

S-84
Panther's Den
Venton vicinity
private

c. 1725-1750 and later

"Panther's Den" is a story-and-a-half Flemish bond brick house located between the forks of Little Monie Creek. The building has a steeply pitched wood shingled roof with three dormers on each slope. The three-bay, center hall house is estimated to date to the second quarter of the eighteenth century, while the structure was enlarged late in the century and remodeled inside around 1830-1850. Important exterior features include a plastered cove cornice and patterned brickwork incorporating glazed headers. Interior trim, including the stair, mantels, chair rails and architraves date from the early nineteenth century remodeling, however, eighteenth-century fragments of raised paneling, molded floor joists, tilted false-plate eave construction, and wrought-iron hardware remain in the house.

John Pantor (also spelled Panter and Panther) is of local significance as an early settler (c. 1663-1666), as well as a prominent land owner and highway surveyor. The two-hundred acres comprising "Panther's Den," was granted to him on November 11, 1666. The sixth item in his will of 1714 states, "I give the plantation and land whereon I now live called as aforesaid 'Pantors Den,' after my wife Dorothy's decease unto my cousin Catherin Laws and the heirs of her body lawfully forever." (EB 9/51) It is not known when the brick house was begun, but in all likelihood it was the later owners who erected the brick plantation house. As directed by Pantor's will, his property passed into the hands of Catherine and Pantor Laws (also spelled Lawes). By Pantor Laws' will of 1769 (EB 14/145), the plantation was inherited by Pantor's children after his second wife's death. On May 1, 1792, John Laws, one of the heirs, conveyed to his brother, Thomas, 188

acres known as "Panther's Denn." (I/359) Six years later the federal assessment described the dwelling of Thomas Laws as,

1 Dwelling house 45 by 20 feet brick one story 4 windows 5 feet long 2 1/2 feet wide 4 windows 4 feet long 2 feet wide out of repair, 1 cook house 16 by 20 feet, colonnade 14 by 10 feet unfinished, 1 hen house 10 feet square

The 45' by 20' measurement of Thomas Laws' house indicates the eighteen-foot deep initial house had been enlarged by that time by either Thomas, John or their father, Pantor Laws. The entry, "out of repair" suggests that the improvements were relatively old.

The property did not remain in the family much longer for in May of 1802 "Panther's Denn" was sold to Robert Robertson for L 1000 (N/500). However, Robert Robertson died within the next year, and he willed the property to his wife, Anne Hack Robertson, and after her death, to be equally divided between the children of George and James Robertson, brothers of Robert. (EB 23/80) Thomas B. Robertson sold "Panther's Den" to Robert Leatherbury in March of 1815 (LP 2/407), who held onto the plantation until 1827 when he sold it to George B. Waller and his property until 1827 when he sold it to George B. Waller and wife Maria. (GH 3/490) The Waller family held onto the farm, known by the name "Lindenwood" in the late nineteenth-century land records, until 1903 when the 200 acres were sold to Mary M. Lloyd (OTB 35/66) The present owner acquired a 124-acre tract around the house in 1976 (295/267).

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic "Panther's Den" (preferred); "Lindenwood"

and/or common Kohlheim House

2. Location

street & number Drawbridge Road n/a not for publication

city, town Venton ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Somerset code 039

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. James P. Gallaher

street & number 600 Pine Bluff Road

city, town Salisbury n/a vicinity of state Maryland 21801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Princess Anne state Maryland 21853

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

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 <u>n/a</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources		Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: <u>0</u>
Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings	Original and historic functions and uses: residential
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> structures	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects	
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u> Total	

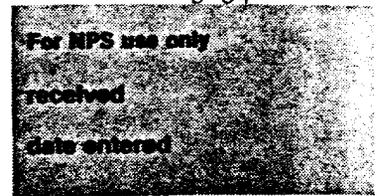
DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Panther's Den is a 1½ story, Flemish bond brick house located between forks of Little Monie Creek near Venton in Somerset County, Maryland. The building has a steeply pitched, wood shingled gable roof with three dormers on each slope. The three-bay, center-hall plan house was originally constructed in the second quarter of the eighteenth century, enlarged late in the 18th century, and remodeled on the interior ca. 1830-1850. A one-story frame kitchen wing was added to the south gable ca. 1900. Important exterior features include a plastered cove cornice and patterned brickwork incorporating glazed headers. Interior trim, including the stair, mantels, chair rails and architraves date from the early 19th century remodeling; some earlier paneling was reused in this historic renovation. The property also includes a ca. 1830-1850 pyramidal-roofed dairy of heavy timber frame construction and an early 20th century board and batten tack house. A 19th-century family burial plot is located to the south of the house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

S-84



Continuation sheet Panther's Den Somerset County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The property known historically as "Panther's Den" is located between forks of Little Monie Creek and west of Drawbridge Road. The farm lane to the house intersects Drawbridge Road about a half mile north of Venton, Maryland.

