S-337 c. 1815-1830
Samuel Miles House
Princess Anne Vicinity
private

The Samuel Miles house is an early nineteenth-century four-room plan dwelling that was moved a short distance from its site and converted to a storage building. The two-story, three-bay frame house is distinguished by beaded weatherboards and a decorated cornice. The front cornice is embellished with bed and crown moldings as well as a drilled decoration under the soffit. The drilled design takes the form of stylized classical swags.

The four-room first floor is fitted with Federal period woodwork. The period stair rises in two flights and each stepend is decorated with an applied scroll. Flush six-panel doors open into the adjacent first floor rooms which are finished with flat panel wainscoting. A layer of oak graining is visible under the grey paint.

The land on which this house stands was assessed in 1798 for Samuel Miles. His dwelling house description lists,

> Situate in Somerset County about 5 miles from Pocomoke River, 1 Dwelling house, 22 by 18, one story high, three windows two feet six inches by four feet, two windows three feet six inches by two feet, built with one end brick, rest wood, and one wood kitchen twelve by twelve, and one cook house twenty by sixteen of wood, and one brick smoke house ten by twelve.

The land assessment for Samuel Miles includes,

> A tract of land called Miles Last Choice and other adjacent tracts lying in Somerset County back in the woods about five miles from Pocomoke River with one barn thirty by thirty and

> one barn twenty-four by forty, and one corn stack thirty-two by six all wood.

Evidently, Samuel Miles and his family occupied the single-story house described in the tax assessment until the 1820s when the extant house was probably raised. The Federal period woodwork is extremely similar to the nearby William Costen house (S-76), which is dated to 1829. Samuel Miles' will was proved on October 16, 1850 (JP 5/198), and he states that his wife, Sally Miles, should have during her widowhood, "all my lands whereon I now live..."

After Sally Miles' death the farm passed to William Miles, and then to his son, William F. W. Miles, who is designated on the 1877 Somerset County atlas as well as the atlas patron list. Miles is identified as a farmer and a civil engineer owning 550 acres. Samuel F. Miles, one of the last family members to own the property, was a long-time surveyor whose career spanned a large part of the twentieth century.

Survey No. S-337

Magi No. 2003375304

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Samuel Miles House

and/or common Ralph Smith Farm

2. Location

street & number Perryhawkin Road ___ not for publication

city, town Princess Anne _X_ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	_X_ private	_X_ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	_X_ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	_X_ 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 Ralph Smith

street & number Rt. 2 Box 77 telephone no.:

city, town Princess Anne state and zip code Maryland 21853

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber 326

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio 850

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-337

Condition		Check one	Check one	
___ excellent	X deteriorated	___ unaltered	___ original site	
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	X moved	date of move 1964
___ fair	___ unexposed			

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

Samuel Miles House Description

The Samuel Miles house is located on the northeast side of Perryhawkin Road, .02 of a mile north of the intersection of Boston Road. The c.1815-1830 house stands near two modern ranch style houses, one of which occupies the old house site. Around 1964 the dwelling was moved to its present location.

Facing southeast, the large two-story, four-room plan house rests on block piers and is covered with a mixture of beaded and plain weatherboards. The medium pitched roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. A delicate boxed cornice stretches across front and back. The front cornice is embellished with bed and crown moldings as well as a drilled decoration under the dentils. The drillwork takes the form of stylized swags.

The main elevation is symmetrically arranged with a center six-panel door and flanking 6/6 sash windows. Three 6/6 sash windows light the second floor.

The northeast gable end has one first floor 6/6 sash window to the right of the chimney location, while two 6/6 sash windows flank the stack on the second floor. Two four-pane attic windows also pierce the gable end wall. The eave is finished with a plain bargeboard.

The northwest side is essentially identical to the front with the same cornice treatment. A flush six-panel door is flanked by 6/6 sash windows.

The southwest end has been covered with plywood, and a large sliding door provides access through the end. When the house was moved, the kitchen wing was destroyed, so a modern plywood surface was added.

Inside, the house is divided into four rooms with a stair hall in the southeast corner, a parlor behind the hall in the northeast corner and two rooms to the left of the entrance.

The stair has a slender turned newel post and molded handrail. There are three square balusters to each tread. Each stepend is decorated by scrollwork. Rising two flights to the second floor, the stair well is fully lighted and trimmed with chair rail which runs below each window and serves as window sill moldings. The walls are lathed and plastered, and the lath is fastened with cut nails. The peculiar chair rail feature is exactly like the treatment of the staircase in the nearby William Costen House (S-76). In fact, both houses share other finish details.

