick foundation of English bond.

The west end is brick laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers and grapevine mortar. Between the first and second stories is a two-course belt. In the gable are two small windows of four lights each. Two small windows on the first floor have been bricked in. One brick in the south window reads "rest'd 1958." The chimney, flush with the wall, rises through the peak of the roof. The stepped water table is two courses deep with the top two courses all stretcher bond. Beneath these rows the bricks are laid in Flemish bond with random glazing.

The east bay on the north side projects from the dwelling, thus forming a catslide roof. The clapboard on the east and west sides of this projection is beaded but that on the north side is scored to simulate beading. The clapboard on the three other bays is beaded. There is a door in the third bay from the west and a window, nine lights over six, in each of the others.

Attached to the east end is a twentieth century addition. In the east gable of the older section is a small window, two over two lights. A chimney pierces the roof at the peak.

The interior of the house features a center hall plan, with the parlor to the left of the entrance and the dining room to the right. The parlor is approximately 17 feet square, with a fireplace 4 1/2 feet by 3 feet, flanked by glassed-in china cupboards, and a 9 foot ceiling. The fireplace wall is paneled, and there is wainscoting with fielded panels on the remaining three walls.

A six-paneled door 3 feet by 6 feet 8 inches (with fielded panels) leads from the parlor to the central hall, which features 3 1/2 foot wide wooden stairs with square balusters, turned newels, and scrolled step brackets. In both the hall and the parlor there are chamfered beams and interesting late eighteenth century paneling.

The 14 foot square dining room to the right of the entrance hall has a deep fireplace 3 1/2 feet by 3 feet with a Georgian style wooden mantel, and an alcove on either side, similar to the alcoves which flanked the parlor fireplace before they were converted into china cupboards. The wainscoting and paneling in this room is identical to that found in the hall and parlor.

Off of the dining room in the projecting east bay of the north side is a 16 foot square bedroom. It has a corner fire-

(See Continuation Sheet No. 1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

5. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian:       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century
- 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1790s

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Typical of the frame, 1 1/2 story farmhouses of eighteenth century Maryland and Virginia, the Burton Cannon House (built in the late 1790's) gains architectural significance from its utilization of a style more commonly found in houses erected earlier in the century. Scotchtown (built circa 1725 in Hanover County, Virginia) and Smithfield Plantation (built circa 1770 in Blacksburg, Virginia) are examples of earlier frame houses with facades which are similar to the Burton Cannon House in their strong, simple, rectangular lines, in the slightly irregular spacing of their windows, in the raised brick foundations upon which they sit. Like Smithfield Plantation, the Cannon House has four dormers, and all three houses have a central doorway.

The Burton Cannon House is situated on a tract of land which was surveyed in 1793 for Henry Costen (also, Costin or Coston) and patented for him in 1798 under the name of Windsor. Henry Costen was the probable builder of the house, and the Federal Direct Tax Assessment for 1798 for Dividing Creek Hundred lists him as the owner and occupant of

---one dwelling house 46 feet long and 30 feet thereof 18 feet wide and the other 16 feet of its length is 30 feet wide with 7 windows 4 1/2 by 2 1/2 and 4 windows 3 1/2 by 2 1/2 and 3 windows 20 inches square and 4 windows 1 by 1 1/2. Built one end brick rest wood one story high---Value 400.<sup>1</sup>

According to an earlier research paper<sup>2</sup> (using material not at present accessible) the chimney on the brick end of the house bears the date "1797" and the initials "H.C.," while other bricks with the same initials and date have been found in the east chimney and in the foundation wall on the southeast side.

<sup>1</sup>Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798 for Somerset County, Maryland, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

<sup>2</sup>Hilda Topfer, "Plans for the Restoration and Alteration of an Eighteenth Century Farmhouse in Somerset County, Maryland" (unpublished Master's Thesis, Drexel Institute of Technology, 1959), p. 12.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE Maryland		5-77
COUNTY Somerset		
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

RECEIVED  
OCT 25 1974  
NATIONAL  
REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

Not until 1892 did Windsor again pass out of the hands of the Costen family, who had retained control of much of the tract for over 150 years. Even during the period of Cannon ownership there remained a link with the Costen family, since family Bible records list marriages between these two families.<sup>5</sup>

Several nineteenth century deeds, in recording the sale of land in this area, refer to "The Bare Swamp Road, leading from Cannon's store to Princess Anne Town;" it is probable that members of the Cannon family were connected with this business, as owners or operators.

