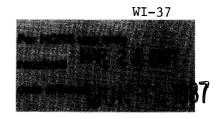
United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name	•			
historic	Western Fi	ields (preferred	)	
and/or common	Colonel Ph	nillips Farm		
2. Locat	tion			
street & number	Porter Mil	ll Road		N/A not for publication
city, town	Hebron	_X_ vicinity of	congressional district	First
state	Maryland code	24 county	Wicomico	<b>code</b> 045
3. Class	ification			
district _ _X building(s) _ structure _	Ownership  public  X private both  Public Acquisition in process being considered X not applicable	Status occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible _X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owne	er of Proper	ty		
name	Mr. and Mr	s. T. J. Mumford		
street & number	Crooked Oa	ak Lane		
city, town	Hebron	${{ m N/A}\over { m N}}$ vicinity of	state	Maryland 21830
5. Locat	tion of Lega	al Descripti	on	
courthouse, registr	y of deeds, etc.	Wicomico County	Clerk of Court	
street & number		Wicomico County	Courthouse	
city, town		Salisbury	state	Maryland 21801
	esentation	in Existing	Surveys	
Maryland	Historical Trust Sites Inventory			egible? yes _X no
date 1967			federal <u>X</u> sta	te county loca
depository for surv	ey records Mary	land Historical T	rust	
city, town	Anna	ipolis	state	Maryland 21401

Conditionexcellent _X good *fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one unalteredX altered	Check one _X_ original site moved date	N/A	

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Reso	urces	
Contributing	Noncontributing	Number of previously listed National
i, i	$\_$ $_1$ buildings	Register properties included in this
0	i_sites	nomination: $0$
0	<u> </u>	
0	o_objects	Original and historic functions and uses: agricultural and residential
<u> </u>	<u>3</u> Total	

### **DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:**

Description

Western Fields is a three-part frame "telescope" dwelling located near the village of Hebron in Wicomico County, Maryland. The stepped form of the house reflects several stages of construction, beginning in the fourth quarter of the 18th century with a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  story, hall/parlor dwelling; around 1845, a two-story, centerhall block was built and connected to the early house by a hyphen. The 18th century section is three bays wide, with a steeply pitched gable roof. Nine-over-six windows flank the central entrance on both the north and south elevations; the walls are sheathed in wide beaded weatherboards. The main block is four asymmetrical bays wide, with a central entrance on the south facade sheltered by a pedimented portico; Greek Revival influence is reflected in the two-panel front door surmounted by a six-light transom, and in the profiles of the bed and crown moldings incorporated in the portico and the building cornice. The house retains a hight degree of integrity, with the majority of its architectural fabric and decorative detailing intact/ The interior is characterized by Greek Revival trim including mantels, doors and architraves; the 18th-century section retains beaded joists and board partitions which survived the mid-19th-century reworking. Also on the property are an early 20th century tenant house and corn crib, and a small family cemetery. The tenant house and corncrib are of frame construction.

_X_ 1700-1799 _X_ 1800-1899	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications		ilterature military music timphilosophy politics/government	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	c. 1790; c. 1840	Builder/Architect	unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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

#### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

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

See Continuation Sheet No. 16.

GPO 894-785

10. Ged	ograp	hical l	Data			
Acreage of nomin Quadrangle name UTM References	TT 1		acres			Quadrangle scale 1:24,000
A 1 8 4 3 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2		412 514 Northing	3 17 10		18 4 3 19 ne Easting	9 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub> 0 4 <sub>1</sub> 2 5 <sub>1</sub> 3 7 <sub>1</sub> 8 <sub>1</sub> 0 Northing
C 118 431 E 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	9 6 8 0	4   2   5   3	7  8  0	D <u>  1</u> F <u>  _</u> H <u>  _</u>	18 43 <sub>1</sub> 9	6 <sub>1</sub> 8 <sub>1</sub> 0
Verbal boundar	y descript	ion and justi	fication			
See Cor	ntinuatio	n Sheet No	. 37.			
List all states a	ınd counti	es for prope	rties overl	apping state	or county bo	oundaries
state N/A		C	ode	county		code
state		c	ode	county		code
11. For	m Pre	pared	Ву	•		
name/title	Paul To	uart, Arch	itectura	ıl Historian	L	
organization					date	4 October 1986
street & number	Salisbu	ry Plantat	ion, P.	0. Box 5	telephone	(301) 651-1094
city or town	Westove	r			state	Maryland 21871
12. Sta	te His	storic	Pres	ervatio	n Offic	er Certification
The evaluated sig	nificance of	this property	within the	state is:		
	_ national	st	ate	_X local		
	ninate this p	roperty for in-	clusion in t	he National Reg	ister and certi	ervation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– ify that it has been evaluated
State Historic Pre	servation O	ficer signatur	e /	Mitta		3-19-87
title	STATE H	ISTORIC PE	RESERVATI	ON OFFICER		date
For NPS use of I Nereby cer	-	property is in	cluded in t	he National Regi	ister	date 6/12/87
Keeper of the	National Re	gister				
Attest:						date
Chief of Regis	tration					

