

Chesapeake Biological Laboratory

The following numbers are related to the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory campus:

<u>MIHP Number</u>	<u>Property Name/C.B.L. Building Number</u>
CT-72	Solomons House (C.B.L. Building 482)
CT-1001	Carmen's Framecraft (C.B.L. Saunders House, Building 481)
CT-1002	Solomons Island Laundromat (C.B.L. Becker House, Building 485)
CT-1004	Farren Avenue House (C.B.L. Kopp House, Building 463)
CT-1005	Beaven Hall (C.B.L. Building 450)
CT-1007	Chesapeake Biological Laboratory Annex (Swift House, Building 470)
CT-1009	Sunset View Inn/Elliott's Inn
CT-1010	Harten House
CT-1011	Carey House (C.B.L. Building 484)
CT-1201	Solomons Island Wharf
CT-1370	Chesapeake Biological Laboratory Historic District
CT-1370_0001_CRS	C.B.L., Cory Hall, Building 451
CT-1370_0002_CRS	C.B.L., Nice Hall, Building 452
CT-1370_0003_CRS	C.B.L., R.V. Truitt Laboratory, Building 453
CT-1370_0004_CRS	C.B.L., Maintenance Facility, Building 456
CT-1370_0005_CRS	C.B.L., Mansueti Laboratory, Building 459
CT-1370_0006_CRS	C.B.L., Pump House/Pier, Building 474
CT-1370_0007_CRS	C.B.L., Northam House, Building 487
CT-1370_0008_CRS	C.B.L., Parish House and Garage, Buildings 477 and 478
CT-1370_0009_CRS	C.B.L., Storage Building, Building 479
CT-1370_0010_CRS	C.B.L., L. Eugene Cronin Laboratory, Building 486
CT-1370_0011_CRS	C.B.L., Bernie Flower Laboratory, Building 480
CT-1370_0012_CRS	C.B.L., Coastal Technologies Lab, Building 483
CT-1370_0013_CRS	C.B.L., Research Fleet Operations Center, Building 458

CT-1002
Becker's Store
Solomons Island
Public

c. 1925

Located at the corner of Charles Street and Williams Street on Solomons Island, Becker's Store formed an important aspect of the waterside community and economy during the second quarter of the twentieth Century. Dating to approximately 1925, the structure was purpose-built as a general store with accommodations for the storekeeper's family on the second floor. From 1905 until 1945, a succession of Russian immigrant Jews operated a store on this site. The present building later served as a coin-operated laundromat before being converted into office space and housing by the State of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.

Around 1925, the present structure replaced an earlier building that had been used for various purposes. Originally built as a tin can making shop, it later served as a third class relief station and, in 1905, became a general store.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-1002

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Becker's Store (preferred); Gray's Store; Solomons Island Laundromat
other Becker House; Coulon House

2. Location

street and number 145 Charles Street ___ not for publication
city, town Solomons ___ vicinity
county Calvert

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name State of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
street and number P.O. Box 38 telephone
city, town Solomons state MD zip code 20688

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber KPS1289 folio 653
city, town Prince Frederick tax map 46A tax parcel 75 tax ID number 16474

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: Calvert Marine Museum

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>1</u> <input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory**

7. Description

Inventory No. CT-1002

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This two-story frame building faces north onto Charles Street. Built around 1925 as a storehouse with living quarters above, it has a hipped roof with a ridgeline that runs perpendicular to the façade. A two story addition exists along its south wall. The building has undergone several major renovations and the most recent has replaced the original windows, doors, and siding. The roof has also been replaced.

On its north-facing façade is a center door flanked by paired modern, one-over-one double hung sash windows on the ground floor. On the second floor façade are a pair of double modern, one-over-one double hung sash windows. On its east facing wall is a centrally placed one-over-one double hung sash window on the ground floor and on the second floor are three equally spaced modern one-over-one double hung sash window. On its west facing wall is a centrally placed one-over-one double hung sash window with an exterior door in its south corner on the ground floor. On its second floor are two modern one-over-one double hung sash windows, a small fixed stairway light, and a centrally placed smaller modern one-over-one double hung sash windows. The building is sheathed in white vinyl and has black vinyl shutters accenting most windows.

This building was originally covered with white-painted wooden weatherboards. By the 1950s, it was clad in an asphalt composite siding material. The front face of the roof was interrupted by a hipped dormer that was recently removed when the asphalt shingle roof was replaced. Its original windows were six-over-one double hung sash. On its façade was a center door flanked by plate glass display windows on the first floor. On both the east and west elevations was a centrally placed six-over-one double hung sash on its ground floor and on the second floor were three equally spaced six-over-one double hung sashes.

