

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received **OCT 28 1980**
date entered **NOV 28 1980**

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

1. Name Williams Plains

historic Williams Plains, The Plaine, Wilson's Plaines

and/or common WILLIAMS PLAINS (Preferred)

2. Location MD 3

street & number White Marsh Recreational Park, Md. Rte. 3 not for publication

city, town Bowie vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state Maryland code 24 county Prince George's code 033

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 type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Theodore F. Dutko

street & number P. O. Box 1430

city, town Bowie vicinity of state Maryland 20716

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Upper Marlboro County Court

street & number Main Street

city, town Upper Marlboro vicinity of state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis vicinity of state Maryland 21401

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Williams Plains, a house, stands on a rectangular plot almost centered in White Marsh Recreational Park in Bowie, Prince George's County. The house, which faces south, is located along the north side of the park access road which leads west from Maryland Route 3 between Maryland Routes 450 to the north and 50 to the south.

Williams Plains is a two and a half story brick house with a three bay symmetrical facade (south elevation), interior double end chimneys, a standing-seam-metal covered low gable roof, and a much lower two and a half story gable roofed wing projecting from the northern portion of the east side. The house dates from the first half of the 19th century. (See Section 8 for discussion on construction period.) The bricks of the structure are laid in Flemish bond on the facade and common bond with six rows of stretchers between the rows of headers on the side and rear elevations. The wing brick is laid in stretcher bond and is a veneer over frame construction. Both the main block and the wing have stepped brick cornices.

The principal windows of the house have double-hung wooden sashes with six-over-six lights, narrow frames, five inch thick wooden sills, brick flat arches, and louvered wooden exterior shutters. The shutters are not original. A half-round fan-light window with a brick-header surround is located in the gable ends of the main block.

The facade or south elevation contains the main entranceway which consists of double three-panel doors with rectangular sidelights and transom surrounded by a mid-20th century Classical Revival frontispiece and reached by a modern brick porch and steps with metal railing. The second story center windows is now split into two narrow windows. The rear or north elevation also has three symmetrical bays with a modern Classical Revival frontispiced door in the center bay. A small recently installed window lights a bathroom under the staircase on the first floor. The west elevation has two windows per floor arranged near the center of the wall.

On the interior the rooms of the main block are arranged around a center hall way with tandem double parlors to the west and two smaller rooms separated by a hall perpendicular to the center hall on the east. The smaller hall leads into the wing and provides access to the northeast room. The second floor arrangement is identical except that the south end of the center hall now contains two bathrooms which explains the splitting of the facade second story center window.

The woodwork throughout the main house is heavy in proportion, simple and plain in design and exhibits evidence of conscious aesthetic strivings on the part of the designer and/or builder in plan and execution. Stylistically, the decorative detailing has a Greek Revival influence particularly evident in the broad plain expanses of the door and window trim, mantelpieces, and baseboard. The door and window trim also have bell-flower decorated corner blocks that have the lightness in the decoration more commonly associated with Federal design.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

8. Significance

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE

Williams Plains is an early to mid-19th century symmetrically facaded brick house which is significant primarily for the Greek Revival influenced interior decorative detailing which remains almost completely intact and thus is an excellent and somewhat rare record of domestic architecture in Prince George's County in the first half of the 19th century. The dominant design elements which characterize the decorative detailing are heavy proportions and broad, flat expanses in the window and door trim, mantelpieces, and paneled doors. Although it is not certain for whom Williams Plains was erected, the house can be viewed as an indicator of the social and economic status of the occupants and in a broader sense Prince George's County.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The construction date of Williams Plains is not known. Documentary evidence, a sizeable increase in the tax assessment of the property from about \$600 in 1811 to more than \$2600 in 1813 with the same acreage, indicates that a house was built on the property in the first quarter of the 19th century. The basic construction and stylistic features of the exterior of Williams Plains support the theory that this house is the reason for the tax assessment increase between 1811 and 1813. The dominant design features of the interior decorative detailing, as described above and in Section 7, however, are more indicative of the 1840s and 1850s period. There are no readily visible clues or written documentation to indicate that the interior was extensively remodeled at one time or to explain the discrepancy between the historical and physical evidence.

By tradition, the house is said to have been erected as the residence of the Honorable John Johnson (1770-1824), the first of a family of distinguished lawyers. Johnson purchased the property, which included about 365 acres, in 1812 (Deed Book A.B. 1, Page 572) and probably had the financial backing and the social need for a house of the size of Williams Plains. Admitted to the bar in 1796, Johnson served as Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals from 1811 to 1821. In 1821 he was appointed as chancellor of Maryland, an office he held until his death. Two of Johnson's sons, John Johnson, Jr., and Reverdy Johnson, were attorneys who served in the Maryland legislature.