Dividing Creek Hundred took its name from the creek which serves as a boundary line between Worcester and Somerset Counties. Somerset County, created in August of 1666, retained its original boundaries until 1742, when the General Assembly of Maryland erected Worcester County. The dividing line was to run "...to the mouth of Dividing Creek, thence up the westernmost side of said creek...",<sup>6</sup> with Worcester County to include the area south of the Pocomoke River, to the Maryland-Virginia line, and the area east of Dividing Creek.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY, continued

Somerset County Land Records and Certificates of Patent. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Waterman, Thomas Tileston. The Mansions of Virginia, 1706-1776. New York: Bonanza Books, 1945.

<sup>5</sup>Topfer, "Plans for Restoration", p. 9.

<sup>6</sup>Clayton Torrence, Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1966), p. 428.

STATE Maryland		S-77
COUNTY Somerset		
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

OCT 25 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER

(Number all entries)

Burton Cannon House

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

place, a Georgian-style mantel, and the same original wainscoting found in the other rooms.

The present owner, in restoring the house in 1958, demolished a kitchen extension which had been added on to the dining room about 1860, adding a new kitchen in the same place and retaining the original Carpenter-style fireplace mantel for the new fireplace. Also removed was a Victorian-type porch which extended across the front of the house, while another wing was added beyond the kitchen to provide a utility room and garage. On the second floor, where there were originally two rooms, one of the rooms was divided to provide a bathroom.

A 5 foot high crawl space under the house retains almost all of the original heavy oak supporting beams.

There is some indication that the west end parlor of the house may date from an earlier period. In rebuilding the parlor fireplace, a brick was found which was dated either 1762 or 1767. It is possible that only the east end of the house (the dining room and one bedroom) dates from 1797, when Henry Costen may have enlarged an already-existing structure. However, the paneling is the same in all the rooms where it is found, and dates from the late eighteenth century.

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

The Costen family had owned land in this part of Somerset County since 1697, when Stephen Costen, who emigrated to Maryland from Northhampton County in Virginia, acquired 500 acres of a tract called Beare Point. Part of Beare Point was included in the 1793 survey undertaken for Henry Costen, along with part of a tract called Flatland (originally granted in 1764 to Isaac Costen) and a portion of vacant land for a total of 482 acres, to be called Windsor.<sup>3</sup>

Ownership of Windsor remained in the Costen family until 1821, when the tract was sold to Caleb Cannon, along with several adjoining tracts. In 1828 Burton Cannon acquired 533 acres of Windsor, but ownership returned to the Costen family in 1849, when Burton Cannon sold "...all those tracts called Baltimore, Indian Ridge and Windsor to William M. Costen, for \$1,400."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup>Certificate of Patent, Liber IC Folio 473, June 14, 1798, for Henry Costen. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

<sup>4</sup>Somerset County Land Records, WP4/290, August, 1849, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798 for Somerset County. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Telephone Interview with Mr. John Truden, owner of the Burton Cannon House, April 3, 1974.

Topfer, Hilda. "Plans for the Restoration and Alteration of an Eighteenth Century Farmhouse in Somerset County, Maryland." Unpublished Master's Thesis, Drexel Institute of Technology, 1959.

Torrence, Clayton. Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1966.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (See Continuation Sheet No. 2)

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	38° 09' 12"	75° 35' 46"	°	'	"	
NE	38° 09' 12"	75° 35' 30"				
SE	38° 08' 55"	75° 35' 29"				
SW	38° 08' 55"	75° 35' 45"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 54 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Ann E. Hill, Summer Intern; Lois Snyderman, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust      DATE:

STREET AND NUMBER:  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis      STATE: Maryland 21401      CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Arthur C. Townsend  
Title: State Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland  
Date: 24 February 1975

