

# Easement

NR

CAR-45

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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9

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

### 1. Name

historic Potter Hall (Preferred)

and/or common Potters Landing

### 2. Location

street & number Martin Lane

N/A not for publication

city, town Williston  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Caroline code 011

### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

### 4. Owner of Property

name Dr. and Mrs. Monroe Martin

street & number Potter Hall, Route 2, Box 64

city, town Denton vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Maryland 21629

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Caroline County Courthouse

street & number Market Street

city, town Denton state Maryland 21629

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Historic Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1976-1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

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Continuation sheet Potter Hall, Williston Item number 7 Page 7  
Caroline County, MarylandDESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Potter Hall is an early 19th century, Federal-influenced dwelling which overlooks the Choptank River near Denton, Caroline County, Maryland. The principal (west) facade faces the Choptank River, and appears in three sections: the northernmost of these is a tall 2½ story Flemish bond brick block, three bays wide by two bays deep, which adjoins a lower 2½ story, two bay wide central section, also of Flemish bond brick. The third (southern) section is of frame construction, one story high and three bays wide, and was added in 1930 to house a modern kitchen. Each of the three sections has a gable roof, with the ridgeline running north-south. The brick sections of the house attained their present form in 1808, when a one-story, two-bay, ca. 1750 building was raised to 2½ stories (incorporated in the central section) and the large northern block, known as the "Mansion", was added. The east (river side) and west (land side) facades of the northern block are identical, with a side entrance and two 12/12 sash windows in jack-arched openings on each story. The entrances feature six-panel doors enframed with fluted pilasters surmounted by semicircular fanlights. Recent porticoes with Chinese trellis balustrades and fluted columns replace the former two-story verandas. Both facades have two gabled dormers, each holding 9/6 sash. The central section has an entrance on its east facade, sheltered by a small gabled porch and flanked by two 9/6 sash, with two similar windows on the second story; the west facade is similar but lacks the entrance. A gabled dormer, added after 1920, appears on either slope of the roof. The juxtaposition of the northern and central sections creates a center-hall plan. The interior retains a great deal of original woodwork, including paneled doors, molded cornices, chair rail, door and window trim, fireplace surrounds, cabinetry, and stairs.

# 7. Description

CAR-45

Condition  
 excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

Check one  
 unaltered  
 altered

Check one  
 original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY See Continuation Sheet #7

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The central section, originally a small brick story and a half house apparently built about 1750, was raised to two and one half stories, apparently when the northern section was added in 1808. This is indicated by a comparison of the brick work and outside window sills in the two sections. Glazed headers in Flemish bond, common in the 18th century brick buildings and rectangular outside window sills appear only in the first story of the central section, whereas the bricks and curved outside window-sills in the second story are identical with those used in the 1808 addition. In the main, the bricks are laid in Flemish bond, although at times, particularly in the south wall, courses of English and common bond appear. From evidence in the basement apparently the central section had no basement originally.

The east facade (the land side) has a door and small portico with an "A" roof between two windows. The west facade (the river side) is like the east facade but lacks the outside door. A chimney erected in 1808 rises adjacent to the south gable of the northern 1808 section. The windows on the east and west facades have 9/6 sash and the panes on the second floor are smaller than those on the first. The windows in the south wall and the dormers (added after 1920) have 6/6 sash.

The central section is lower by one step than the 1808 section. The first floor contains a dining room, office, lavatory and stairs leading to the second floor and appears to have been remodeled around 1840-1850, since all the trim dates from that period. There is a fireplace with a cupboard with panelled doors on one side. The mantel, chair rail, and trim around the doors have no carving.

The plan of the second floor duplicates that of the first, with two bedrooms replacing the dining room and office. Original window trim of the 1808 period is present, a further indication that the second floor was added in 1808. Stairs lead to an attic bedroom with wide floor boards.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

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Continuation sheet Potter Hall, Williston Item number 7 Page 1  
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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

With the exception of these wide floor boards, the floors in the central section are the same as those in the northern section which were laid down in 1808. Little of the original hardware, with the possible exception of a few plate latches, remains. Ceilings are low on both floors. They are eight feet high.

The Northern Section

The east and west facades of the "Mansion", the tallest portion of the building, are identical, with side entrance and two windows on each story. The mansion added a wide hall connecting the entrances in the two facades and two rooms on each floor and an attic. For many years two story verandas stood before the river and land sides, but these were removed sometime before 1930. and replaced by small porticoes, which in turn were replaced in 1959 by the present porticoes with Chinese trellis balustrades and fluted columns.

