

S-253  
Dr. Thomas Costen House  
Rehobeth  
private

C. 1825-1840

Standing just west of the village of Rehobeth is the Dr. Thomas Costen house, a two-story, four-bay center hall frame house. Supported by a raised brick foundation and sheathed with beaded weatherboards, the early nineteenth-century house is distinguished by exposed brick fire walls on each gable end and a Victorian cross-gabled roof. Inside, a large portion of the Federal period woodwork, including a decorated stair, chair rails, and six-panel doors remains intact. The mirrored mantel with detached Corinthian columns is a turn of the century replacement. Extending to the rear is a two-story, one-bay dining room wing that connects the single-story frame kitchen. From construction details, it appears the dining room wing was added most recently and probably replaced a former single-story hyphen.



# 7. Description

Survey No. S-253

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

## Dr. Thomas Costen House

The Dr. Thomas Costen House is located on the north side of Vessey Road (Old Rehobeth Road), just west of the small village of Rehobeth, Somerset County, Maryland. Facing south, the 2½-story c.1825-1840 four-bay house rests on an excavated brick cellar and is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. The roof runs on an east/west axis, while a dining room and kitchen extend to the rear. The house is accompanied by a mid-19th-century wagon house, a modern tractor shed and pig barn. A 19th-century cemetery is located in the middle of a concrete slab pig sty.

Supported by a common bond brick cellar, the mortise and tenon frame house survives with large portions of beaded weatherboards. The steeply pitched roof has been rebuilt with the addition of a center cross-gable and extended eaves. Where the boxed cornice remains intact, it retains its bed and crown molding.

The asymmetrical south facade is divided into four bays with the entrance occupying the second bay from the west. A six-panel door is flanked by 2/2 sash sidelights. The two bays to the east are marked by two 6/6 sash windows, while the single bay to the west is filled with a modern paired 6/6 sash window. The second floor is lighted by four 2/2 sash windows, and the front gable is pierced by the same 2/2 sash light.

The gable ends have exposed brick firewalls that rise a full story in height. Four-pane attic windows flank the internal end brick stacks.

Extending from the back of the house is a shorter two-story one-bay by one-room post-Civil War frame section with a medium pitched roof, exposed rafter feet and an internal end brick chimney. The kitchen, on the other hand, appears contemporary with the main house. The single-story one-room plan frame structure sits close to the ground and is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. The kitchen walls are covered with weatherboards. A screened-in porch is attached to the east side of both the kitchen and the dining room. An altered six-panel door and a 6/6 sash window mark the east kitchen wall.

The interior of the main house retains a large portion of its Federal period woodwork, and most notably, the center stair.

A slender turned newel post with ball finial supports a circular-profile handrail. Three rectangular balusters rise from each step. The stringer is decorated by s-scrolled trim, while the space below the stringer is divided into a flush paneled grid. In addition to the stair, the hall is fitted with early 19th-century chair rail, door surrounds and six-panel doors.

The adjacent east room, or the parlor, retains the same chair rail as well as door and window surrounds. However, the Federal mantel has been replaced with a c.1900 detailed column colonial revival mantel with mirror overmantel.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. s-253

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 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

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.

The Dr. Thomas Costen House is a substantial frame house that stands near the village of Rehobeth. Although the roof has been altered with a Victorian Gable, the house retains a large portion of its exterior and interior period fabric. Beaded weatherboards and the exposed brick firewalls are especially important exterior features, while the Federal style stair is perhaps the most significant interior element. This house survives as one of the earliest dwellings in the immediate vicinity of the village.



