WO-12 c. 1810, c. 1850
Williams Grove
Berlin vicinity
Private

Williams Grove is important to Worcester County primarily for its architectural character. The two-story frame farmhouse follows the regionally distinctive vernacular tradition of a stepped or "telescope" profile common to the Eastern Shore and southern Maryland in general. Williams Grove also retains its cyprus shingle exterior, a feature that ties this house distinctly to Worcester County due to the large supplies of split shingles available in the area during the nineteenth century. The earliest section of the house, now comprising the center portion of the house, included a two-story, two-bay main block with a single-story one-room plan wing. Built during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the original section displays a longer type of cyprus shingle, exposed beaded joists, and Federal style woodwork. Around 1850 the house was enlarged with a two-story, three-bay addition to the south and a two-bay single-story extension to the north. It was at this time that a new gable roof was stretched across the main block, pilasters were added to the principal corners, and shed dormers were introduced to light the loft of the old single story wing. Williams Grove is the only known example of a stepped dwelling that developed in this exact manner. This fact points to the ever-increasing variety of methods by which stepped houses were expanded to create distinctive personal spaces. The interiors are relatively well preserved with much of the early to mid nineteenth century Federal and early Greek Revival woodwork including the stair, mantels, doors, windows, flooring, and plaster walls.

NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name WILLIAMS GROVE

other names/site number WO-12

2. Location

street & number 11842 Porfin Drive N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Berlin ☒ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Worcester code 047 zip code 21811

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Williams Grove
Name of Property

Worcester Co., MD WO-12
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal
MID-19th CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Wood shingle
roof Wood shingle
other

Narrative Description SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 1
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WILLIAMS GROVE
Worcester County
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Williams Grove is located on Porfin Drive, which intersects MD 611, approximately two miles south of Lewis Corner in the vicinity of Berlin, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-story, three-part house faces northwest with the ridge of the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis. Built in three principal stages, the center-passage main block and its additions are supported by a minimal brick foundation, and the building is sheathed with different types of wood shingles. The various gable roofs are covered with wood shingles as well. The construction sequence began ca. 1810 with a two-story, two-bay frame house with a single-story, one-room plan wing in the stepped configuration typical of the region. This early portion comprises the two northern bays of the two-story section and one bay of the 1½-story wing of the present building. The initial house was expanded during the mid-nineteenth century to the north and south. A two-story, three-bay side-passage addition was extended southward, and a new common rafter roof was built across the old and new sections; a single-story section was extended to the north, and shed dormers were added to light the loft rooms. In the early 1970s, a two-story kitchen and garage wing was attached to the north end, giving the entire house an ell shape. The interior retains a large percentage of the early to mid-nineteenth century woodwork intact.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WILLIAMS GROVE
Worcester County
Maryland

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Williams Grove is located on Porfin Drive, which intersects MD 611, approximately two miles south of Lewis Corner in the vicinity of Berlin, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-story, three-part house faces northwest with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Built in three principal stages, the two-story, center passage main block and its additions are supported by a minimal brick foundation, and the building is sheathed with different types of wood shingles. The various gable roofs are covered with wood shingles as well. The apparent construction sequence began during the first quarter of the nineteenth century (ca. 1810) with a two-story, two-bay frame house accompanied by a single-story, one-room plan wing. This early portion comprises the two northern bays of the two-story section and one bay of the 1½-story wing. The initial two-part stepped house was expanded during the mid-nineteenth century to the north and south, which more than doubled the space of the original structure. Around 1850-60, a two-story, three-bay side passage/parlor addition was extended southward, and at the same time, a new common rafter roof was built across the old and new sections. Around the same time a single-story section was extended to the north, and shed dormers were added to light the loft rooms. Finally, during the early 1970s, a two-story kitchen and garage wing was attached to the north end, giving the entire house an ell shape.

The northwest (principal) facade of the main block is an uneven five-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking nine-over-six sash windows. The corners of the main block, as well as the former outside corner of the original house, are marked by paneled pilasters. The original section of the house is clad in distinctive long shingles, probably cypress, which contrast with the shorter exposure of the shingles that sheathe the mid-nineteenth century addition. The six-panel front door, a mid-twentieth century replacement, is topped by a three-light transom. Flanking the entrance is a pair of long louvered shutters, and an arched fan-like decoration surmounts the doorway. The nine-over-six sash windows are flanked by louvered shutters, and the six-over-six second floor windows have louvered shutters as well.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

Distinguishing the two second floor windows on the initial house are ovolo molded backbands that frame the window openings, in contrast to the later Greek thumb molding that marks the other window openings. When the roof was rebuilt at mid-century, an unusually deep eave with a broad soffit was erected.

The southwest gable end is marked by a pair of nine-over-six sash windows on the first floor and a pair of six-over-six sash windows on the second floor. The attic is lighted by two four-over-two sash windows to either side of an interior end brick chimney, which is finished with a corbelled cap. A molded bargeboard finishes the flush gable end.

The southeast side of the main block is largely covered by a two-story, hip-roofed porch supported on square columns. The porch has been screened in. To each side of the center rear entrance are nine-over-six sash windows with thumb-molded backband surrounds. The second floor is detailed in a similar fashion with six-over-six sash windows to either side of a paneled door that allows access to the second floor porch. All of the windows are flanked by louvered shutters.

The northeast gable end of the main block is partially covered by the 1½-story center section, however, four-over-two attic windows light the attic to each side of an interior end brick chimney. The gable end is flush and trimmed with a molded bargeboard.

The 1½-story center section is three bays wide. On the northwest front a center door is flanked by six-over-six sash windows hung with louvered shutters. There is a vertical seam between the first and second bay from the south, which separates the older section with its long split shingles from the later section sheathed with shorter wood shingles. Also, an early ovolo molded surround frames the window to the south, in contrast to the plain trim that frames the other openings. Dividing the roof are two shed dormers with paneled pilasters to each side of the six-over-six sash windows. The dormers were evidently added during the mid nineteenth century. The southeast side of the 1½-story section is an uneven wall surface with round butt shingles covering the older section. A small shed roofed extension marks the newer part

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WILLIAMS GROVE
Worcester County
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 4

of the mid-nineteenth century portion. A single shed roofed dormer marks the roof slope.

The northern part of the house, erected during the early 1970s, was designed to follow the general form and detail of the main block. Framed on each corner by paneled pilasters, the gable roofed addition is lighted by six-over-six sash windows, and round arched louvered vents mark the upper wall surface of each gable end. Attached to the east side of the kitchen is a 1½-story two-bay garage with gabled dormers lighting the second floor loft rooms.

The interior of the house retains a large percentage of the early to mid-nineteenth century woodwork intact. The center passage contains an open string stair with a square, paneled newel post topped by a flat cap trimmed with an ogee molding. A series of rectangular balusters support a circular profile handrail, and the stringer is finished with a plain square edge molding with an ogee molding under each tread. A mid-nineteenth century four-panel door with ogee inset moldings opens into the adjacent living room to the south.

The living room is dominated by a plastered chimney mass that projects into the room. The fireplace is framed by a mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival mantel featuring plain pilasters, a board frieze and a thick shelf with a heavy be molding. The walls retain a plaster finish, and windows are framed by a square edged surround. Below each window is a paneled apron that does not extend to the baseboard.

The room north of the passage, now used as a formal parlor, comprises part of the oldest portion of the house. The space contains its own corner stair and fireplace. A raised four-panel door remains in place above two steps that are exposed within the room. A dentiled crown molding has been added to this room.

The second floor of the house has remained essentially undisturbed with the exception of a bathroom that has been added in the small room located in front of the upstairs passage. The south bedroom is fitted with a mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival mantel, not unlike the living room mantel below.

