

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
C&O CANAL SURVEY

AL-II-B-141
Inventory No. ~~AL-II-141~~

1. Name of Property

historic name Cardinal Club Property
other names Roeder Property

2. Location

street & number Old Highway, MD 611 not for publication
city or town Old Town vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Allegany code 001
zip code 21555

3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

4. National Park Service Certification N/A

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

National Park Service
C&O Canal National Historic Park
P.O. Box 4; Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782
Contact Name Superintendent, Thomas Hobbs: 301-739-4200

Category of Property (Check only one box)

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> </u>	<u> 4 </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u> </u>	<u> 4 </u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes Name of Listing _____
No

Does this building contribute to the architectural and/or historic character of the C&O Canal? Explain under Section 8.

Yes
No

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
C&O Canal Survey
Cardinal Club Property
Washington County, Maryland

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6. Function or Use
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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Agriculture Sub: Agricultural
Recreation and Culture Outbuilding
Outdoor Recreation

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Agriculture Sub: Agricultural
Outbuilding

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
roof Metal
walls Wood
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.) See Continuation Sheet No. 1

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ___ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ___ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
C&O Canal Survey
Cardinal Club Property
Washington County, Maryland

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- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance _____

Significant Dates _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
C&O Canal Survey
Cardinal Club Property
Washington County, Maryland

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Architect/Builder _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.) See Continuation Sheet No. 2

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Allegany Court House, Land Records, located at the Court House in Cumberland, Maryland.

Bishop, James W. The Cardinal Club, 1907-1969. Cumberland, Maryland, n.d.

The Living Wilderness, Number 48, Washington, DC: The Wilderness Society, Spring 1954.

National Park Service, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, Handbook 142, Washington: U.S. Department of Interior, 1991.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 84.04

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.) The property is located two miles east of Old Town at the confluence of Town Creek and the Potomac River near milepost 162.30.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.) Based on the boundaries of the tract of land, #54-103.

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11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Ann Deines, Historian
organization National Capital Region, NPS date March 1, 1993
street & number 1100 Ohio Drive, SW telephone 202-619-7202
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20242

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Section 7 Page 1

Cardinal Club Property
name of property
Allegany County, MD
county and state

=====

Narrative Description:

After purchasing the property in 1921, the Cardinal Club developed the 240 acres into a recreational area for club members. They immediately built a clubhouse, three cabins were built during the 1930s, and other structures to support the activities of the club were constructed throughout the years. When surveyed in 1983 there were two one story structures and the two story clubhouse on the property that were in derelict condition, and these buildings were removed at a later date. Of the buildings built by the Cardinal Club only the barn, two outbuildings, and the ruins of one outbuilding remain.

The original first clubhouse was built immediately after the Cardinal Club purchased the property and was destroyed in 1936 by the St. Patrick's Day flood. A second clubhouse was built away from the flood area in 1937. It was a two story structure that was located on the property back from the canal between the second curve of Town Creek. The only existing pictures of the clubhouse are prior to the 1936 flood. No information exists on the second clubhouse.

A caretaker for the property was employed in 1938, and a cabin for him and his wife was built near the clubhouse. No further information exists on this building.

In the early 1930s the Cardinal Club granted permission to equity members to build, after approval from the directors, private cabins on the property. Three members built cabins, but their locations and details are unknown.

In 1940 a one and a half story barn for the farm operated by a tenant farmer was constructed at a cost of \$750.00. Still existing today, this barn was the closest structure of the Cardinal Club to the canal and is located due north of where Town Creek enters the Potomac River. The barn is constructed of vertical wood siding with a metal gambrel roof. There is a drive through large enough for farm equipment in the north and south facades. The south facade has sliding wooden doors to close the entrance, the north entrance is always open. There is one doorway at each of the far corners of both the north and south facades. Only the west entrance on the north facade has a door, the other three entrances are open. The east and west facades have three windows symmetrically placed along the facade. Each window has a decorative wood frame. The barn is currently used under a special

Section 7&8 Page 2

Cardinal Club Property
name of property
Allegany County, MD
county and state

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use permit with the National Park Service.