An architectural analysis of this story-and-a-half three bay center hall house indicates that an early 18th-century brick house was enlarged at some point (probably in the last decades of the 18th century) and then remodeled around 1830-1850. Around 1900, a single story two-room kitchen wing was attached to the south gable end. Also located on the property are two outbuildings; a c. 1830-1850 pyramidal roofed frame dairy and a c. 1900-1920 board and batten tack house. In addition, a family burial plot can be seen to the south of the house.

Facing southwest, the story-and-a-half structure is coated on two sides with a thick layer of stucco. A steeply pitched, wood shingle roof with three dormers to each side covers the 45' 1" x 20' 9" Flemish bond brick house. With the removal of a stoop on the west facade, a checkerboard glazed header design has been partially exposed. Both the east and west sides have a beveled water table and plastered cove cornice. Part of the plaster has fallen off on the west side to reveal split oak lath fastened with wrought nails.

The west facade is pierced by a center door with four-light transom and flanking large scale 9/6 sash windows. Raised panel shutters with diagonal board backs have been included in restoration work.

The north gable end is not stuccoed and reveals the most architectural information about the expansion of the house. Clearly seen on this end is the profile of an earlier house approximately 18 feet deep - two feet shallower than the present house. Despite some rebuilt portions of the early gable end, a definite diagonal brick pattern is evident and confined to the earliest portion of the brick wall. An obvious diagonal seam on each side of the chimney stack is visible which indicates the degree of expansion. (Approximately a foot to each side and two feet higher). The wall is pierced by two large size 9/6 windows on the first floor and by two 4/4 sash on the second floor.

The east side is almost identical to the west elevation, aside from a small center door.

The south gable end is largely covered by the turn-of-the-20th-century kitchen wing. Similar diagonal and vertical seams in the painted brickwork are consistent with those found on the north wall.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

S-84

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Panthers' Den Item number 7 Page 2
Somerset County, Maryland

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Inside, the seven foot wide hall divides two nearly equal-sized rooms. The early 19th-century stair has a square newel post, while rectangular balusters support a circular handrail. Under the stair is a small closet with reused raised paneling for the interior wall surfaces.

A flush six panel door opens into the north room or "parlor." The late Federal style mantel follows the standard format with a molded shelf, stepped bed molding and protruding frieze blocks. The center block is plain but the end blocks are paneled. Another stepped molding stretches below the frieze. Under the frieze molding, two round columns flank the fireplace opening. Chair rail as well as door and window surrounds follow standard early 19th-century profiles with ogee and astragal backband molding.

South of the hall is a nearly square room with a mid 19th-century mantel of plain pilasters, plain frieze and thick shelf. A door to the left of the chimney breast opens into the later kitchen wing.

The second floor is divided into three rooms. One small room at the head of the stairs was converted into a bathroom, while the other two flanking rooms serve as chambers. A small closet with raised four panel door is also located at the head of the stairs. HL hinges survive on the north bedroom door. Stove holes pierce each chimney breast and are surrounded by plain mantels. Split oak lathing covers both walls and ceilings; however, the ceiling lath covers molded joists and is held by cut nails, while the wall lath is fastened by wrought nails. Access into the attic revealed a common rafter system with a lapped and pinned joint at the peak. Rafter feet rest on a tilted false plate.

Directly adjacent to the frame kitchen wing is a pyramidal roofed dairy of mortise and tenon frame construction. The square structure is sheathed by flush weatherboarding and pierced on three sides by pairs of louvered openings. A board and batten door allows access on the east side. The pyramidal roof frame has been replaced but rests on original "outlooker" supports.

A small board and batten frame tack house with gable front stands south of the dairy and is held together with wire nails.

The small family cemetery is located a few hundred feet south of the house.

