

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 "Williams' Conquest", "Williams' Green"

and/or common Williams' Conquest (preferred)

## 2. Location

street & number Charles Cannon Road n/a not for publication

city, town Marion Station *vic*  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Somerset code 039

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Thomas George

street & number Route 1, Box 226

city, town Marion Station n/a vicinity of state Maryland 21838

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Register of Deeds

street & number Somerset County Courthouse

city, town Princess Anne state Maryland 21853

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Historic Sites Inventory

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1967  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

S-64

**Condition**  
 excellent     deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair              unexposed

**Check one**  
 unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**  
 original site  
 moved    date   n/a  

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

Number of Resources		Number of previously listed
Contributing	Noncontributing	National Register properties
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  2  </u> buildings	included in this nomination: <u>  0  </u>
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> sites	
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  1  </u> structures (pool)	Original and historic functions
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> objects	and uses: residential
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  3  </u> Total	

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Williams' Conquest is a 1½ story Flemish bond brick house constructed ca. 1733 on Gales Creek near Marion in Somerset County, Maryland. The house rests on a partially excavated basement, facing southeast, and has a steeply pitched gable roof covered in wood shingles. Attached to the southwest gable end is a ca. 1825-1850 frame kitchen, with a smaller utility wing added in 1968. On the interior, the original hall/parlor plan was altered to a three-room configuration very early in the building's history (c. 1740-1750). The interior woodwork was also installed at that time, and includes overmantel paneling; cornices; fireplace surrounds; baseboard, chair rail, and architrave moldings; and paneled doors. The bold diamond design of the overmantel paneling is unique in Somerset County, and is similar to that of Bounds Lott, a c. 1740 dwelling in Wicomico County, Maryland.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input 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**      c. 1733–1740      **Builder/Architect**      unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Applicable Criterion: C  
Criteria Exceptions: none  
Level of Significance for evaluation: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

"Williams' Conquest" is architecturally significant for several reasons. First, it is one of a small collection (approximately eight) early 18th-century story-and-a-half manor houses in Somerset County. Like the other houses in the group, "Williams' Conquest" is distinguished by glazed header checkerboard patterns on each wall. However, the early "Georgian" period paneling that finishes each first floor room is unique in the county, and stands out among the most ambitious early 18-century woodwork on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It is similar in design to paneling at Bounds Lott, a c. 1740 dwelling in Wicomico County. The three-room plan is a significant aspect of the development of the house since it is evident the structure was initially built as a hall/parlor house. Lastly, houses such as "Williams' Conquest" represent the first phase of permanent Somerset County buildings that have survived to modern times. In the specific history of this property, this building appears to be the second structure erected on this site.

For History and Supporting Documentation, see Continuation Sheet No. 4

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

S-64

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 13.1 acres

Quadrangle name Marion, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A	1 8	4 3 3 3 4 0	4 2 1 4 1 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1 8	4 3 3 2 3 0	4 2 1 3 7 5 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1 8	4 3 2 9 1 0	4 2 1 4 0 9 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheets Nos. 6 and 7

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state		code	county	code
-------	--	------	--------	------

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart - Architectural Historian

organization Somerset County Historical Trust date 18 October 1983

street & number Somerset County Courthouse telephone Home 301-651-1094

city or town Princess Anne state Maryland 21853

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

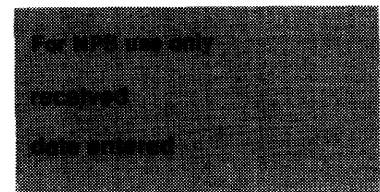
State Historic Preservation Officer signature J. Miller 3-20-84

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>J. Allore Byrum</u>	Entered in the National Register date <u>5/3/84</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Williams' Conquest Item number 7 Page 1  
Somerset County, Maryland

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

"Williams' Conquest" stands on a 13.1 acre tract of land bordering Gales Creek, a tributary of the Big Annessex River. An ell-shaped dirt lane leads to the house from Charles Cannon Road. The entrance is approximately 1.5 miles from Kingston, Maryland, and MD 413. Surrounding the house is a generous lawn, and directly adjacent a recently-built office, workshop and in-ground pool.

The exact construction date for this important Somerset County dwelling has not been established, but from architectural evidence discovered during restoration, the house is slightly older than its c. 1740-1750 interior woodwork. Evidently, the present house was built around 1733-1740 on the site of an earlier structure (foundation remnants under house). Due to finished plaster surfaces under the dining room paneling, it is suggested that the paneling for at least the dining room and study is a slightly later renovation. In addition, the wall between the dining room and study was evidently added at the same time. This converted a hall/parlor house into a three-room plan structure.