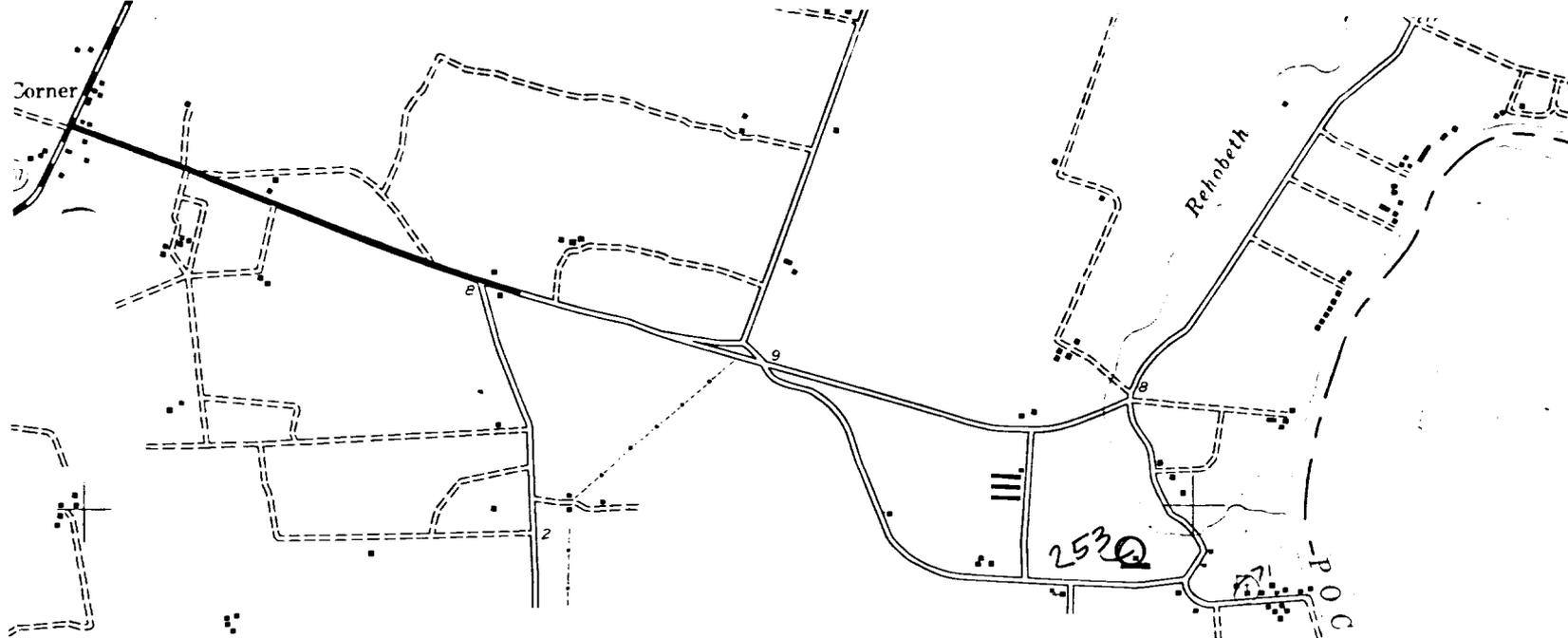
DESCRIPTION (cont.)

The opposite room has been altered with the insertion of a bathroom. Some early 19th-century hardware survives in a few places. An early 19th-century molded iron thumb latch is found on the stair closet door.