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 checked="" 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 2nd quarter 18th century; remodeled c. 1830-1850 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criterion: C
 Criteria Exceptions: none
 Level of Significance for Evaluation: local

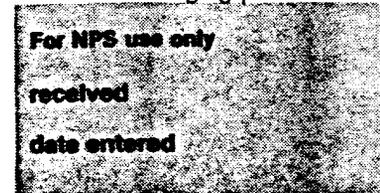
SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

"Panther's Den" is significant for its architecture. It is one of a collection of approximately eight early 18th century story-and-a-half glazed brick pattern houses in Somerset County. Both the story-and-a-half house form and the glazed brick tradition are typical of the early 18th century mid-Atlantic costal settlements. "Panther's Den" is an altered, but still significant representative of this house type with its basic form intact and an original pair of 18th-century cove cornices. Notable original interior features include a tilted false-plate, reused 18th-century paneling, and molded floor joists on the second floor. The interior of "Panther's Den" experienced one major renovation around 1830-1850 with the replacement of mantels, chair rail, and baseboards. These changes are largely superficial and reflect the stylish renovations many houses experience through time. This-story-and-a-half house appears to be the second house erected on the site and is indicative of the first period of rebuilding carried out by substantial land owners in Somerset County. John Pantor, who was granted "Panther's Den" in 1666, is thought to have lived on the property until his death in 1714. However, the extant brick house is more representative of the houses built in the following quarter century.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

S-84

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Panther's Den Somerset County, Maryland Item number 8 Page 3

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

John Pantor (also spelled Panter and Panther) is of local notoriety as an early settler (c. 1663-1666), as well as prominent land owner and surveyor of highways. The successive owners were also known locally as prominent Somerset residents, but were of no extraordinary historical significance.

The two hundred acres comprising "Panther's Den" was granted to John Pantor (also Panther and Panter) on November 11, 1666,¹ and remained his property until his death in 1714. The sixth item of his will states, "I give the plantation and land whereon I now live called as aforesaid "Pantors Den", after my wife Dorothy's decease unto my cousin Catherin Laws and the heirs of her body lawfully forever."² It is not known when the brick house was begun, but in all probability it was the later owners who erected the first brick house on the property. As directed by John Pantor's will, his property passed into the hands of Catherin and Pantor Lawes (also Laws) and then by Pantor Lawes' will of 1769³ into the hands of Pantor's children after his second wife's death. On May 1, 1792, John Laws conveyed to his brother Thomas, 188 acres known as "Panther's. Denn."⁴ Six years later the Federal Assessment described the dwelling house of Thomas Laws as,

1 dwelling house 45 by 20 feet brick one story 4 windows 5 feet long 2½ feet wide 4 windows 4 feet long 2 feet wide out of repair
1 cook house 16 by 20 ft. colonade 14 by 10 feet unfinished 1 hen house 10 feet square, total valuation \$300.⁵

This 45' x 20' measurement of Thomas Laws' house indicates that the eighteen feet deep initial house had been enlarged by that time by either Thomas, John or their father, Pantor Laws. The entry "out of repair" suggests that the improvements were relatively old.

The property did not remain in the family much longer, for in May of 1802 "Panter's Denn" was sold to Robert Robertson for \$1500.⁶ However, Robert Robertson died within the next year, and he willed his property of "Panther's Den" to his wife, Anne Hack Robertson, and after her death to be equally divided between the children of George and James Robertson, brothers of Robert.⁷ Thomas B. Robertson sold "Panther's Den" to Robert Leatherbury in March of 1815⁸ who held onto the property until 1827 when he sold it to George B. Waller and his wife Maria Waller.⁹ From the style of the interior woodwork, Leatherbury or the later Wallers could have been responsible for the c. 1830-1850 remodeling. The Waller family held onto the farm, known by the name of "Lindenwood" in the late 19th-century land records, until 1903 when the then 200 acres were sold to Mary M. Lloyd.¹⁰ The present owner acquired the now 124.08 acre tract in 1976.¹¹

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Panther's Den
Somerset County, Maryland Item number 8 and 9 Page 4

Footnotes

- ¹ Somerset County Rent Rolls 1663-1723, Transcribed by Ruth T. Dryden.
- ² Somerset County Will Book, E B 9/51, 1713-1714.
- ³ Somerset County Will Book, E B 14/145, 1/20/1769.
- ⁴ Somerset County Deed, I/359, 5/1/1792.
- ⁵ 1798 Federal Assessment for Thomas Laws - Monie Hundred.
- ⁶ Somerset County Deed Book, N/500, 5/8/1802.
- ⁷ Somerset County Will Book, E.B. 23/80, 12/8/1803.
- ⁸ Somerset County Deed book, L P 2/407, 3/12/1815.
- ⁹ Somerset County Deed Book, G. H. 3/490, 5/8. 1827.
- ¹⁰ Somerset County Deed Book, O,T.B. 35/66.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1798 Federal Assessment - Monie Hundred - Thomas Laws.