Six-panel doors remain on most first floor doorways and allow access into the adjacent rooms. The parlor is fitted with flush panel wainscoting. Under the grey paint, a layer of graining is visible. The mantel has been removed from this room, but a small closet to the right of the chimney location survives. The chair rail and baseboard follow early nineteenth-century profiles.

The other two rooms once had corner hearths; but when the house was moved, the

8. Significance

Survey No. S-337

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
X 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.

Samuel Miles House Significance

The Samuel Miles house is an early nineteenth-century four-room plan dwelling that was moved from its original site and converted to a storage building. The two-story, three-bay frame house is distinguished by beaded weatherboard siding and a decorative cornice. The front cornice is embellished with bed and crown moldings as well as a drilled decoration under the eaves. The drilled design takes the form of stylized swags.

The four-room plan first floor is fitted with Federal period woodwork. The period stair rises in two flights, and each stepend is decorated with an applied scroll. Flush six-panel doors open into the adjacent first floor rooms which have been finished with flat panel wainscoting. A layer of graining is visible beneath the grey paint.

History and Support

The land on which this house stands was assessed in 1798 for Samuel Miles. His dwelling house description lists:

> Situate in Somerset County about 5 miles from Pocomoke River 1 Dwelling House 22 by 18 one story high, three windows two feet six inches by four feet; two windows three feet six inches by two feet six inches and one window one foot six inches by two feet, built with one end brick, rest wood and one wood kitchen twelve by twelve and one cook house twenty by sixteen of wood and one brick smoke house ten by twelve.

The land assessment for Samuel Miles reads;

> A tract of land called Miles Last Choice and other adjacent tracts lying in Somerset County back in the woods about five miles from Pocomoke River with one barn thirty by thirty and one barn twenty-four by forty, and one corn stack thirty-two by six all wood.

Evidently Samuel Miles and his family occupied the single-story house described the tax assessment until the 1820s when the present house was probably raised. The Federal period woodwork is extremely similar to the nearby William Costen house, which

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. S-337

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** 5/17/84

street & number 424 N. Somerset Avenue **telephone** 651-1094 (Home)

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

Description cont.

stacks were dismantled, and the mantels were stored or sold.

The second floor is divided into three bedrooms with the hall running between. Each room is finished in an ordinary manner with chair rail, baseboard and plaster walls.

Access was not gained into the attic.

History and Support cont.

is dated to 1829. Samuel Miles' will was proved on October 16, 1850 (JP 5/198), and he states that his wife, Sally Miles, should have during her widowhood, all my lands whereon I now live..."

After Sally Miles' death the farm passed on to William Miles, and then to his son, William F.W. Miles. William F.W. Miles is designated on the 1877 Somerset County atlas as well as in the atlas patron list, where he is identified as a farmer and a civil engineer owning 550 acres. The Miles family has had a long association with land surveying in Somerset County. Samuel F. Miles, one of the last family members to own the property, was a long-time surveyor whose career spanned a large part of the twentieth century.

The property was sold out of the Miles family in 1950 when William C. Miles conveyed the land to Luther H. Hamlet (B.L.B. 151/231).

1798 Federal Assessment-Dwelling Houses-Samuel Miles-Dividing Creek Hundred

"Situate in Somerset County about 5 miles from Pocomoke River 1 Dwelling House 22 by 18 1 storey high with 3 windows 2½ feet by 4 feet and 2 windows 3½ feet by 2½ feet and 1 window 1½ feet by 2 built one end brick, rest wood and 1 wood kitchen 12 by 12 and 1 cook house 20 by 16 of wood and 1 brick smoke house 10 by 12