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

The bedroom north of the passage, on the other hand, is fitted with early nineteenth century finishes that support its earlier date. This room is the only space in the house to retain early nineteenth century chair rail, and a Federal mantel is fixed against the chimney breast. The mantel is distinguished by a five-part block frieze with corresponding broken line mantel shelf. Also suggestive of the earlier date is the lower floor level in this room. Rising in the northwest corner is an enclosed stair that provides access to the unfinished attic.

Exposed within the attic stairwell are the principal framing members. A wide board sheathing, which was nailed to the mortise-and-tenon house frame, carries the exterior layer of wood shingles. The attic is undivided, and the series of butt-joined common rafters is undisturbed throughout. Mature cut nails are found consistently through the attic framing.

The interior of the 1½-story section has been reworked during the past twenty-five years with the installation of raised-panel woodwork in the dining room. Original to the dining room are the exposed beaded floor joists and the corner winder stair, which rises back-to-back with the parlor staircase. The loft bedroom is simply finished. The most notable feature is a feather-edged board door that opens into the loft bathroom. This type of door predates any other woodwork in the house, and it probably was reused from another structure.

The northern half of the 1½-story section, divided into two rooms, is one step lower than the dining room, additional evidence of two periods of construction. The eastern portion is lined with shelves on two walls, and a small board closet is fixed in the southeast corner. The adjacent room houses the furnace.

The 1970s addition includes a large kitchen on the first floor, and a main bedroom/bathroom suite occupies the second floor.

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c.1810-1860

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 8
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibilography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other

Name of repository:

Worcester County Library, Snow Hill, MD

Williams Grove
Name of Property

Worcester County, MD WO-12
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately .75 acre
USGS quad: Berlin, MD

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	486500	4234600
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 11
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 11
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 20 April 1994

street & number P.O. Box 5 telephone (410) 651-1094

city or town Westover state MD zip code 21871

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. & Mrs. Ricks Savage

street & number 11824 Porfin Drive telephone

city or town Berlin state MD zip code 21811

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WILLIAMS GROVE
Worcester County
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 7

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification
Agricultural/Industrial Transition

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: House

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WILLIAMS GROVE
Worcester County
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 8

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Williams Grove is significant under Criterion C as an example of regionally distinctive vernacular architectural form. In its stepped, linear profile, the two-story frame house exemplifies the so-called "telescope" building type which is associated with the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia during the nineteenth century. In the case of Williams Grove, this stepped form was achieved during a single building campaign. The earliest section (c. 1810), now comprising the center portion of the house, involved a two-story, two-bay, one-room plan main block, with a lower one-room plan wing projecting from its gable end. A shared chimney stack indicates that the two sections were constructed at the same time. Around 1850-1860, the house was enlarged with a two-story side passage/parlor extension to the south. To the north, the single story wing was extended as well, and shed dormers were introduced on each roof slope. The three-bay addition transformed the two-story one-room plan dwelling into a center passage/single-pile structure, a vernacular house form typically employed in the region during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Included in the rebuilding was a new roof and a two-story porch stretching across the entire length of the enlarged structure. Williams Grove is the only stepped dwelling in Worcester County that developed in this particular manner. The exterior covering of cypress shingles reflects a local architectural tradition and indigenous material; stands of cypress in Worcester County were exploited for building products as early as the 17th century, as the durable rot-resistant wood was valuable for roofs and siding. The interior contains early to mid-nineteenth century Federal and Greek Revival woodwork representative of regional craft traditions during the period; surviving features include stairs, mantels, doors, windows, and flooring.

See Continuation Sheet No. 9

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

The original early nineteenth century house stands on part of two large Sinepuxent Neck tracts known as "Goshen" and "Mayfields", a significant portion of which descended through the Rackliffe family. James Murray, Charlotte Murray, and Rider Rackliffe sold their inherited portion of the seaside farm to Moses Johnson for $611.42 in August 1814. Five years later, Moses Johnson, then of Philadelphia, transferred the same property to a Josiah Davis of Worcester County for $1,300, suggesting that an improvement of modest size was made to the property between 1814 and 1819. Architectural evidence, including the Federal second floor mantel, the ovolo molded window surrounds, and the beaded floor joists, is consistent with a construction date in the first two decades of the nineteenth century.

Josiah Davis held the 144-acre Sinepuxent bay farm until his death, when it was sold several times during the early 1850s. In 1852, the 144-acre farm was purchased jointly by James F. Brevard and Littleton P. Franklin. In 1855, James Brevard purchased Littleton Franklin's interest in the property. It appears that the major reworking of the house took place between their purchase in 1852 and 1861 when the farm was left to Brevard's daughter, Anne E. Williams.

James F. Brevard (1816-1861) is listed in the 1860 census as a relatively well-off farmer with real estate valued at $40,000. The property presumably became known as Williams Grove during Anne Williams' occupancy. Anne Williams passed the property on to her only child and heir, Hattie L. Dirickson, who occupied the farm with her husband, Dr. E. Dirickson. Dr. Dirickson's property is indicated on the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas in the East Berlin district. Over sixty years later, in 1938, Hattie Dirickson sold the property to John Benson, then living in Chicago, Illinois, purchased the farm. The property remained in the Benson family hands until 1966 when the current owners purchased the house with 3.9 acres bordering Sinepuxent Bay.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WILLIAMS GROVE
Worcester County
Maryland

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, as transcribed by John C. Barnes and printed by Ruth T. Dryden, 1988.

Graham, John L. ed. The Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Bicentennial Edition, Salisbury: Peninsula Press, 1976.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

Touart, Paul Baker. Along the Seaboard Side: The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland. Worcester County: Snow Hill, Maryland, 1994.

Worcester County Land Records, various volumes, Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill.

Worcester County Register of Wills, various volumes, Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill.

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Beginning at a point at the corner of the inside section of the driveway opposite the southwest corner of the house and heading northeasterly by and with the inside edge of the driveway for 200′ to a point, thence southeast 150′ to a point, thence southwest 200′ to a point near a dirt road that leads to Sinepuxent Bay, thence northwesterly parallel with the course of said road 150′ to the point of beginning, containing three quarters of an acre more or less.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property, approximately .75 acre, comprises the resource within its immediate setting and excludes any additional acreage which does not add directly to the architectural significance of the property. The boundary follows the course of established driveways on three sides.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: WILLIAMS GROVE

MHT Inventory Number: WO-12

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

1815 - 1870 AGRICULTURAL - INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION

4) Resource Type(s):

1. STANDING STRUCTURE

a. DWELLING - (FORMER FARMHOUSE)

WILLIAMS GROVE WO-12
Berlin vic., Worcester County, Maryland
Chain-of-title

F.W.H. 204/199	Calvin P. Pruitt Alma T. Pruitt to
5/6/1966	Ricks E. Savage Diane S. Savage "Williams Grove Farm" Plat of Cora H. Benson Farm" 3.9 acres
204/202	Calvin P. Pruitt Alma T. Pruitt to
5/6/1966	Purnell H. Benson
204/184	Purnell H. Benson, et. ux. to
4/25/1966	Calvin P. Pruitt Alma T. Pruitt
K.J.C. 27/1	Will of John Benson to
4/3/1958 filed 4/5/1963	Purnell H. Benson ¼ interest-undivided
F.W.H. 179/580	George M. Benson Clover B. Waterman to
12/16/1963	Purnell H. Benson ½ interest Easement agreement-between Cora Handy Benson and Harry Aydelotte Jarvis 8/31/1946, C.W.N. 11/84 "which said Williams Grove farm in its entirety was conveyed unto

Cora by the said John Benson, 2/24/1942
J.E.B. 12/2-4

J.E.B 12/2 John Benson, Scarsdale, Westchester, N.Y.