The Johnson family retained the property until about 1829 when it was sold to Basil D. Mullikin. Although nothing is known about Basil Mullikin, the Millikin family is recorded in Prince George's annals as prominent.

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(DESCRIPTION, continued)

The principal interior doors have four flat panels. The tandem parlors are connected by double six-panel doors which are nearly the height of the room.

The staircase in the main block has heavy, turned newels and round handrail and balusters. The newels which rest on rectangular blocks look very similar to the heavy, turned newels popular in the second half of the 19th century but no evidence exists to indicate that the newels are not original. The balustrade at the landing between the first and second floors consists of a single newel supporting the handrail rather than a newel at each of the two turns of the balustrade. The staircase extends only to the second floor, is open string, and has plain step ends.

The first floor rooms of the main block have cornices. The center hall contains a built-up plaster cornice of several members. The west rooms contain an oversize cove and bead against a backboard with an ogee molding on the lower side. The east rooms contain oversize crown moldings similar to those in the west parlors. All the rooms except the northeast one have molded circular ceiling medallions.

The mantels in the west chambers on the second floor have fluted attached columns with molded friezes and appear to date from about 1900. A recently installed chairrail encircles the front floor southeast room.

The attic of the main block is reached by a trap door in the center hall. Two dates, 1844 and 1942, are scratched into the mortar of the east gable wall in the attic.

The wing from the exterior and the kitchen appears to date from the mid-20th century, possibly the 1942 date found in the attic mortar. Pieces of the interior decorative detailing found in hall, stairway, and the room above the kitchen is late 19th century in appearance indicating that the wing probably is older than the commonly believed mid-20th century.

Williams Plains is structurally sound and remains intact on the interior and exterior except for the changes noted above and a section of repair work made to the brick in the north or rear elevation. It is not known why or when this work was done but it involves a small area between the center and west bays on the first floor and is readily noticeable because it does not completely match the rest of the wall in bonding.

A small formal boxwood garden exists to the north of the house. This garden was probably planted in this century.

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(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

Without further information, it is impossible to say whether or not Basil Mulliken had the wealth or the need for such a large house as Williams Plains. The Mulliken family retained ownership of the house through the 1860s.

In 1966, the present 4.983 acre parcel was separated from what still remained a fairly large tract, 100+ acres. Most of the larger tract, which surrounds the house was acquired in 1968 by the City of Bowie for development as a recreational park. The 4.983 acre plot was purchased by the present owners in 1978 (Deed Book 5001, page 813).

The name Williams Plains is given in the 1812 deed transferring title to John Johnson and in subsequent deeds. Earlier deeds refer to the property as the Plaines and Wilsons Plaine. Robert Wilson who owned the property in the late 17th century is probably the source of the latter name. No explanation for the name Williams Plains is known.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Prince George's County Land and Tax Records, Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Martenet, Simon J. Map of Prince George's County, Maryland, 1850.

Bowie, Effie Gwynn, Across the Years In Prince George's County.
n.p.: Garrett and Massie, 1947.

Aleshire, William, Robert F. Sellers and James Maher. Notes on file at Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.

