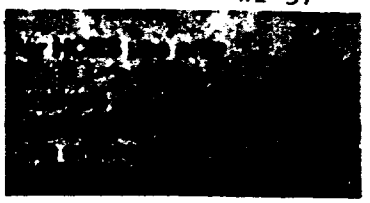
WI-37



United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Western Fields (preferred)

and/or common Colonel Phillips Farm

2. Location

street & number Porter Mill Road N/A not for publication

city, town Hebron X vicinity of **congressional district** First

state Maryland **code** 24 **county** Wicomico **code** 045

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ 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

name Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Mumford

street & number Crooked Oak Lane

city, town Hebron N/A vicinity of **state** Maryland 21830

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse

city, town Salisbury **state** Maryland 21801

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory **has this property been determined elegible?** ___ yes X no

date 1967 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis **state** Maryland 21401

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date N/A
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
0	1	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
1	3	Total

Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: 0

Original and historic functions and uses: agricultural and residential

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Western Fields is a three-part frame "telescope" dwelling located near the village of Hebron in Wicomico County, Maryland. The stepped form of the house reflects several stages of construction, beginning in the fourth quarter of the 18th century with a 1½ story, hall/parlor dwelling; around 1845, a two-story, center-hall block was built and connected to the early house by a hyphen. The 18th century section is three bays wide, with a steeply pitched gable roof. Nine-over-six windows flank the central entrance on both the north and south elevations; the walls are sheathed in wide beaded weatherboards. The main block is four asymmetrical bays wide, with a central entrance on the south facade sheltered by a pedimented portico; Greek Revival influence is reflected in the two-panel front door surmounted by a six-light transom, and in the profiles of the bed and crown moldings incorporated in the portico and the building cornice. The house retains a hight degree of integrity, with the majority of its architectural fabric and decorative detailing intact/ The interior is characterized by Greek Revival trim including mantels, doors and architraves; the 18th-century section retains beaded joists and board partitions which survived the mid-19th-century reworking. Also on the property are an early 20th century tenant house and corn crib, and a small family cemetery. The tenant house and corncrib are of frame construction.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Western Fields, most recently known as the Colonial Phillips farm, is situated on the north side of Porter Mill Road and southwest of US Route 50 near Hebron, Wicomico County, Maryland. The three-part frame house is located at the end of a long farm lane bordered by mature cedar trees. Facing south, the house is oriented on the east/west axis. Accompanying the house is a turn-of-the-century tenant house complex consisting of a house and corn crib. A small family cemetery is located on the northern edge of the property.

Built in three principal stages, the farmhouse follows the regional "telescope" or stepped form of dwelling which became popular in the late 18th through mid 19th centuries. The oldest section is a story-and-a-half, hall/parlor house dating from the fourth quarter of the eighteenth century. Around 1845, the two-story, center hall main block was built, along with a single-story hyphen that completed the three-part dwelling. Shortly thereafter the hyphen was raised to a two-story height.

Supported by a minimal brick foundation, the two-story, four-bay main house is uniformly sheathed with plain weatherboards and covered by a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof. The south (main) elevation is an asymmetrical four-bay facade with a centrally located front door. The two-panel door with ogee inset moldings is topped by a six-light transom. The front entrance is sheltered by a gabled portico trimmed with mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival style bed and crown moldings. Fixed between the house and the square support posts are period benches. Two six-over-six sash windows pierce the wall to the right (east) of the entrance and a single six-over-six sash window marks the wall left of the entrance. Each window is flanked by louvered shutters that appear to be original. The second story is lighted by four unevenly spaced six-over-six sash windows, also flanked by louvered shutters. The boxed cornice is trimmed with a stepped bed molding and a Greek Revival crown molding.

The east gable end is marked by an exterior common bond brick chimney with corbelled shoulders at the second floor level. Flanking the chimney on the first and second floors are six-over-six sash windows, and four-pane lights illuminate the attic. The gable end is trimmed with a molded bargeboard.

The north (rear) elevation of the main house is an uneven four-bay facade as well with an off-center rear entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. The door is framed by a pedimented surround with fluted pilasters. The second floor is lighted by four unevenly spaced six-over-six sash windows, and the boxed cornice is trimmed with the same Greek Revival style bed and crown moldings.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The west end of the main house is largely covered by the two-story hyphen. Protruding through the hyphen roof is a brick chimney which is flanked by four-pane attic windows.

The hyphen is a two-story, two-bay by one room structure erected with an open colonnade on the south side. Originally built under the hyphen roof, the colonnade has four chamfered posts that support the upper story. The chamfered posts are terminated with ogee stops. The hyphen wall on the south side is covered with flush weatherboards and pierced by a two-panel door and a six-over-six sash window. The upper floor is lighted by a single six-over-six sash window flanked with louvered shutters. The boxed cornice is trimmed with identical bed and crown moldings. Covering the first floor of the hyphen is a screened-in porch that dates to the turn of the century.

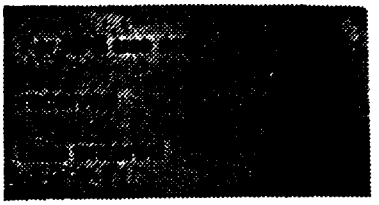
The north (rear) elevation of the hyphen has two six-over-six sash windows on the first floor and a single six-over-six sash on the second floor. The rear cornice is fitted with identical Greek Revival moldings.

The eighteenth-century house, the westernmost section, is three bays across by one room deep and largely sheathed in wide beaded weatherboards. The centrally positioned board and batten door is framed by a cavetto molded backband surround as are the flanking nine-over-six sash windows. The shed roofed porch partially covers the eighteenth century section. On each slope of the steeply pitched roof is a pair of gabled dormers with 6/6 sash added in the late 1940s.

