

PH 0005436

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Somerset
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	AUG 13 1974

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
Reward

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Williams Point Farm

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: SW of Shelltown

Confluence of the Pocomoke River and Pocomoke Sound on Williams Point Road

CITY OR TOWN: Shelltown vicinity CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Somerset CODE: 039

#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. William S. Morsell

STREET AND NUMBER: Elkridge Estates

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Maryland Hall of Records Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: St. John's Campus, College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

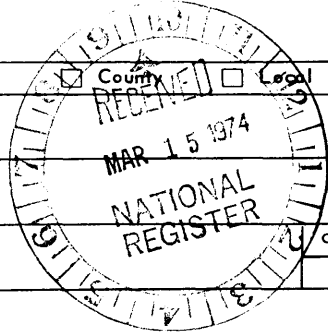
DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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COUNTY:	Somerset
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DATE:	

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Williams Point Farm, or the Reward, is located at the confluence of the Pocomoke River and Pocomoke Sound on Williams Point Road, about one mile southwest of Shelldown.

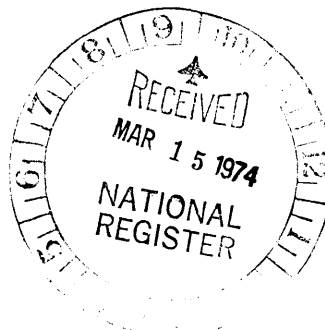
This one-and-one-half story dwelling has a steep gable roof with two diamond shaped chimney stacks piercing the east slope of the roof. The stacks join at the top two courses and rise well above the roof peak. The main block of the house is three bays wide and two deep and constructed of whitewashed brick laid in Flemish bond.

The south gable end, overlooking the water, has a center door with a single window, twelve over twelve, in each flanking bay. The three gable windows are tall and narrow, having nine over nine lights. Above these windows the gable is covered with white clapboard.

The north end has two windows in the second story and the same clapboard treatment in the gable. To the north is a one-and-one-half story wing attached to the main block by a hyphen. The north end of this wing is Flemish bond brick and the east and west sides are beaded clapboard. Two small, two over two light windows in the gable flank an inside end chimney with one of its bricks bearing the date 1794. There is one dormer on both the east and west sides of the wing and two on the west side of the main block.

The main block has a double parlor and a stair hall, each with a corner fireplace. The fireplace in the east parlor has two reeds in the pilasters and end blocks. The center tablet has two small squares of herringbone patterned reeding each surrounded by reeded concentric squares. In the west parlor the fireplace also has two reeds in the pilasters. The end blocks have a reeded herringbone motif and the center tablet has an Adamesque over sunburst with incised five-point stars in the spandrels. The fireplace in the stair hall is very simple with some reeding. The stairway is one run with winders and has simple round balusters. A bookcase on the north wall was formerly a doorway.

This small dwelling is nationally significant for its architectural interest as one of the few examples of diamond-shaped chimney stacks of an early period in this county.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Two diamond shaped chimney stacks give the Reward, or Williams Point Farm, unique architectural distinction in Maryland; no other building has been found in the state with this type of chimney. "What is almost as unusual as the discovery itself is that the date of these chimney stacks is as late as 1794, if the carving on the kitchen chimney is an indication. The diamond stack, meaning a chimney stack or shaft set diagonally on its base, originated in medieval England. In the late sixteenth century it seems the unusual chimney stacks were set square or diamond-like, and were built singly or in groups. The Reward is fortunate in having both types of shaft on the main house: a single square stack on the west side, and twin diamonds on the east....This dwelling was a major discovery for the history of southern architecture."<sup>1</sup>

In 1796 Thomas Williams (d. 1804) acquired 212 acres near the Pocomoke River, and is probably the builder of the structure now standing. The Federal Direct Tax Assessment for Somerset County for 1798 lists a house of similar dimensions and description as belonging to the heirs of Thomas Williams, and as occupied by his wife Martha Williams:

Situate on the mouth of Pokomoke River adjoining a fast landing on said River. 1 dwelling house 30 x 30 one story high with 3 windows 5 1/2 x 3 and 2 windows 4 1/2 x 2 1/2 and 4 windows 3 1/2 x 2 1/2. Brick walls and wood roof. 1 kitchen 18 x 22 with a covered way from said kitchen to the dwelling house of wood. 1 wood milk house 9 x 8 and 1 meat house 12 x 12 and 1 carriage house 22 x 10 all wood. Valued \$500.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Henry Chandlee Forman, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens, (New York: 1956), p. 23, 25.