Somerset County Land Records, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Somerset County Courthouse.

Somerset County Rent Rolls - 1663-1723, transcribed by Ruth T. Dryden.

Somerset County Wills, Register of Wills, Somerset County Courthouse.

Torrence, Clayton Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore, Regional Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1966.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

S-84

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Panther's Den
Somerset County, Maryland Item number 10 Page 5

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the north side of the farm lane leading to the nominated house and running with said lane in a westerly direction for approximately 226 feet to a point along lane, thence in a northwesterly direction through the adjacent field for another 115 feet to a point in said field, thence in a southwesterly direction across field for 562 feet to a point along the south fork of the Little Monie Creek, thence with the course of said creek for approximately 908 feet to a point along said creek and thence running in a northeasterly direction through creek marsh, field and along the southern boundary of family burial plot for about 742 feet to the place of beginning, containing 8 acres more or less. Boundaries are depicted on the enclosed map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The eight acres included in this nomination encompass the house and outbuildings within their immediate landscaped setting, include the 19th-century family burial plot, and preserve the property's historic orientation to a branch of Little Monie Creek.

9. Major Bibliographical References

S-84

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 8 acres

Quadrangle name Monie, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
---	-------------------	---	--

D	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
---	----------------------------	--	--

E	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
---	-------------------	---	---

F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
---	-------------------	---	---

G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
---	-------------------	---	---

H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
---	-------------------	---	---

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Somerset County Historical Trust date 19 October 1983

street & number 424 North Somerset Avenue telephone 301-651-1094

city or town Princess Anne state Maryland 21853

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Paul Touart* 2-21-84

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCERS use only

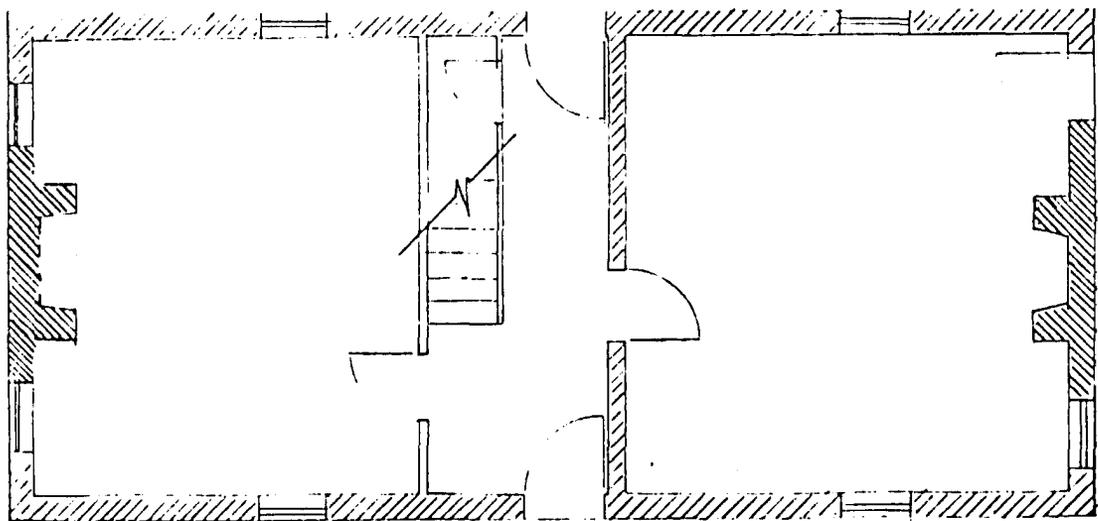
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

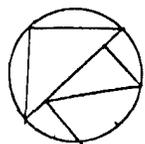
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration



c. 1900
FRAME
KITCHEN



1st PERIOD BRICK



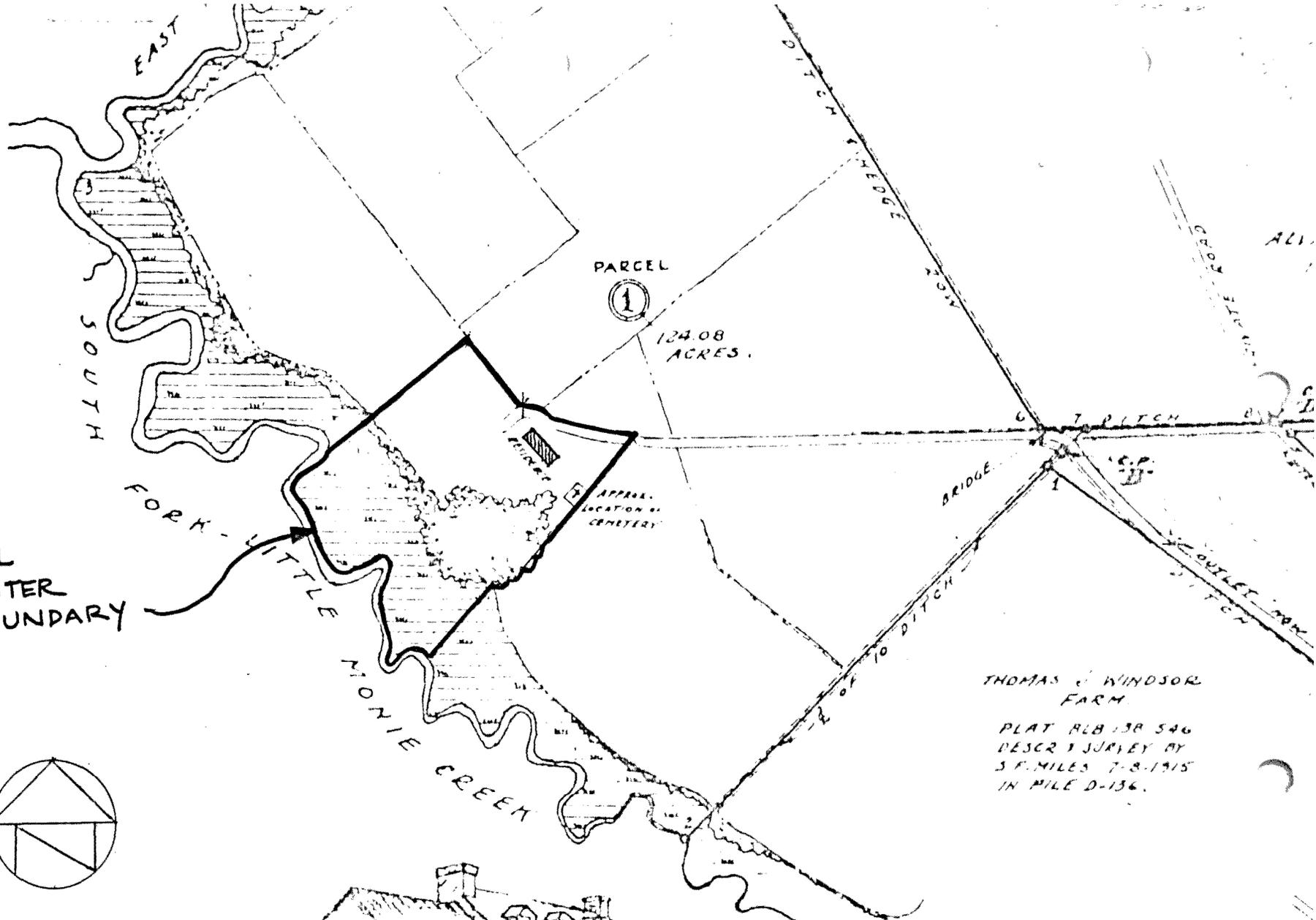
2nd PERIOD BRICK



PANTHER'S DEN NR YENTON

S-84

1/8" = 1'0" PBT



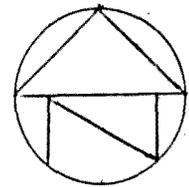
PARCEL

①

124.08 ACRES.

NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY

THOMAS J. WINDSOR FARM
 PLAT RLB 138 546
 DESCR & SURVEY BY
 S.F. MILES 7-8-1915
 IN MILE D-136.



SCALE 1" = 300'

DEC 2, 1968

W. BALLARD, MILES SURVEYOR



S-84
 PANTHER'S DEN
 SOMERSET COUNTY, MD.



4231
 3 MI. TO U.S. 13
 12'30"
 4228
 PRINCESS ANNE, PRINCESS ANNE 3.4 MI.
 5860 11 NW

5-84
PANTHER'S
DEN
SOMERSET
COUNTY,
MARYLAND

- A: 18-430980-4228580
- B: 18-430800-4228310
- C: 18-430640-4228660
- D: 18-430780-4228480



Panthers' Den

S-84

Venton vicinity, Somerset Co., MD.

West elevation

10/83, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./MD. Hist. Trust



"Panther's Den" S-84
near Venton
2nd floor ceiling
Photographer-Paul Touart
September 1983



"Panther's Den" S-84
near Venton
northeast elevation
Photographer-Paul Touart
September 1983