The one-and-one-half story Flemish bond brick house faces southeast with the gable running northeast to southwest. The five bay three-room plan structure rests on a partially excavated basement and is covered by a steeply pitched wood shingle roof. Attached to the southwest end is a c. 1825-1850 one-room frame kitchen, and extending further, is a smaller utility wing that was added in 1968.

The southeast or land facade is a symmetrical five bay elevation with a glazed header, checkerboard design. A beveled water table defines the base of the house. Each opening has a segmental brick arch. The flat six-panel center door is a later replacement as are the two adjacent 4/4 sash windows. The two other window openings contain 9/9 sash and each window has paneled shutters. A boxed cornice with bed molding stretches across at the base of the roof. Located above the cornice are three gabled dormers with diagonal board sides and 6/6 sash. One significant seam in the brickwork around the second window from the left indicates that a door was once located in this bay.

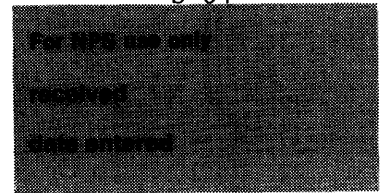
Around the northwest gable end, the glazed header design continues along with the beveled water table. In addition, a row of glazed headers runs directly below and parallel with the plain bargeboard. A two-row belt-course divides the floor levels and four small four-pane windows pierce the end wall; two on each floor. The chimney stack has been rebuilt.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

S-64



Williams' Conquest

Continuation sheet

Somerset County, Maryland

Item number

7

Page

2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The northwest or water facade is an asymmetrical three bays with a centrally located four-panel door and adjacent 9/9 sash. The glazed headers (and brickwork in general) have survived in better condition than the other two sides. An exterior cellar entrance is located to the right of the door. Three dormers pierce this roof slope as well.

To the southwest is a single story one-room frame kitchen wing covered with a steeply pitched wood shingle roof and sheathed with a combination of beaded and plain weatherboards. An exterior chimney, now largely covered by the 1968 addition, rises on the gable end. The kitchen wing is not the full height of the main block, so the same glazed header design is evident on this end, as is the water table and part of the belt-course. An enclosed shed porch extends from the northwest (water) side of the kitchen. To the southwest is the shorter one-room utility area sheathed with beaded weatherboards. A small gabled stoop added in 1975 finishes the series of descending gables.

The first floor of the brick house is divided into three rooms with the main room, or hall, consuming more than half of the first floor space. The hall measures 21'7" across by 20'8" deep, while the dining room is 17'1" by 12'. The study, or first floor bedroom, is 13'7½" by 8'4". The ceiling heights remain at a constant 10'3" and are treated with exposed joists with beaded corners.

The end wall paneling of the hall stands out as one of the most unusual designs in Somerset County. Three diamond panels are set on a large raised panel and flanked by short, fluted pilasters which support the heavily molded and complex cornice. The pilasters terminate at the level of the mantel shelf. Below the independent shelf is a smaller frieze molding, and finally, the heavy bolection molding surrounds the 7'8" hearth. To the right of the hearth is a small four-panel closet door with H-L hinges. (A similar overmantel exists at Bounds Lott, a c. 1740 dwelling in Wicomico County, Maryland.) The closet is surrounded by five raised panels. Directly left of the hearth is the winder stair with a two-panel door opening into the storage space below. The stair begins with a straight flight of five exposed steps, with the remaining steps enclosed behind a large, four-panel door. The handrail is of a later date with a square newel post and rectangular balusters. The rest of the room is simply treated with a modest chair rail, window trim and molded baseboard.

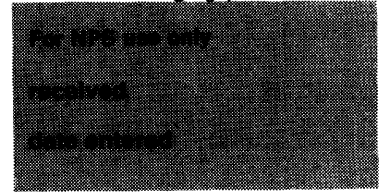
The dining room is treated in a similar manner with a raised panel chimney breast. The same heavy cornice stretches above four raised panels which comprise the over-mantel. An independent mantel shelf is located directly below the overmantel paneling and above the bolection molding. A deep arched fire box contains a smoke flue against the back wall.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

S-64



Continuation sheet Williams' Conquest Somerset County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 3

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

To the left of the chimney breast is a small alcove which has a door opening into the kitchen. During the 1968 restoration of the house, a series of stair tread holes were discovered in the two masonry walls. Located on the second floor is a patch in the flooring. Both these features indicate the location of an earlier stair. Another feature uncovered in restoration was the sloped plaster sides to the chimney stack in the dining room. This original surface was covered with the addition of the c. 1740 raised panel chimney breast. Finally, the original hearth lintel is located a foot-and-a-half above the present arched openings. These features indicate the rooms were paneled after initial construction as well as divided by the stud partition.

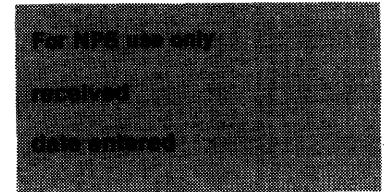
Presently, a five-panel door opens into the smallest first floor room which contains a similar, paneled hearth wall. The space next to the hearth is enclosed for a closet.

The second floor has been partitioned into two bedrooms with a bathroom between. Floor joists, also serving as collar beams, are treated with a bead on each corner. A small access panel provides entry into a crawl space with exposed common rafter roof system. At the peak, the rafters are lapped and pinned. In 1935, drawings were completed for the eave construction which is now inaccessible. The drawing indicates a tilted false plate on which the rafters rest. A wood pin holds the tilted plate in position.

The one-room kitchen has been converted to a modern service wing with adjacent utility room and enclosed porch. Doors and windows have been replaced with old materials. The hearth is filled with an iron stove.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Williams' Conquest Item number 8 Page 4  
Somerset County, Maryland

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

On the 8th day of February, 1663, Michael Williams was granted, "a parcell of Land (called Williams Conquest) Situate lying and being in Annemessex River on the Southernmost side of the River. Beginning at a little Creek, called Williams Creek.."1 The three hundred acres were granted unto Michael Williams in consideration of the transportation by Michael of six persons into this province here to inhabit.2. A year before his death, Michael Williams, along with his second wife, Patience Brown, granted the 300 acre tract of "Williams' Conquest" to William Planner for the sum of twenty-six thousand pounds of tobacco..."3 William Planner owned the property along with several other tracts until his death in 1733. His estate was appraised in October of the following year and contained six pages of goods and chattels, nineteen slaves and a total valuation of £1268.4 In William Planner's will he leaves his estate to Thomas Williams. By this time, "Williams' Conquest" was known as "Williams' Adventure" for which Thomas Williams was taxed in 1733.5 Thomas Williams died in 1768 and left to his grandsons Planner, Thomas, David and Levin various parts of his extensive holdings. Contained within Thomas Williams' inventory of 1769 was an extraordinary amount of linens and sundry items of material; his total estate valued at £1158.6

With all facts considered, Thomas Williams probably erected this story-and-a-half brick manor house soon after he inherited the property from William Planner in 1733. The covered-over plaster surfaces in the dining room suggest the house was finished over a period of ten to twenty years.

In 1783, Thomas Williams, son of Thomas, was assessed for 415 acres known as "Williams Green" (a resurvey) and a total estate valued at £2780.7 Fifteen years later the property was visited again by the assessors, who found,

1 dwelling house built of brick 45 feet by 23 feet,  
5 windows 5½ feet by 2½ feet 6 dormant windows 4 feet  
by 2½ feet 1 kitchen 20 feet by 16 1 milk house 16 feet  
by 10 feet 1 smoake house 12 feet square, the above  
house out of repair, the above house is one storey  
high.8

Thomas Williams' land assessment in the same year included,

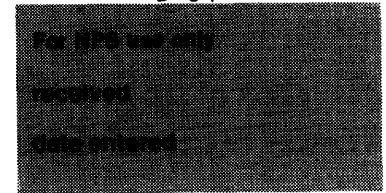
2 tracts of land called Boston Town 285 acres,  
Williams Green 415 acres, in the whole 700 acres  
on which are 1 barn 23 feet by 20 feet, two 8  
feet shades 1 tobacco house 32 feet by 20 feet  
1 corn house 27 feet by 7 feet ½ acre deducted and  
house - on the above lands is store  
house 22 feet by 20 feet.9



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

S-64

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Williams' Conquest Somerset County, Maryland Item number 8 Page 5

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Thomas Williams died four years later and devised unto his wife, Mary Williams, the, "one half part of all my lands whereon I now live (except the Store House and lot of ground and the head of the Creek field whereon my son William Williams lives) and also my dwelling house and out houses garden and orchards..."<sup>10</sup> A subsequent item in Thomas Williams' will bequeaths to his son Thomas, "... all that part of my said lands whereon I live which lie to the south of the above described lines and limits as mentioned in the clause to my son William, reserving to my beloved wife the one half part hereof during her natural life or widowhood."<sup>11</sup> Thomas Williams died in 1829 and in his will he leaves his entire estate to his brother William Williams.<sup>12</sup>

"Williams Green" remained in various family hands until 1871 when it was sold by Thomas J. Dixon, Sheriff of Somerset County, to Daniel Middleton Jr. of the city of Washington and District of Columbia.<sup>13</sup> Since the late 19th-century 290 acres had accompanied the house until Philip and Alice Stinchcomb bought thirteen acres immediately surrounding the then derelict house in 1963.<sup>14</sup> The present owners purchased the same thirteen acres in 1973.<sup>15</sup>

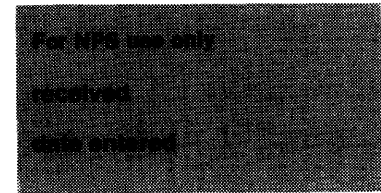
Footnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Somerset County Rent Rolls, Liber AA 447/203, February 8, 1663.
- <sup>2</sup> Somerset County Rent Rolls, Liber AA 447/203.
- <sup>3</sup> Somerset County Land Record, L 2/496, February 4, 1698.
- <sup>4</sup> Somerset County Probate Records, Inventory of Major William Planner, Liber 36/663, October 14, 1734.
- <sup>5</sup> Somerset County Tax Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, 1733.
- <sup>6</sup> Somerset County Probate Records, Inventory of Captain Thomas Williams, Liber 99/296, 1768.
- <sup>7</sup> 1783 Somerset County Tax Assessment, Thomas Williams, Great Annemessex Hundred.
- <sup>8</sup> 1798 Federal Direct Tax - Particular List of Dwelling Houses, Great Annemessex, Thomas Williams.
- <sup>9</sup> 1798 Federal Direct Tax, Particular List of Lands, Great Annemessex Hundred, Thomas Williams.

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Williams' Conquest

Continuation sheet Somerset County, Maryland Item number 8, 9 and 10 Page 6

Footnotes (continued)

- <sup>10</sup> Somerset County Will Book, E.B. 23/57, November 23, 1802.
- <sup>11</sup> Somerset County Will Book, E.B. 23/57.
- <sup>12</sup> Somerset County Will Book, L.P. 4/154 July, 14, 1829.
- <sup>13</sup> Somerset County Land Records, LW 13/204, 12/13/1871.
- <sup>14</sup> Somerset County Land Records, G L B 215/350, 4/22/1963.
- <sup>15</sup> Somerset County Land Records, ITP 271/272, 2/2/1973.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1783 Tax Assessment for Somerset County - Great Annemessex Hundred - Thomas Williams.
- 1798 Federal tax for Somerset County - Particular List of Dwelling Houses and Lands - Great Annemessex Hundred - Thomas Williams.
- Somerset County Land Records, various volumes - Somerset County Courthouse.
- Somerset County Probate Records, various volumes. Hall of Records, Annapolis.
- Somerset County Rent Rolls, Hall of Records, Annapolis.
- Somerset County Tax Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis.
- Somerset County Wills, various volumes, Somerset County Courthouse.
- Torrence, Clayton. Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore. Baltimore Regional Publishing Co. 1966.

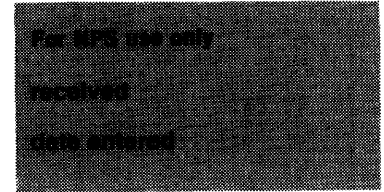
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning for the same at a concrete post on the northwest bank of a ditch at the southernmost corner of the land herein described, which said concrete post is indicated on the plat by the letter "A"; thence (1) North 38° 25' West 842 feet to a concrete post placed on the south shore of Gales Creek; thence by and with the shore of Gales Creek the five following courses and distances: (2) North 36° 45' east 385.0 feet; (3) North 84° 05' East 260.0 feet; (4) South 53° 10' East (80.0 feet; (5) North 55° 0" East 140.0 feet; (6) South 57° 50' East 280.0 feet to the mouth of a gut; thence by and with said gut the four following courses and distances: (7) South 27° 20' West 245.0 feet; (8) South

S-64

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Williams' Conquest  
Continuation sheet Somerset County, Maryland Item number 10 Page 7

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (continued)

17° 00' West 150.00 feet; (9) South 15°00 West 140.0 feet; (10) South 35°03' West 270.07 feet to a culvert under a farm lane and the center of a ditch; thence by and with the center of said ditch (11) 51° 33 West 160.0 feet to the first mentioned concrete post and place of beginning, containing thirteen acres more or less. See attached plat.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The 13.1 acres accompanying the house in nomination surround the house and spread out in a fan shape on Gales Creek. In addition to the boundary along the creek, the other two sides of the triangular shaped property follow along water courses. With this acreage the northwest vista of water frontage will be preserved.