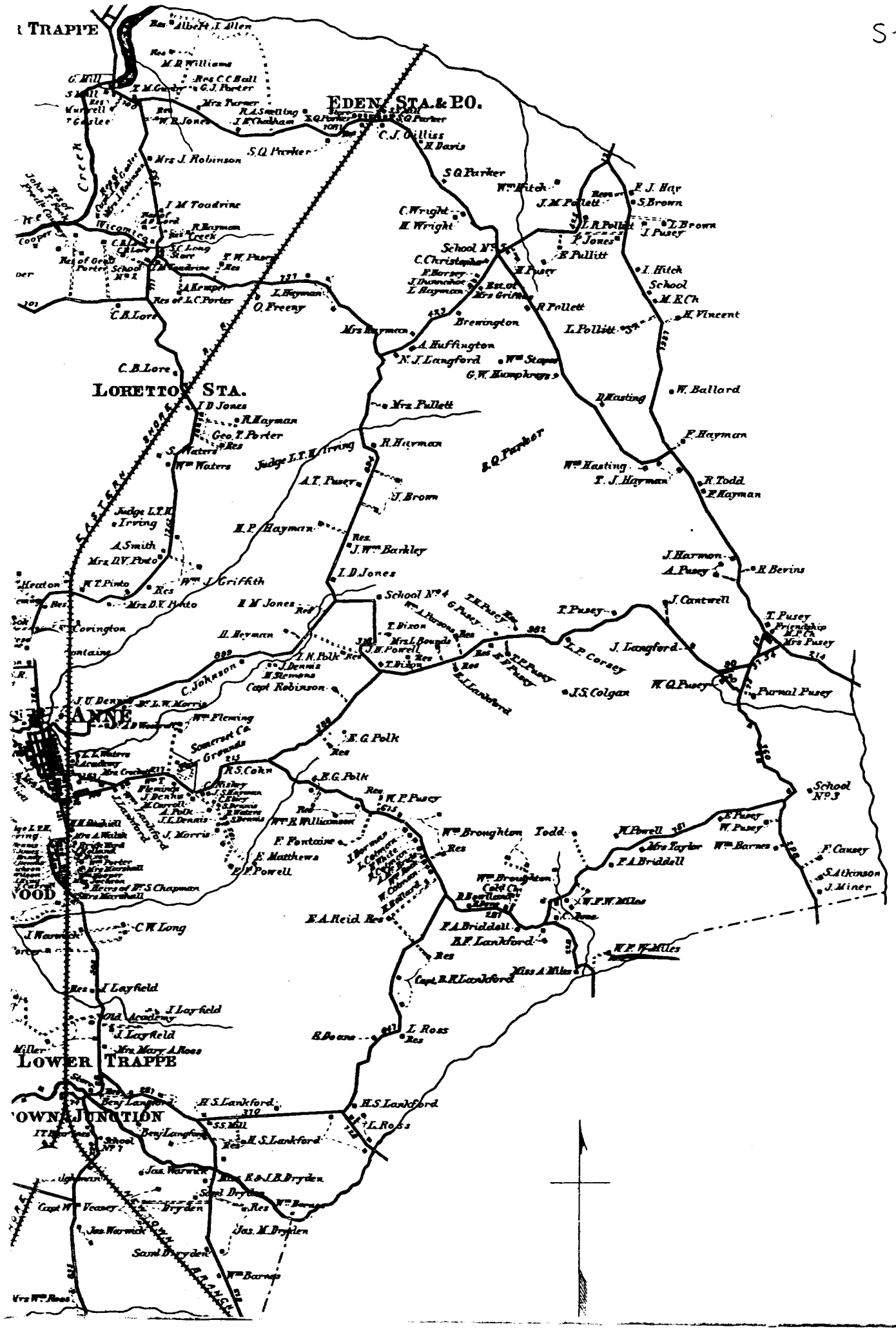
1798 Federal Assessment-Lands-Samuel Miles

"a tract of land called Miles Last Choice and other adjacent tracts lying in Somerset County back in the woods about 5 miles from Pocomoke River with 1 barn 30 by 30 and 1 barn 24 by 40 and 1 corn stack 32 by 6 all wood"