The structure, as originally built, had an elevated, open front porch with an enclosed porch on the second floor that was accessed through a centrally placed door from the living quarters. When the building was converted to a laundromat in the late 1950s, the porches were removed and replaced with concrete stairs. The front façade was also bricked at that time, and the door leading to the second story porch was removed. The composite siding was later replaced with vinyl, and the eaves were enclosed with vented soffit. The front concrete steps have been altered with the addition of a handicap ramp. There is a two-story addition on the rear of the structure.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CT-1002

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates ca. 1925 to present **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates ca. 1925

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

CT-1002 was built ca. 1925 as a storehouse, replacing an earlier structure that also served as a store. From 1925 to 1947 it was operated by members of the Becker family. The Beckers were Eastern European Jews who emigrated from Russia in the early 20th century.

On Solomons Island, a community in southern Calvert County, a succession of Jewish shopkeepers who had immigrated to America from Eastern European countries operated a mercantile establishment at this location. The storehouse was operated as a grocery, dry goods, and general merchandise store.

This structure was purpose-built as a storehouse around 1925 by property owner Clarence Davis. It replaced an earlier building that had been adapted for use as a grocery store, butcher shop, and dry goods store. Like the previous structure, this store continued to be operated by Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe.

In May 1925, Hyman and Sam Becker, trading as Becker & Brother, purchased a trader's license and set up shop in the new storehouse. Hyman soon left the partnership and, beginning in 1926, only Sam Becker's name appears on the trader's license. The 1927 edition of the *Broadcaster*, the self-published yearbook of Solomons School, contains an advertisement for "Sam Becker, Dealer in Gen. Mdse." Store goods listed include dry goods, shoes, boots, groceries, and fruit. In addition, the store offered the services of a tailor, as well as clothes cleaning and pressing.

The new storehouse was a marked improvement over the old building that previous storekeepers had operated. According to Sam and Lillian Becker's son, Earl David Becker, the new building had a large raised porch on its front façade that faced Charles Street. Merchandise was featured in two large front display windows. As one entered the front door, there were tables in the center of the room where toys and miscellaneous merchandise were displayed. Floor to ceiling shelves lined the walls. On the west side of the storeroom was the glass candy counter, ice cream freezer, cold soft drink case, and tobacco products. Across the room was a glass display case containing dry goods, sundries, and general merchandise. Along the back wall were wooden topped counters with a butcher block, cash register, counter for bagging groceries, a case featuring smoked meats and cheeses, a bulk cookie case with glass doors, and bins containing bulk items such as sugar, salt, and beans. Behind the back counter was a door leading to a stock room and in the corner of the storeroom was a staircase that led to the upstairs living quarters.

The 1930 federal census lists Samuel S. Becker as a merchant of dry goods at Solomons. According to the census entry, Becker had emigrated from Russia in 1913. Sam's wife had immigrated as Lillian Malitz in 1905. Their daughter Ruth, age 8, was born in New York and their 18-month daughter Miriam was born in Maryland. The 1940 census also lists Samuel Becker as a merchant operating a general merchandize store at Solomons. By then, they also had a 10 year old son named Earl.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-1002

Name Becker's Store
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Newspaper accounts suggest the Beckers were active in the community. In January 1939, for instance, Lillian Becker hosted the Solomon's Home-Makers Club at her residence. During 1944 and 1945, both Lillian and her daughter Meriam were active volunteers at the Solomons U.S.O.

In September 1945, the local newspaper reported that Samuel Becker and family had moved to Baltimore where they planned to reside permanently. When Sam Becker moved to Baltimore, his brother, Hyman Becker, brought his family from Rochester, New York, to take over management of the Solomons store. Hyman, his wife Rockel, and son Marvin had returned to Solomons to operate the Becker store by December 1945 when the newspaper reported that they were being visited by the Sam Becker family. As mentioned, Hyman Becker had lived in Calvert County before. In 1925, he had entered into a partnership with his brother Sam to run the Solomons store. Hyman moved back to Latvia where he married in 1931, but by 1932 he was again in Solomons when he advertised his tailoring business in the local newspaper. Their son Marvin was born in Prince Frederick in 1933 and it appears they moved away from Solomons in 1935.