The two facades and north gable are laid in Flemish bond without water table or belt course. Jack arches have been installed in the two principal facades above the 12/12 sash windows of both stories. Original jack arches exist on the north gable, which also has two windows on each story. They are asymmetrical on the first and second stories because of the difference in room size and use. Although windows on both stories have the same number of panes, those on the second story are smaller than the first story. Both sides of the "A" roof have two dormers with "A" roofs and 9/6 sash. The attic window in the north gable has 4/4 panes and two original chimneys rise in this gable. The south gable has one window with 6/6 sash.

On the first story entrances the architraves have fluted pilasters with semicircular trim with three keystones. At the top of the fluted pilasters is a course of reeding. The semi-circular fanlight is divided into seven segments with swag-like muntins. The second story doors have the same keystone trim but differ slightly in that they have herringbone reeding above the fluted pilasters and an elliptical arch in the fanlight.

The entrance hall on the first floor has a molded cornice and a chair rail with herringbone reeding in its fascia, both of which are original to the mansion. The doors and jambs have raised panels except the top panels, which are recessed. The exterior doors have vertical boards with beaded edges inside and six panels outside. Beneath the single flight of stairs is a closet enclosed by a wall with raised panels and a four panel door. The stair has turned newels and two rectangular balusters per step with bold rail. A very delicate fretwork vine motif is applied to the step ends and "there is a shadow-rail ascending along the wall with herringbone reeded pilasters.

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Potter Hall, Williston

Continuation sheet Caroline County, Maryland

Item number

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

North of the entrance hall on the first floor are two rooms, the west room being larger than the east. The east room or study has a fireplace on its north wall with mantel and flanking cabinets built as a single visual unit. The course of reeding above the fluted pilasters of the mantel carries across the wall and separates the lower cabinet doors with raised panels from the upper cabinet doors with recessed panels. The fascia of the mantel shelf has fine gouge and drill work typical of the finer Federal dwellings. A well defined rope molding frames the fireplace. The three piece chair rail, window and door trim and the six panel doors are original to the mansion.

The west room or living room has two windows flanking the chimney breast. Its mantel has herringbone reeding in the pilasters and a course of reeding above the pilasters. Rope molding is below the shelf and frames the fireplace. Original trim exists in the room around the windows and doors, and a chair rail with reeding in its fascia encircles the room as does a molded cornice.

On the second floor the hall and rooms have the same arrangement as on the first, except to gain a bath and large closet, the master bedroom, which lies above the living room, has been reduced in size. The smaller room on the east duplicates the study below, except that the fireplace and mantel are smaller and lack the rope molding and the gouge and drill work.

In the master bedroom the fireplace and mantel are also smaller than those in the living room below. Instead of a course of reeding above the pilasters a delicate band of fretwork crosses the mantel. Three plinths with reeding support the shelf. A molded cornice encircles the room, as does a chair rail with small squares of reeding in its fascia.

The hall on the second floor duplicates the one in the floor below, except that the stairs rising to the attic are steeper and the closet underneath them has a four panel door with recessed panels and the fascia of the chair rails have no reeding.

The mansion retains its original floors of heart pine and much of the hardware. Most of the large box locks with brass knobs and key hole escutcheons are original to the mansion. Ceilings are higher in the mansion than in the earlier section. They are ten and one half feet high on the first floor and twelve and one half feet high on the second.

The Southern Section (circa 1930)

This section was built on the site of an old log wing used as a kitchen at the time the mansion was built. It contains a modern kitchen.

# 8. Significance

CAR-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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1808 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Applicable criteria: B and C

## SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Potter Hall derives significance from two sources. Architecturally, it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Federal style as expressed in the region of Maryland's Eastern Shore. In the context of Caroline County's historic architecture, Potter Hall is one of six surviving large brick plantation houses dating from the late 18th-early 19th century. Its abundant woodwork presents the best example in the county of the delicacy of design and execution which characterizes early Federal ornament. Especially notable are the mantel and cabinets in the ground floor east room or study, where an unusual molding course unites the entire wall in a single composition; the paneled spandrel beneath the stair and delicate vine-motif fretwork applied to the step ends; and the herringbone pattern which is featured in the decoration of the mantel in the ground floor west room, entrance hall chair rail, and second story exterior doors. The second-story entrances, which originally served broad porches, and unique in Caroline County. Potter Hall is also significant for its association with the Potter family, prominent in local and state affairs. Zabdiel Potter, a sea captain from Rhode Island, settled on the site in the mid-eighteenth century and built a wharf and the small brick house which was incorporated into the central section of the present structure. Zabdiel developed Potter's Landing into a key early port for the shipping of tobacco to Baltimore. His oldest son, Nathaniel, figured prominently in the Revolutionary War; he held the rank of major and served as purchasing agent for provisions for the American troops. His nephew, Nathaniel II, who also lived on the site before moving to Baltimore in 1797, was one of the first American-trained physicians and a founder of the University of Maryland Medical School. Nathaniel II's younger brother, William, stayed at Potter's Landing. It was William who added the "Mansion" to the original small dwelling in 1808, and the present form of Potter Hall reflects the period of his occupation. A successful merchant, mill operator, and a director of the Farmer's Bank of Annapolis, William Potter became Brigadier General of the Maryland Militia in the War of 1812 and was subsequently elected to the state legislature and served on the Governor's Council. During his lifetime Potter's Landing was the leading shipping port in Caroline County.

## HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Starting with a small brick house built sometime around the middle of the eighteenth century, which over the years evolved to the present structure, Potter Hall is, according to Michael Bourne, architecturally of importance because it is one of six large brick plantation houses dating from the early days of Caroline County's history. Like the Daffin House (CAR-1) Potter Hall started as a small brick house which was enlarged in 1808 and again in 1930. The later addition created a telescopic structure, making it similar to Castle Hall (CAR-4). Without the third section, its form and floor plan were very similar

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Caroline County, MarylandHISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

to Winfield (Thomas House) in Queen Annes County. Willow Grove (CAR-3) and Potter Hall both have entrances with semicircular transoms above wide paneled doors flanked by fluted pilasters. None of the existing large houses of Caroline has second story exterior doors like Potter Hall. Other great houses of Caroline County have good woodwork but none exemplifies the delicacy typical of the early 19th century work as well as Potter Hall. Notable features include the paneled spandrel beneath the stair and the delicate vine motif fretwork applied to the step ends. Reeding is found in the shadow pilasters of the stairs, the chair rail and the four principal mantels. The fireplace wall in the study has an unusual course, like the chair rail, but higher, which forms the capitals of the mantel pilasters and continues across the flanking cabinets, separating the top and bottom doors (photograph 6). This course unites the entire wall. The living room of Potter Hall has the same relationship of fireplace to windows as Willow Grove and Fraziers Flats, i.e., the fireplace is located on the narrower wall and is flanked by two windows. Two other windows on the long wall are located on the left of the fireplace.

Paralleling the evolution of Potter Hall itself, is the increasing importance of its builders, the Potters, in the life of the county, state and nation, which we trace in the following paragraphs.

Patented to Th. Phillips planter on May 17, 1675 by "Cecilius absolute Lord Proprietary of the province of Avalon, Lord Baltimore" as Phillips Range, the land on which Potter Hall stands passed through a succession of owners until 1754 when it came into the possession of Captain Zabdiel Potter, a sea captain from Rhode Island. Although he is reputed to have built a small brick house on the site about 1730, this date is probably too early, since he did not come into possession of the land on which the house stands until 1754. Since Captain Zabdiel Potter was lost at sea and his will was probated in 1761, the house was probably constructed sometime in the period 1754-1761. He built a wharf on the river, and the settlement became the leading shipping point on the upper Choptank, eventually in his honor becoming known as Potters Landing. It remained in use for generations. Seagoing vessels came constantly to load tobacco for English ports and Captain Potter himself commanded one of the vessels, building up an already substantial fortune. Returning, the ships brought supplies to colonists of the vicinity.

Captain Zabdiel Potter had two sons, Nathaniel and Zabdiel. Nathaniel Potter became a prominent figure serving in the Maryland conventions of 1774 and 1776 and as Justice of the Orphans Court. He also served as first major of the militia and as purchasing agent for the Continental Army in Caroline County during the American Revolution. He inherited the home plantation in 1761, and on his death in 1780 his will gave the property to his wife Jane, and by the terms of his will, the home plantation came into the possession of his brother Dr. Zabdiel Potter in 1781 when Jane remarried.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Dr. Zabdiel Potter was a practicing physician at the outbreak of the Revolution and was commissioned Captain of the First Caroline Company of the flying camp, but resigned to become a surgeon's mate. He prospered greatly and at the time of his death held over 1300 acres of land including the home plantation. He had two sons, Nathaniel and William.