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

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Continuation sheet Wicomico County

on sheet Wicomico County, Maryland

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### GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

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

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

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

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

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

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

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

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

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

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### HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

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

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

Construction of the story-and-a-half house is estimated to date from Benjamin Jr.'s ownership, which lasted until his death in 1798. Recorded by the federal tax assessors in the same year was, "I fraimed wood dwelling house, 1 story, 16 by 28; 1 fraimed wood cook house, 1 story, 18 by 20 feet; 1 log meathouse, 1 story 10 by 10, and 1 wood milkhouse, 7 by 9.4 Benjamin Venables bequeathed "all that tract of land that my father left me" to his son Richard in February of 1798. Richard Venables occupied "Western Fields" from 1798 until 1825.

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

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

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

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

Somerset County Rent Rolls, Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis. Somerset County Land Records, Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis.

<sup>3</sup> Somerset County Register of Wills, Somerset County Courthouse, 1782.

<sup>41748</sup> Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Somerset County, Benjamin Venables.

<sup>5</sup>Somerset County Register of Wills, EB 17/653, proved 2/19/1798.

Somerset County Land Records, Somerset County Courthouse, GH 2/290, 4/1/1825. 7 Somerset County Register of Wills, Somerset County Courthouse, JP 3/112,

Marriage record supplied by the Huguenot Society of America.

Somerset County Land Records, Somerset County Courthouse, LW 1/355, 10/2/1852. 10 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas, published in 1877 and reprinted by the

Wicomico County Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

11 Transfer referred to in 1885 deed between Jacob Tome and Ester M. Dashiell,

SPT 7/365, 7/17/1885.
12Wicomico County Land Records, Wicomico County Courthouse, SPT 7/365.

<sup>13</sup> Wicomico County Land Records, Wicomico County Courthouse, JTT 29/291,

<sup>5/21/1901</sup>.  $^{14}$ Wicomico County Register of Wills, Wicomico County Courthouse, , JAH 1/139, 3/16/1936.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Huguenot Society of America

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

1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Somerset County

Somerset County Land Records

Somerset County Wills

Wicomico County Land Records

Wicomico County Wills

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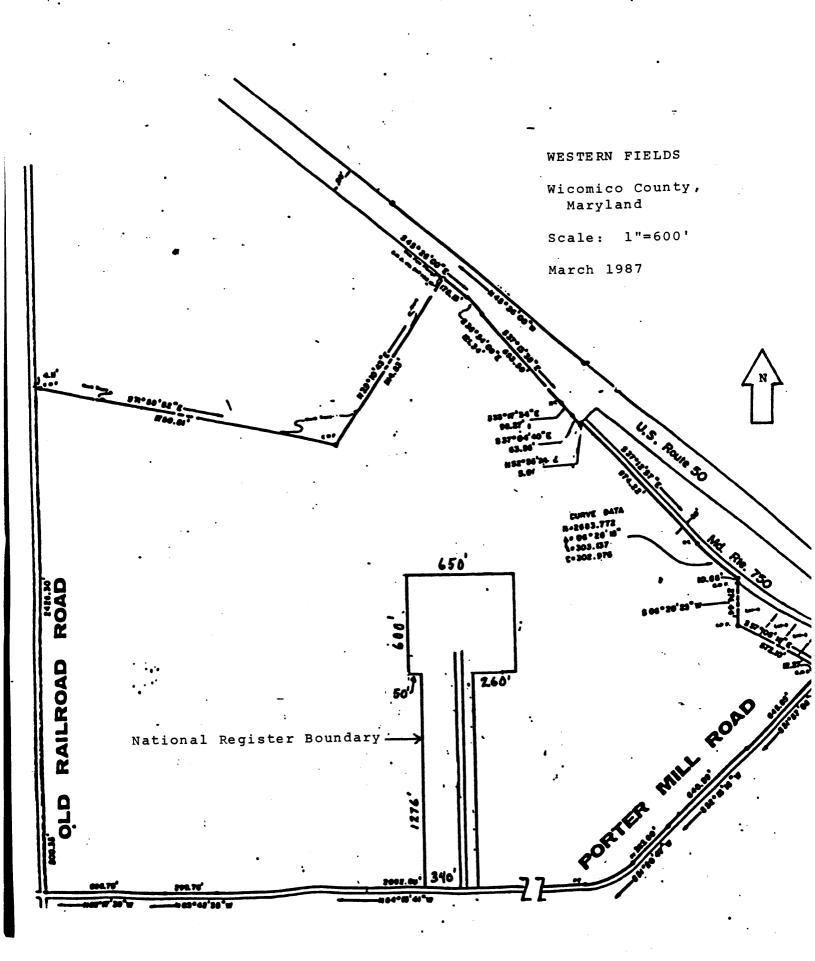
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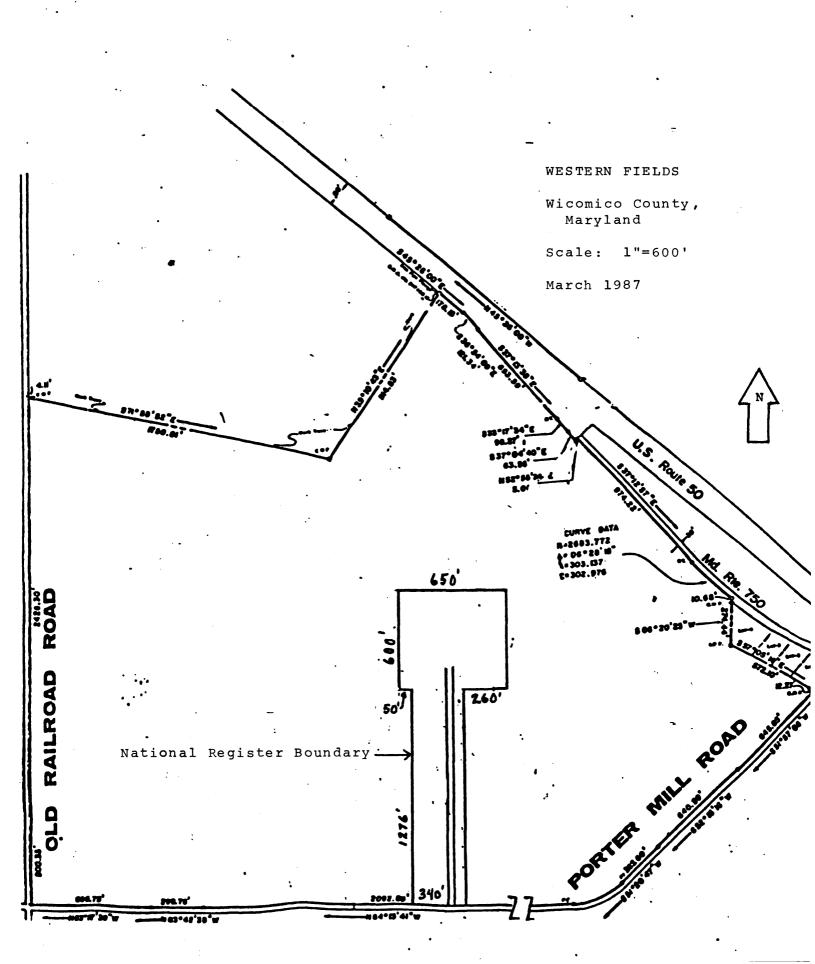
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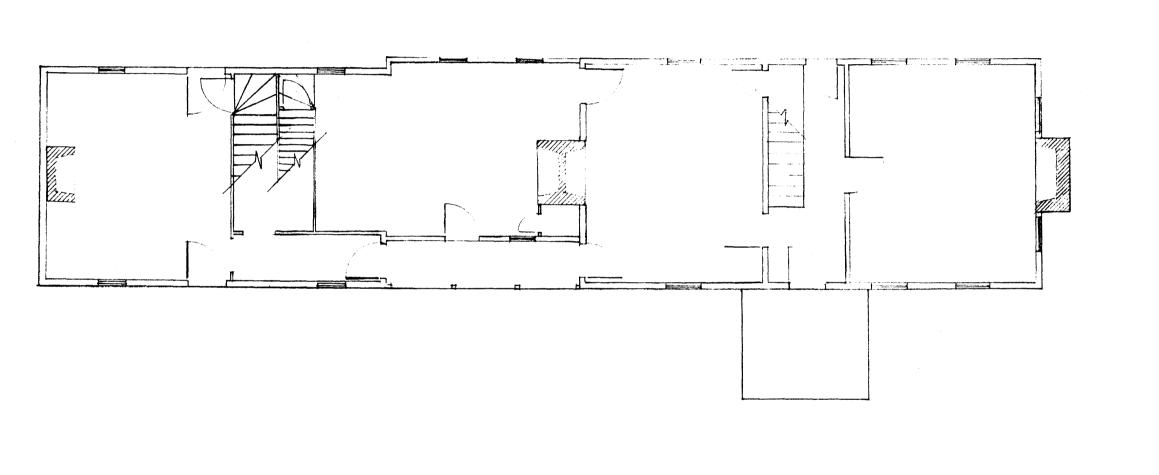
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

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

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







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WESTERN FIELD HERRON VICINITY

(COLUMEL PHILLIPS FARM) Porter Mill Road Wicomico County, MD

SCALE 1/9" = 1'0" APPROVED BY:

DATE 10/9/86

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HERRON VICINITY

PORTER MILLIPS FARM)

PROVED BY:

PAUL TOURKT

DRAWING NUMBER