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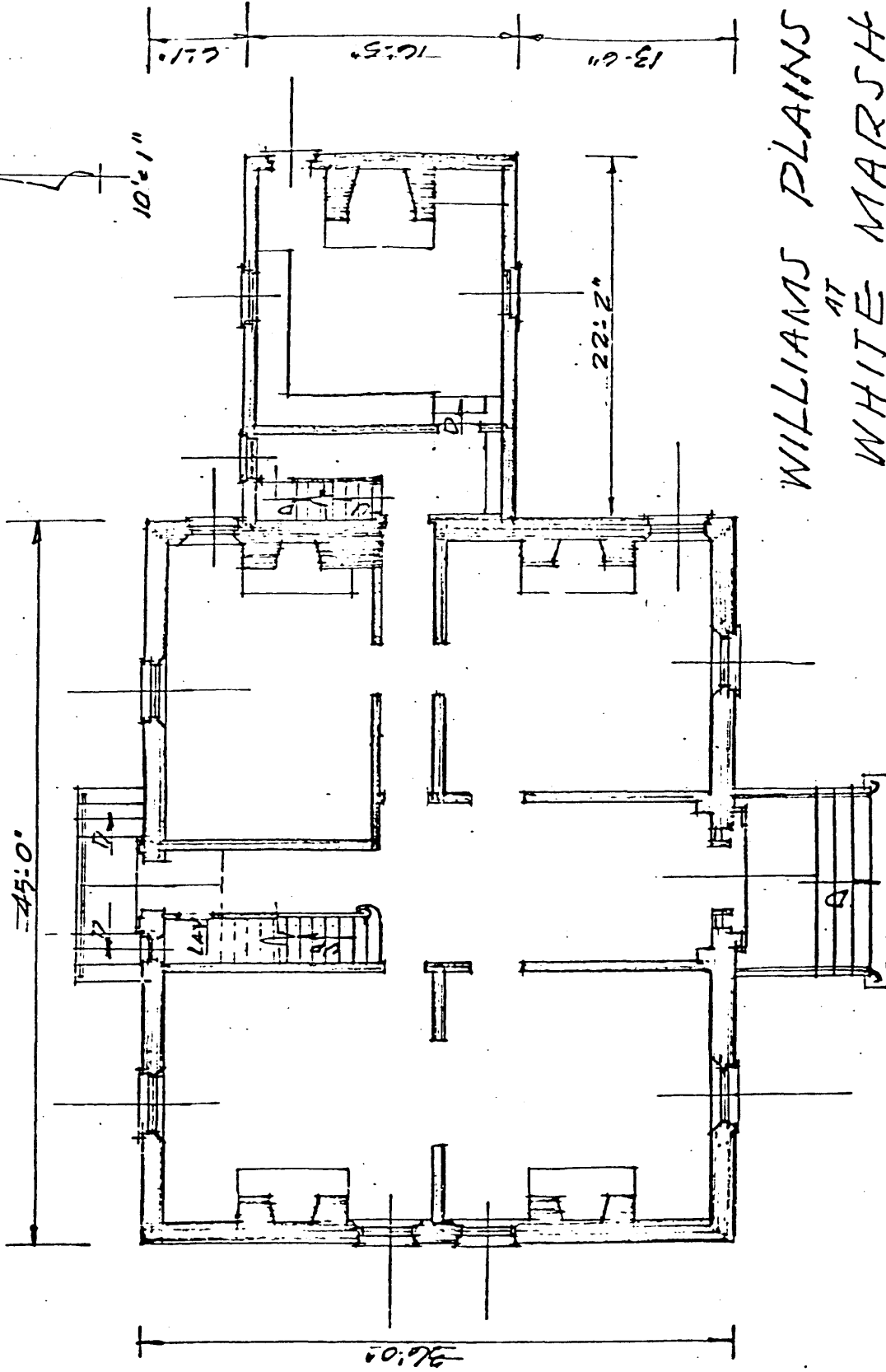
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Prince George's County Deed Book 5001, Page 814.

Located in Prince George's County, Maryland, beginning for the same at a pipe set S48 degrees 41 minutes 01 second, W. 744.50 feet from a pipe at the end of the 3rd or S. 47 degrees 48 minutes 20 second, E. 810.68 foot line of Parcel One as described in a conveyance from Willy D. Grusholt, et ux to M. Leo Storch, et ux by deed dated June 10, 1966, and recorded in the Land Records of Prince George's County, Maryland, in Liber 3336 Folio 509; thence, from the beginning point so fixed S. 80 degrees 59 minutes 43 seconds, W. 637.06 feet to a pipe set; thence, N. 04 degrees 56 minutes 30 second W 376.71 feet to a point in a barn; thence, N. 87 degrees 57 minutes 28 seconds, E. 651.41 feet to a pipe set; thence S. 02 degrees 32 minutes 32 seconds, E. 299.00 feet to the place of beginning.

Containing 4.983 acres of land, more or less, as now surveyed. Being part of Parcel One as described in a conveyance from Willy D. Grusholt, ex ux to M. Leo Storch, et ux by deed dated June 10, 1966 and recorded among the aforesaid Land Records in Liber 3336, Folio 509. Together with a right of way for ingress and egress over existing road leading from property hereby conveyed to Maryland State Road Route 3, it being mutually agreed that the grantors reserve the right to substitute another right-of-way at least comparable with the existing one.

(Note by the owner: the barn was removed before 1978; there now exists as the northwest mete an iron pipe. TFD 3/25/1980).



WILLIAMS PLAINS
 AT
 WHITE MARSH
 BOWIE, MD.

MR. & MRS. THEOPHRE DUTKO OWNERS
 JAMES F. MAHER AIA 11/10/79

Prince George's Co., Md.

OCT 28 1980