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

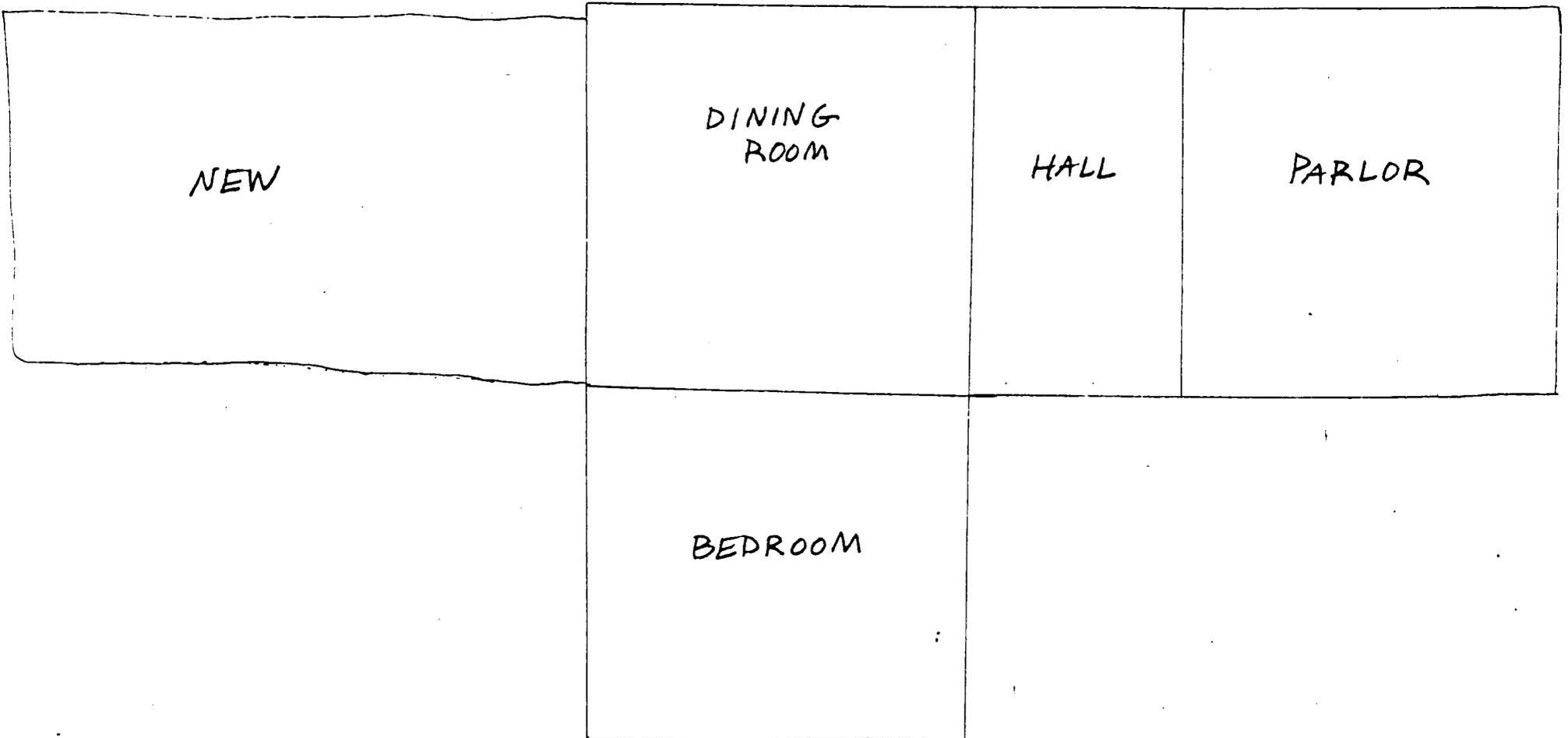
ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

