NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

S-73

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Puncheon Landing

other names/site number: PUNCHEON MILL HOUSE (Preferred)

2. Location

street & number: Puncheon Landing Road — N/A ☐ not for publication

city, town: Pocomoke City — ☒ vicinity

state: Maryland code: MD county: Somerset code: 039 zip code: 21851

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☒ private	☒ building(s)	1	0 buildings
☐ public-local	☐ district		sites
☐ public-State	☐ site		structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure		objects
	☐ object	1	0 Total

me of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: State Historic Preservation Officer — Date: 6/15/94

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)
FEDERAL

Materials (enter categories from instructions)
foundation Brick
walls Wood/Weatherboard
roof Wood/Shingle
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Puncheon mill house is a two-story, three-bay by two-bay frame dwelling supported on a raised common bond brick foundation. Built circa 1810-1820, the house is sheathed with beaded cypress weatherboards and covered with a medium pitched wood shingle roof. Rising against the north gable end of the three-room plan house is an exterior, common bond brick chimney, distinguished by corbelled courses at even intervals. The interior survives with intact examples of Federal woodwork. The framing elements of the common rafter roof have a mixture of double-struck and mature cut nails. Around 1962-1963, the house was restored, and at the same time a kitchen wing was attached to the north side and an enclosed porch was built to the south. The property borders the Pocomoke River approximately five miles northwest of Pocomoke City.

[X] See continuation sheet no. 1
for GENERAL DESCRIPTION

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Puncheon mill house stands on the north side of the Pocomoke River and on the south side of Puncheon Landing road, a county road located between Pocomoke City and Rehobeth, Somerset County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay by two-bay frame dwelling faces south with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1810-1820, the two-story, gable front frame house is supported on a raised brick foundation of irregular five-to-six course common bond. The structure is sheathed with beaded cypress weatherboards. Covering the steeply pitched gable roof is a layer of wood shingles. During the mid-1960s, an addition was extended from the north gable end in a stepped fashion, and an enclosed porch was attached to the south side facing the river.

The south elevation is partially covered by the enclosed porch, supported on a high brick foundation. Covered by the porch are two door openings and a four-over-four sash window. The center door opening is trimmed around its inside face with original early nineteenth century cyma curve backband molding. The door opening to the right was cut through at a later date and probably replaced a window. Lighting the second floor are three unevenly spaced four-over-four sash windows, and the attic is illuminated by a four-pane light. The gable ends are flush and trimmed with a plain bargeboard.

The east and west sides of the house are largely alike with pairs of four-over-four and/or two-over-two sash windows lighting the first and second floors. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice. A wide cellar door opening pierces the east foundation wall, and the board and batten door is hung on long spade-tip strap hinges. Stored in the basement is a rare frame handmill or quern that came with the property.

The north elevation of the early nineteenth century house is dominated by a large common bond brick chimney stack which has corbelled courses at each floor level. The top of the stack is finished with a two-course cap. Located to each side of the chimney stack are four-over-four sash windows. The north side is

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

partially covered by a single-story hyphen that connects a taller single-story kitchen to the main block. Erected in the 1960s when the house was restored, the kitchen and hyphen are supported by a stretcher bond brick foundation, and each section is covered with beaded weatherboards. Rising through the north gable is an interior end brick chimney. The hyphen and kitchen are lighted by six-over-six sash windows, and an east side entrance door to the hyphen is sheltered by a gable roofed stoop.

The first floor of the early nineteenth century dwelling is divided into three rooms. A small stair hall is fixed in the southeast corner, while the remaining first floor space is divided into two rooms served by corner fireplaces. The living room on the west side of the house features a Federal mantel with reeded pilasters and a large reeded frieze block. The mantel shelf is trimmed with bed and crown moldings. Other finishes in the room include a narrow beaded edge chair rail, wide pine floors, and cyma curve backband window and door surrounds. Board and batten doors remain on two door frames.

The east room is fitted with a Federal mantel that has a long rectangular flat panel that defines the frieze. The room is also finished with chair rail and wide pine floors. Located in the southeast corner of the room is a short board and batten door that opens into the space beneath the winder stair.

The tight winder stair, rising in the southeast corner of the house, is finished at the top by a short section of handrail. A slender pine newel post and rectangular balusters support a narrow handrail finished with a rounded top surface. Four-panel doors framed by plain surrounds open into the two bedrooms, which feature corner fireplaces with Federal mantels. Narrow beaded edge chair rail survives in both rooms as well.

