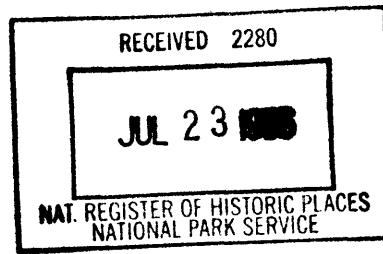


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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street & number 11842 Porfin Drive N/A  not for publication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

[Signature] 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:
- 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:)

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 8-22-96  
Edson H. Beall  
Entered in the National Register

Williams Grove  
Name of Property

Worcester Co., MD WO-12  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- 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.)

**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**

**Bibliography**

(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.)

1	1 8	4 8 6 5 0 0	4 2 3 4 6 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
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.

**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

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**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

**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 2

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**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

**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 3

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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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

WILLIAMS GROVE  
Worcester County  
Maryland

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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



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

WILLIAMS GROVE  
Worcester County  
Maryland

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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

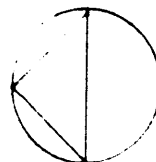
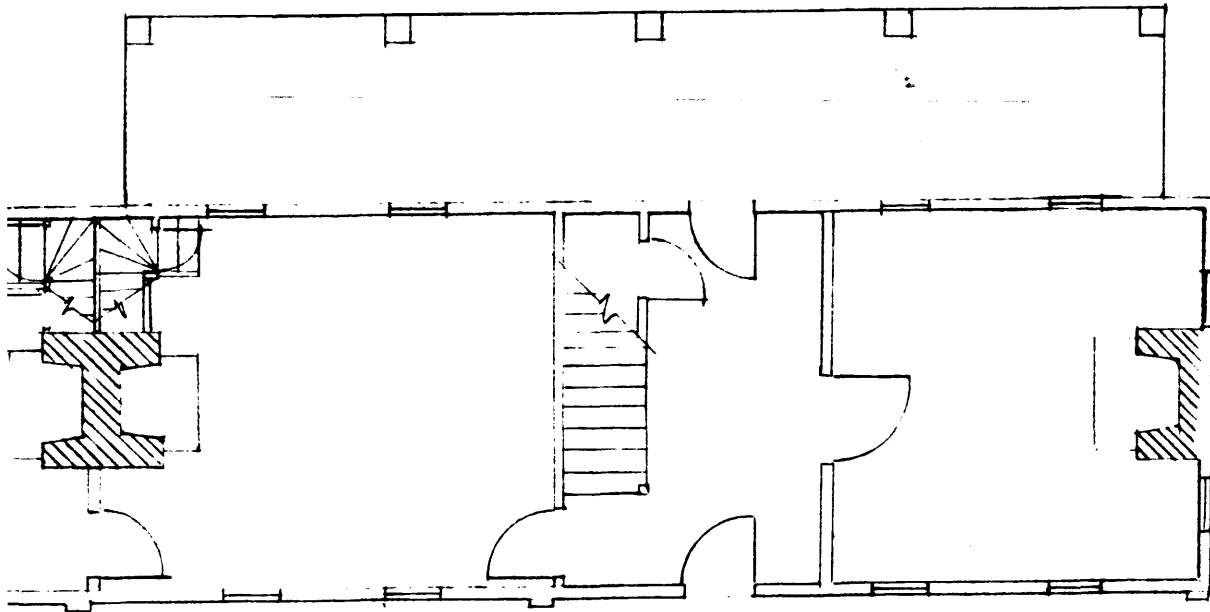
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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

WILLIAMS GROVE  
Worcester County  
Maryland

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SKETCH FLOOR PLAN - No Scale - Modern addition omitted



WILLIAMS GROVE	
BERLIN VICINITY.	
WORCESTER COUNTY	
WO-12	
<i>[Signature]</i>	PBT
APPROVED BY	

**United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

WILLIAMS GROVE  
Worcester County  
Maryland

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**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

**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

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**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

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation Sheet**

WILLIAMS GROVE  
Worcester County  
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**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.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

WILLIAMS GROVE  
Worcester County  
Maryland

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

WILLIAMS GROVE  
Worcester County  
Maryland

Section number 10 Page 11

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**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.