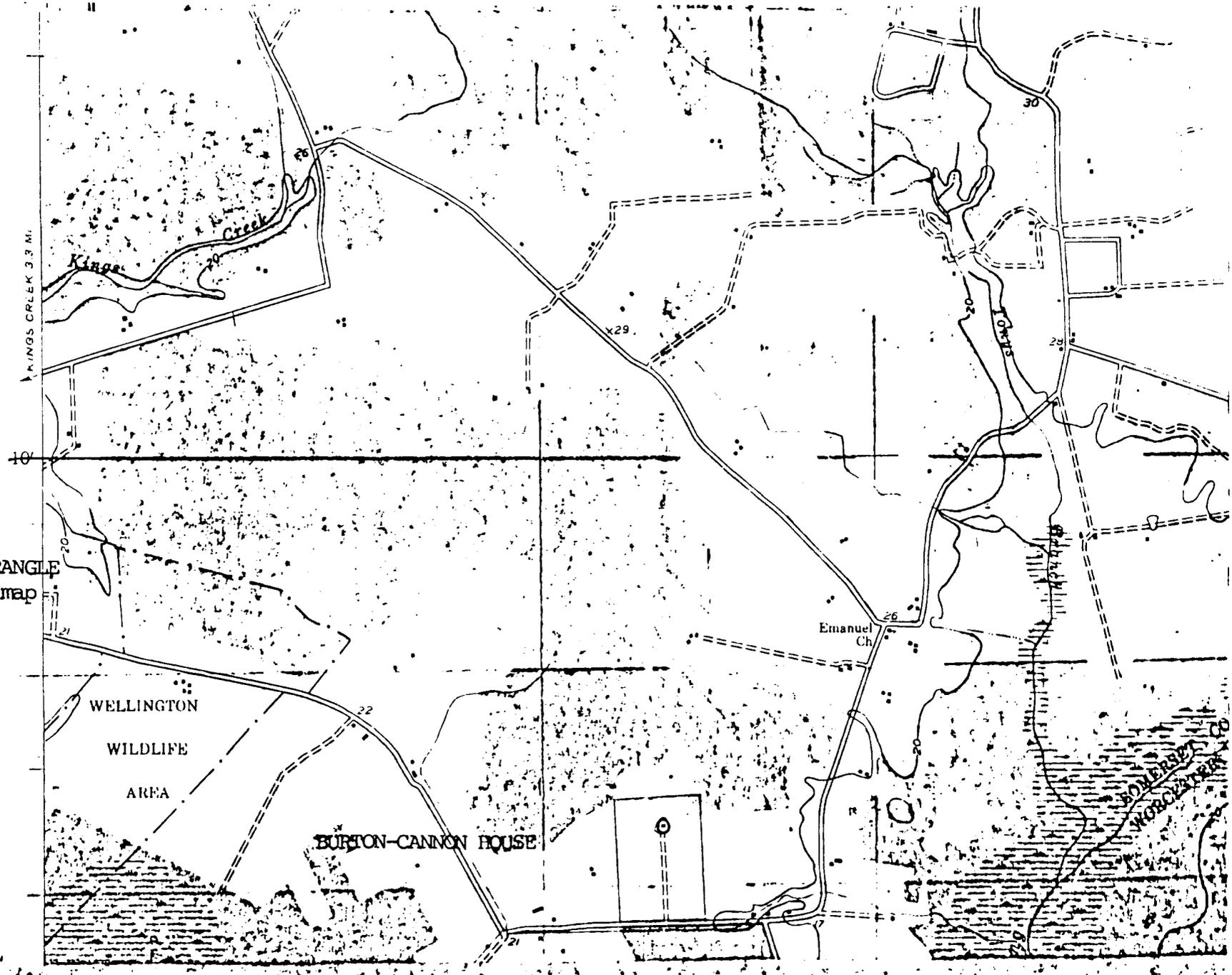
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SOUTH



NORTH

sketch only - not to  
scale PMJ



DIVIDING CREEK QUADRANGLE  
 U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map  
 scale: 1:24000  
 1942

Latitude  
 38° 09' 12"  
 38° 09' 12"  
 38° 08' 55"  
 38° 08' 55"

Longitude  
 75° 35' 46"  
 75° 35' 30"  
 75° 35' 29"

WELLINGTON  
 WILDLIFE  
 AREA

BURTON-CANNON HOUSE

Emanuel  
 Ch

WOLFE  
 WOLFE



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
2525 RIVA ROAD  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

NORTH-WEST ELEVATION  
BURTON CANNON HOUSE  
Somerset Co. (S-77)

ANTHONY O. JAMES  
6/73



S-77

Burton Cannon House (Windsor Plantatio  
Wellington vicinity, Somerset Co., MD  
South elevation  
1967, Daniel Church, photographer  
Negative, MD Historical Trust

S-77

Burton Cannon House  
Somerset

*Photographed by*  
DANIEL C. CHURCH