Nathaniel Potter, the elder by a year, was born in 1770 and was eleven years old at the time his father, Dr. Zabdiel Potter, inherited the home plantation, and twenty three years old when his father died, leaving him over 600 acres of land on the Choptank river south of Mill Creek which he sold in 1796, the same year he received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. A year later in 1797, the year the city's charter was obtained, he moved to Baltimore and began practice there; and in 1807 joined with Dr. John Beale Davidge to found a medical school which was the beginning of the University of Maryland. Through the vicissitudes of the school, which became the nucleus of the University of Maryland, chartered by the legislature in 1812, Dr. Nathaniel Potter stood firm. To quote Dr. Clewell Howell "Nothing shook him, and as far as I can judge, to him more than any other man the University owes its existence today." He also did research on the causes and control of yellow fever.

William Potter, the younger son was born in 1771 and in 1773 inherited the home plantation and over 500 acres of land along the Choptank river north of Mill Creek. He became a successful merchant in Denton and was active in banking, milling and trade. In 1806 he became a director of the Farmers Bank of Annapolis. He rebuilt an old mill near Potters Landing on Mill Creek including the building of a heavy dam (now the state road) and the providing of a ship canal up to the mill. During his life Potters Landing was the leading shipping port of Caroline County and lines of sailing vessels plied between it and Baltimore. In 1808 he added the "Mansion" to the original small dwelling on the site, so that Potter Hall owes its present appearance mainly to him. During the war of 1812 he became Brigadier General of the Maryland Militia, subsequently was elected to the legislature and served on the Governor's Council. In the years 1816 and 1831, being the first named, he was next to the governor in state administration.

His wife, Ann Webb Richardson, was the daughter of Colonel William Richardson, one of the patriots of the American Revolution. General Andrew Jackson was entertained frequently at Potter Hall and at the Daffin House nearby before he became President of the United States. On October 17, 1819 Ambrose Marechal, third Archbishop of Baltimore, was an overnight guest and in his diary notes that Potter Hall was a "noble house situated on the Choptank River." Occasions such as these form part of the county tradition attached to the house.

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Caroline County, Maryland

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Although General William Potter was a slaveholder, it is evident from his will that he eventually came to have strong feelings against the institution. His will stated that his slaves were to be freed at his death and reads "In case any of my children make any legal objections to any of my negroes attaining their freedom as stated in this will, I do hereby declare and direct such child or children shall forfeit all and every devise and bequest made to him, her or them in this will and any such bequest be null and void."

When General Potter died in 1847 his land holdings along the Choptank included the home plantation, amounted to over 1600 acres. Two marble slabs bearing the names of Anne W. Potter and General William Potter now rest in the Denton cemetery. Shortly after his death Potter Hall was purchased by Colonel John Arthur Willis, for whom Williston is named, and remained in his family until early in this century. Subsequently, Potter Hall passed through a number of hands until it was purchased by the present owners in 1953.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on Martin Lane about fifty feet south of its intersection with Williston Road, proceed south 307 feet along Martin Lane. Then proceed west 476 feet to the Choptank River. Follow the riverbank northerly for 360 feet and then proceed east 577 feet to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

These 3½ acres more or less, all that is left of the many acres attached to Potter Hall when General William Potter died in 1847, are nominated for two reasons. First, the acreage and boundaries correspond to the deed of the property as recorded in Liber 119, Folio 116 in the Land Records of the Caroline County Courthouse in Denton, Maryland. Second, to preserve the setting around Potter Hall and forestall undesirable encroachment.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #6

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3 1/4 acres more or less

Quadrangle name Hobbs

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1 1 8	4 2 1 5	9 1 8 1 0	4 1 2	9 1 8	1 1 8 1 0
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

B						
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

C						
---	--	--	--	--	--	--

D						
---	--	--	--	--	--	--

E						
---	--	--	--	--	--	--

F						
---	--	--	--	--	--	--

G						
---	--	--	--	--	--	--

H						
---	--	--	--	--	--	--

#### Verbal boundary description and justification

For verbal boundary description, see Continuation Sheet #5

For boundary justification, see Continuation Sheet #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 Dr. and Mrs. Monroe Martin

