



# Somerset County Historical Trust **Tribune**

*Preserving the Legacy of Somerset County*

## **Annual Meeting 2021**

We were pleased to see so many old friends at the annual Trust meeting on September 24th. Now familiar with covid protocols, we were finally able to gather safely for an outdoor reunion.

After check-in and social hour, the official meeting was called to order, with reading of the Treasurer’s report and election of officers. Randy George was re-elected chairman, John Orth vice chairman, Regina Bell treasurer, and Gina Gerhard secretary.

Following the business meeting, seven outstanding citizens chosen by the Trust board were honored for their work in Historical and Cultural Preserva-

tion. Senator Mary Beth Carozza assisted in the honors by awarding Maryland Senate citations to each of the awardees. Mary Fleury, Charlotte Sharf and Randy George presented pewter plaques to each recipient of the Somerset County Historical Trust Preservation Award (see below for details).



*Clayton Anderson and Orlando Taylor receiving award on behalf of Princess Anne Town Commissioners*

listing available salvage materials, and a Contractors & Services Directory as a resource for historic homeowners.

Thanks to all who attended. We really look forward to your input and participation during the coming year. We cherish our unique Somerset architectural and cultural heritage, and realize that it cannot be permanent. Our historical artifacts will continue to succumb to the elements, to changes in fashion, and to the aging memory of what we once deemed important. Thanks to all for your caring and for your efforts.

*Randy George*

### Contents

Annual Meeting 2021 .....	1
Preservation Awards .....	2
Teackle Letter Project .....	3
Architectural History of Somerset .....	4-5
Renew your Membership .....	back



# Preservation Awards

2021

We are proud to announce this year's Awardees of the **Somerset County Historical Trust's Preservation Awards**. Private and/or public funding supported the projects being recognized, and the Somerset County Historical Trust is dedicated to helping preserve those properties.

## Outstanding Restoration of an Historic Property

For excellence in the restoration or rehabilitation of a dilapidated, neglected, or damaged historic property while preserving the essential features significant to its architectural and cultural integrity.

- 🌀 Eric Jodlbauer and Sarah Timko-Jodlbauer for the Beauchamp House, Princess Anne
- 🌀 Town of Princess Anne Commissioners for the Election House, Princess Anne

## Outstanding Adaptive Reuse of Historic Buildings

For the successful adaptive reuse of an historic building for a new purpose, with sensitivity to the building's character-defining features, architectural integrity and economic impact of the project on the local community.

- 🌀 Sharon Upton for Somerset Choice Station, Princess Anne and St. Mark's Chapel, Westover
- 🌀 Paul Thornton's Craftsmen, Inc. for multiple residential rehabilitations in the Mt. Vernon and Princess Anne areas



*For more  
on the  
awardees and  
their projects,  
go to  
[schtrust.org/  
awards](http://schtrust.org/awards)*

## Community Stewardship

This award honors individuals for their extraordinary leadership and dedication to the preservation, restoration and enhancement of structures, streetscapes, character and culture of historic districts in Somerset County.

- 🌀 Jay Tawes - Crisfield
- 🌀 Dennis Williams - Princess Anne

# Elizabeth Upshur Teackle Letter Project



The Trust is actively transcribing the extensive collection of letters of the mistress of the Teackle Mansion written between 1800 and 1853.

Married at age 17 to Littleton Dennis Teackle, Elizabeth Upshur Teackle documented her own life and that of her extensive household in letters to her husband, her sister in Virginia, and her daughter. Mrs. Teackle painted a portrait of privileged life in Princess Anne in the first half of the 19th century. Excerpts provide just a cursory view of her day-to-day activities, interests, and challenges.

In November 1800 shortly after her marriage and relocation to Princess Anne, she wrote:

*“Our town yet continues sickly - yesterday morning a fine young girl fell a sacrifice to the bilious fever after a short indisposition – one of our neighbors died out of the same house. From the specimen I have had, Somerset is the most unhealthy place I have ever lived in – such instances of mortality around me are so frequent that my mind has become callous to the melancholy feelings which on such occasions it was formerly susceptible of...”*

Writing to a relative in Philadelphia in April 1813, she penned:

*“Where do you think we are all to dine tomorrow? Why at the Washington Hotel. Old Zadoc, it seems, on the return of his reform’d prodigal son Tubby with a rich wife of fortune, had dub’d it expedient to give us all as much as we can eat - all the genteel people in the county are invited, & all are going, so they say. They say Tub’s wife is of a really genteel family from the western shore – & a woman of education!!”*

With most of the letters now transcribed, the task now is to organize them into the decades of Elizabeth’s life and to give them historical context, in preparation for publication. The project is being supported entirely by donations.

Help support this project on GIVING TUESDAY November 30th

**DONATE AT [WWW.SHOREGIVESMORE.ORG/SOMERSETCOUNTYHISTORICALTRUST](http://WWW.SHOREGIVESMORE.ORG/SOMERSETCOUNTYHISTORICALTRUST)**

# Architectural History of Somerset

## The early-mid 18th century

Somerset planters continued to grow tobacco into the mid 1700s along with corn and wheat, and they exported flour, pork, livestock and lumber to Europe and the West Indies. The neighboring counties to the north focused on corn, and Worcester focused on cypress, yellow pine and other lumber products and the manufacture of cloth and shoes. Tobacco was used as a primary currency until about 1715, when the Pound Sterling became more accessible.

As settlement in the area became more established, privileged 2nd and 3rd generation descendants of early settlers amassed considerable property, often secured through strategic marriage and business partnerships. Individuals seized control of key state and local public offices and shaped life on the Eastern Shore well into the 19th century.



*Waddy House c 1756*

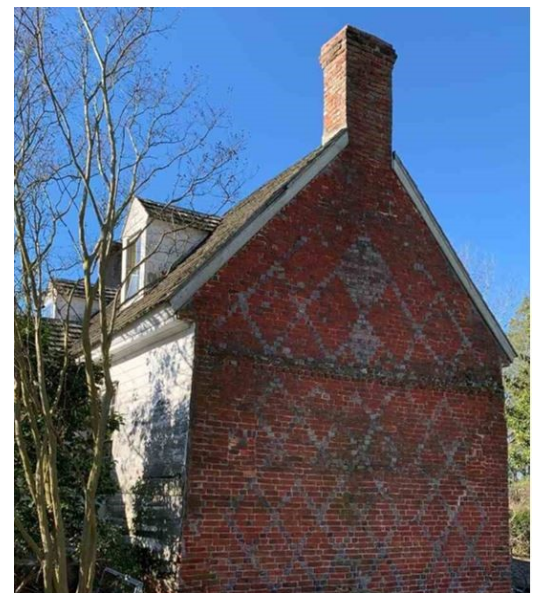
With less available land for settlement, there was a gradual shift from indentured service to the use of slave labor. Slavery became more legally institutionalized and irrevocable during this period. Though some free blacks formed communities and owned small farms, this era allowed them little upward economic opportunity.

Large and medium-sized planters and yeoman farmers were served by a growing population of merchants and artisans (carpenters, black-

smiths, shoemakers, tanners, weavers) and the enhanced local and regional economy promoted the establishment of towns and county seats. Princess Anne was established in 1733 and by the 1740s, population increase and expansion merited splitting the county to create Worcester County, with Snow Hill as county seat, and Somerset County with Princess Anne.

Settlement style hall-and-parlor plan dwellings continued to be built during this period. Some examples that have survived include the Waddy House, Makepeace, Salisbury, Beauchamp, Williams Conquest, Sudler's Conclusion, The Reward, and Harrington.

The booming mixed agriculture economy of the mid-18th century proved extremely lucrative, and this increase in wealth allowed major and medium sized planters to make improvements to their properties and start building more elaborate, sophisticated residences in the Georgian style.