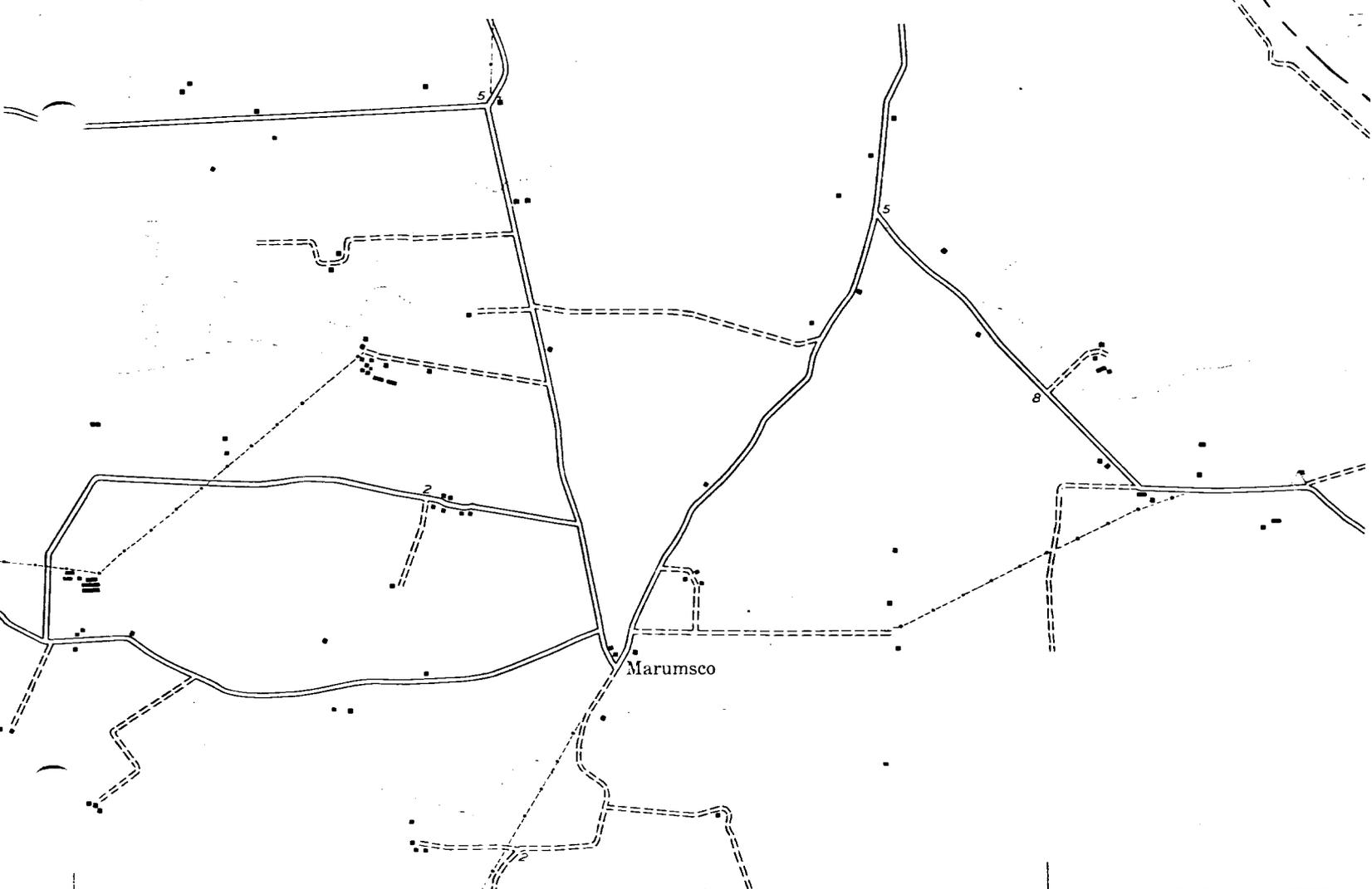
The second floor is divided in the normal manner with a small room at the head of the stairs and a room to either side. The east bedroom has a simple early 19th-century mantel with a cyma curve backband and a simple molded shelf. A closet has been inserted in the left alcove.

The next bedroom is a plainly finished space with a warron enclosed stair in the southwest corner. A flush paneled door allows access to the ladder stair to the attic. As is evident from the exterior, the roof has been partially reworked, but the common rafter roof system with lapped and pinned pear joints remains intact, as do the lapped collar beams fastened by two cut-nails. The framing for the cross gable is of later construction.

The middle section is plainly finished inside with plaster walls, plain baseboards and window and door surrounds. The kitchen is also undistinguished aside from an enclosed stair that rises to the attic in the southwest corner.



S-253  
Dr. Thomas Costen House  
Kingston, MD Quadrangle, 1972





Dr. Thomas Costen House      S-253  
Near Rehobeth, Somerset County  
South Elevation  
4/85, Photographer, Paul Touart  
Neg./MD. Historical Trust



Dr. Thomas Costen House      S-253  
Near Rehobeth, Somerset County  
Northeast Elevation  
4/85, Photographer, Paul Touart  
Neg./MD. Historical Trust



Dr. Thomas Costen House      S-253  
Near Rehobeth, Somerset County  
Stair paneling  
4/85, Photographer, Paul Touart  
Neg./MD. Historical Trust



Dr. Thomas Costen House      S-253  
Near Rehobeth, Somerset County  
Stair  
4/85, Photographer, Paul Touart  
Neg./MD. Historical Trust



Dr. Thomas Costen House      S-253  
Near Rehobeth, Somerset County  
Front Entrance  
4/85, Photographer, Paul Touart  
Neg./MD. Historical Trust



Dr. Thomas Costen House    S-253  
Near Rehobeth, Somerset County  
Parlor Mantel  
4/85, Photographer, Paul Touart  
Neg./MD. Historical Trust