to

2/24/1942 Cora Benson
Land surveyed September 1, 1927, William D. Pitts made by Hattie L. Dirickson--September 7, 1927, B.B. 4/138, "all of the said lands having descended to the said Hattie L. Dirickson from her mother, Anne E. Williams, as her only child and heir, being the same lands and a part of the same lands which were devised to the said Anne E. Williams by James Brevard by will, 2/26/1861 (T. T. 8/326)being also the lands described in a deed from Littleton P. Franklin and wife to the said James F. Brevard, 8/4/1855, E.D.M. 6/600, being the same lands conveyed to said James F. Brevard and Littleton P. Franklin by two deeds from John S. Timmons, dated 7/30/1852, E.D.M. 4/630

B.B. 4/138 Hattie L. Dirickson

to

9/7/1938 John Benson, Chicago, Illinois
"Goshen," or "Mayfield" lying easterly of the county road in said Sinepuxent Neck and fronting on Sinepuxent Bay-plat B.B. 4/140

Anne E. Williams

to

Hattie L. Dirickson

Will Book
T.T. 8/326 James F. Brevard

to

2/26/1861 Anne E. Williams

WILLIAMS GROVE (continued) WO-12

E.D.M. 6/600 John S. Timmons

to

7/30/1852 Littleton P. Franklin
James F. Brevard
"Goshen" and "Mayfield" $3000 144 acres

E.D.M. 6/22 Ara Spence

to

5/26/1854 Littleton P. Franklin
Real estate of Sarah M. Spence "Christians"
(west side of Berlin, South Point Road)

E.D.M. 3/308 John E. H. Marshall

to

8/15/1850 John S. Timmons
$3,000 144 acres

E.D.M. 3/237 Edward J. Henry

to

6/29/1850 John E.H. Marshall
$3,500 "Goshen" and "Mayfield" which land Josiah Davis, late of Worcester County, deceased purchased of Moses Johnson on 6/18/1819 and which said land the said Mary Hickman, wife of Baley Hickman inherited as the only child and lawfull heir of the said Josiah Davis, 144 acres

A.J. 463 Moses Johnson, Philadelphia

to

6/18/1819 Josiah Davis, Worcester County
$1,300 part of a tract of land known as "Goshen" and "Mayfields" which the said Moses Johnson purchased of James Murray, Charlotte Murray,

Rider Rackcliffe and Kiturah Rackcliffe of Somerset County...described also in a deed from a certain George Stevenson and Sarah to a certain John Rackcliffe, father of the late John Rackcliffe, 4/1/1789, 144 acres

A.E. 403 James Murray, Charlotte Murray, Rider Rackcliffe

to

8/13/1814 Moses Johnson
$611.42

John Rackcliffe, died intestate

to

Four children, John Rackcliffe, Charlotte Rider, Kitturah Rackcliffe
"Goshen" and "Mayfield"

John Rackcliffe

to

John Rackcliffe

M/559 George Stevenson, and his wife Sarah

to

4/1/1789 John Rackcliffe
£500 "Goshen" and "Mayfield" It being...land where Vinsen Crapper dwelled situate lying and being in a Neck called and known by the name of on ye Seaboard side in the County of Worcester

SINEPUXENT NECK

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

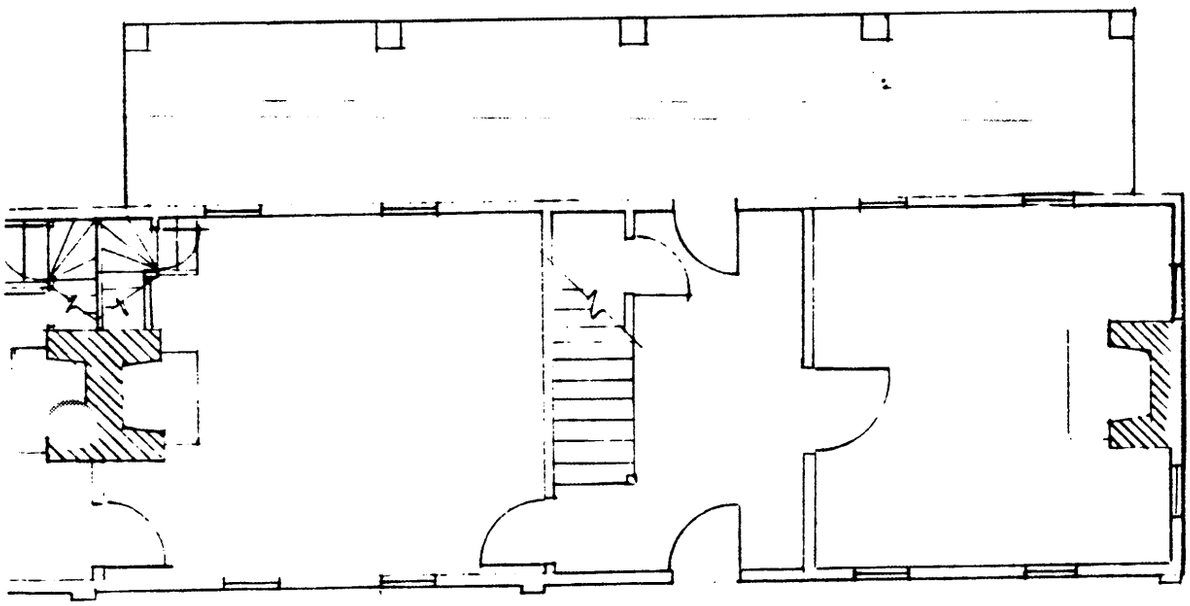
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

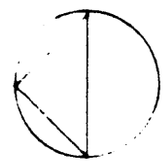
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

WILLIAMS GROVE
Worcester County
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 6

SKETCH FLOOR PLAN - No Scale - Modern addition omitted





WILLIAMS GROVE
BERLIN VICINITY.
WORCESTER COUNTY
WO-12

PBT

DATE APPROVED BY

Survey No. WO-12

Magi No. 2400125304

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic WILLIAMS GROVE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number East side of MD 611, 1.5 mile south of MD ~~376~~ not for publication

city, town Berlin x vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	x 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 (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Ricks E. Savage

street & number Williams Point telephone no.: 641-1837

city, town Berlin state and zip code MD 21811

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1969 ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

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

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

Williams Grove is located on the east side of MD 611 approximately a mile and a half south of the intersection of MD 376 in the vicinity of Berlin, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-story, three-part main house faces northwest with the gable oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Built in three principal stages the two-story, center hall frame house and its additions are supported by a minimal brick foundation, and the building is sheathed with different types of wood shingles. The various gable roofs are covered with wood shingles as well. The apparent construction sequence of this house began during the first quarter of the nineteenth century with a two-story, two-bay frame house and single story, one room plan wing. This three-bay stepped house was later expanded during the mid nineteenth century to the north and south. Around 1850 a two-story, three-bay hall and parlor addition was extended southward, and at the same time, a new common rafter roof was built across the old and new sections. To the north the single-story section was enlarged by one room and shed roofed dormers were added to light the second floor spaces. Finally, during the early 1970s, a two-story kitchen and garage wing were attached which gave the north end of the house an ell shape.

The northwest (principal) facade of the main block is an asymmetrical five-bay elevation with a centered entrance and flanking nine-over-six sash windows. The six-panel front door is a replacement from the 1940s, but remains topped by a three-light transom. An arched ornament was added around the same time above the transom. The flanking windows are framed by early nineteenth-century backband surrounds, however, the wall is divided by different types of wood shingles as well as a long paneled pilaster. In addition to trimming the corners of the house, a pilaster is fixed between the second and third bay from the north which also separates a long type of wood shingle from a shorter, more uniform shingle siding. This intermediate pilaster evidently marks the shift between the original house and the mid nineteenth-century extension. Lighting the second floor are five six-over-six sash windows, however, the northern two bays carry an older style ovolo molded surround. When the roof was reworked at mid century a very wide soffit was included in the design.