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 2 February 1982

street & number Potter Hall, Rt. 2, Box 64 telephone 301-479-0595

city or town Denton state Maryland 21629

### 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 [Signature] 10-22-82

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date \_\_\_\_\_

For HCRS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

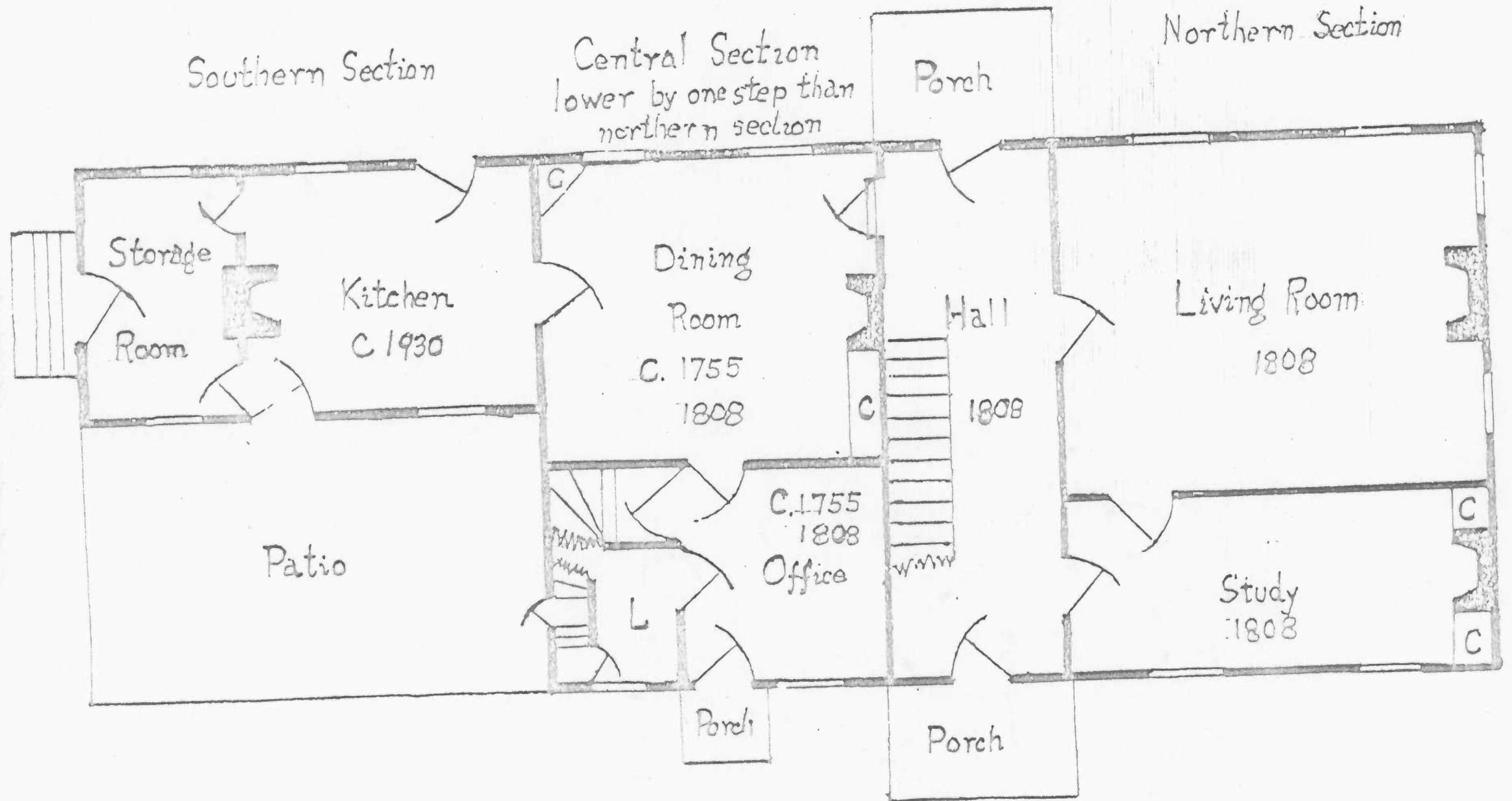
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date entered