There are two outbuildings and the ruins of one outbuilding to the northwest of the barn. These buildings are all constructed of wood and their date of construction is unknown.

Statement of Significance:

Founded in 1907 by a group of ten teenage boys, the Cardinal Athletic Club was an club devoted to camping and other outdoor activities. The club sponsored annual camping trips to sites throughout the Cumberland area from its founding until 1921. In 1921 the club, then called the Cardinal Club, purchased the 250 acres along Town Creek from Ralph Kelly and his wife for the location of a permanent club house and camping site. The Cardinal Club immediately built a clubhouse on the property near Town Creek that had guest rooms, a dining hall, and common rooms. In the 1930s permission was granted to any equity member to erect their own cottage on the club grounds. Only three cottages were built, most members either camped or stayed in the clubhouse.

While the club was adjacent to the canal for the last few years of operation, there was not much interaction between those working on the canal and the Cardinal Club members. The only recorded instance of interaction was in 1924 when the C&O Canal pastured mules on the property for the winter. Despite this relationship, the Cardinal Club would not have served as part of the canal landscape, for the property was only used occasionally and was not visible to those on the canal.

The Federal Government acquired the canal in 1938 and after much analysis proposed to turn the canal into a parkway modeled after Skyline Drive and the Blue Ridge Parkway. In 1954 Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas challenged the pro-development editors of The Washington Post and The Evening Star newspapers who supported the construction of the parkway to walk the length of the canal with him to assess the beauty and significance of the area. The first day of the hike, which was completed by Justice Douglas, two editors, and six other individuals, covered twenty-two miles from Spring Gap to the Cardinal Club. That night after dinner in the clubhouse, an educational session on the canal was held and then each hiker recounted their impressions of the first days hike. This hike and the media attention it attracted played a major role in the eventual designation of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Historical Park on January 8, 1972.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
C&O CANAL SURVEY
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 8 Page 3

Cardinal Club Property
name of property
Allegany County, MD
county and state

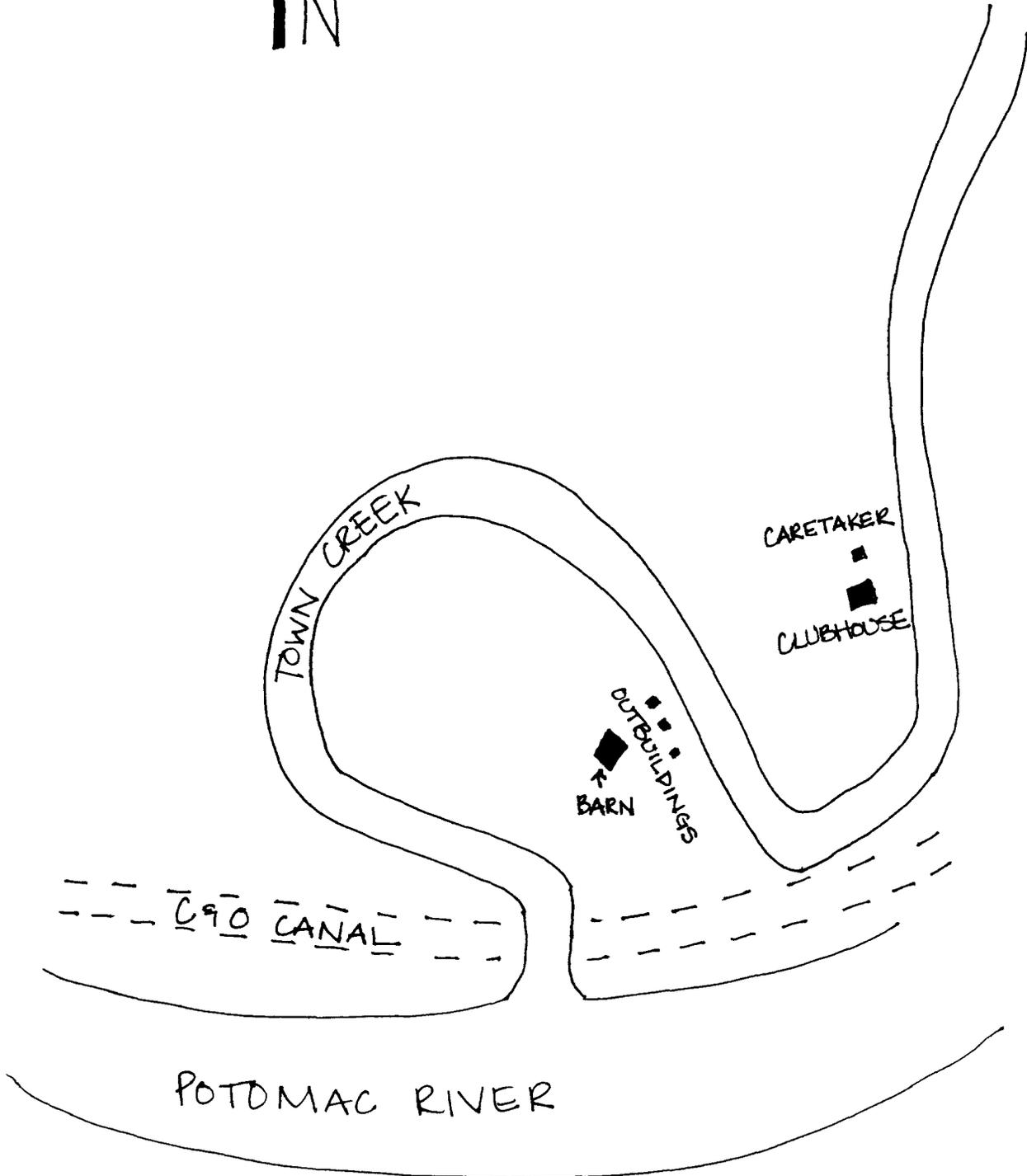
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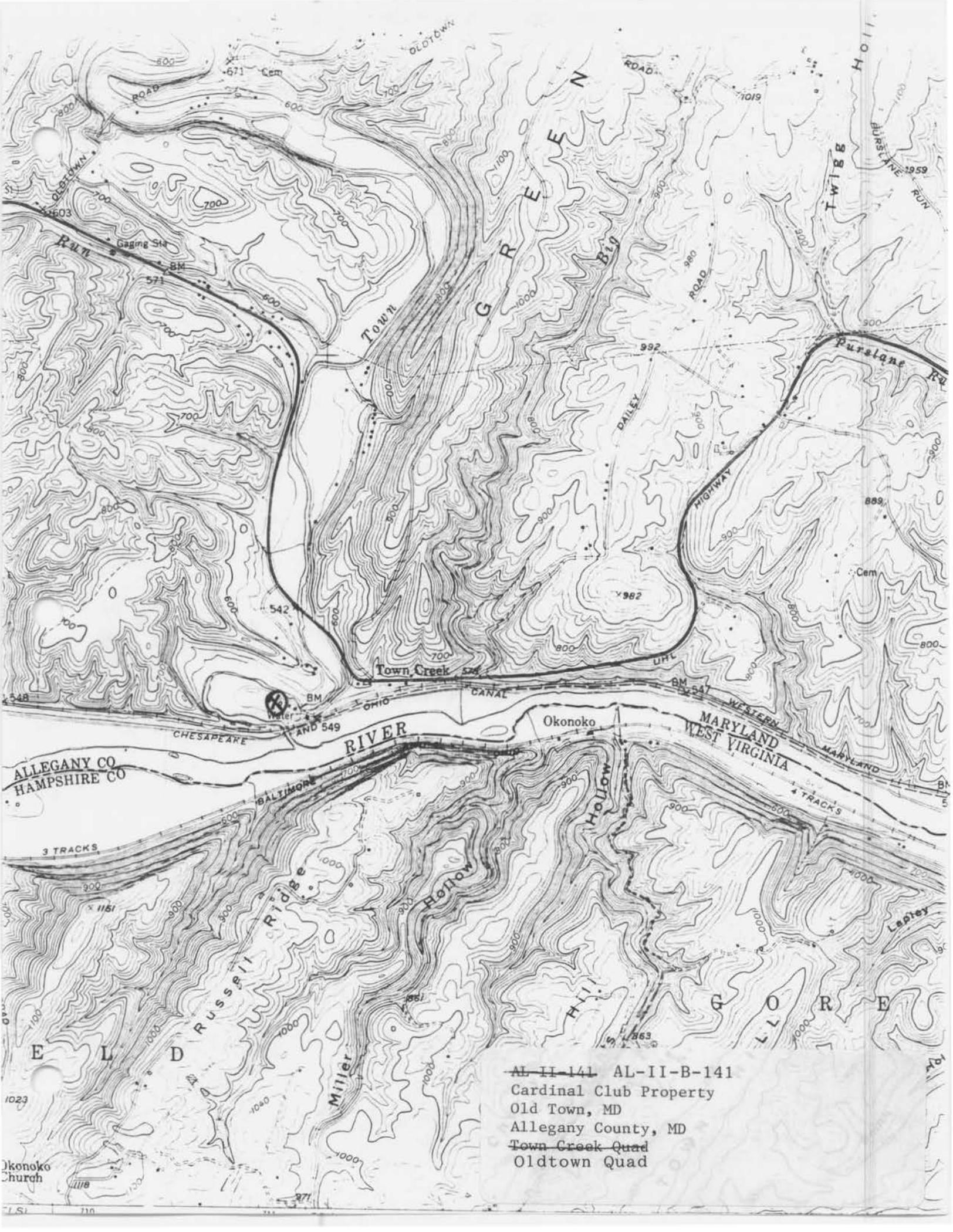
At a 1966 meeting the Cardinal Club passed a motion that an attempt be made to sell the property and liquidate the clubs assets, and it was made an order of business at the January 1967 annual meeting. In December the Cardinal Club unanimously agreed to accept the offer of C. Paul and Sylvia Roeder for the property. The Roeders owned the property until 1978 when they sold 84.04 acres to the United States.

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

~~AL-II-141~~ AL-II-B-141

CARDINAL CLUB PROPERTY
VICINITY OF OLD TOWN, MD
ALLEGANY COUNTY





~~AL-II-141~~ AL-II-B-141
Cardinal Club Property
Old Town, MD
Allegany County, MD
Town Creek Quad
Oldtown Quad



AL-II-B-141

CARDINAL CLUB PROPERTY

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD

ANN DEINES

JAN. 1993

NEGATIVE - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
1100 OHIO DR. SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20242

BARN - SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

↑ OF 6



AL-II-B-141

CARDINAL CLUB PROPERTY

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD

ANN DEINES

JAN. 1993

NEGATIVE - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

1100 OHIO DR. SW

WASHINGTON, DC 20242

BARN - NORTHWEST ELEVATION

2 of 6



AL II B-141

CARDINAL CLUB PROPERTY

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD

ANN DEINES

JAN. 1993

NEGATIVE - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
1100 OHIO DR SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20242

BARNI - DETAIL OF NORTH FACADE

3 OF 6



AL-II-B-141

CARDINAL CLUB PROPERTY

ALLEGANY COUNTY PA

ANN DEINES

JAN. 1993

NEGATIVE - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

1100 OHIO DR SW

WASHINGTON, DC 20242

OUTBUILDING LOCATED NORTHEAST OF BARN

4 2 6



AL-II-B-141

CARDINAL CLUB PROPERTY

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD

ANN DEINES

JAN. 1992

NEGATIVE - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
HAROLD DE W
WASHINGTON DC 20542

OUTBUILDING LOCATED TO THE NORTH OF BARN - LOOKING
NORTHEAST

6 OF 6



AL-II-B-141

CARDINAL CLUB PROPERTY

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD

ANN DEINES

JAN. 1993

NEGATIVE - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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1100 OHIO DR SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20242

RUINS OF OUTBUILDING LOCATED TO THE NORTHEAST
OF BARN

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