The west gable end wall of the eighteenth century section has been recovered largely with plain weatherboards. A narrow brick stove stack rises through the roof peak and the gable is trimmed with a plain bargeboard.

The north wall is similarly finished as the south wall with three openings framed by cavetto molded backband surrounds. The board and batten door is flanked by nine-over-six sash windows.

The interiors of each section have remained essentially unaltered since the nineteenth century. The 1845 main house has a center stair with a late Federal style handrail. A slender, square newel post and rectangular balusters support a circular profile handrail. The area under the undecorated stringer is plastered. Broad molded door surrounds with plain corner blocks frame the two-panel doors that open into the parlor and dining room. The parlor is fitted with simple nineteenth century chair rail and baseboard. Fixed to the east hearth wall is a late Federal style mantel with plain pilasters, a plain frieze and a stepped shelf. The dining room is similarly finished, however, the mantel is more Greek Revival in nature with semi-round columns that support a plain frieze beneath a stepped shelf. A small two-panel door located in the northeast corner of the dining room opens into the space under the stair, which has been converted into a bathroom.



GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The second floor of the main house is finished in a less elaborate manner with two-panel doors, plain surrounds, and a post and lintel mantel in the east bedroom. The east bedroom is fitted with plain chair rail as well. Located at the head of the second floor hall is a small room converted into a bathroom. The enclosed attic stair rises from the west bedroom behind a two-panel door. Evident on the west bedroom wall are two closed-over window openings which indicates the second floor of the hyphen was added at a slightly later date. A two-panel door opens into the second floor hyphen.

The first floor of the hyphen has been converted to the modern kitchen. Aside from modern cabinets, the hyphen has not been altered to a great degree. Fixed on the east wall is a late Federal style mantel flanked on the right by a narrow closet with a single-panel door. Rising against the west wall of the kitchen is an enclosed stair that provides access to the bedroom in the upper story of the hyphen.

The interior of the eighteenth-century house was evidently reworked during the early nineteenth century. Beaded board partitions divide the main room from a passage and pantry. A coat of plaster covers the west side of the beaded board partition against which the enclosed stair rises to the loft. The beaded board wall remains uncovered within the stair. The stair rises behind a beaded board door framed by a thumb molded surround. The main room is also fitted with early nineteenth-century chair rail, and the joists have been covered with modern materials. (The beaded joists remain exposed in the passage.) Centered on the west wall of the main room is a large cooking hearth evidently built when the eighteenth-century house was converted to a kitchen. The second floor of the eighteenth-century section is unfinished. A beaded board partition divides the unfinished room from the other bedroom, but a patch in the board wall indicates the location of the door that formerly connected the two sections. Later sawn collar beams have been nailed to the common rafters which are joined by wooden pins at the peak. The gable end studs are fastened with wrought nails.

8. Significance

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/
X 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	humanitarian
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1790; c. 1840 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: C
Applicable exceptions: none
Significance evaluated: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Western Fields is architecturally significant for several reasons. The three-part "telescope" frame house belongs to a large group of stepped houses surviving on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. In Wicomico County, the part eighteenth and nineteenth-century dwelling is one of the least altered examples with a late eighteenth-century wing and an 1840s main block and hyphen. The eighteenth-century house retains such original architectural features as a layer of wide beaded weatherboards as well as nine-over-six sash windows. The interior was evidently reworked during the early nineteenth century, and eventually converted to the kitchen when the 1840s building program was begun. Beaded board partitions and exposed beaded joists are other significant early features. The c. 1845 main block and hyphen have survived largely unaltered with ninety-five per cent of the Federal/Greek Revival exterior and interior fabric intact. Especially unusual is the engaged colonnade, an open-air passage that connects the main block with the eighteenth-century section. The chamfered posts with ogee stops are rare finishes. Western Fields illustrates an interesting developmental pattern in the history of the"telescope" form house. The story-and-a-half 28' by 16' frame house, built around 1790, was accompanied during the eighteenth century by a small group of detached service outbuildings including a 20' by 18' cook house, a log meathouse, and a frame milkhouse. During the nineteenth century, the dwelling was enlarged with the construction of the two-story main block and hyphen. At the same time, the old house was converted to a kitchen, so the cooking services were brought into a more convenient attached structure. Connected service wings became common by the mid-nineteenth century. Since 1825, Western Fields has been owned largely by the Phillips family, prominent Wicomico County planters during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Joshua Wilmer Phillips (1810-1884) is credited with the construction of the main house and hyphen, while the eighteenth century dwelling was erected for Benjamin Venables, an earlier owner. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the farm was the residence of John Fowler Phillips, who served in the Maryland legislature during the early part of the century.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

Initially patented in 1680 to Robert Ridgely, "Western Fields" originally encompassed 1400 acres along Barren Creek, formerly Somerset County.[1] (Wicomico County was partitioned from Somerset in 1867.) During the early eighteenth century the "Western Fields" patent was held by James Carroll, and later by Charles Carroll until Benjamin Venables purchased three hundred acres from Carroll around 1760.[2] In his will of 1782, Benjamin Venables left to his son, Benjamin,

> a certain tract or parcel of land intended for my son Richard before his death...being part of the original tract of Western Fields...[3]

Construction of the story-and-a-half house is estimated to date from Benjamin Jr.'s ownership, which lasted until his death in 1798. Recorded by the federal tax assessors in the same year was, "1 fraimed wood dwelling house, 1 story, 16 by 28; 1 fraimed wood cook house, 1 story, 18 by 20 feet; 1 log meathouse, 1 story 10 by 10, and 1 wood milkhouse, 7 by 9.[4] Benjamin Venables bequeathed "all that tract of land that my father left me" to his son Richard in February of 1798.[5] Richard Venables occupied "Western Fields" from 1798 until 1825.

