1987

S-45 c.1883
Noah Webster House
Deal Island
private

Notably unusual for its large size and distinctive mansard roof, the Noah Webster house attracts notice while one is traveling through Deal Island. A mature group of shade trees currently surrounds the late nineteenth-century frame house. The principal elevation is a symmetrical five-bay ~~elevation~~ facade with a center entrance and flanking sash windows. The unconventional mansard roof is pierced by five pointed arch dormers. Attached to the back of the house is a large service wing detailed in the same manner as the main block.

Commonly known as the "Noah Webster Homeplace" for the past century, it is thought Noah Webster financed the building of this impressive dwelling after his purchase of part of the Williams Evans estate in 1883 (BFL 6/460). Prior to Webster purchase the property was owned by John Tignor and his wife Mary Catherine, who had bought the land from the Evans estate trustee, John W. Crisfield, in 1870 (LW 12/154). The estate plat indicates a dwelling on the property, but the former house must have burned since architectural evidence indicates this structure dates from the fourth quarter of the century. Furthermore, local traditions credit Noah Webster with its construction.

Survey No. S-45

Magi No. 2000455604

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Noah Webster House

2. Location

street & number End of dirt lane off MD 363 (Deal Island Road) ___ not for publication

city, town Deal Island ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Becky Thomas

street & number P.O.Box 72 telephone no.:

city, town Deal Island state and zip code Maryland 21821

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Site Inventory

date 1967 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD. 21401

7. Description

Survey No. S-45

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Noah Webster House Description

The Noah Webster house stands at the end of a dirt entrance lane that branches from Deal Island Road (MD 363) within the southern limits of the village of Deal Island. The large three story frame house faces east with the roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built on a continuous common bond brick foundation, this large three-story, center hall frame house is sheathed with vinyl siding and covered by an unconventional asphalt shingle mansard roof. The steepest portion of the roof, formerly covered with wood shingles, is now sheathed with imitation shingles. Large brick chimneys with corbelled caps rise from the center of the house. Attached to the back of the main block is a three-story service wing.

The east (main) elevation is a symmetrical five-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking six-over-one sash windows. A molded lintel has been added to the top of each window along with louvered aluminum shutters. The heavily molded front door is framed by sidelights and a transom. The second floor is lighted by five evenly spaced six-over-one sash windows, and the third floor is marked by five pointed arch dormers with two-over-two sash windows. Stretching across the first floor is a hip roofed porch supported by turned posts and decorated with sawn brackets. A small cross gable is centered on the porch above the entrance bay.

The north and south ends of the main block are similarly finished with two windows on each floor and two dormers lighting the attic. A few original six-over-six sash windows remain on the south side.

The three-story service wing is two bays across by two rooms deep, and the side walls are finished in a similar manner as the front block. A third brick chimney rises from the center of the tee-plan wing. Two-over-two sash dormers light the attic of the wing as well, and one dormer on the north side retains its pointed arch shutters. Some modern windows have been added on the first floor of the north side.

The interiors have remained essentially intact. An open string stair rises in the hall, and it is distinguished by a turned newel post, turned balusters and a molded handrail. Four-panel doors framed by molded surrounds with bulls-eye blocks open into each room. Victorian mantels remain in several rooms, but the house has always been heated through stoves. The rear wing is finished with the same Victorian woodwork. A tight winder stair rises in the northwest corner of the back room.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-45

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B __C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state __local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Significance

The Noah Webster house is significantly larger than most nineteenth-century Deal Island houses with its three story elevation and center hall, double pile plan. In addition, the amount of decorative Victorian trim exceeds that which is normally found on houses in water-oriented communities. The hip-on-mansard roof is an unconventional adaptation of the standard mansard roof where the top portion of the roof is not visible from the ground.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. S-45

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart - Architectural Historian

organization Somerset County Historical Trust **date** 6/19/86

street & number 424 North Somerset Avenue **telephone** 651-0077

city or town Princess Anne **state** Maryland 21853

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

2000455604

Form 10-445
(5/62)

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY

1. STATE
COUNTY
TOWN Deal Island VICINITY
STREET NO.

ORIGINAL OWNER ---
ORIGINAL USE Dwelling
PRESENT OWNER ---
PRESENT USE Deserted
WALL CONSTRUCTION Clapboard
NO. OF STORIES 3½

2. NAME Deserted House S-45

DATE OR PERIOD c. 1880
STYLE Mansarded Victorian
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC No

This is a very large frame Victorian house. It is five bays wide with a central door. All of the windows are 6/6. The roof is a very steep Mansard which flares slightly at the bottom. The hipped portion of the roof above the Mansard is also very steep. There are 4 enclosed chimneys within the house.

This house is a very attractive Victorian structure and ~~are~~, ~~which~~, for the area that it is in, is very large and unusual in style. At present it is deserted and although still is fairly good condition is prey to vandals. It should be saved as one of the outstanding Victorian structures on Deal Island.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior

Deserted and deteriorating

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

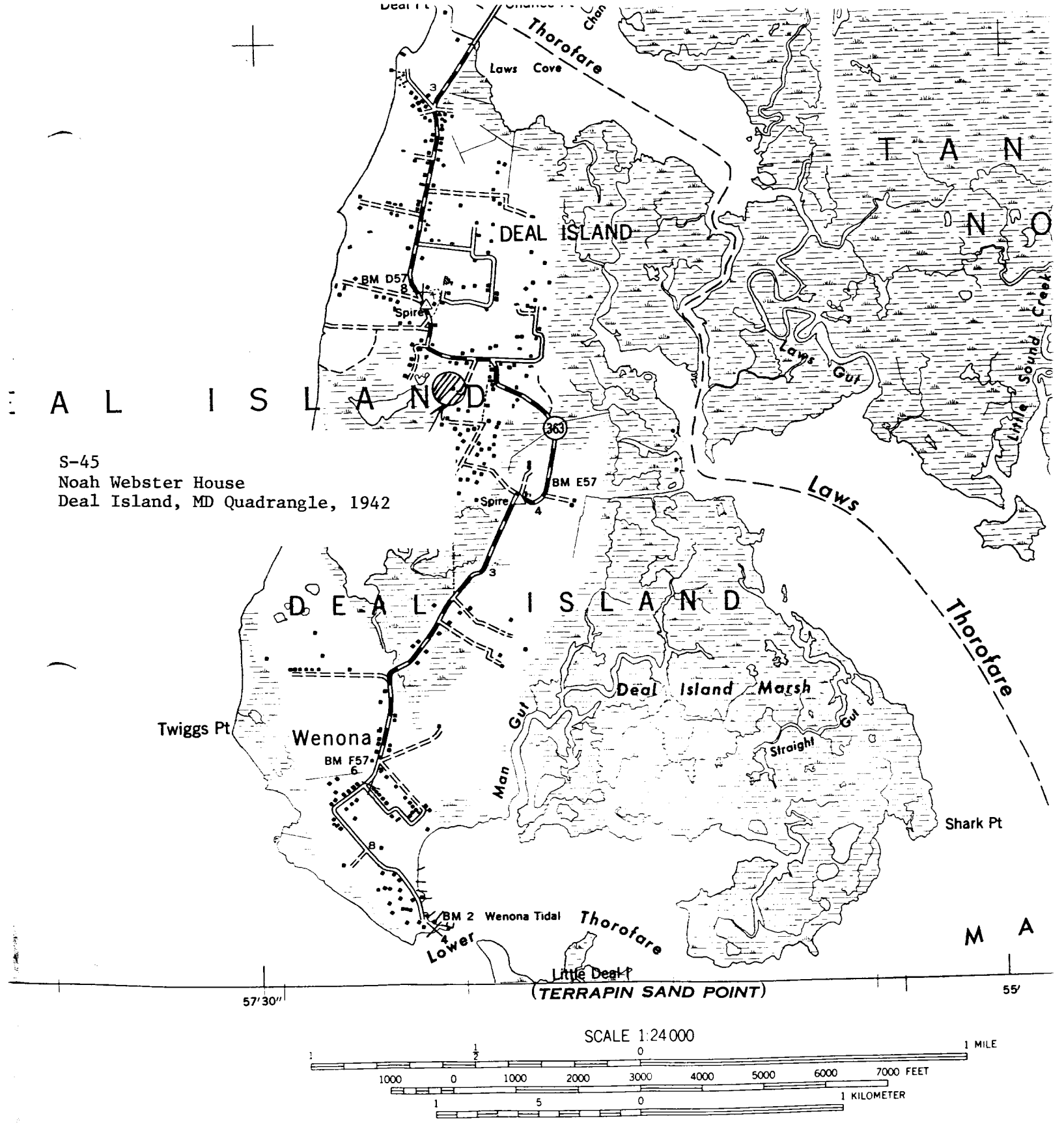
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

Paul A. Brinkman

DATE OF RECORD 2/8/67

5409



S-45
Noah Webster House
Deal Island, MD Quadrangle, 1942

SCALE 1:24 000

1 MILE

1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 KILOMETER

MAXIMUM GROUND ELEVATION 8 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

10,000-FOOT GRID TICKS, MARYLAND PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, SHOWN IN BLACK
1000-METER GRID TICKS, UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR SYSTEM, ZONE 18, SHOWN IN BLUE

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A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

S-45

DG 1967

Noah Webster House S-45
Deal Island, Somerset County, Md.
South Elevation
6/86 Photographer - Paul Touart
Neg/Md. Historical Trust

Noah Webster House S-45
Deal Island, Somerset Co. Md.
Service Wing
7/86, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg/Md. Historical Trust

Noah Webster House S-45
Deal Island, Somerset Co. Md.
East Elevation
7/86, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg/Md. Historical Trust