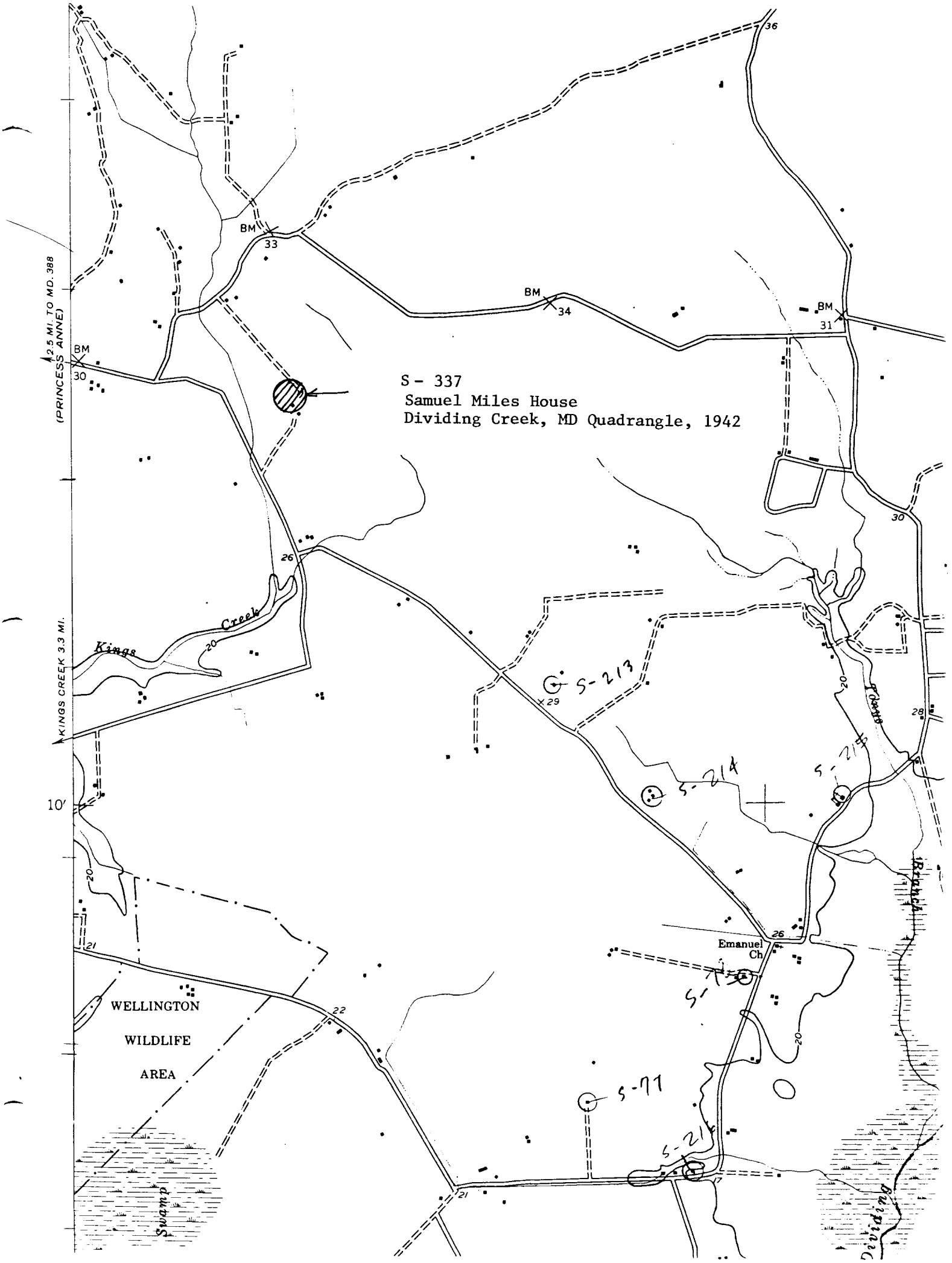
1798 Federal Assessment-Slaves

whole number 13
between ages 12-50 7

S-337



TRAPPE
EDEN STA. & P.O.
LORETTO STA.
ANNE
LOWER TRAPPE
JUNCTION
School No. 4
School No. 3
School No. 2
School No. 7
Wicomico
Creek
Eastern Shore
Somerset Co. Grounds
Old Academy
Miss A. Miles
Capt. R. R. Lankford
Mrs. Mary A. Ross
Jas. Warwick
Jas. M. Dryden
Sam'l Dryden
Wm. Barnes
Capt. Wm. Veasey
Mrs. Wm. Ross


S - 337
Samuel Miles House
Dividing Creek, MD Quadrangle, 1942
2.5 MI. TO MD. 388
(PRINCESS ANNE)
KINGS CREEK 3.3 MI.
10′
BM
33
BM
34
BM
31
BM
30
36
30
26
Kings
Creek
20
S-213
29
S-214
S-215
28
Branch
Emanuel
Ch
26
S-71
S-216
WELLINGTON
WILDLIFE
AREA
22
21
Swamp
Dividing

Samuel Miles House S-337
Princess Anne vicinity, Somerset County
South Elevation
3/84, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

S-337

Samuel Miles House
Princess Anne vicinity, Somerset County
Cornice
3/84, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

Samuel Miles House S-337
Princess Anne vicinity, Somerset County
Cornice
3/84, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

SOUTHERN

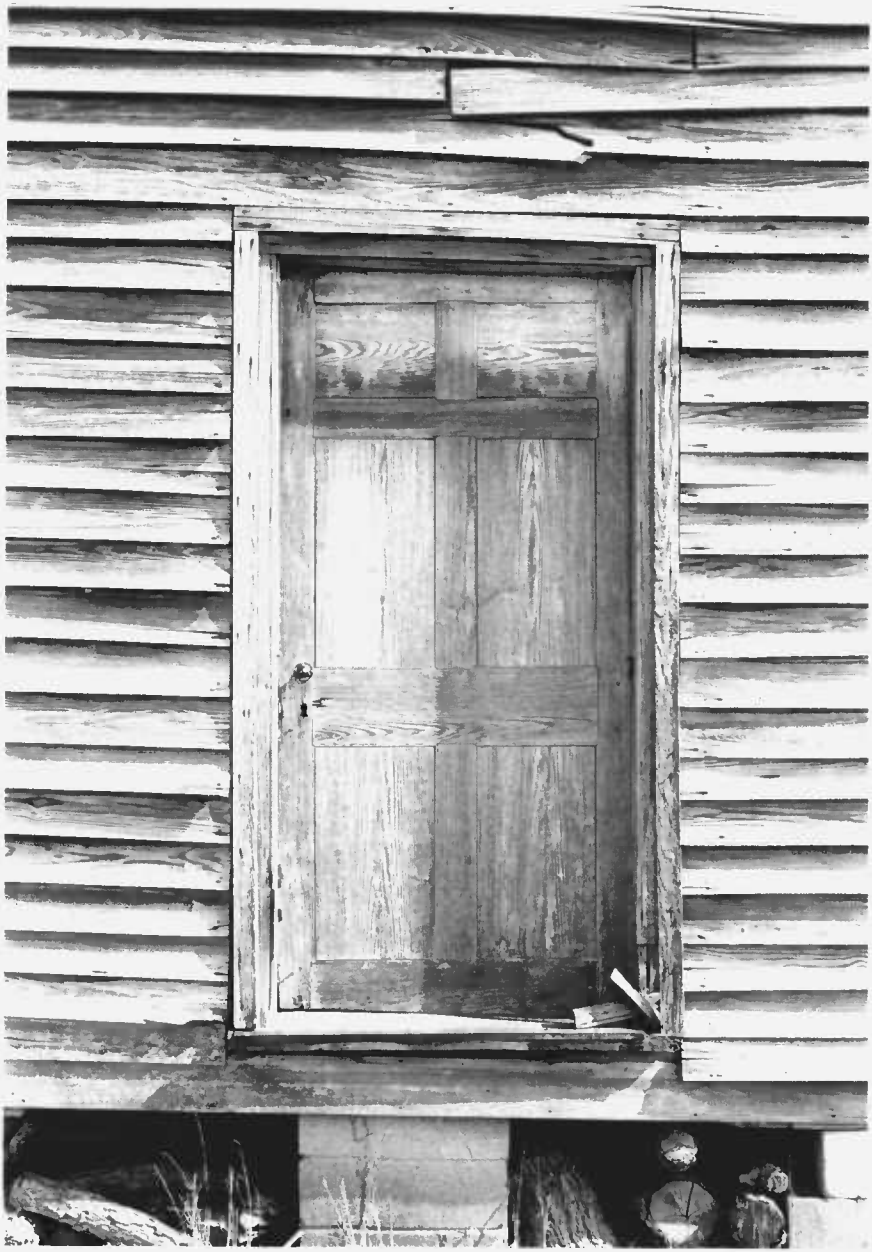
Samuel Miles House S-337
Princess Anne vicinity, Somerset Co., Md.
Wainscoting
6/84, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

Samuel Miles House S-337
Princess Anne vicinity, Somerset County
Stringer Decoration
3/84, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

Samuel Miles House S-337
Princess Anne vicinity, Somerset County
Stair
3/84, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

Samuel Miles House S-337
Princess Anne vicinity, Somerset County
Second Floor Handrail
3/84, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

Samuel Miles House S-337
Princess Anne vicinity, Somerset County
Second Floor Handrail
3/84, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Samuel Miles House S-337
Princess Anne vicinity, Somerset County
North Door
3/84, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

Samuel Miles House S-337
Princess Anne vicinity, Somerset County
Six-Panel Doors
3/84, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust