1987

S-406
Arcadia
Princess Anne vicinity
private

c. 1850, c. 1920-1930

The farm known as "Arcadia" is situated on the north side of the Manokin River a short distance west of Princess Anne. Improvements currently standing on the farm include a pair of early twentieth-century frame houses and a large gambrel-roofed barn, all built after the nineteenth-century house burned during the 1920s. Evidently the former "Arcadia" plantation house was erected during the middle years of the nineteenth century. The bracketed eaves and porch, the Gothic arched chimney caps, as well as sidelighted entrances and large-sized six-over-six sash windows were popularly used during the third quarter of the century. Unusual for Somerset County was the four-room plan divided by a spacious cross hall that contained the stair. No other house known to have stood at the time repeated such an elaborate plan. The house burned as the result of an accidental gas leak.

S-406, Arcadia, photograph c.1910 (courtesy of William Marshall Scott).

S-406
Arcadia, site
Somerset: An Architectural History, by Paul Baker Touart. MHT & SCHT, 1990

1767 by an etched brick. The date brick was found in the late 1970s when the house was dismantled and materials were sold for salvage. The full history of this property has not been established, but general information indicates the Adams family held it for much of the nineteenth century. Robert W. Adams, raised on the old family farm, decided to move closer to Princess Anne to educate his son at the Washington Academy. Adams purchased a farm on the southern edge of town, where his son Morris resided until the 1970s (see S-338).

ARCADIA
Circa 1850, circa 1920
Princess Anne vicinity
Private

The farm known as Arcadia is situated on the north side of the Manokin River a short distance west of Princess Anne. Improvements currently standing include a pair of early twentieth century frame dwellings and a large gambrel-roofed barn. The houses reflect the squarish, block-like proportions common to early twentieth century residential design. Gambrel-roofed barns are common for the twentieth century as well and were used to house dairy herds and large amounts of hay.

This Manokin River farm is also significant as the site of a prominent mid-nineteenth century house that burned around 1917. As depicted in an old photograph of the house, the two-story, three-bay frame dwelling was an unusual structure for Somerset County, having a four-room plan divided by a spacious cross hall that contained the stair. No other county house known to have stood at the time repeated such an elaborate plan. The bracketed eaves and porch, the Gothic-arched chimney flue covers, side-lighted entrances, and large six-over-six sash windows were popularly used during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The house burned as the result of an explosion and fire caused by accumulated gas from a leaking light fixture.

S-354, William Martin house, west elevation.

WILLIAM MARTIN HOUSE
Circa 1860, circa 1900
Princess Anne vicinity
Private

The William Martin house is one of two nineteenth century houses at the end of Clarence Barnes Road. Facing west, this two-story, cross-gabled farmhouse is extended to the rear by a slightly older two-story service wing. Built around 1900 the center hall house is lighted by two-over-two sash windows. Entrance is provided through a partially glazed front door. The service wing is a shorter two-story structure, four bays long and one room deep with a two-room plan. A brick chimney rises through the roof to heat the wing, which has been remodeled to serve as a modern kitchen.