Providing access to the attic is a ladder that rises in the small upstairs hall. A trap door opens into the floored attic. A series of common rafters are fixed in place by mortise and tenon joints at the peak. The original yellow pine gable end studs are fastened to the end rafter pairs by a mixture of double-struck and mature cut nails.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Industry	c.1810 - c.1883	c.1810
		c.1883

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANT SUMMARY:

Puncheon mill house is the only example of antebellum industry-associated housing in Somerset County. The exterior sheathing of beaded weatherboards and the intact interiors of Federal woodwork provide a high degree of architectural integrity for the early nineteenth century structure. Built around 1810-1820, the two-story, three-room plan house was erected as part of an industrial saw and grist mill complex located along a branch of the Pocomoke River. Supported on a raised brick foundation, the two-story, three-bay by two-bay dwelling evidently housed the miller and his family, who resided here to manage the work accomplished on the site. Industrial associations for this Pocomoke River property can be traced as early as the mid-eighteenth century, and references to various commercial and/or industrial activities for this site continued throughout the nineteenth century.

☒ See continuation sheet no.4 for HISTORIC CONTEXT AND MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA.

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification 1680 - 1815

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning
Economic (Commercial and Industry)

Resource Type: Dwelling

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single dwelling

Known Design Source: None

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Architectural and historical evidence indicate the extant two-story, three-bay frame house was erected on this site during the ownership of Littleton Dennis, Jr. (1765-1833), after his purchase of the Puncheon Landing acreage in several acquisitions dating between 1795 and 1806. The principal mill operations at the landing were included in a deed executed on 6 June 1806 between Jesse Taylor and Littleton Dennis. For the sum of $500, Jesse Taylor Conveyed to Dennis.

> All that part of two Tracts of Land, and called Acquintica and the other called New Town, Being in the County aforesaid ... standing at the Puncheon Landing being the Beginning Bounder of the aforesaid two Tracts & running from thence across the said Mill Race a little Below the Saw Mill to an old ball Cypress stump standing by the side of the Grist Mill Race below the said Grist mill, and from thence with a straight line running to a marked pine standing a little to the southward of the East End of the Mill Dam & thence running by the south side of the Road and Binding therewith towards Sarah Cluffs Plantation to the place where the Line of Ephraim Dreadons Land...

The Puncheon mill property remained under Dennis family control until the middle years of the nineteenth century. After the death of Littleton U. Dennis in 1833, the mill property passed to his daughter Elizabeth U. Dennis and son, George R. Dennis. In 1851, Elizabeth conveyed her title to the mill lots to her brother for the sum of $3,500. Within the following year, George R. Dennis sold the Puncheon mill property with adjacent acreage to Ezra B. Risley of Worcester County, John Ashcraft of Philadelphia County, and James and William Dryden of Somerset county. Ownership of Puncheon landing complex passed back and forth between various members of this group until James and William Dryden sold the mill property minus the adjacent farmland to John S.Dryden in 1868 for $1,000. Six years later, in December 1874, John S. Dryden mortgaged his interest in Puncheon mill to Ira T. Stevenson for the sum of $485.04. In 1877 John S. Dryden was designated at this location on the atlas map next to a grist mill, store, and warehouse.

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

After the settlement of John S. Dryden's estate in the early 1800s, the court trustee sold, "all that property located on the Somerset County side of the Pocomoke River, and commonly called the 'Puncheon Landing Property,' and now in the occupancy of William Riley Hickman, and whereon the John S. Dryden resided a the time of this death, consisting of Grist Mill, Dwelling house, tenant house, store house, wharf and about eight acres of land more or less." After John S. Dryden's death around 1883, the property was used as a landing, but references to the grist mill operation ceases in the land records. The mill house was occupied by several different families during the early to mid twentieth century until Henry B. and Alice Walters acquired the property in August 1962. They proceeded to restore the early nineteenth century dwelling and at the same time the Walters added the porch and kitchen wing.

The period of significance covers the time between when the house was built and when the house ceased to function directly as industry-related housing.

9. Major Bibliographical References

[X] See continuation sheet no. 7

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
- [X] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [X] Other

Specify repository: Somerset County Historical Trust

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .75 acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	446730	4214260
B			
C			
D			

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

[X] See continuation sheet no. 8

Boundary Justification

[X] See continuation sheet no. 9

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian
organization Private Consultant date 1/15/93
street & number P.O. Box 5 telephone (410) 651-1094
city or town Westover state Maryland zip code 21871

*U.S.GPO 1988-0-223-918

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas, 1877, Bicentennial Edition, Wicomico County Historical Society.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties: Somerset County, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

Personal conversation with Henry P. Walters, January 1993.