Potter Hall, Williston  
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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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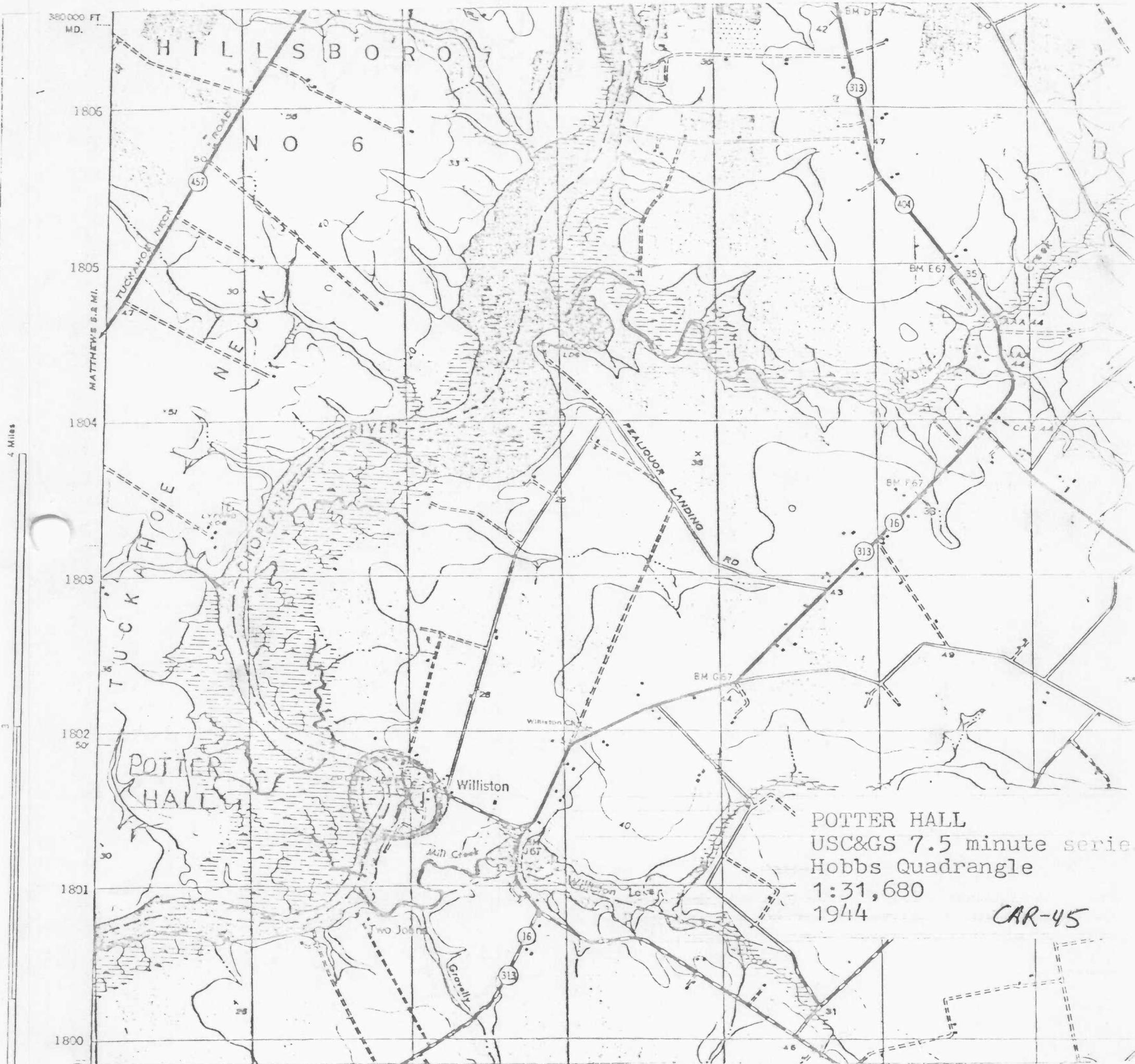
POTTER HALL  
Williston, Caroline County  
Maryland  
CAR-45



First Floor Plan  
6/29/81 MHM & VPM  
not drawn to scale

C = Closet  
L = Lavatory

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY



POTTER HALL  
USC&GS 7.5 minute series  
Hobbs Quadrangle  
1:31,680  
1944

CAR-45

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Potter Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Potters Landing

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Martin Lane

CITY, TOWN

Williston

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Caroline

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

**PRESENT USE**

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dr. & Mrs. Monroe Martin

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Potter Hall, Rt. 2, Box 64

CITY, TOWN

Denton

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21629

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Caroline County Courthouse

Liber #: 119

Folio #: 116

STREET & NUMBER

Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Denton

STATE

Maryland 21629

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Potter Hall is located off the Williston Road overlooking the Choptank River about four miles south of Denton. It stands in the middle of a well maintained lawn which has some large shade trees and which slopes to the rivers edge.

The building consists of three parts: a tall two and one-half story, three bay long brick portion; a two and one-half story, two bay long center portion, also brick; and a four bay long low one story frame wing.

The earliest portion of the building appears to be contained within the central section. Most of the brick on the first story appears older than the rest, although the building has had extensive re-pointing which renders it difficult to determine whether the brick was originally laid thus or whether it was re-laid when the house assumed its major remodeling in 1806. From evidence in the basement, the building apparently had no basement originally and the framing appears to date from 1806.

Its east facade has a door between the two windows of the first story. All windows have 9/6 sash. It is otherwise like the west facade. There is a single dormer window on the west side of the 'A' roof and a chimney rising adjacent the south gable of the taller portion.

The taller portion is unique in the architecture of Caroline County. Both facades are identical, with side entrance and two windows on each story. A 1950's porch with Chinese trellis balustrade protects the first story doors and gives access from second story doors. On the first story the architraves have fluted pilasters with semicircular trim with three keystones, similar to both Willow Grove and Frazier's Flats. The semicircular fanlight is divided into seven segments with sway-like muntins. At the top of the fluted pilasters is a course of reeding.

In contrast to the first story, the second story doors have herringbone reeding in the pilasters and an elliptical arch, but with the same keystone trim.

From old photographs as well as some evidence in the brickwork, the building was designed with two story porches on both facades.

The two facades and north gable are laid in Flemish bond without water table or belt course. Jack arches have been installed on the two principal facades above the 12/12 sash windows of both storys. Original jack arches exist on the north gable, which also has two windows on each story. They are assymetrical on the first and second storys because of the difference in room size and use. The attic sash have 4/4 panes. Two chimneys rise within the gable. Although windows of both storys have the same number of panes, those on the second story are smaller than the first story, for both sections of the house. Both sides of the 'A' roof have two dormers with 'A' roofs and 9/6 sash. One window is located on the south gable.

As the facade suggests, the plan consists of a side stair hall and two rooms on the north, the west room being larger than the east. The east room or study has a fireplace on its north wall with mantel and flanking cabinets built as a single visual unit. The course of

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## # 7 Continued

reeding above the fluted pilasters of the mantel carries across the wall and separates the lower raised paneled cabinet doors from the recessed panel doors above. The fascia of the mantel shelf has fine gouge and drill work typical of the finer Federal dwellings. Around the fireplace is a well defined rope molding. The three piece chair rail window and door trim and the doors.

The west room or living room is the larger of the two and has two windows flanking the chimney breast, in the same manner as Willow Grove and Frazier's Flats. Its mantel has herringbone reeding in the pilasters, a course of reeding above the pilasters and rope molding beneath the shelf. Original trim exists in the room around windows and doors. Floors throughout this section are original to the period of the house.

In the stair hall there is a plaster cornice above modern wall paper. Original chair rail with herringbone reeding in its fascia is in place. The doors and jambs have raised panels below the lock rail and recessed panels above. Most of the hardware is original in this section of the house. The original exterior doors have vertical patterns on the interior and six panels outside.

Beneath the single flight of stairs is a recessed panel closet/spandrel. The stair has turned newels and two rectangular balusters per step with bold rail. The step ends or spandrels have a very delicate fretwork vine motif applied thereto. There is a shadow rail ascending along the wall with herringbone reeded pilasters.

In the wing of the building, which is lower by several steps, is a dining room, office and lavatory. This section of the house appears to have been remodeled around 1840-50 since all of the trim dates from that period. The kitchen wing was built in the 1930's and is of little consequence architecturally.

On the second story the rooms were arranged in the same manner, however, since there is a door at both ends of the hall and the stair ascending in a single flight it was necessary to reduce the size of the master bedroom to gain a bath and large closet. The mantel in the master bedroom has reeding in the pilasters and three plints supporting its shelf. The chair rail has small squares of reeding.

Like the room below, the study chamber has a smaller mantel, but essentially the same design as the study.

In the room below, the study chamber has a smaller mantel, but essentially the same design as the study.

In the second story of the wing is original window trim of the 1806 period. It has a similar plan to the first story with a stair to the attic and one below in the opposite corner of the wing.

The main stair ascends in a steeper flight to the attic which is presently unfinished. A box over the stair well retains the heat, but originally it was open to a plastered interior. Outlines on the floor and rafters indicate the position of original board partitions. Apparently there were four rooms, each with at least one window. Later in the nineteenth century they were removed in order to install a large cupola, which was removed in this century.