Richard Venables sold "Western Fields," which had dwindled to 208 acres, to Richard Phillips in April of 1825 [6], and it is highly likely that Richard Phillips had the interior of the eighteenth-century house reworked with beaded board paneling and the enclosed stair. Richard Phillips remained on the plantation until his death in March of 1845. Richard Phillips left, "...all my lands where I now live containing two-hundred and eight acres, more or less..." to his son, Joshua Wilmer Phillips[7].

After receiving his inheritance from his father, Joshua W. Phillips is presumed to have financed the construction of the main house and hyphen. The construction of the main house between 1845 and 1850 coincides with Joshua W. Phillips' marriage to Maria Elizabeth Dashiell on May 1, 1850.[8] The mixture of late Federal and Greek Revival woodwork also supports the late 1840s date. Perhaps in an effort to resolve accumulated buildings debts, Joshua Phillips mortgaged his plantation to Joseph G. Polk in October of 1852.[9] Joshua W. Phillips is listed in the 1877 Wicomico County atlas as the owner of 222 acres as well as the proprietor of the Barren Creek Springs Hotel (later known as Mardela Springs).[10] Joshua Phillips' farm remained mortgaged until his death in 1884. The estate trustee, Ephraim G. Polk, transferred the 242-acre farm to Jacob Tome, a prominent Cecil County banker.[11] The following year, Jacob Tome sold "Western Fields" to Esther M. Dashiell (probably a relative) for $2000.[12]

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

"Western Fields" remained in the Dashiell name until 1901, when John Fowler Phillips, Joshua's son, bought back one-third interest in the house and 130 acres.[13] In 1936, John Fowler Phillips, a former Maryland legislator, bequeathed the family farm to Wilmer Stanley Phillips, whose estate retained ownership of the property until the present.[14]

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[1]Somerset County Rent Rolls, Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis.
[2]Somerset County Land Records, Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis.
[3]Somerset County Register of Wills, Somerset County Courthouse, 1782.
[4]1748 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Somerset County, Benjamin Venables.
[5]Somerset County Register of Wills, EB 17/653, proved 2/19/1798.
[6]Somerset County Land Records, Somerset County Courthouse, GH 2/290, 4/1/1825.
[7]Somerset County Register of Wills, Somerset County Courthouse, JP 3/112, 1/26/1845.
[8]Marriage record supplied by the Huguenot Society of America.
[9]Somerset County Land Records, Somerset County Courthouse, LW 1/355, 10/2/1852.
[10]Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas, published in 1877 and reprinted by the Wicomico County Bicentennial Commission, 1976.
[11]Transfer referred to in 1885 deed between Jacob Tome and Ester M. Dashiell, SPT 7/365, 7/17/1885.
[12]Wicomico County Land Records, Wicomico County Courthouse, SPT 7/365.
[13]Wicomico County Land Records, Wicomico County Courthouse, JTT 29/291, 5/21/1901.
[14]Wicomico County Register of Wills, Wicomico County Courthouse, , JAH 1/139, 3/16/1936.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet No. 6.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 19.59 acres

Quadrangle name Hebron, MD Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	439200	4254370
B	18	439200	4253780
C	18	439680	4253780
D	18	439680	4254370
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart, Architectural Historian

organization date 4 October 1986

street & number Salisbury Plantation, P. O. Box 5 telephone (301) 651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland 21871

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [signature] 3-19-87

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

GPO 894-788

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Huguenot Society of America

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas, 1877, reprinted by the Wicomico County Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Somerset County