Somerset County Land Records, various volumes, Somerset County Courthouse.

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The .75 acre lot that accompanies this house in nomination is the property currently held by the owner. Centered on the lot, there is yard to each side of the structure and an unobstructed view of the river. Aside from providing an open view to the water, the land itself has not been determined historically significant by any archaeological investigation. No other tangible evidence of this industrial site still stand.

See Continuation Sheet No. 9

Form 10-445
5-62)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTO (THIS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE)

1. STATE Maryland COUN Somerset TOWN Luncheon Landing STREET NO ORIGINAL OWNER --- ORIGINAL USE Mill PRESENT OWNER --- PRESENT USE Residence WALL CONSTRUCTION Clapboard NO. OF STORIES 2½ w/sm. connecting pass. & wing.	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY 2. NAME Luncheon Mill S-73 DATE OR PERIOD 1810 STYLE Colonial ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

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

This building is a very old mill which has been remodeled into a residence. It has a huge brick chimney, small windows, and one end wall of brick. The main building is 2½ stories high and 2 bays wide. This then connects through a one storey hyphen to a smaller 2½ storey 2 bay wing.

Nothing is known about the interior of this building.

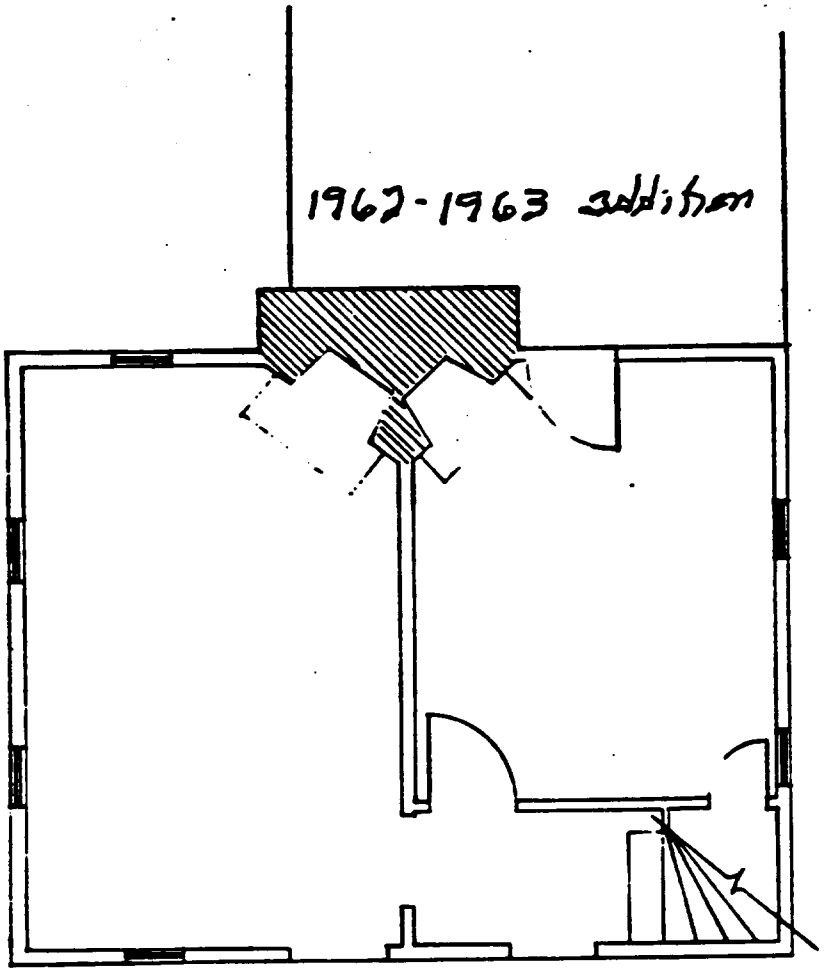
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered — Interior — Exterior

Restored

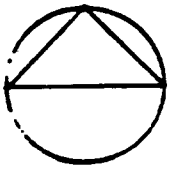
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