# 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Potter Hall architecturally is of great importance to the county not only because it possesses several unique features, but also because the majority of the original fabric of the building is still intact. It compares in several details to Willow Grove and Frazier's Flats, which were built earlier, but in general plan is entirely different. In plan and form it compares more favorably with Thomas House (winfield), Queen Anne's County. When the house was constructed it was unique in that it had two two story porches, a feature not found on any other Caroline County dwelling and on few elsewhere of this early date.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

June, 1977

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

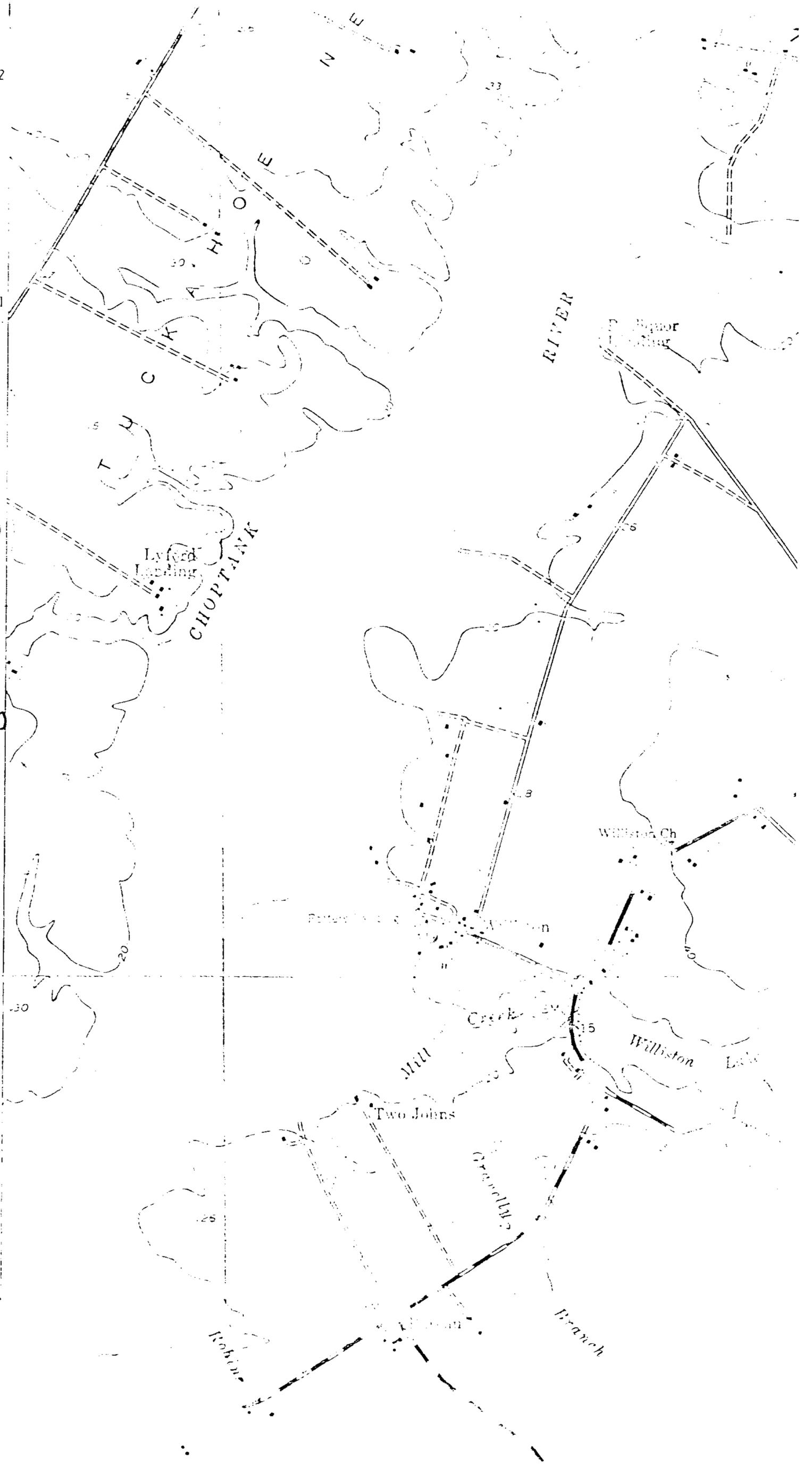
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

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Potter Hall

CAR 45



M. Bourne

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