Somerset County Land Records

Somerset County Wills

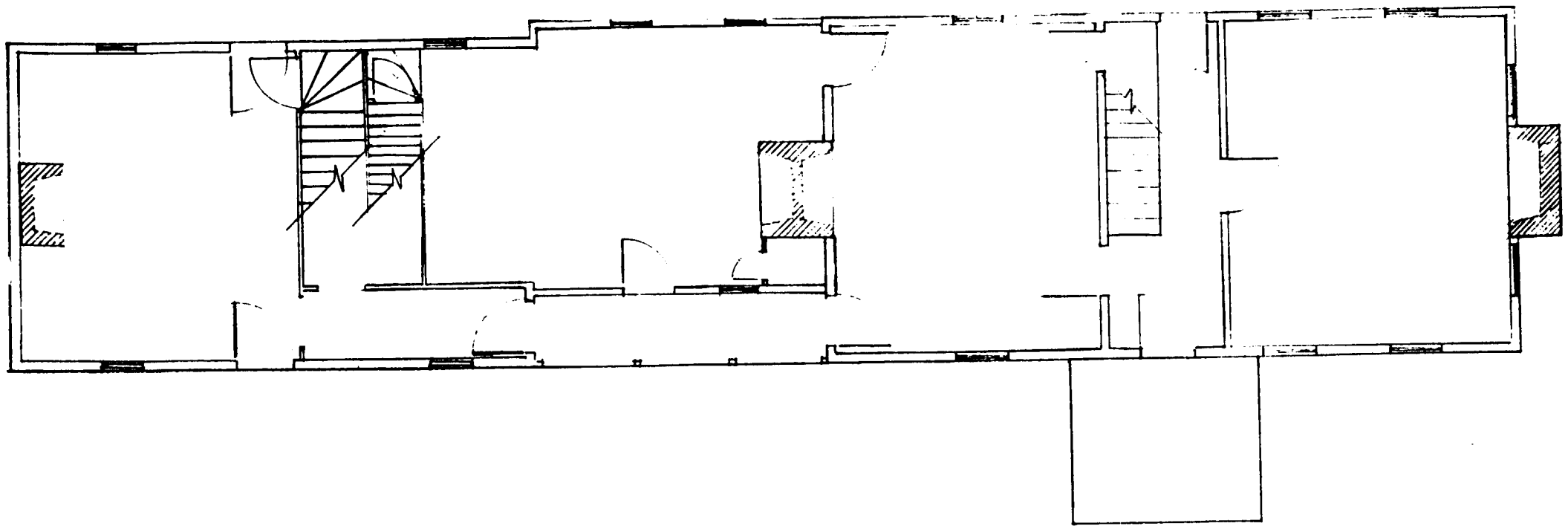
Wicomico County Land Records

Wicomico County Wills

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Boundary Description: Beginning at a point on the north side of Porter Mill Road near the intersection of the Phillips Farm lane and heading due north parallel to the west side of the lane for 1276 feet to a point in the yard of the Phillips farmhouse, thence in a westerly direction across the said yard for 25' to a point near the adjacent soybean field, thence across the said soybean field in a northerly direction for 600' to another point in the said soybean field, thence across the northern border of the farmhouse yard in an easterly direction for a distance of 650' to a point in the field east of the house, thence due south along the eastern boundary of the farmhouse yard for 600' to a point southeast of the farmhouse, thence for a distance of 260' in a westerly direction to a point on the east side of the row of cedar trees lining the entrance lane, thence in a southerly direction for 1276 feet to a point along Porter Mill Road, thence in a westerly direction along the north side of Porter Mill Road to the beginning point, containing 19.59 acres, more or less. See boundary map attached.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property, 19.59 acres, encompasses all contributing elements of the resource within their immediate setting. Included are the main house, tenant house, corn crib, and cemetery lot; the cedar-lined entrance drive reflects the historic orientation to Porter Hill Road. These boundaries are drawn to exclude surrounding open agricultural land which does not make a specific contribution to the significance of the resource.



WI-37

WESTERN FIELDS HEBRON VICINITY
(COLONEL PHILLIPS FARM)
Porter Mill Road
Wicomico County

SCALE 1/8" = 1'0"	APPROVED BY:	DRAWN BY PAUL TOUART
DATE 10/9/86		REVISED
		DRAWING NUMBER

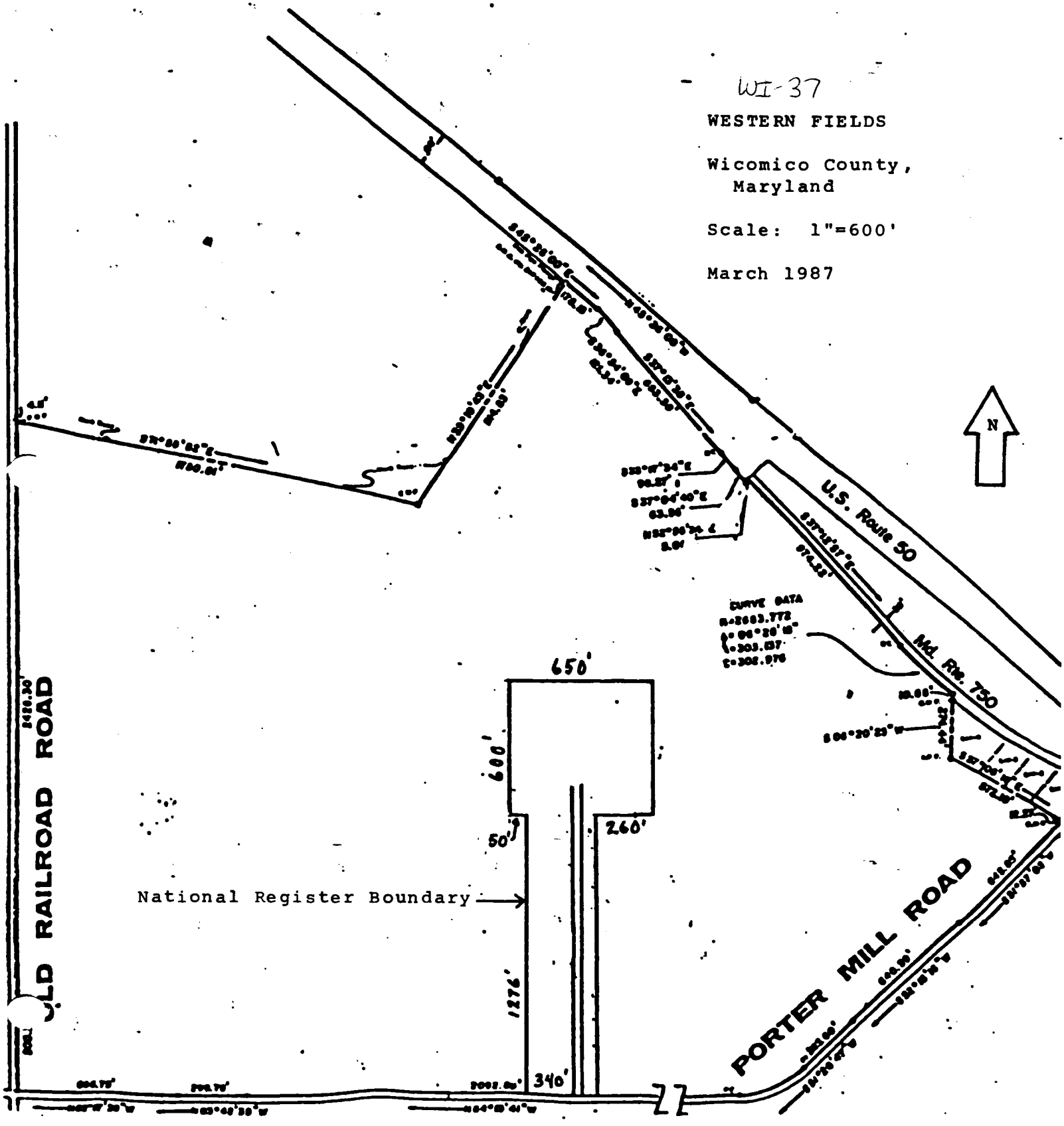
WI-37

WESTERN FIELDS

Wicomico County,
Maryland

Scale: 1"=600'

