

S-381  
Somerset County Jail  
Princess Anne  
private

1857-1858

The Somerset County Jail, once known as the "Grey Eagle," is the only load-bearing stone walled structure in the county. Probably imported from quarries at Port Deposit, Cecil County, the granite ~~blocks were~~<sup>was</sup> laid in a semi-coursed manner and covered by a medium pitched hip roof. Specifications for the building were provided by William T. Marshall, who was paid \$70 from the county treasury in 1857. On June 14 of the same year the county commissioners awarded the construction contract to Littleton Harris for his \$7000 proposal. On December 21, 1858 the commissioners authorized Joshua W. Philips to take care of the new jail. The facility has served the county for the last one-hundred and twenty-eight years, and future plans for the building include renovation for town offices.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-381

Magi No. 2003815501

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic "The Grey Eagle"

and/or common Somerset County Jail

## 2. Location

street & number North end of Church Street (N. Beckford Ave.?)  not for publicationcity, town Princess Anne  vicinity of  congressional district Firststate Maryland  county Somerset

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Somerset County Commissioners

street & number Prince William Street  telephone no.:city, town Princess Anne  state and zip code Md. 21853

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk Of Court  liberstreet & number Somerset County Courthouse  foliocity, 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

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<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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" 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.

## Somerset County Jail description

The Somerset County Jail (historically known as the Grey Eagle) stands at the north end of Church Street in Princess Anne, Somerset County, Maryland. The two-story hip roofed jail faces east with the hip roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built in 1857-1858, the semi-coursed granite jail has been sheathed with formed stone. The granite is exposed in a few places where the formed stone has chipped off, and the granite window sills remain uncovered. The medium pitched hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Piercing the roof is a pair of twin brick chimneys. Attached to the north end of the jail is an early twentieth century brick sheathed frame addition.

The east (main) elevation of the jail is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking barred windows. An early twentieth century stoop covers the jail entrance. Three barred windows mark the second floor.

The south side of the jail has two barred windows on each floor, and a metal fire escape has been added to the west window of the second floor.

The west (rear) facade is marked by a symmetrical arrangement of windows. Three smaller barred windows pierce the first floor, while three larger windows, differently spaced, light the second floor.

The north end of the jail is covered by the early twentieth century brick sheathed frame addition. The story-and-a-half addition has a gabled stoop that covers the center entrance. Six-over-six sash windows flank the front door, and two six-over-six sash dormers light the attic level.

The interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1857-58                      **Builder/Architect** Littleton Harris, cont.

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 Somerset County Jail is the only stone building in Somerset County. Granite, probably imported from Port Deposit in Cecil County, was employed in the construction of the mid nineteenth-century jail. Built in 1857-58, this jail was erected to replace the old jail which stood on the old courthouse property on Broad Street and Somerset Avenue.



## COMMISSIONER MINUTES 1856-1858

February 24, 1857

The Commissioners gave a draft on the collector of 1856 in favor of William T. Marshall for the sum of seventy dollars to be paid out of the sum levied to build a new jail in Somerset County--the same being a full remuneration for the plan and specifications of said jail furnished by said Marshall--all of which are files in this office.

April 14, 1857

Ordered to publish specifications in local and Baltimore papers.

April 21, 1857

Ordered that A.M. Miles be hereby authorized with full power to purchase from Henry Newman for Somerset County a lot of ground and house on the west side of Princess Anne occupied by Mrs. Tabitha Dorey and daughter, where the said Commissioners anticipate building a new jail.

May 26, 1857

Ordered that the clerk give notice that the Commissioners would let out the capping of the wall recently built of stone on Tuesday next to the lowest bidder.

The Commissioners this day agreed to give James Benson the sum of thirty dollars, provided he filled with sand both sides of the side walk where the stone wall has been recently built and put in such order as they deem necessary.

June 2, 1857

The Commissioners granted to the Ladies of the Presbyterian Church in Princess Anne the priveledge (sic) of holding a Strawberry festival in the court house on Tuesday the 9th instant.

June 14, 1857

The Commissioners this day made known to Littleton Harris that they had accepted his proposal to build the jail for the sum of seven thousand dollars, that amount being the lowest sum proposed.

Commissioners Minutes 1856-1858  
Page 2

August 10, 1858

Captain Phoebus reported that he had let out the repairs to be made in the Court House to Seth D. Venables for the sum of one hundred and forty-eight dollars to be paid out of the levy of 1859.

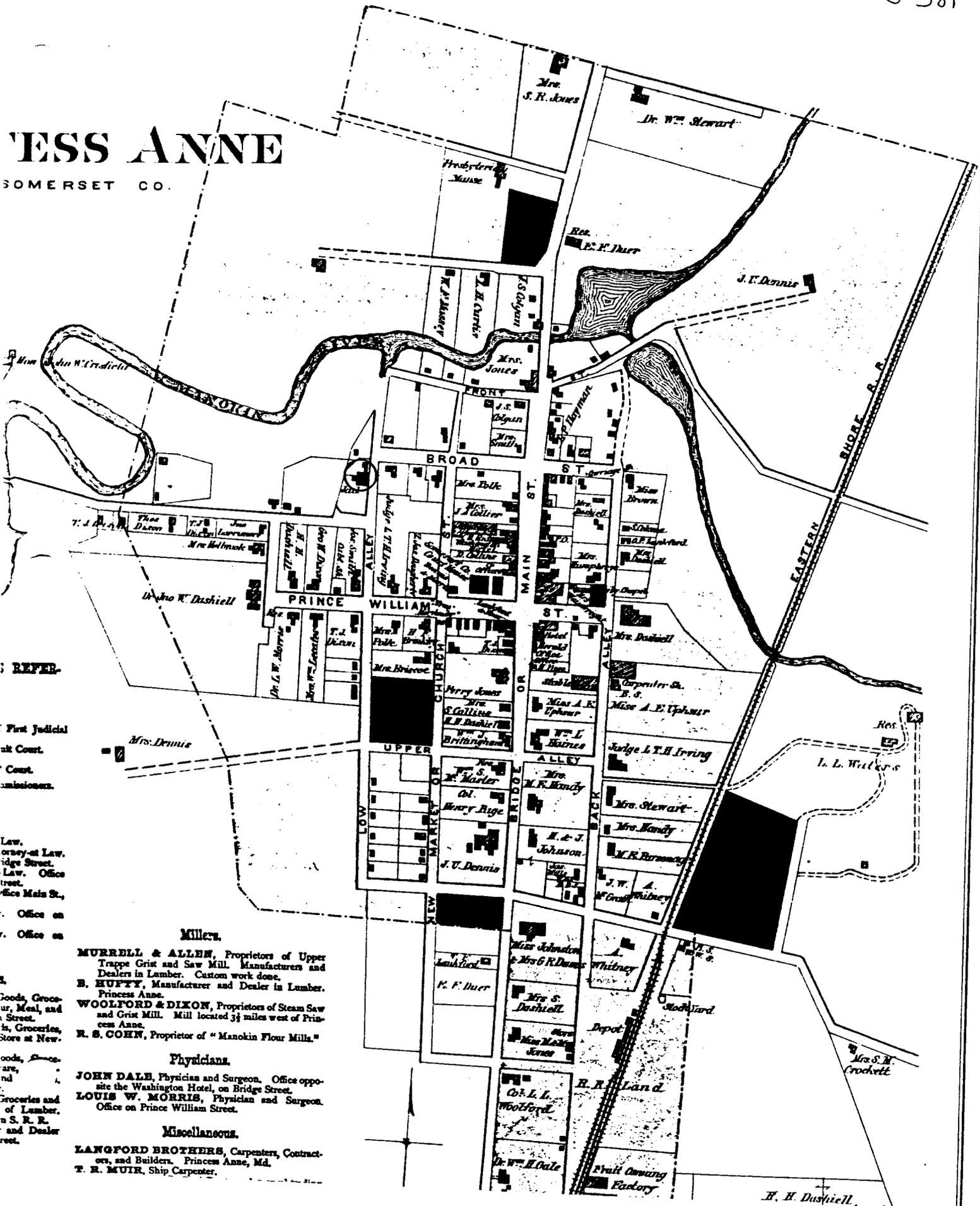
Entry concerning second coat of plaster.

December 21, 1858

This day the Commissioners for Somerset County ordered and authorized Joshua W. Philips to take charge of the new jail lately built by Littleton Harris, Contractor.

# PRINCESS ANNE

SOMERSET CO.



- REFER-**
- First Judicial Court
  - Court
  - Commissioners
  - Law
  - Store at Law
  - Edge Street
  - Law Office
  - Street
  - Office Main St.
  - Office on
  - Office on
  - Goods, Groceries, Meat, and
  - Store at New
  - Goods, Groceries, and
  - Store at New
  - Goods, Groceries, and
  - Store at New

### Millers.

- MURRELL & ALLEN**, Proprietors of Upper Trappe Grist and Saw Mill. Manufacturers and Dealers in Lumber. Custom work done.
- B. HUFTY**, Manufacturer and Dealer in Lumber. Princess Anne.
- WOOLFORD & DIXON**, Proprietors of Steam Saw and Grist Mill. Mill located 3 1/2 miles west of Princess Anne.
- R. S. COHN**, Proprietor of "Manokin Flour Mills."

### Physicians.

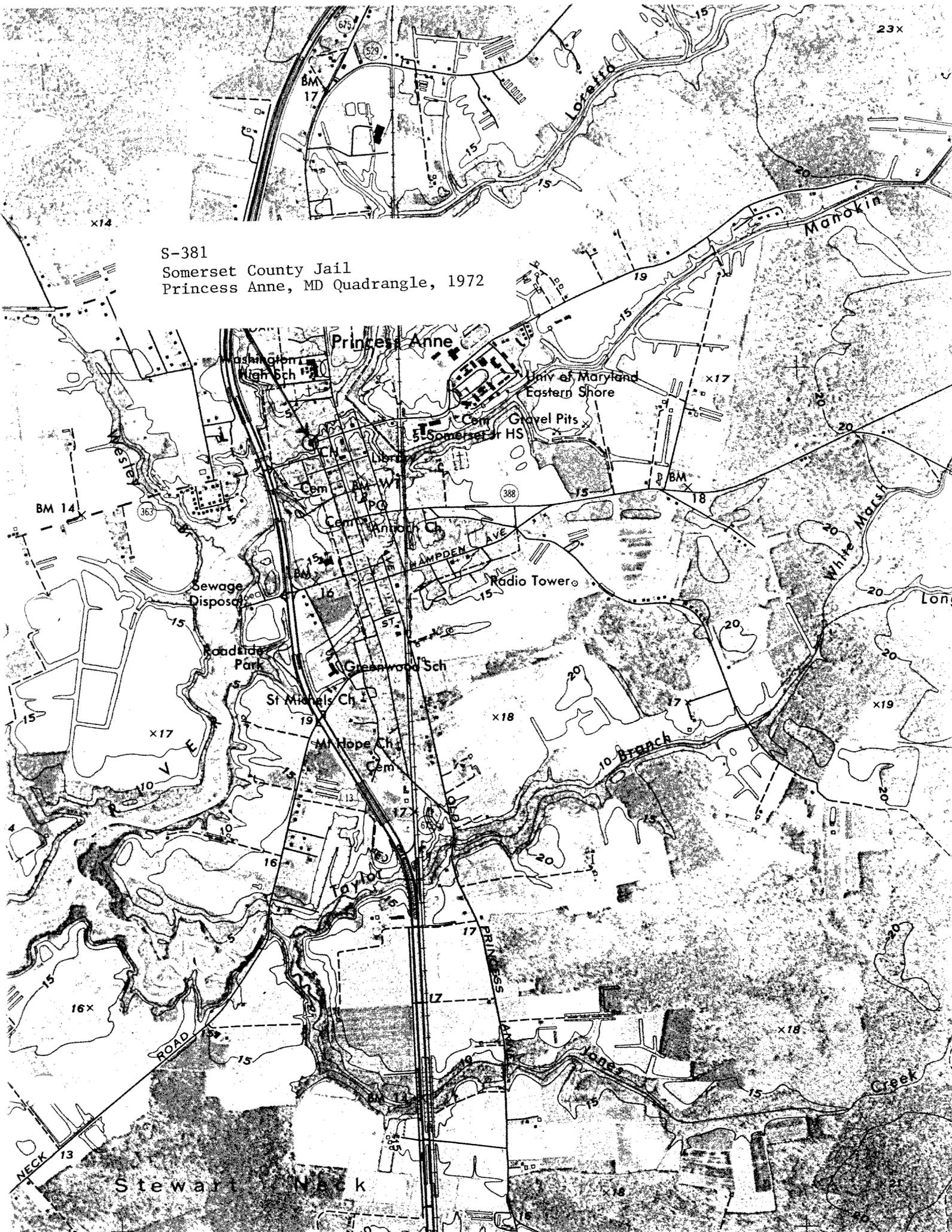
- JOHN DALE**, Physician and Surgeon. Office opposite the Washington Hotel, on Bridge Street.
- LOUIS W. MORRIS**, Physician and Surgeon. Office on Prince William Street.

### Miscellaneous.

- LANGFORD BROTHERS**, Carpenters, Contractors, and Builders. Princess Anne, Md.
- T. R. MUIR**, Ship Carpenter.

H. H. Dashiell.

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Somerset County Jail  
Princess Anne, MD Quadrangle, 1972





Somerset County Jail

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Southeast Elevation

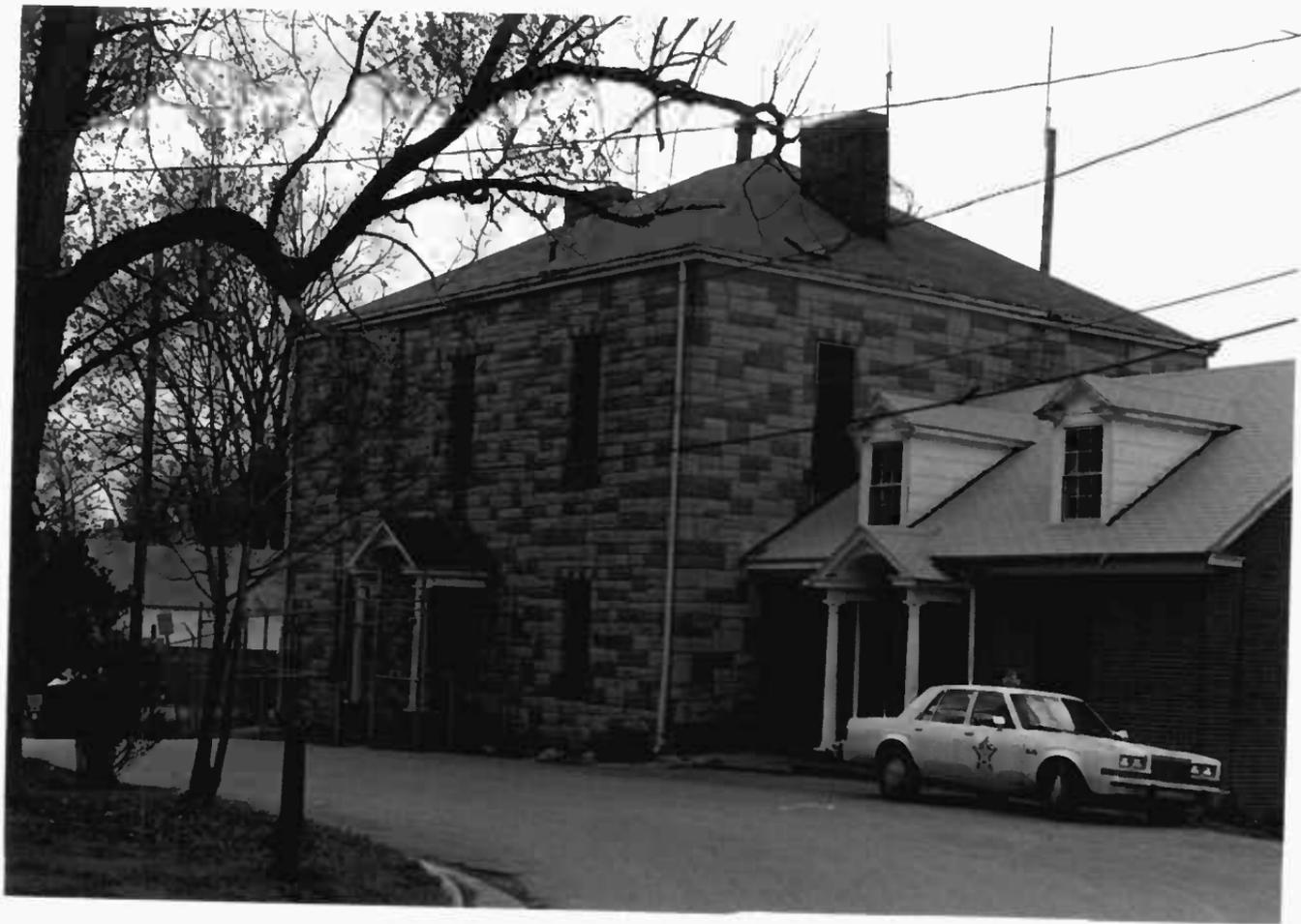
Documentary Photograph c. 1900-1910

Photographer- Brown

Collection of W. Marshall Scott

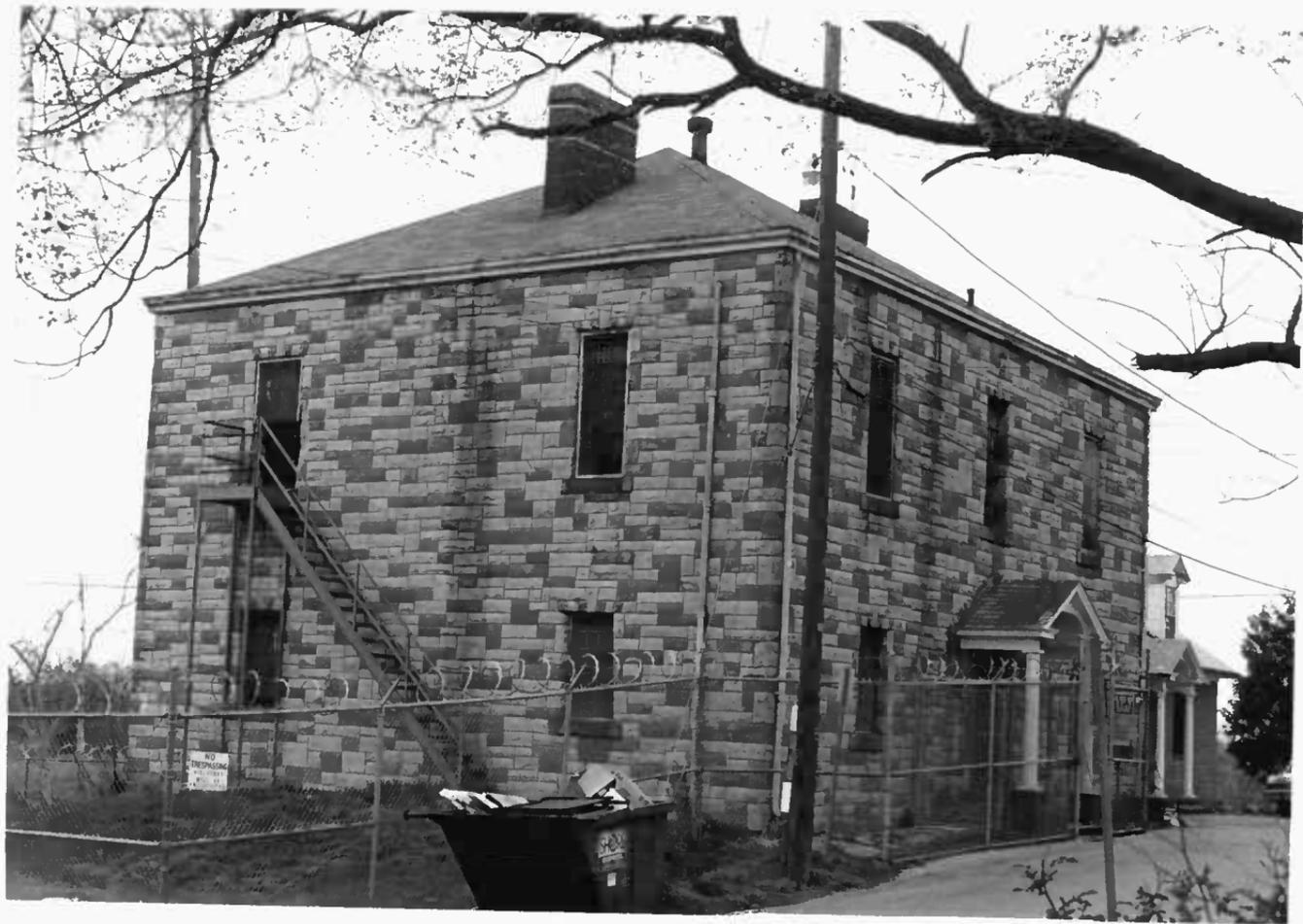
Copied 1984 Paul Touart

Neg/Md. Hist. Trust



Somerset County Jail  
Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Md.  
Northeast Elevation  
5/86, Paul Touart, Photographer  
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Somerset County Jail                      S-381  
Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Md.  
Southeast Elevation  
5/86, Paul Touart, Photographer  
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Somerset County Jail S-381

Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Md.

West Elevation

5/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust