

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
~~SHORT FORM FOR INELIGIBLE PROPERTIES~~

Property Name: Sunderland Polling House MHP No. CT-1306
Address: 6250 N. Solomons Island Road (MD 4)
City: ~~Sunderland~~ Huntingtown Zip Code: ~~20689~~ 20639 County: Calvert
USGS Quadrangle(s): ~~Lower Marlboro~~ North Beach
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 112 Tax Map Number: 11
Project: Relocation of Sunderland Polling House Agency: SHA and Calvert County Government
Agency Prepared By: Calvert County Planning & Zoning
Preparer's Name: Kirsti Uunila Date Prepared: 03/23/2006

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: Eligibility not recommended
Complete if the property is a non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: _____ yes Listed: _____ yes

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Sunderland Polling House is a wood frame single-story structure. The building is 20' 4" long and 10' 4" wide. It presently rests on concrete blocks at the edge of a paved area next a salt dome in a State Highway Administration maintenance facility on MD Route 2-4, immediately south of the MD 4 and MD 260 intersection. The roof consists of tongue-in-groove board sheathing; the ends of the rafters are exposed. The roof is covered with corrugated metal. A metal stove-pipe extends above the roofline; holes in the top end of the pipe indicate a missing cap. The exterior walls of the building are entirely clad in German siding with corner boards. Two doors interrupt the long axis of the building that presently faces north. Each door is placed approximately two feet from either end of the structure. The gable ends are each pierced by a six-light single-sash window. Two identical windows pierce the long wall opposite the doors. The surrounds are plain.

The building was probably constructed in the first quarter of the 20th century to serve the voting public in the community of Sunderland. Voters who lived west of the main road voted here. (Voters who lived east of the main road voted at another polling house in Sunderland, which was relocated to private property in Dunkirk in the 1960s.) According to local people, the Sunderland Polling House stood in the way of highway construction, as it was located adjacent to the southbound right of way for MD 4, near the intersection of MD 4 and Lower Marlboro Road (MD 262), at a curve in the road that was resolved by new road construction in the 1960s. The Polling House was moved at that time to the State Highway Administration yard where it has been used for storage. The interior, including the ceiling, has been sheathed with thin plywood paneling obscuring the original surfaces. The building most likely had exposed stud walls originally. The stove, which would have provided some warmth for poll watchers and voters on chilly November days, is no longer in the building and the plywood paneling has masked the location of the stovepipe in the structure. No utility service of any kind has been added to the building.

The general condition of the Sunderland Polling House is fair, though it is in need of quick action to remain sound. One of the two doors is missing, allowing weather into the building. The siding and trim are in need of paint, and several siding boards along the bottom course must be replaced.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

MHT Comments: *To meet criteria exception for moved buildings, new location, siting, orientation, and setting should replicate original as closely as possible.*

Jan Tubewicz ✓ 8/4/06
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

Bluntz 9/13/06
Reviewer, National Register Program Date

Sunderland Polling House

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Polling houses were standard features of the rural communities of Calvert County in the early to mid-20th century. Four known polling houses survive. Two, including the Sunderland Polling House, are on public land. The other is the centerpiece of the St. Leonard Polling House Park and Garden of Remembrance and is a Calvert County Historic District (landmark) and is additionally protected by a Maryland Historical Trust easement. The St. Leonard Polling House is interpreted for the public and is the destination for educational field trips. Calvert County is developing comparable plans for the Sunderland Polling House.

While the Sunderland Polling House has local significance, it has been moved at least once and the interior has been altered. It fails to meet criteria for listing on the National Register.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services _____
Date

Reviewer, National Register Program _____
Date

CT-1306



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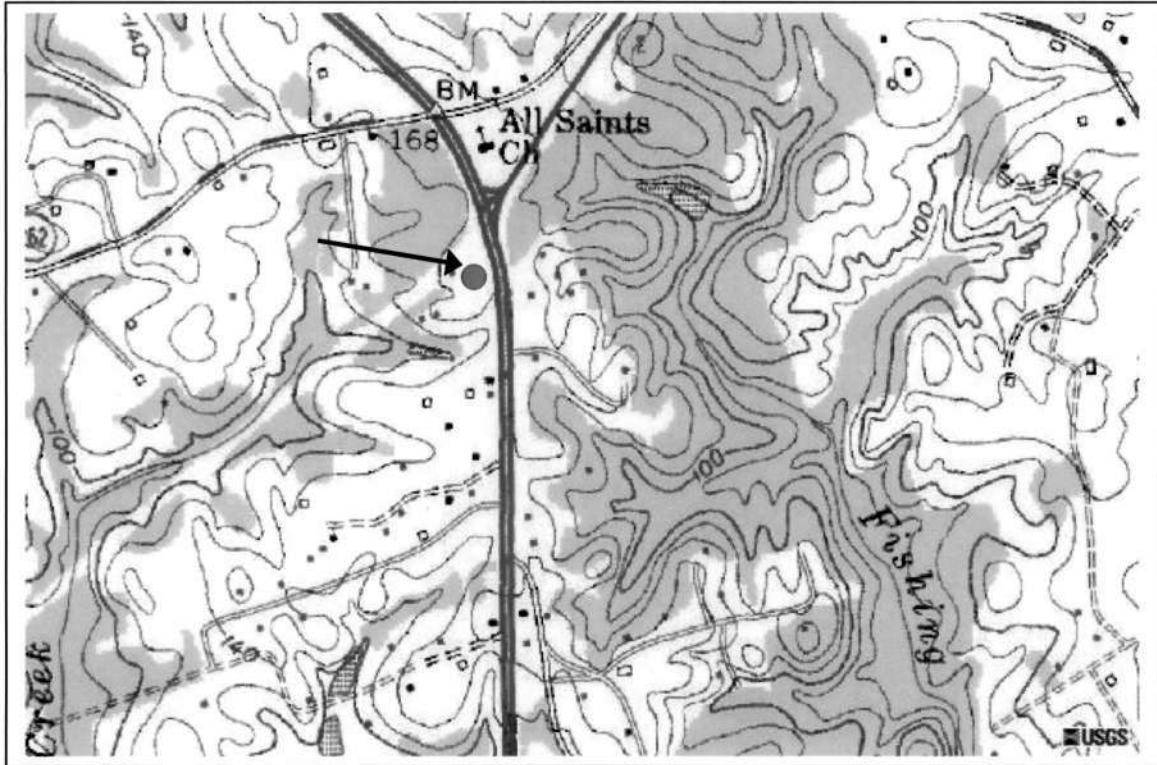
Sunderland Polling House

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Sunderland Polling House

Attachment – Sunderland Polling House DOE, ~~Short Form~~



Sunderland Polling House
6250 N. Solomons Island Road
Sunderland, Maryland 20689
~~Lower Marlboro~~ quad
North Beach