March 1987



WI-37
WE 37
WESTERN
FIELDS
WICOMICO
COUNTY,
MARYLAND

A: 18-439920-
4254370

B: 18-439920-
4253780

C: 18-439680-
4253780

D: 18-439680-
4254370

WI 37

Western Fields

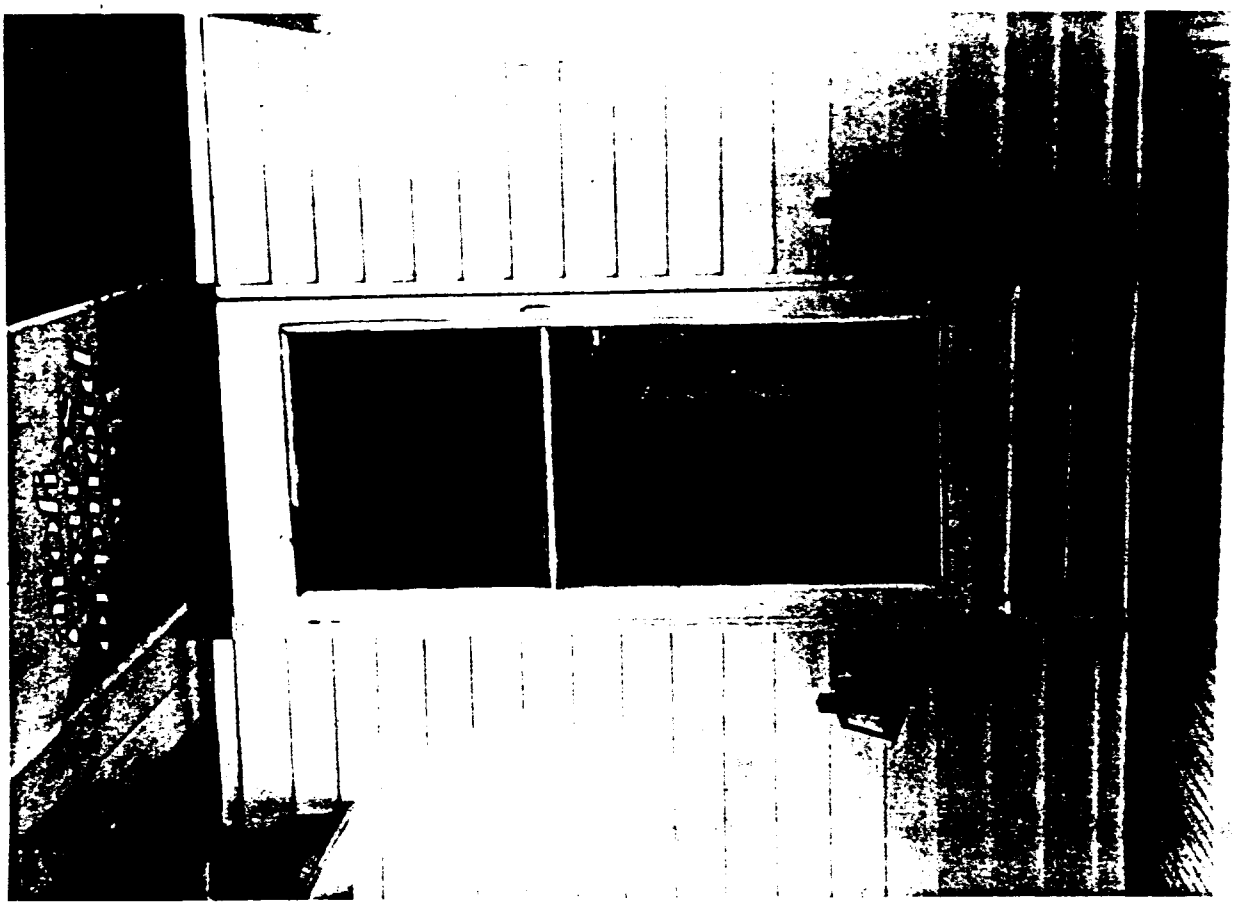
WI-37
~~W-37~~
Colonel Phillips Farm
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, MD
south elevation
10/86 Paul Touart photographer
negative/MD Historical Trust

1/19

Western Fields

WI-37
~~W-37~~
Colonel Phillips Farm
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, MD
north elevation
10/86 Paul Touart, photographer
negative/MD Historical Trust

2/19



Western Fields WI-37
~~W-37~~
Colonel Phillips Farm
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, MD
front door to 19th century section
10/86 Paul Touart photographer
negative, Md Historical Trust

3/19

Western Fields WI-37
~~W-37~~
Colonel Phillips Farm
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, MD
nine-over-six sash window'
10/86 Paul Touart, photographer
negative/MD Historical Trust

4/19

Western Fields

WI-37
~~W-37~~

Colonel Phillips Farm
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, MD
eave detail
10/86 Paul Touart, photographer
negative/MD Historical Trust