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 4/8/67



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

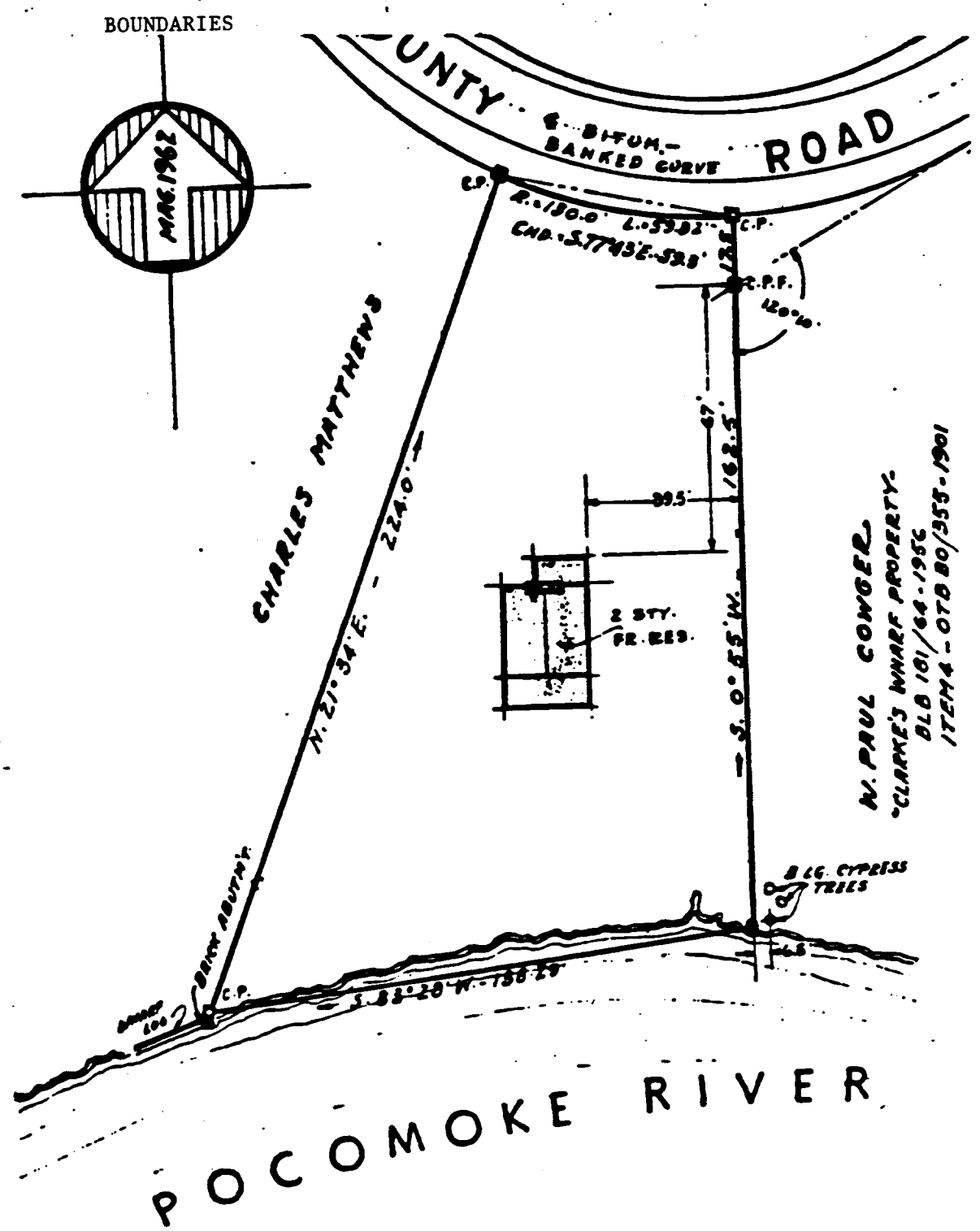
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

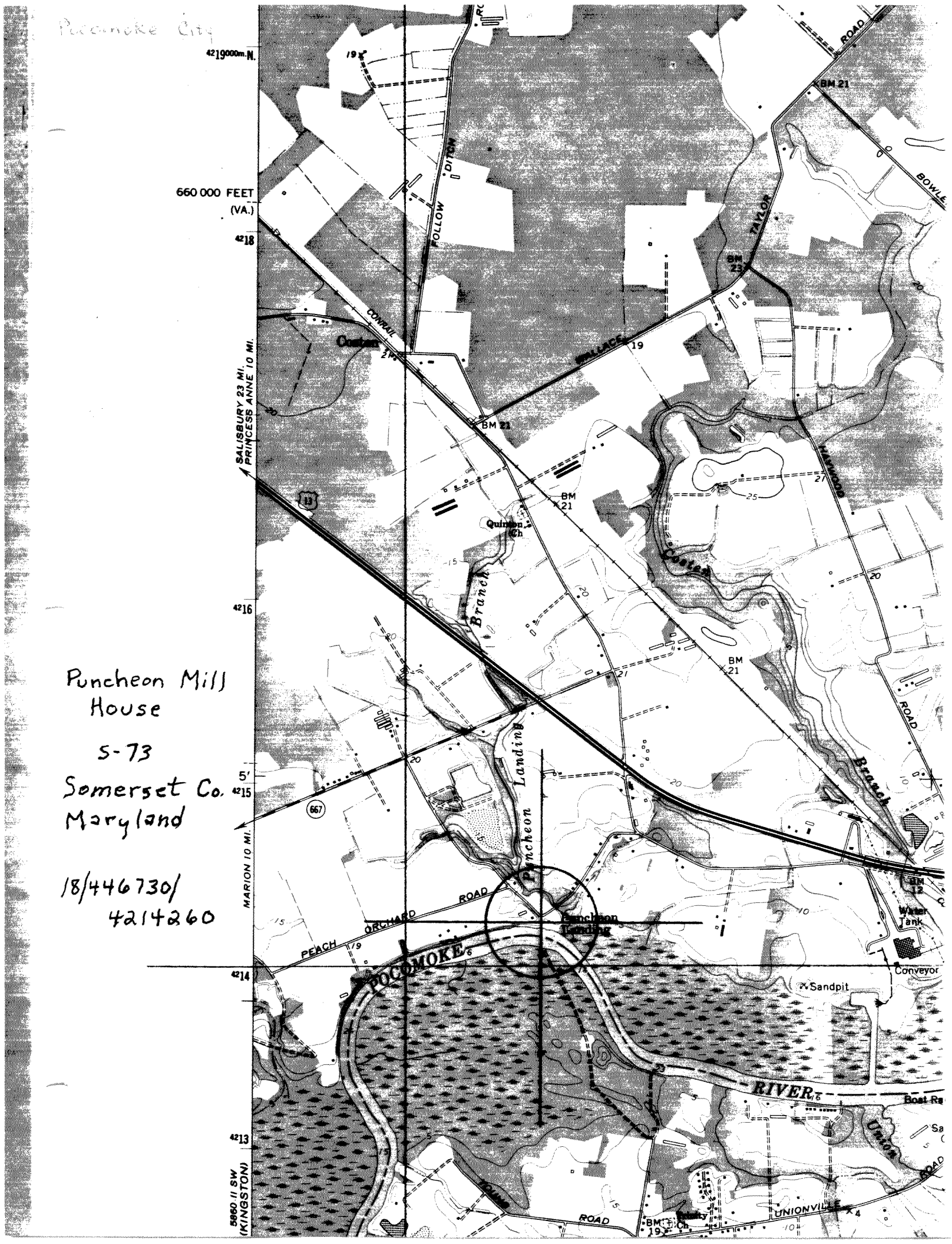
Puncheon Mill House
Somerset County
Maryland

S-73

Section number 10 Page 9



Pocomoke City



Puncheon Mill House

5-73

Somerset Co.

Maryland

18/446730/
4214260

S-73
PUNCHEON MILL HOUSE
Pocomoke City vic., Somerset Co., MD
Southwest elevation
10/87, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust

S-73
PUNCHEON MILL HOUSE
Pocomoke City vic., Somerset Co., MD
Northwest elevation
10/87, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust

PLANTERS
Honey Roasted
Peanuts

5-73

Rancho [illegible] Mill House

Pedestrian [illegible]

County, MD.

[illegible] Mill

1/93 Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg. / MD. Historical Trust

S-73
PUNCHEON MILL HOUSE
Pocomoke City vic., Somerset Co., MD
North elevation
10/87, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust

S-73

S-73
PUNCHEON MILL HOUSE
Pocomoke City vic., Somerset Co., MD
Stair, southeast corner of hall
10/87, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust

S-73
PUNCHEON MILL HOUSE
Pocomoke City vic., Somerset Co., MD
Hand mill stored in cellar
10/87, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust

S-73
PUNCHEON MILL HOUSE
Pocomoke City vic., Somerset Co., MD
Mantel, east room
10/87, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust

S-73
PUNCHEON MLLL HOUSE
Pocomoke City vic., Somerset Co., MD
Second floor bedroom mantel
10/87, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust

S-73
PUNCHEON MILL HOUSE
Pocomoke City vic., Somerset Co., MD
Mantel, West parlor
10/87, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust

S-13

Purdeau Mill

Somerset

Photographed by
DANIEL C. CHURCH