<sup>2</sup>Federal Direct Tax Assessment. 1798. Somerset County, Particular List, Dwelling Houses, Pocomoke Hundred. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. The Thomas Williams referred to in the Tax Assessment was the father of the builder of the house.

(see continuation sheet)

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

PRIMARY SOURCES, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.  
 Chancery Papers.  
 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, of 1798. Somerset County.  
 Somerset County Judicial Records.  
 Somerset County Land Records.

SECONDARY SOURCES

Clark, Charles B. The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia:

(See Continuation Sheet)

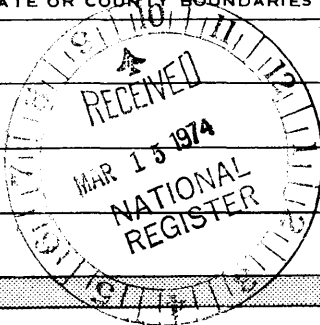
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	37°	58'	06"	75°	39'	32"	0	.	.
NE	37°	57'	56"	75°	39'	12"	0	.	.
SE	37°	57'	46"	75°	39'	21"	0	.	.
SW	37°	57'	59"	75°	39'	39"	0	.	.

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **32 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Ann Hill, Summer Intern and Lois Snyderman, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: Nov. 7, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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

National  State  Local

Name Orlando Ridout IV  
 Orlando Ridout, IV

Title State Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland

Date November 19, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

A. R. Mortensen  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/15/74

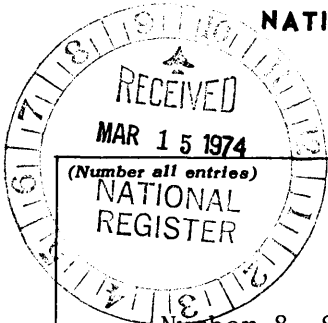
ATTEST:  
W. S. ...  
 Keeper of the National Register

Date 8-1-74

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COUNTY	
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet) 1



Reward

Number 8. Significance continued.

After Thomas Williams' death his lands were partitioned and that portion upon which the house was located was devised to his nephew Thomas Williams Wilkins, who sold it to Lodewick Milbourn in 1809. In his will, written in 1825, Milbourn left his property to his three sons, who appealed to the Chancery Court in 1838 for an equitable division of the estate.<sup>3</sup> All that part of the real estate described as "Pocomoke Farm" was subsequently sold to Moses C. Smith, the owner of a hotel in Princess Anne. Advertisements listing estate sales were regularly put up at his hotel in the 1840's, as well as at a hotel belonging to Theodore G. Dashiell and at the courthouse.

The Reward is located on part of a 400 acre tract of land which was known as Glyneath in 1663 when it was granted to Jenkin Price. Re-surveyed in 1683 for 850 acres, the enlarged tract was renamed the Entrance.

Williams Point was called Penfax Point in the 1670's, after Jenkin Price sold Glyneath to Daniel Penfax of London. Somerset court records for 1696 described an early road which ran from Penfax Point to the courthouse, in a northwesterly direction, along the west side of the Pocomoke River. Jenkin Price was himself a road surveyor for Somerset County in 1666, empowered "to act according to the Act of Assembly in regard to making a highway."

A portion of the Entrance was acquired in 1687 by Stephen White, and granted by him to Elias White, his brother, in 1752. Their father, John White, played a prominent role in Somerset County affairs. Arriving in Maryland about 1664, he was made a member of the Commission of the Peace for the Eastern Shore in 1665 and 1666, sat on the first court for Somerset County in 1666, and was named in successive commissions to the court in 1669, 1672, 1675, and 1676. In 1669 John White was made the captain of a company of horse, in 1678 he served as a representative from Somerset County to the Lower House of the Maryland Assembly, and in 1681 he was appointed county sheriff.

<sup>3</sup>Chancery Papers #8427, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet) 2

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Somerset	
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AUG 19 1974	

(Number all entries)

Reward

Number 9. Major Bibliographical References continued.

- 3 volumes. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1950.
- Forman, Henry Chandlee. Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens.  
New York: Bonanza Books, 1956.
- Richardson, Hester Dorsey. Side-Lights on Maryland History. 2 volumes  
Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins. 1913.
- Torrence, William Clayton. Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of  
Maryland. reprint. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company. 1966.