5/19

Western Fields

WI-37
~~W-37~~

Colonel Phillips Farm
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, MD
colonnade
10/86 Paul Touart, photographer
negative/MD Historical Trust

6/19

Western Fields

WI-37
~~W-37~~

Colonel Phillips Farm
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, MD
colonnade
10/86 Paul Touart, photographer
negative/MD Historical Trust

7/19

Western Fields

WI-37
~~W-37~~

Colonel Phillips Farm
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, MD
colonnade
10/86 Paul Touart, photographer
negative/MD Historical Trust

7/19

Western Fields

WI-37
~~W-37~~

Colonel Phillips House
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, MD
front porch bench
10/86 Paul Touart, photographer
negative/MD Historical Trust

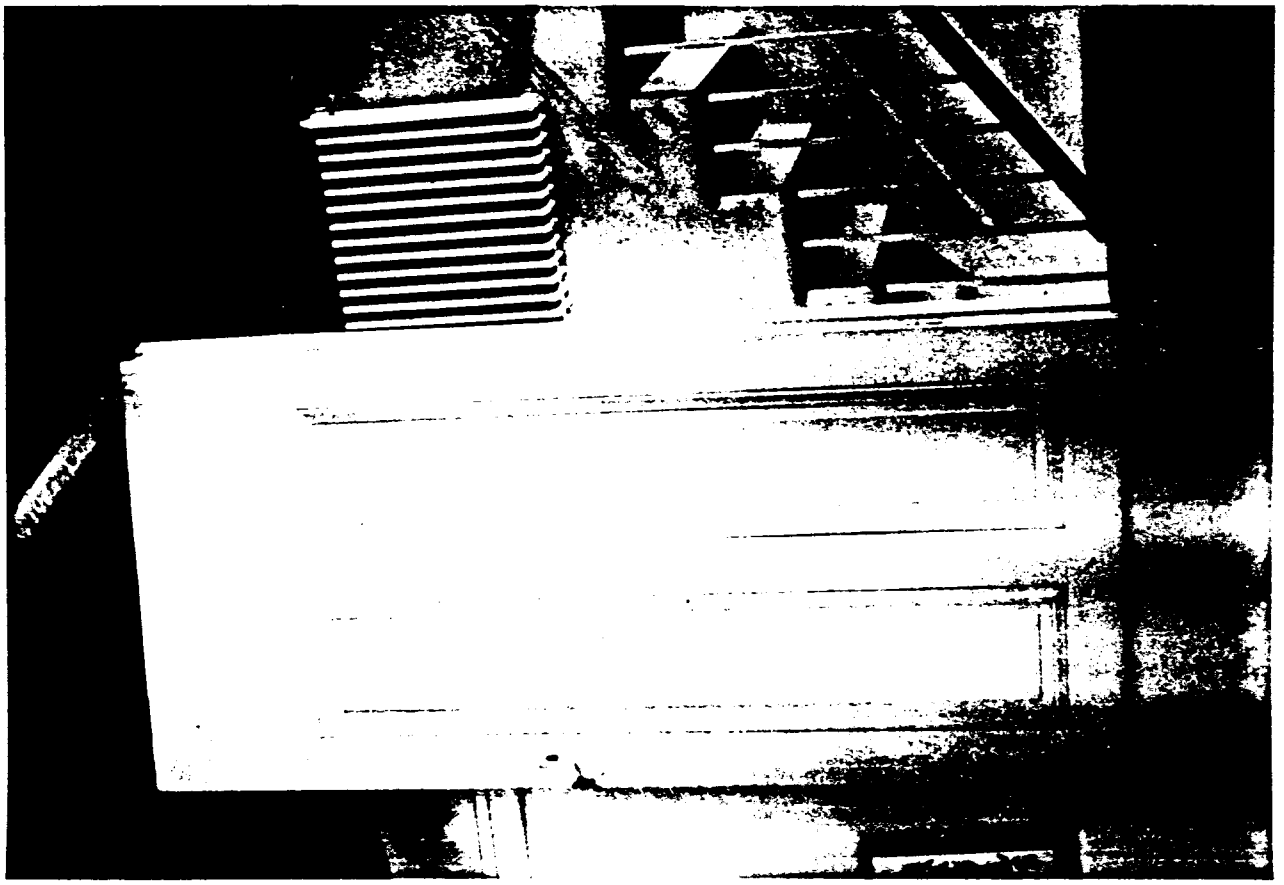
9/19

Western Fields

WI-37
~~W-37~~

Colonel Phillips Farm
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, MD
stair
10/86 Paul Touart, photographer
negative/MD Historival Trust