The southwest gable end is marked by pairs of nine-over-six sash windows on the first floor and pairs of six-over-six sash windows on the second floor. The attic is lighted by two four-over-two sash windows to either side of an interior end brick chimney. The gable end is flush.

The southeast side of the main block is largely covered by a two-story shed-roofed porch supported on long paneled pilasters. The porch has been screened in. To each side of the center six-panel rear entrance are nine-over-six sash windows with thumb-molded backband surrounds. The second floor is detailed in a similar fashion with six-over-six sash windows to either side of a second floor paneled door.

(continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-12

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 x C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state x local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Williams Grove is important in Worcester County for the architectural character of the dwelling. The two-story frame farmhouse follows the regionally distinctive vernacular tradition of a stepped or telescope profile common to the Eastern Shore and southern Maryland in general. Of the nine telescope style house to survive in Worcester County, Williams Grove is one of two frame examples known that retains its cyprus clad exterior that was once characteristic of Worcester County architeture. The earliest section, now comprising the center portion of the house, included a two-story, two-bay main block with a single-story one-room plan wing. Built during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the original section displays a longer type of cyprus shingle, exposed beaded ceiling boards, and Federal style woodwork. Around 1850 the house was enlarged with a two-story, three-bay addition to the south and a two-bay single-story extension to the north. It was at this time that a new gable roof was stretched across the main block, pilasters were added to the principal corners, and shed dormers were introduced to light the loft of the single story wing. Williams Grove is the only known example of a telescope form dwelling that developed in this exact manner. This fact points to the ever-increasing variety of methods in which telescope dwellings were expanded to follow this distincitve regional building pattern. The interiors are relatively well preserved with much of the early and mid nineteenth century Federal and early Greek Revival woodwork intact including the stair, mantels, doors, windows, flooring and plaster walls.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-12

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 B. Touart Architectural Historian		
organization	Worcester County	**date**	9/22/88
street & number	Worcester County Courthouse	**telephone**	632-1194
city or town	Snow Hill	**state**	MD 21863

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

The northeast gable end of the main house is partially covered by the story-and-a-half center section, however, four-over-two attic windows light the attic to each side of the interior end brick chimney.

The story-and-a-half center section is three bays across with a center entrance on the northwest side with flanking six-over-six sash windows. There is a vertical board seam between the first and second bay from the south which separates the longer split shingled wall from the shorter shingled section. Also, an early type of ovolo molded surround frames the window to the south in contrast to the plain trim to the north. Defining the roof are two shed roofed dormers with paneled pilasters to each side of the sash windows. The dormers were evidently added when the house was reworked during the mid nineteenth century. The southeast side of the center section is an uneven wall surface with round butt shingles covering part of it.

The northern most part of the house is a two-story, three-bay kitchen wing that was built to follow the general form and detail of the main block. Framed on each corner by paneled pilasters, the gable roofed addition is lighted by six-over-six sash windows, and round arched louvered vents mark the upper wall of the gable ends. Attached to the east side of the kitchen is a story-and-a-half two-bay garage wing with gabled dormers lighting the second floor loft rooms.

The interiors of the house have been moderately reworked during the twentieth century with much of the original finishes undisturbed in the main house. The center hall contains an open string stair with a square, paneled newel post topped by a flat cap. A series of rectangular balusters support a circular profile handrail, and the stringer is finished with a plain square edged molding. A mid nineteenth-century four-panel door with ogee inset moldings opens into the adjacent south parlor. Fixed against the chimney breast is a mid nineteenth-century mantel with plain pilasters and a plain frieze topped by a thick board shelf. The walls retain a plaster finish, and windows are framed by a square edged window surround. Below each window is a paneled apron that does not extend to the baseboard.

The room north of the hall has been modified to some degree with the addition of dentiled crown molding and a reproduction late Federal style mantel. Remaining in the northeast corner is an enclosed winder stair behind a raised four-panel door. The four-panel door, which predates any of the other woodwork in the main block, appears to have been reused.

The second floor has remained essentially undisturbed with the exception of a bathroom that was added in the front portion of the second floor hall. The south bedroom is fitted with a mid nineteenth-century mantel along with later built-in closets.

Interestingly, the north bedroom is fitted with early nineteenth-century finishes that support its slightly earlier date. This room is the only space to retain an early nineteenth-century style chair rail, and a late Federal style mantel with a molded surround, plain frieze blocks and a broken shelf is fixed against the chimney breast. Also suggestive of the shift in construction periods is the lower floor level in this room.

Located in the northwest corner is a winder stair that leads to the unfinished attic. Behind the board door are exposed principal framing members. A wide board sheathing, which was nailed to the mortise-and-tenoned frame, carry the exterior wood shingles. The attic is undivided, and the series of butt-jointed, common rafters is undisturbed throughout. Mature cut nails are found consistently through the attic..

The interior of the story-and-a-half center section has been reworked partially with the installation of raised-panel woodwork in the dining room. Original to this room is the series of exposed beaded joists and the enclosed stair that leads to the second floor loft bedroom. The northern half of this section, divided into two rooms, is one step lower than the dining room, which also suggests a shift in construction chronology. (The lower floor level coincides with the exterior shift in wood shingles.)

The most recent addition includes a large kitchen on the first floor, and a master bedroom on the second floor.

The builder of the original early nineteenth century section is not clear. The house stands on part of two large Sinepuxent Neck tracts known as "Goshen" and "Mayfields," a large part of which descended through the Rackcliffe family. The oldest section could have been standing on the property when James Murray, Charlotte Murray, and Rider Rackcliffe sold their inherited section of the seaside farm to Moses Johnson in August of 1814 for $611.42 (AE/403). Five years later, Moses Johnson, then of Philadelphia, transferred the same property to a Josiah Davis of Worcester County for $1,300 (AJ/463) The increase in value of the property would suggest the improvements may have been made to the property between 1814 and 1819.

Josiah Davis held the 144-acre Sinepuxent Bay farm until his death, when it was sold several times during the early 1850s. (see EDM 3/327, EDM 3/308, and EDM 6/600) In 1852 the 144 acres was purchased jointly by James F. Brevard and Littleton P. Franklin. In 1855 James Brevard purchased Littleton Franklin's interest in the property. It is estimated the major reworking of the house took place between their purchase in 1852 and 1861, when the farm was left to Anne E. Williams. James F. Brevard is listed in the 1860 United States census for Worcester County as a relatively wealthy farmer with real estate valued at $40,000. Several years later Anne Williams passed the property to her only child and heir, Hattie L. Dirickson. Hattie and her husband, Dr. E. Dirickson evidenlty resided on the farm for he is designated on the 1877 Worcester County atlas. Over sixty years later, in 1938, Hattie Dirickson sold the property out of the family. The grantee, John Benson, then

living in Chicago, Illinois, purchased the farm. It remained in Benson family hands until 1966 when the current owners purhcased 3.9 acres and the house.

2400125364

Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Worcester Sinepuxent
TOWN Berlin VICINITY Neck
STREET NO. Rt. 611, 1.8 miles south of Rt. 376 (east)
ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE Tavern
PRESENT OWNER Ricks E. Savage
PRESENT USE dwelling
WALL CONSTRUCTION frame
NO. OF STORIES 2, 1½

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY WO-12

2. NAME William's Grove
DATE OR PERIOD c. 1790-1810
STYLE Federal
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC NO

William's Grove is reputed to have been built around 1790 as a tavern for the sailing trade, plying the waters of Sinepuxent Bay. Part of the house does appear to date from that period but the majority is of mid-nineteenth-century date.

