1987

S-29 c. 1790
William Adams House
Allen vicinity (site)
private

Formerly sited on the south side of Wicomico Creek was the William Adams house, one of the most anomalous eighteenth-century dwellings of Somerset County. The two-story, four-bay Flemish bond brick house was built during the same period as "Beverly" and "Workington," but with a completely different architectural focus. Instead of the extravagant Palladian-inspired elevations, William Adams's house was designed with a more informal approach that included a two-story porch that stretched across the entire front of the house. Not only was William Adams uninterested in a pretentious formal entrance, but the principal elevation was asymmetrical as well. Unusual to the porch construction was the brick end wall that incorporated multi-pane sash windows on the first and second floors. As an extension of the gable end of the house, the porch wall included a molded watertable and beltcourse as well as segmental arches over each window. In contrast to the informal qualities of the house exterior were elaborate interiors of high-quality plaster decoration and raised-panel woodwork. The few interior photographs that survive document intricate plaster cove cornices and ceiling medallions with trailing vine motifs as well as bold, Georgian-influenced mantels and crossetted surrounds.

Willam Adams, son of Reverend Alexander Adams, is credited with financing the construction of this late eighteenth-century house on land he inherited through his father's will of 1769. By 1783, William Adams's tax assessment listed tracts encompassing 571 acres, and between 1783 and his death in 1796 Adams improved the plantation with the brick house. In 1798, the federal assessors described the Wicomico Hundred plantation as,

> Situated on the Head of Wicomico Creek a Dwelling House (on a Valuable Farm) of Brick two story (with a valuable cellar also a Portico the whole length of the building) 40 feet by 20 feet with nine windows 64 inches by 36 inches, eight windows 44 inches by 36 inches, four windows 24 by 20 inches, the whole finished in High Order and annext to it is a room of wood, one story, 20 by 16 feet in plain order and old with six windows 44 inches by 28 inches, Cook Room adjoining 18 by 16 feet of wood with three windows 44 inches by 28 inches.

Standing nearby the house were several outbuildings that included a 16' by 16' carriage house, an equal sized stable, a 20' by 16' meat house, a 12' by 12' dairy, and a 10' by 10' smokehouse. The plantation, then including 384 acres, was also improved by a 30' by 24' barn with 10' sheds, a 32' by 16' slave quarter, and two small dwellings. Situated alongside the road to Princess Anne was a, "Store House with Cellar, 16' by 30'."

Since William Adams had died in 1796, the assessors listed the Adams' heirs as the owners and a William Cottman as occupant. Two years later, Adams family interests in the Wicomico Creek property were sold to William Cottman, who continued to occupy the house until his death in 1805, when, as a result of a clause in Cottman's will, the property was sold once again. William Cottman's executors transferred title of the farm to Andrew Adams, William's brother, for L3910. When Andrew Adams died in 1818, his large estate was divided between his grandnephew, John Adams, and his grandson, George Adams Dashiell. John Adams inherited the "Smith"s Adventure," "Adam's Purchase," and "End of Strife" tracts, while George A. Dashiell was bequeathed the balance of the property, mostly located on the south side of the Wicomico Creek. From George's hands, the property passed to his son, James F. Dashiell, who maintained ownership until the mid years of the Civil War. The old Adams farm was sold out of the family in 1863, and it was under other owners the property was known as the, "Mansion Farm," and later, "Cedar Lawn." During the early twentieth century, Dr. Edward E. Tull of New York began purchasing several tracts on the south side of Wicomico

Creek. He acquired title to the old Adams farm, and the property has remained under the ownership of the Tull estate.

S - 29

Report on Tull Farm

Talked with Dr. Robert McFarlin April 8th by phone.

Dr. McFarlin said his wife spoke with present owner of Tull Farm who has sold the old ruined house to a man from Washington, D.C. (No name given at present). He hopes to re-move house to the Washington area in the near future

MDO3

4/14/71

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Form 10-445
(5/62)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Somerset
TOWN ~~Polk Landing~~ VICINITY S-29
STREET NO. Allen

ORIGINAL OWNER ------
ORIGINAL USE Dwelling
PRESENT OWNER Miss Edna Tull
PRESENT USE Dwelling
WALL CONSTRUCTION Flemish bond w/ a
NO. OF STORIES 2½ rusticated stucco covering

2. NAME Old House on Tull Farm S-29
DATE OR PERIOD c. 1740
STYLE Early Georgian
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC No

This house is a fine and unusual Georgian structure. It is now in ruins. The roof is caving in and the floors are sagging. It manages to preserve all of its panelling but this will not last much longer. The house may collapse any day. It is 4 bays wide and 2 bays deep. The first storey windows are 12/12 while those on the second storey are 8/8. The door occupies the second bay from the left on the front and is very low in height--much lower than the window height. The house was meant to have a stucco coating. This can be ascertained from the roughness of the brick. The remaining stucco is scored to simulate stone blocks and there are flat stuccoed arches over the windows which have double keystones. There is a chimney built into each end wall of the house. One is a T-shaped one and the other is regular. Both are old and have elaborately molded brick caps. A two storey proch runs along the front of the house and the roof sloped out to cover it. The porch appears to be original. There is a 2½ storey frame addition 4 bays wide to the right of the house. This is the kitchen wing and has old vertical beaded panelling and an exposed beam ceiling with beams beaded on both edges.