10/19



Western Fields

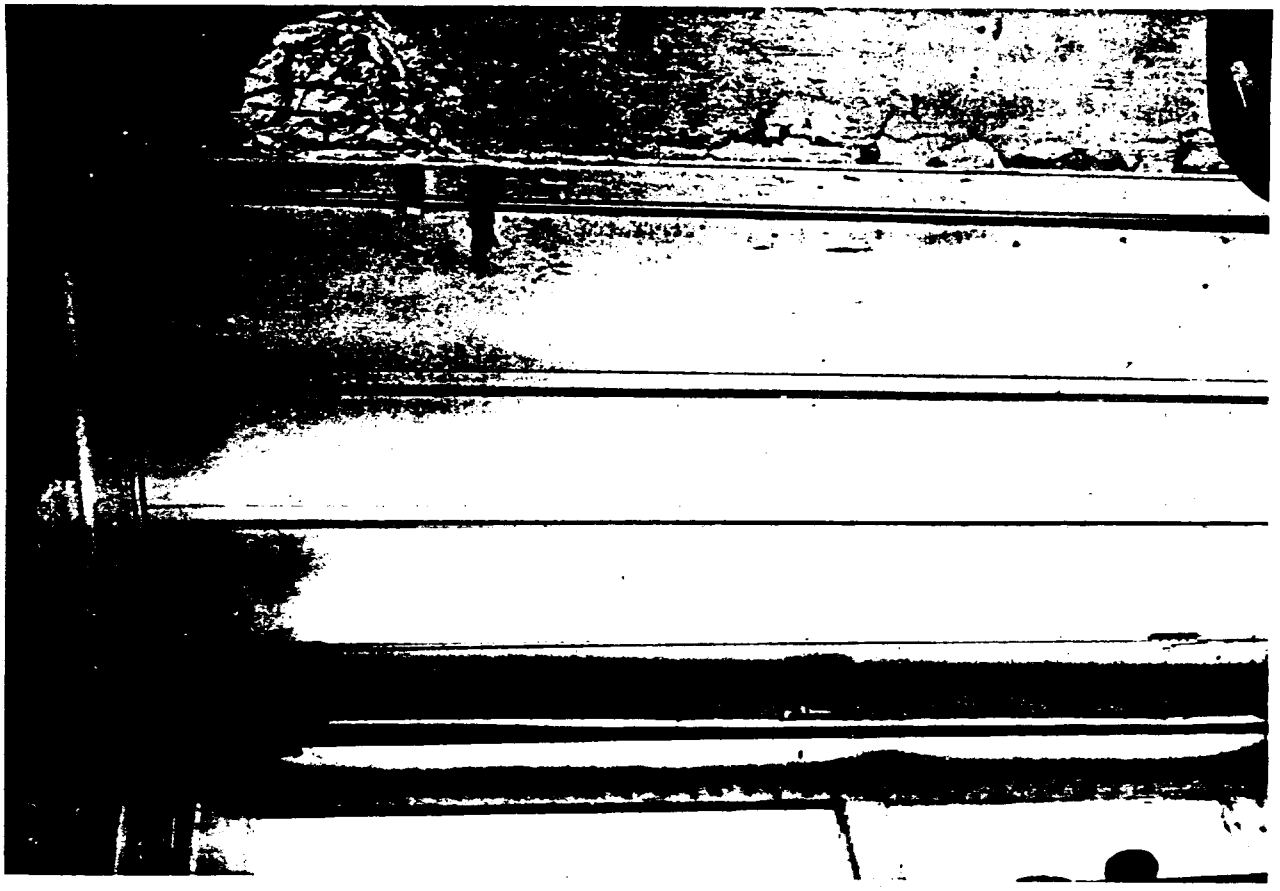
Colonel Phillips Farm WI-37 ~~W-37~~
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, MD
living room mantel
10/86 Paul Touart, photographer
negative/MD Historical Trust

11/19

Western Fields

Colonel Phillips Farm WI-37 ~~W-37~~
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, MD
parlor door
10/86 Paul Touart, photographer
negative/MD Historical Trust

12/19



Western Fields

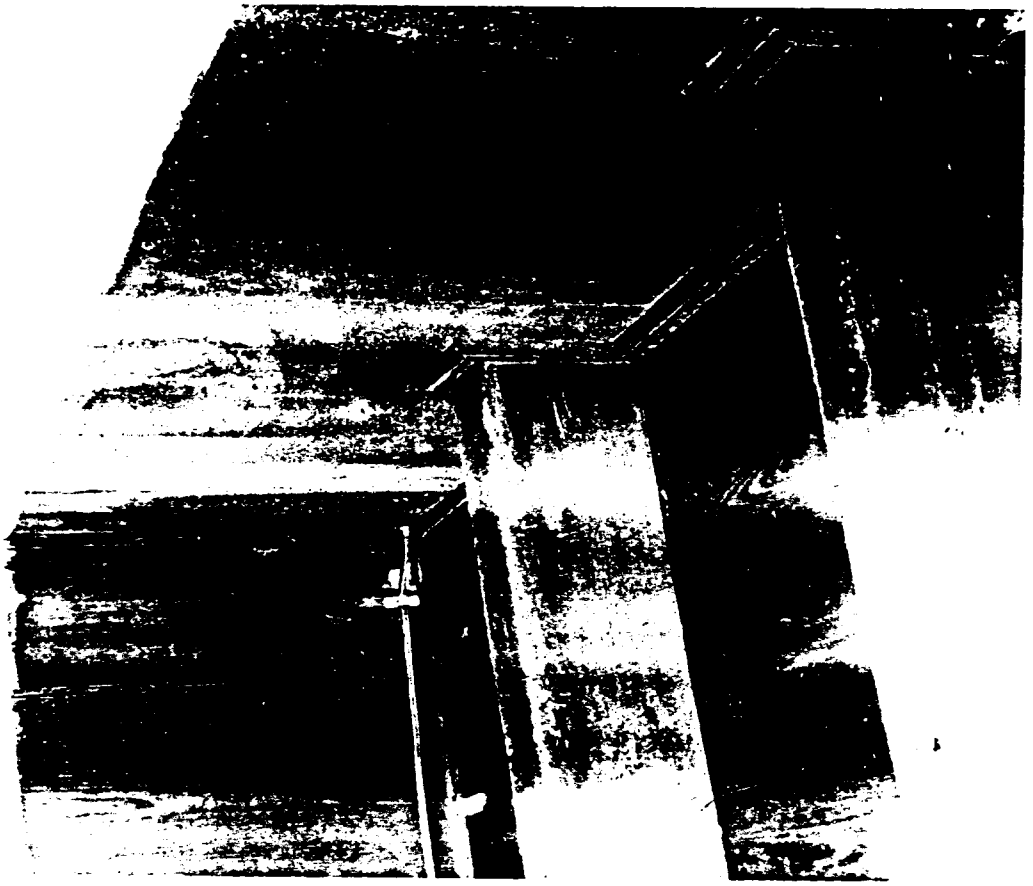
WI-37
~~W-37~~
Colonel Phillips Farm
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, MD
dining room mantel
10/86 Paul Touart photographer
negative/MD Historical Trust