It is a two-story frame building on a low brick foundation, five bays long and two bays deep. It is covered with white shingles and has a low pitched "A" roof. To the north is a two-bay-long, one-and-a-half-story, frame structure (containing the earliest woodwork), part of which is covered with fishscale shingles and having one curved end-board at its cornice. Dormers are of the flat-headed variety. Both buildings appear to have been built in two stages. On the bay side of the main portion is a large two-story screened

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE

Endangered	Interior	Exterior
(no)	(good)	(good)

[continued on reverse side]

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Michael Bourne
MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
BOX 1704
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

DATE OF RECORD August 1969

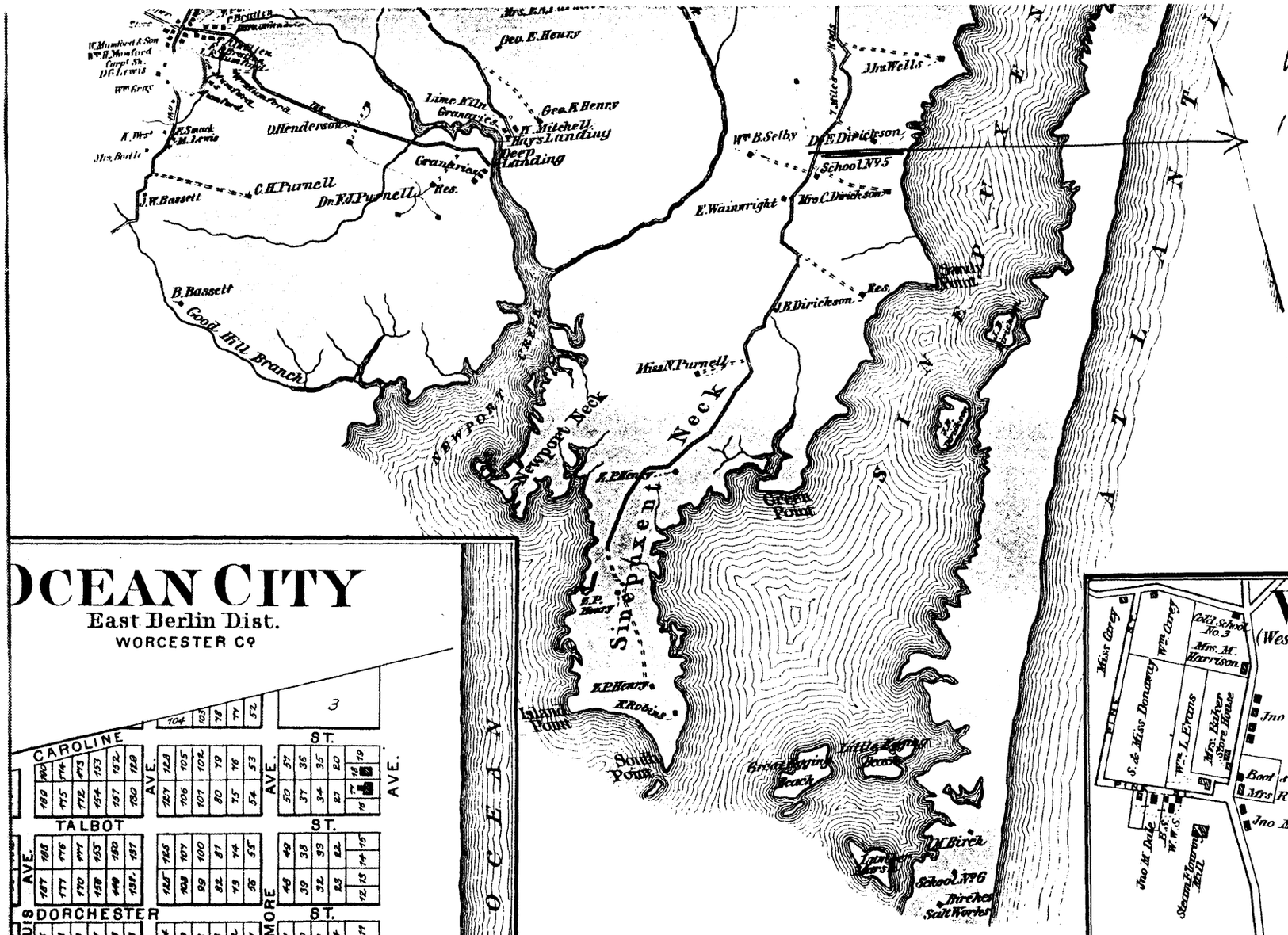
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

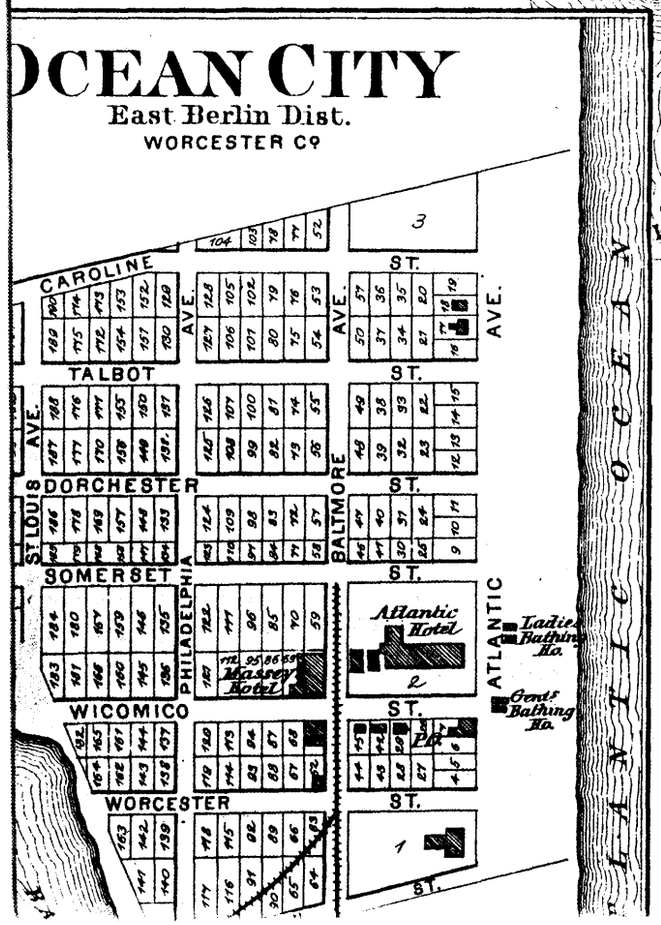
porch almost hidden from the bay by two large evergreen trees.

The main entrance is located in the center of the two-story part and has a wood fanlight above the door. Sash are nine over six on the first story and six over six on the second story. There are pilaster strips at the corners of the house and one north of the main entrance, which may be an indication of a different building period.

The interior of the main portion contains a stair hall and parlor with trim of mid-nineteenth-century date. North of the hall is the dining room which has been remodeled in this century, but which contains an enclosed stair with an old paneled door. North of this room are the two rooms in the one-and-half-story wing; the kitchen and utility room. The kitchen has exposed beaded beams and an enclosed stair and some trim of the Federal period.

WO-12)
1877 LAKE,
GRICKING, AND
STEVENSON
AREAS





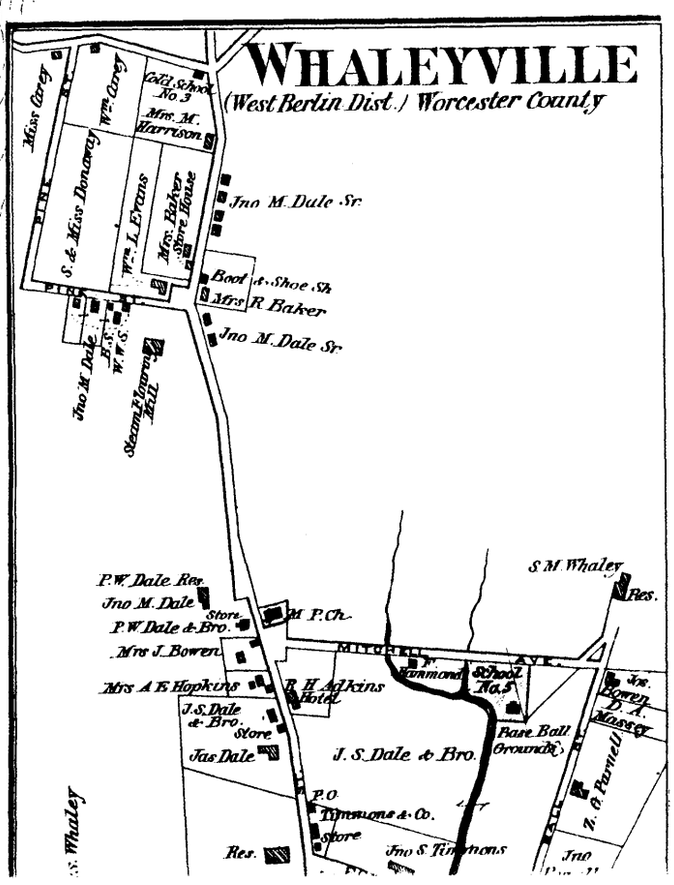
OCEAN CITY BUSINESS REFERENCES.

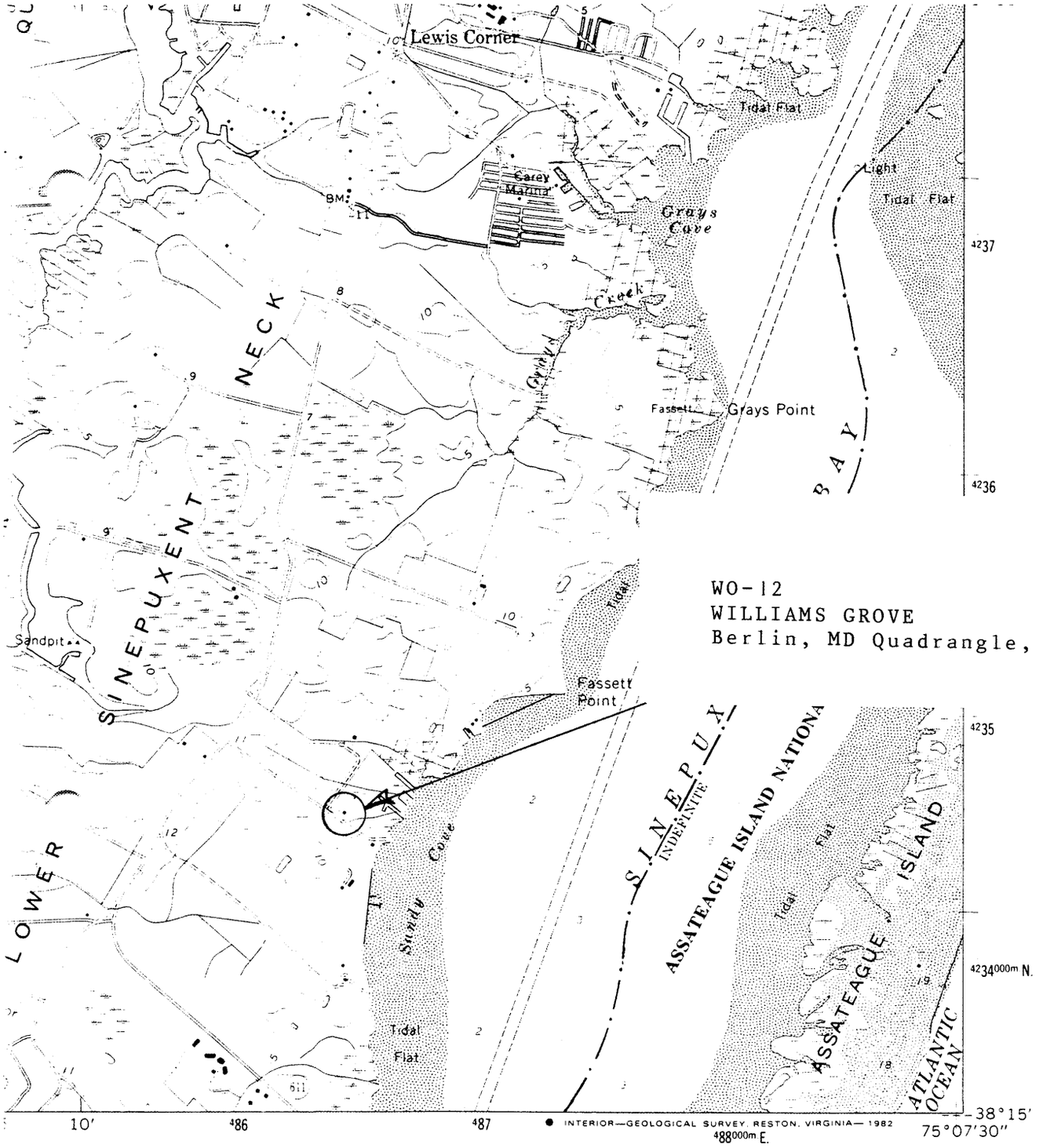
J. TRACY, Proprietor of Atlantic Hotel, Ocean City; also, of Peninsula House, Salisbury.

SAM'L. J. MASSEY, Proprietor of Seaside House, Ocean City, Md. Terms, two dollars per day; ten dollars per week; meals fifty cents each. Liberal arrangements made with families. First-class Bar, Bowling Alley and Livery Stable attached.

COFFIN & LYNCH, Proprietors of the Ocean House, Ocean City.

WHALEYVILLE BUSINESS REFERENCES.





WO-12
WILLIAMS GROVE
Berlin, MD Quadrangle, 1967

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1982

1 MILE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface		Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface	
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface		Unimproved road, fair or dry weather	