The main house has a narrow panelled stair hall. All the rooms have panelling up to the chair rail height and elaborate molded plaster ceilings. The mantels are elaborate Georgian ones carved with consoles and garlands.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior ~~(cont'd)~~

This fine old house is rotting away and will not last much longer. The owner has no interest in restoring or selling it. Something should be done to at least persuade her to save the very beautiful carved panelling.

It is deteriorating and the roof is almost gone.

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

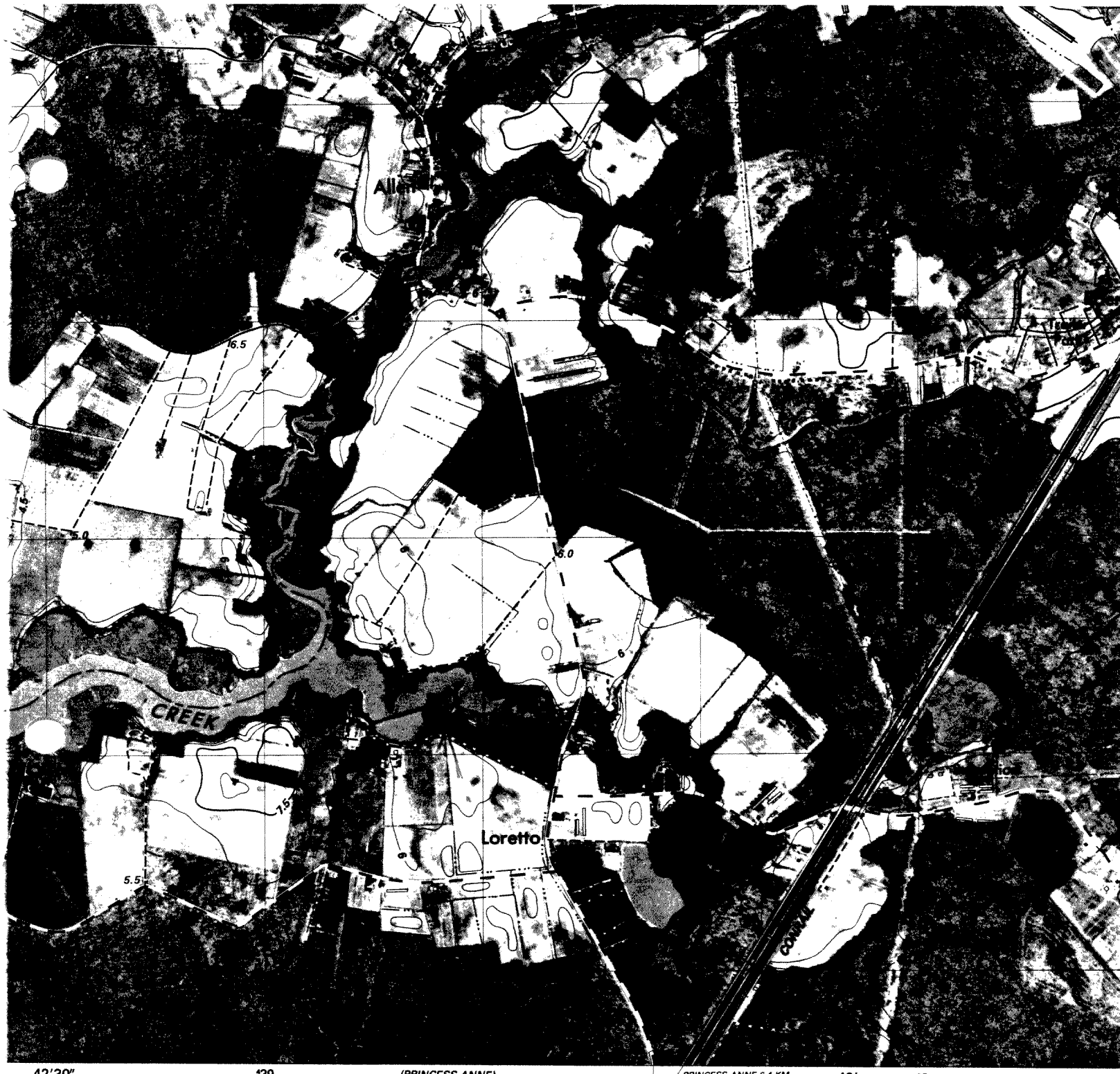
7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Paul A. Brinkman 2/8/67

DATE OF RECORD

S-29



42'30" 39 (PRINCESS ANNE) 5860 II NW PRINCESS ANNE 6.4 KM POCOMOKE CITY 28 KM 40' 42

SCALE 1:24 000

1 .5 0 KILOMETERS 1 2
1000 0 METERS 1000 2000
1 .5 0 1
MILES
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10 000
FEET

S-29
William Adams
House

CONTOUR INTERVAL 1.5 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

CONTOURS AND ELEVATIONS IN METERS

EDEN QUAD

OLD HOUSE ON TULL FARM S-29

T. Dorman

OLD HOUSE ON TULL FARM S - 29

T Dorman

Old HOUSE ON TULL FARM S-29

OLD HOUSE ON TOLL FARM S-29

T. Dorman

S-29
ADAMS HOUSE (HOUSE ON THE TULL FARM)
Allen vic., Somerset Co., MD
Southwest elevation
1967, D.A.G. & P. B. photographers
Negative/MD Historical Trust

S-29

Old House on Tull Farm

Somerset

Photographed by
DANIEL C. CHURCH