Although Sam Becker was moderately successful in operating the store, Hyman did not do as well. Marvin Becker recalled that his parents "scratched out a living" at Solomons. Among the goods that were carried in the store were drygoods, canned goods, candy, cheese, and cold cuts. Rockel performed most of the daily store operations and Hyman made some money doing tailoring work, including some for military officers assigned to the nearby navy bases. However, after just a couple of years, the Beckers decided to give up the store and move back to New York. Marvin Becker recalls they left Solomons in 1947. The county records confirm that Hyman Becker transferred his traders and cigarette licenses to Charles A. Gray in May 1947.

Charles Gray, a native of Calvert County, reopened the store and operated it as Gray's Food Store from 1947 to 1952. Jon Shaw Lore purchased the building from Edna Davis and converted it to a Laundromat in 1959. Lore later removed the porches and bricked the front façade of the structure. He operated it as Lore's Laundromat until he sold the property in 1982. The new owners, Gabriel and Barbara Coulon, changed the name to Solomons Island Laundromat. The property was purchased from the Coulons by the State of Maryland's Center for Environmental Science in 2000 and is now part of the campus of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. The current owners refer to the structure as the Becker House or the Coulon House.

The late 19th and early 20th centuries witnessed a mass emigration of Jews from Eastern Europe to the United States. Many emigrants were in search of better economic opportunities than were available in their homelands. Some Jews were drawn to rural towns and villages to pursue mercantile opportunities. Some opened stores that filled a niche by specializing in a certain line of commodities such as dry goods, hardware, or ready-made shoes and clothing. Economic opportunities were available to immigrants who invested the time and energy. However, Jews living in isolated rural areas needed to nurture a sense of community through family networks and by maintaining ties to their religious and cultural roots in urban centers. This site and its former occupants represent a local example of this national phenomenon.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-1002

Fifteenth Census of the United States, Calvert County, Maryland, Series T626, Roll 871, page 2
Sixteenth Census of the United States, Calvert County, Maryland, Series MD.5.1, page 2B
Calvert Journal newspaper, 09/09/1944; 09/23/1944; 10/21/1944; 11/25/1944; 12/16/1944; 08/25/1945; 09/08/1945
Calvert Gazette newspaper, 05/16/1939; 10/21/1939; 12/02/1939
Charles Elliott, personal communication, 08/25/2000
Earl David Becker, telephone conversation notes, 04/27/2006
Marvin Becker, email communication, 06/03/2006
Jon Shaw Lore, telephone conversation notes, 10/13/2006

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .25 A
Acreage of historical setting +/- .25 A
Quadrangle name Solomons Island Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Robert J. Hurry, Registrar		
organization	Calvert Marine Museum	date	03/31/2014
street & number	P.O. Box 97	telephone	410-326-2042, ext. 35
city or town	Solomons	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

CT-1002
Becker's Store
Solomons Island, Maryland
Calvert County, Maryland

Photo identifications for digital images

Current photos:

CT-1002 looking South

View of CT-1002 looking South from Charles Street

Photo taken 10/16/2014

Photographer: Robert Hurry

CT-1002 looking Southeast

View of CT-1002 looking Southeast from Charles Street

Photo taken 10/16/2014

Photographer: Robert Hurry

CT-1002 looking Southwest

View of CT-1002 looking Southwest from Charles Street

Photo taken 10/16/2014

Photographer: Robert Hurry

Historic photos

Lore's Laundromat c. 1970s

View of CT-1002 looking Southwest from Charles Street

Photo taken c. 1970s

Photographer: Marvin Becker

Gray's Food Store late 1950s

CT-1002 looking South

Photo taken c. late 1950s

Photographer unknown

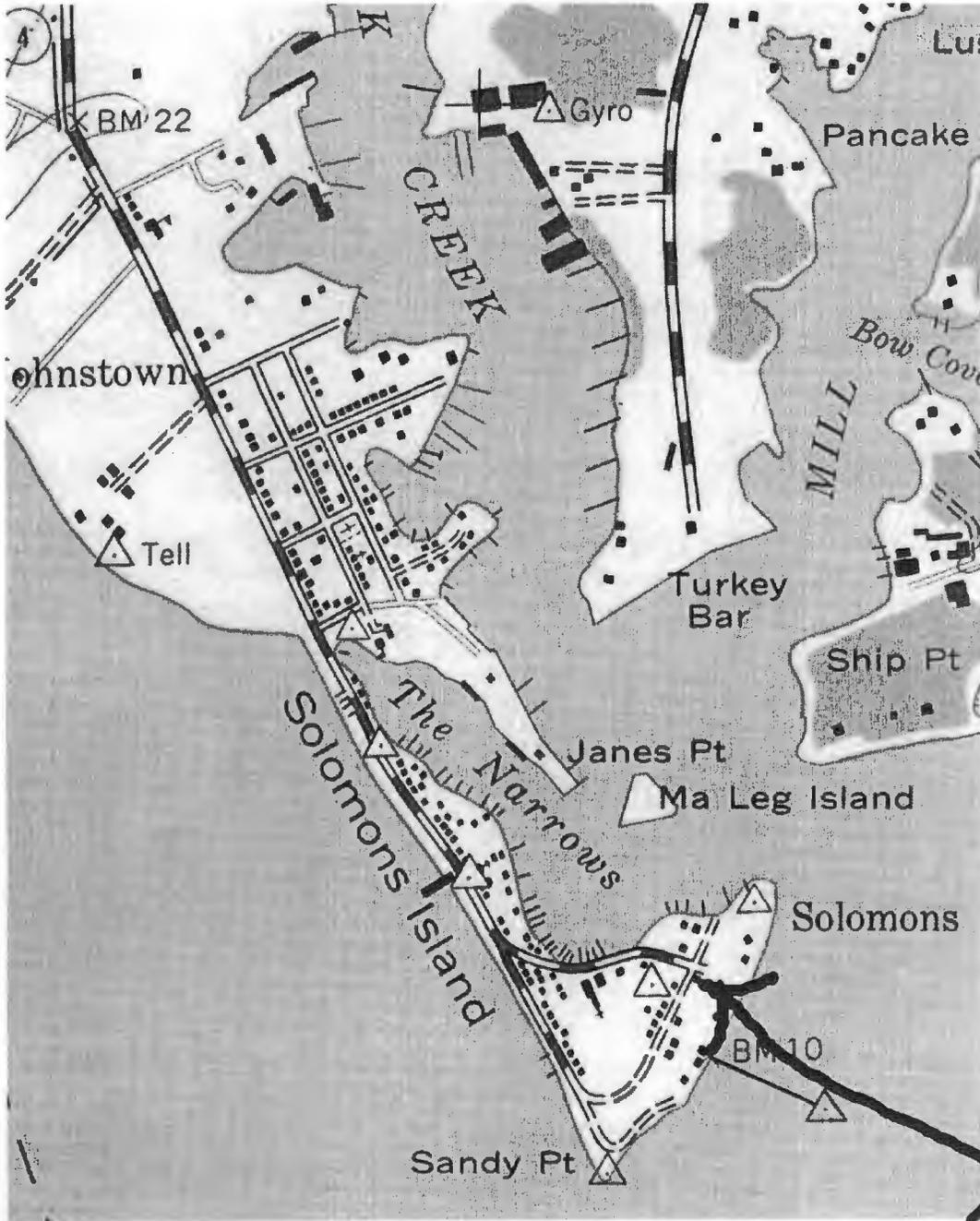
Becker House 08-07-2002

View of CT-1002 looking Southwest from Charles Street

Photo taken 08/07/2002

Photographer: Robert Hurry

CT-1002
Becker Store
Solomons, Maryland
Calvert County
Solomons Island MD Quadrangle



Becker Store (CT-1002)

SOLOMONS ISLAND, MD.

N3815—W7622.5/7.5

1944
PHOTOREVISED 1974
AMS 5760 IV SW—SERIES V833



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Solomons Island Laundromat

2. Location

street & number Charles Street _____ not for publication

city, town Solomons _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district

state Maryland _____ county Calvert

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

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Gabriel Coulon

street & number 3604 Littledale Road _____ telephone no.:

city, town Kensington _____ state and zip code MD 20895

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse _____ liber

street & number Main Street (MD 765) _____ folio

city, town Prince Frederick _____ state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

pository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-1002

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This two-story framed and weatherboarded four-square dwelling faces north onto Charles Street. It was built during the early twentieth century as a house. Its original windows are glazed with six-over-one double-hung sash. It has a hipped roof with a ridgeline that runs perpendicular to the facade. The front face of the roof is interrupted by a hipped dormer. The original facade probably had a two-bay design with an off-center entrance flanked by a bay of paired windows. In association with the dwelling's conversion to a laundromat, the facade has received a brick veneer, and a new central doorway flanked by big plate-glass windows was added. The original one-story front porch was removed. On the sides and rear of this structure, the original weatherboarding has been replaced with vinyl siding.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-1002

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Directed historical research would more firmly establish the historical significance of this site.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CT-1002

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Solomons Island, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

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F

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G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Camille Wells

organization MHT/Calvert Dept. of Planning

date 9/30/86

street & number Courthouse Annex, Main Street

telephone (301) 535-2348

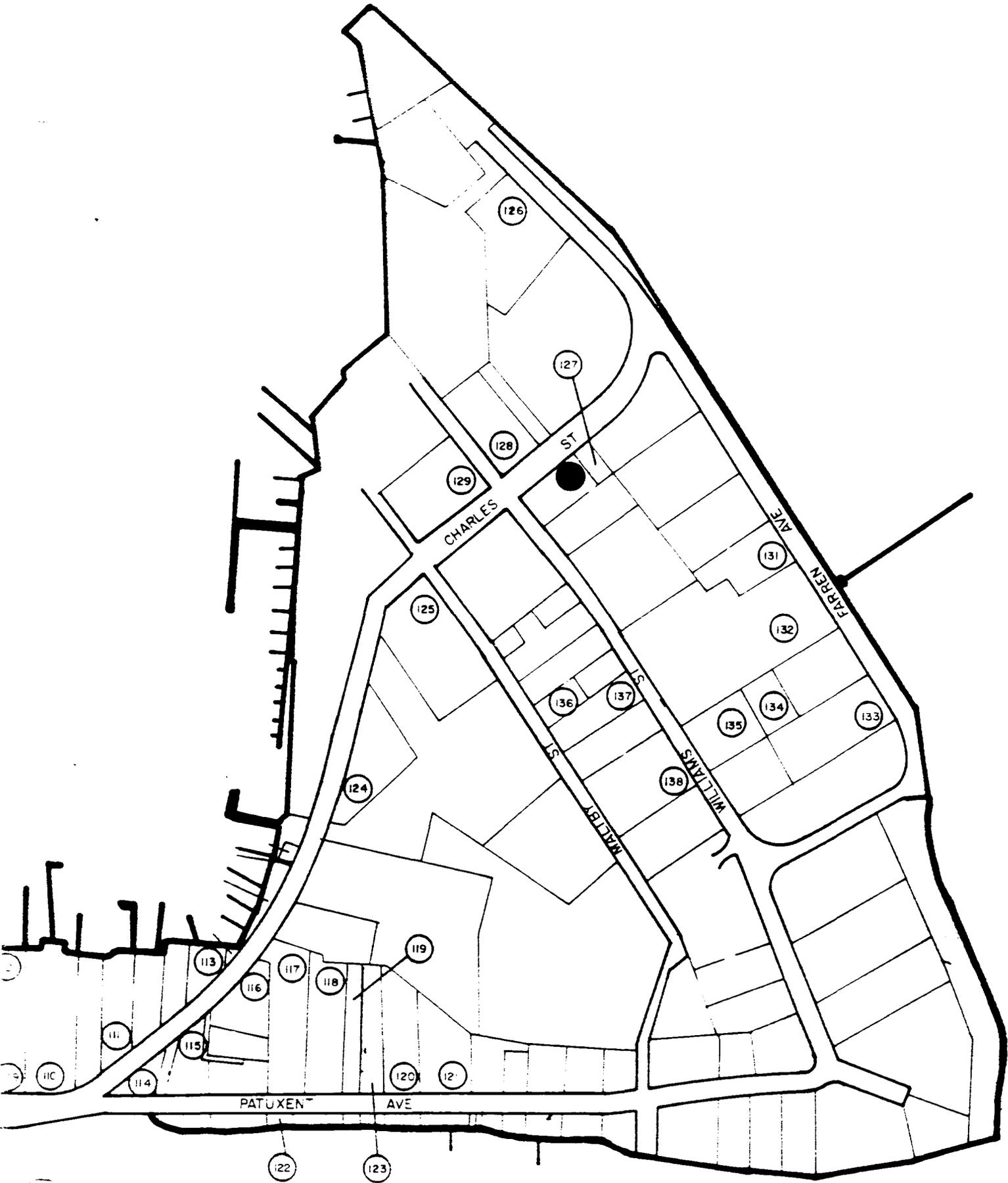
city or town Prince Frederick

state Maryland 20678

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The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



CT-1000 (p. 75)

SOLOMONS
CALVERT COUNTY MAPS # 44, 46
ENLARGEMENT 2 OF 2



Solomons Island Laundromat, CT-1002

Solomons

Calvert County, Maryland

Camille Wells

9/86

MHT

1/1