*Brick end with glazed header pattern, Beauchamp House*

## The early-mid 18th century (cont'd)

These more sophisticated plantation houses represent the emergence of the full brick center-passage house, marking the transition away from the prevailing hall-and-parlor style of previous generations. They were of grander scale, marked by symmetry, balance and formality with elaborate brickwork, larger casement windows and pseudo-classical details which included pediments, columns, quoins or corner blocks, and Palladian elements. They exhibited refined interior detailing and a more formal plan that mediated between public and private spaces.

Some examples of these Georgian style homes that have survived are Arlington, Hayward's Lott, Waterloo, and Almodington (whose extravagant Georgian paneling was removed and then installed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art).

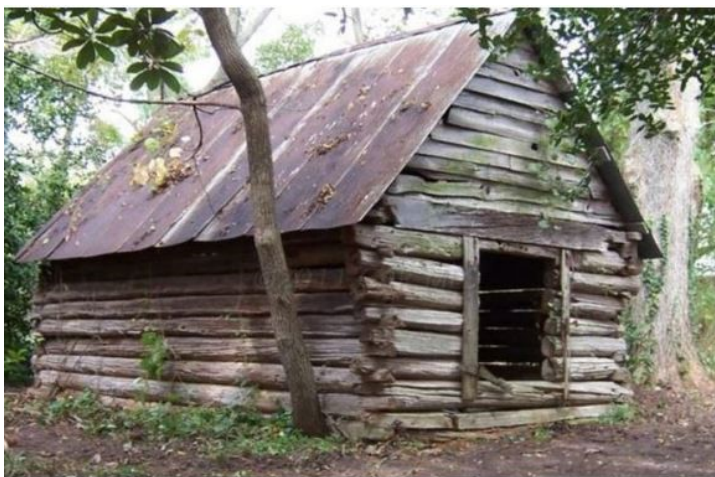


*Almodington c 1750*

*Photo credit: Catherine C. Lavoie*

These grander homes were designed to be approached both from the water landing as well as the main highroad, typically with a long straight avenue lined with tall trees on both sides whose branches almost formed an arbor. Gardens were laid out on an axis between the rear of the main house and the landing on the waters edge. "Falles" was the name given to grass terraces, and "forthrights" were the straight walks through the garden. Formal trimmed hedges laid out in geometric fashion with pathways were termed "parterres", with ornamental flowers planted within the spaces. Garden design began to veer away from the geometric to more romantic naturalistic forms in the 19th century.

Many of these stately homes from this period still survive due to their superior construction and high-quality materials, but there were many smaller, average, less substantial structures that did not endure. Most of these modest dwellings and outbuildings, built with logs or hewn and sawn lumber, have disappeared from the landscape with only a few surviving examples.



*Log outbuilding on Glebe House property  
(example of period log structure)*



*Kingston Hall ice house  
photo courtesy of Jim & Simone Theiss*

## Somerset County Historical Trust

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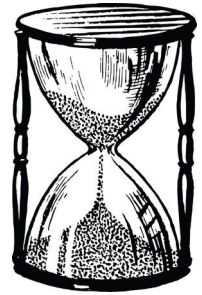


<http://schtrust.org>  
[info@schtrust.org](mailto:info@schtrust.org)

## It's time to Renew ...

We hope you consider renewing your membership to the Trust - which now run on the calendar year.

Starting on December 1st, you can renew online or by mail -- see the enclosed sheet for all the details.



## Help spread the word . . .

We thank all of you for your ongoing support of the Trust. You can help us grow our membership by encouraging interested neighbors and friends to become members of the Trust.

Our website [schtrust.org](http://schtrust.org) explains the Trust's mission and ongoing work in the areas of preservation and stewardship. Go to our Join Us page [schtrust.org/join](http://schtrust.org/join) for info on how to open or renew a membership.