13/19

Western Fields

WI-37
~~W-37~~
C olonel Phillips Farm
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, MD
stair door in 18th century section
10/86 Paul Touart, photographer
negative/MD Historical Trust

14/19



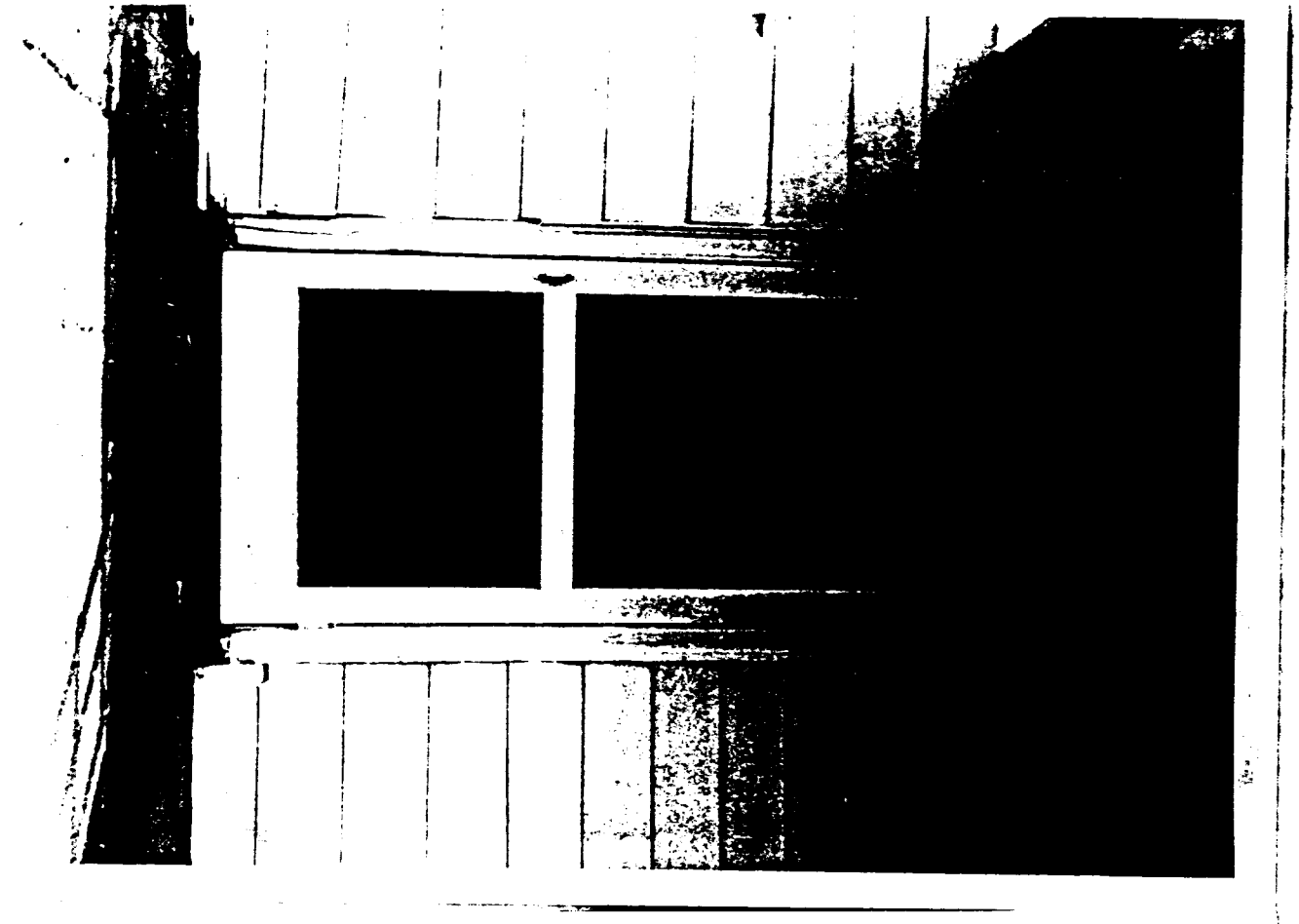
Western Fields WI-37
Colonel Phillips House ~~W-37~~
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, MD
Mantel and closet in hyphen
10/86 Paul Touart photographer
negative/MD Historical Trust

15/19

Western Fields WI-37

Colonel Phillips Farm ~~W-37~~
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, MD
beaded joists in 18th cent. section
10/86 Paul Touart, photographer
negative/MD Historical Trust

16/19



Western Fields

WI-37
~~W-37~~

Colonel Phillips Farm
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, MD
front door to 18th cent. section
10/86 Paul Touart, photographer
negative, MD Historical Tlrust

17/19

Western Fields

WI-37
~~W-37~~

Colnnel Phillips House
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, MD
Tenant house, south elevation
10/86 Paul Touart photographer
negative/MD Historical Trust

18/19

Western Fields WI-37

Colonel Phillips House ~~W-37~~
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, MD
Tenant house and corn crib
10/86 Paul Touart photographer
negative/MD Historical Trust

19/19

WI-37 Phillips House, Hebron. 1974

Phillips House Helion