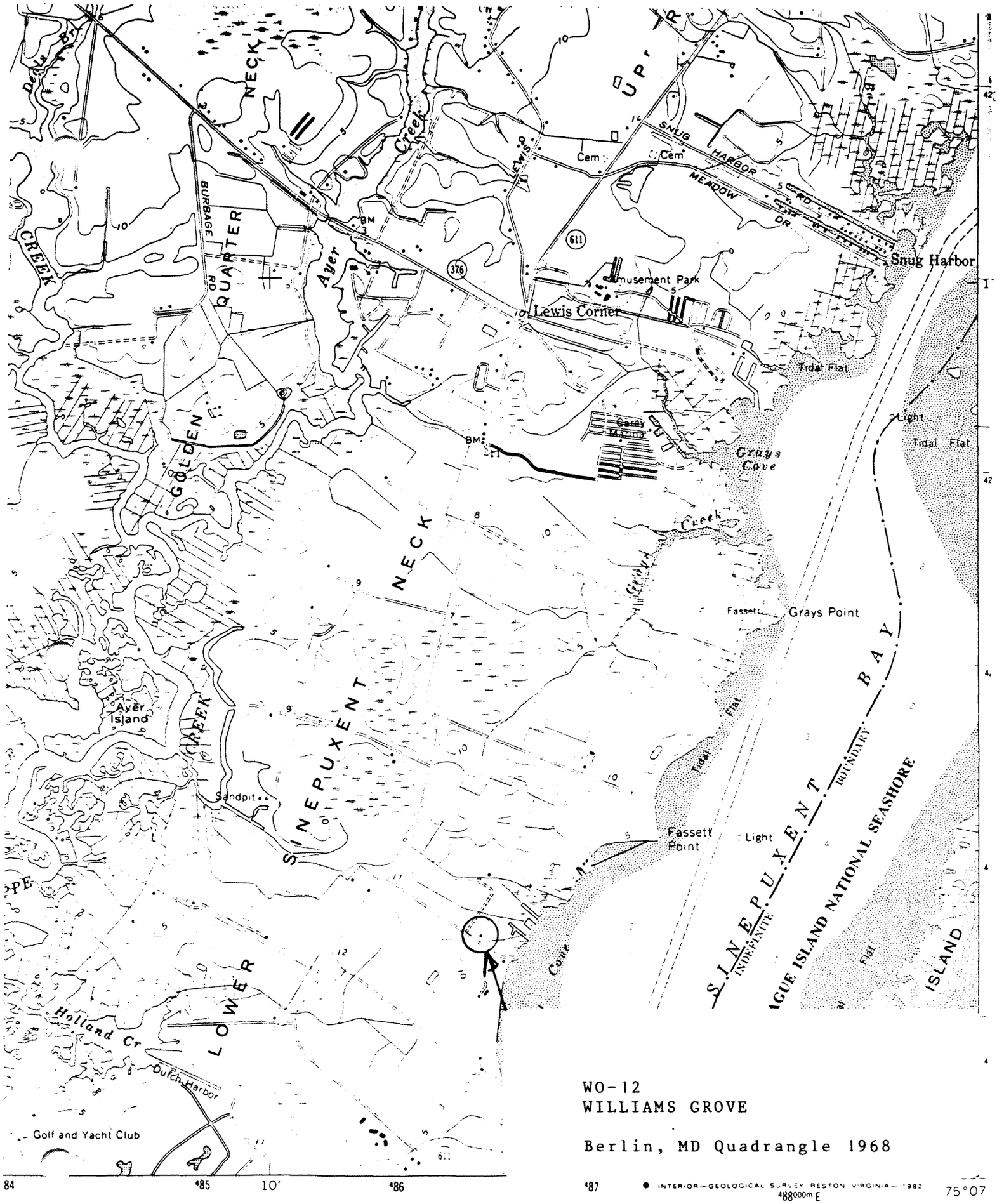
U. S. Route State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

BERLIN, MD.

N3815—W7507.5/7.5

1967
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 5960 I SW-SERIES V833



WO-12
WILLIAMS GROVE

Berlin, MD Quadrangle 1968

● INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1982

1 MILE
5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER

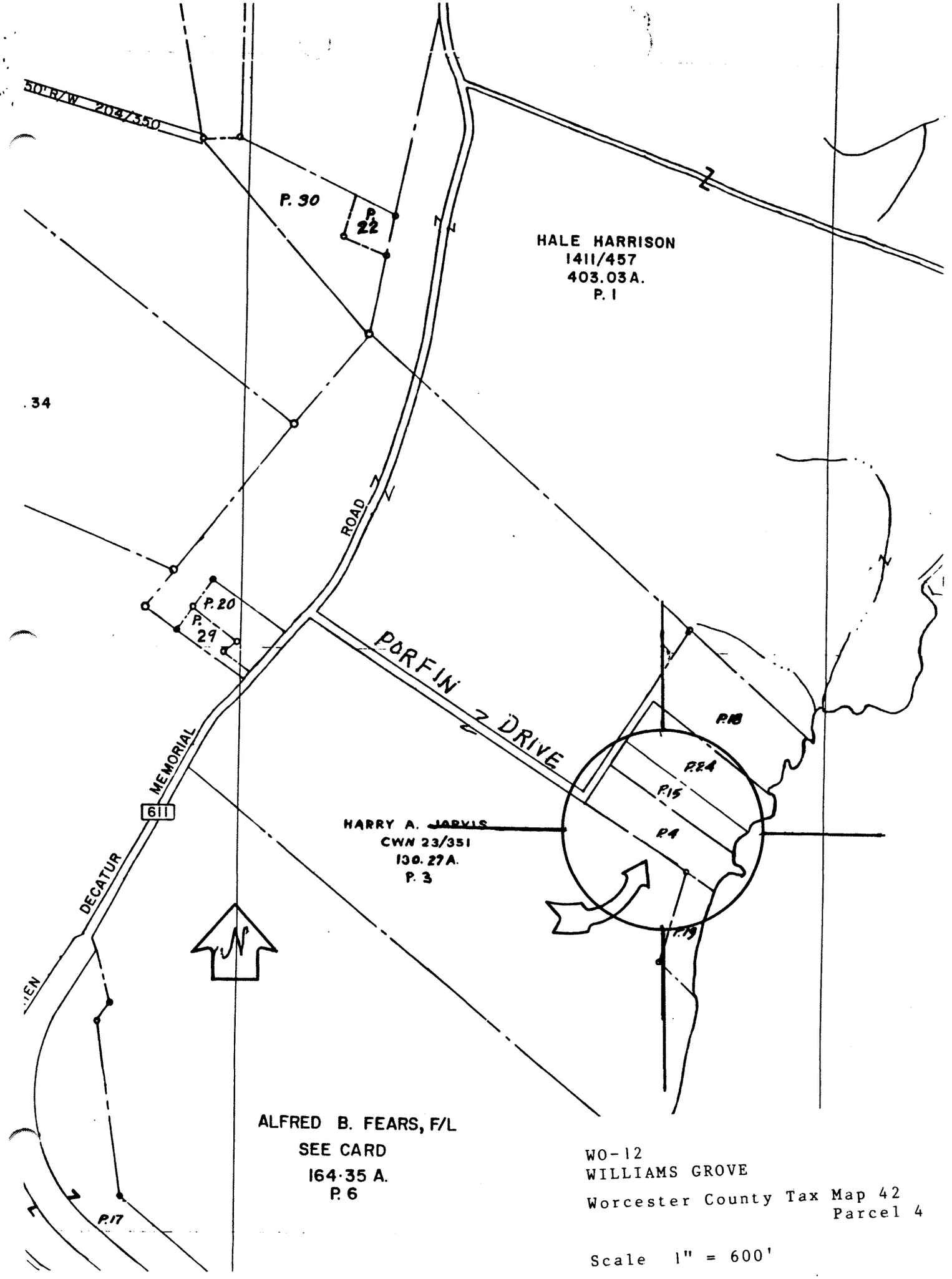
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface

Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface

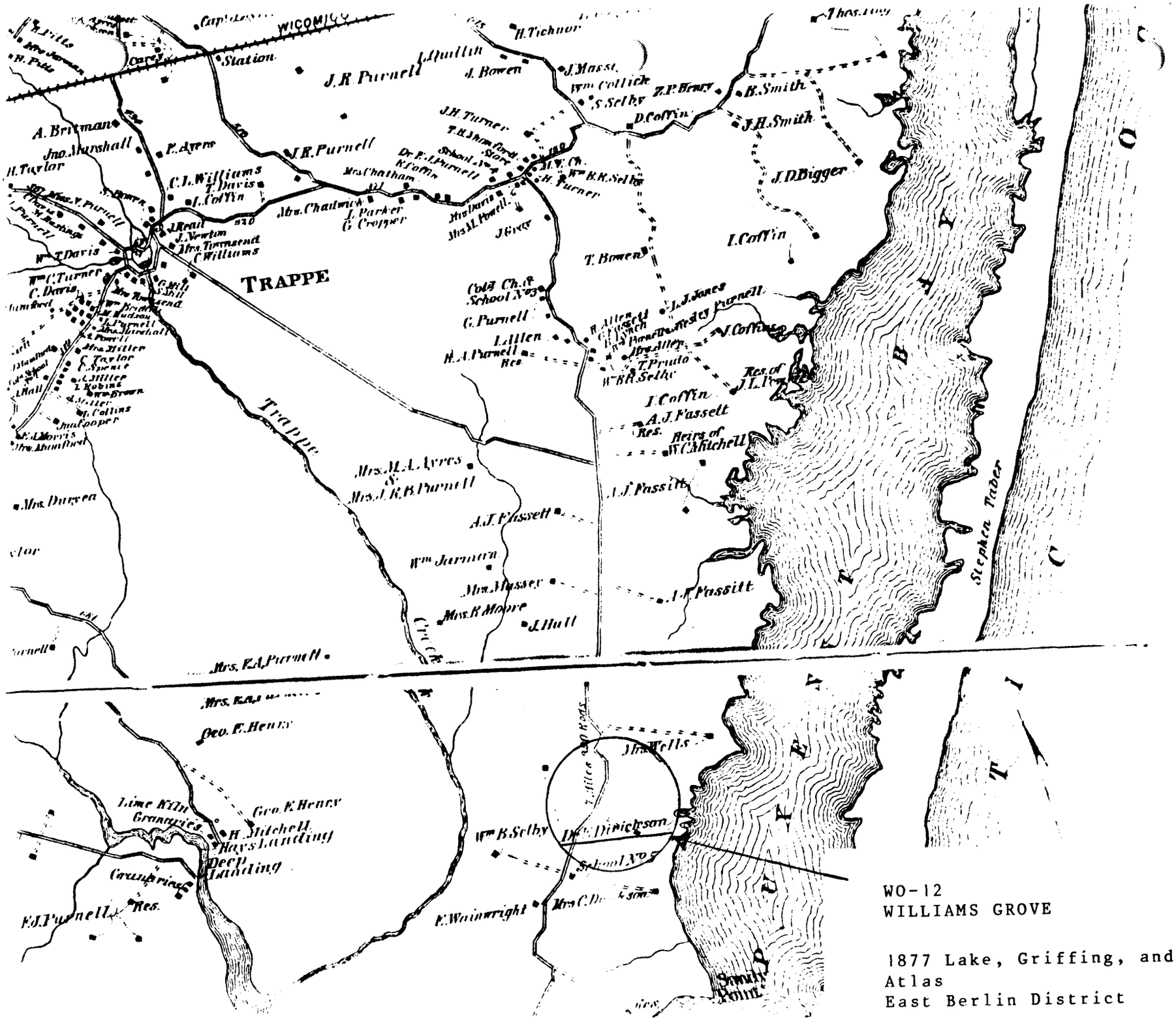
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface

Unimproved road, fair or dry weather



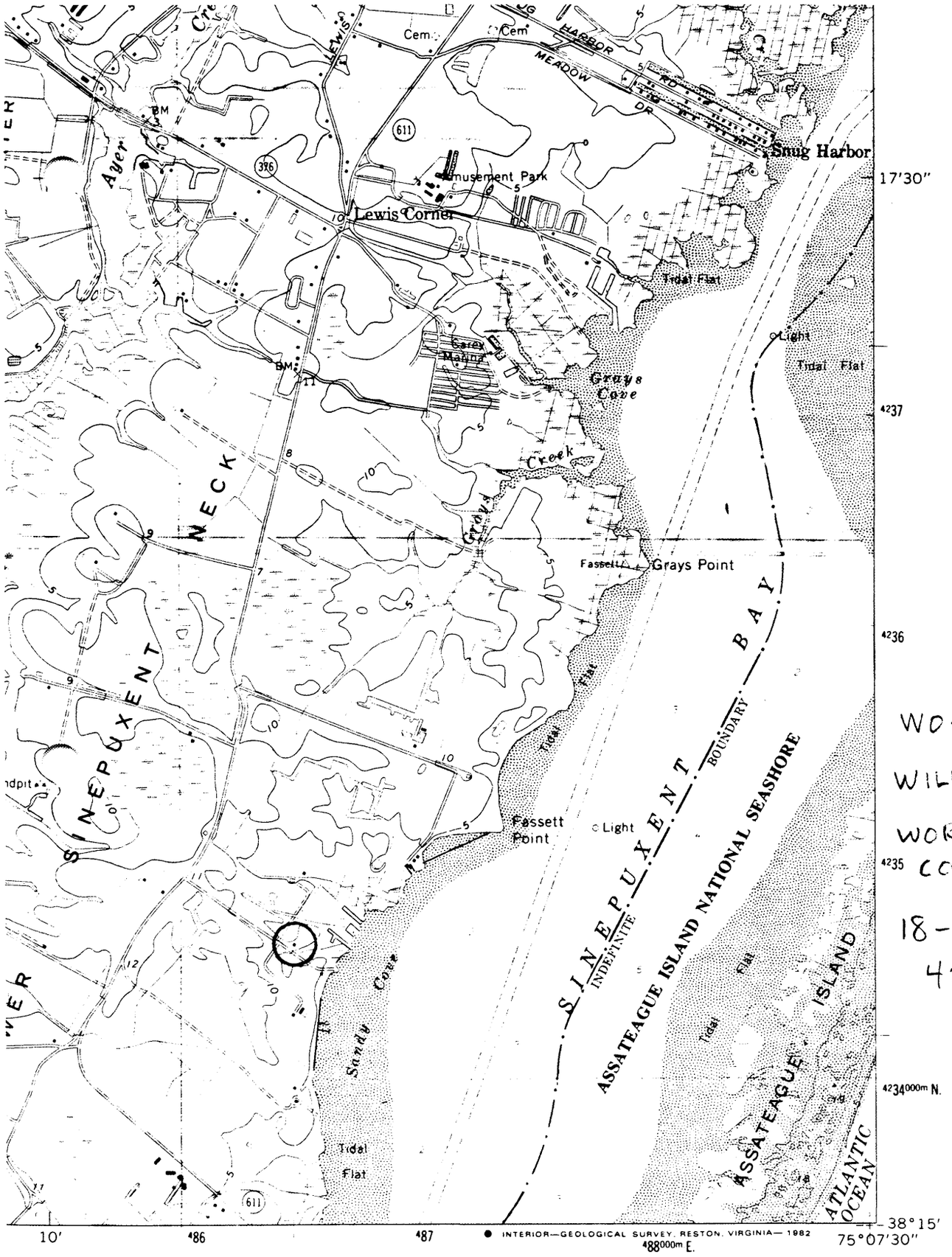
WO-12
WILLIAMS GROVE
Worcester County Tax Map 42
Parcel 4

Scale 1" = 600'



WO-12
WILLIAMS GROVE

1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
East Berlin District



WO-12
WILLIAMS GROVE
WORCESTER
COUNTY, MD
18-486500-
4234600

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1982

MILE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface

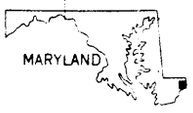
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface

Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface

Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

U. S. Route

State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

BERLIN, MD.

N3815—W7507.5/7.5

WO-12.
WILLIAMS GROVE
BERLIN VICINITY, WORCESTER CO., MD.
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION
3/94, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

WO-12
WILLIAMS GROVE
BERLIN VICINITY, WORCESTER COUNTY, MD.
WEST ELEVATION
3/94, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

WO-12
WILLIAMS GROVE
BERLIN VICINITY, WORCESTER CO. MD.
EAST ELEVATION
3/94, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEG/MD HISTORICAL TRUST

WO-12
WILLIAMS GROVE
BERLIN VIC., WORCESTER CO. MD.
LIVING ROOM MANTEL
5/94, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

WO-12
WILLIAMS GROVE
BERLIN VIC. WORCESTER CO.,
MARYLAND
2ND FLOOR MASTER
3/94, PAUL TOUARS, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

WO-12
WILLIAMS GROVE
BERLIN VICINITY, WORCESTER
COUNTY, MARYLAND
STAR, NEWER POST
3/94, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST