

CAPSULE SUMMARY - DORSEY GRAY JR. BARN (CT-1048)

Dorsey Gray Jr. barn is one of a small number of tobacco barns constructed or modified for use in flue curing tobacco. Located in Port Republic, this barn is in close proximity to the three other barns known to have been used for this purpose. The 21 x 52 foot barn is oriented on a north-south axis with sheds on the east and west sides. The barn was constructed of two separate components. Both components lack posts down the central axis, and were sided with boards and battens. The southwest corner of the west shed was used as an internal stripping area. This barn shows evidence for extensive alteration and yields information about changing agricultural practices from the late 19th through the 20 century.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Dorsey Gray Jr.

## 2. Location

street & number Highway 4 and Scientist's Cliffs Rd. (Governor Run Road, MD 509)  
\_\_\_ not for publicationcity, town Port Republic  vicinity of congressional district

state MD county Calvert

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: unused

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

name Dorsey Gray Jr.

street &amp; number Box P-1 telephone no.:

city, town Port Republic state and zip code MD

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber ABE 295

street &amp; number Main Street (MD 765) folio 935

city, town Prince Frederick state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

DEPT. OF PLANNING & ZONING  
COURT HOUSE  
PRINCE FREDERICK, MD. 20678

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. CT-1048

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved    date of move \_\_\_\_\_

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

See Attachment.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. CT-1048

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

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



## 7. DESCRIPTION CT-1048

The Dorsey Gray Jr. tobacco barn sits on a ridge by itself, on the west side of Hwy. 4 opposite its intersection with Scientist's Cliffs Road. There was another barn near here that has since disappeared. The main house of the farm complex and other related structures are across Hwy. 4 to the east. The old road passes by the southern end of the structure. This twenty-one by fifty-two foot barn is oriented on a north-south axis, and has sheds on both the east and west sides. The barn was constructed of two separate components labeled "A" and "B".

The plan of section A is transverse axis. There was a door on both the east and west sides of A that are now attested to only by the pintel holes in the doorposts. A is divided into one nine foot, one five foot, and another nine foot bay. An eight foot wide aisle separates section A from section B. Section B is slightly smaller than section A and is divided into two ten foot bays on the west side, one eight , one four foot, and another eight foot bay on the east side. There are no evident doors into section B. The hewn timbers and cut nails in section A pre-date the circular sawn timbers and wire nails in section B and the aisle. It is probable that section B and the aisle are both additions. The top plate has a scarf joint at the intersection of section A and the central aisle that separates it from B.

Large unmortared fieldstones support section A. The posts in section A are hewn and joined via half-lap joints to the plate and held with a trunnel. The center posts are joined via mortise and tenon joints. Fully mature machine cut nails are visible in section A. The east side of section A and the north wall of the barn have board and batten siding still in place. One of the boards forming this siding is labelled "WP DORSEY" and another is labelled "G Geore". These boards measure one by nine inches and are circular sawn. This is therefore not the original siding for section A.

Mortared brick masonry piers support section B. This section has smaller timbers than section A that are toenailed with wire nails.

There are several elements that both section A and section B share. The roof rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. Neither section's roof has windbraces, and both have three collars. There is a forty-one to forty-three inch vertical separation between the tiers. Both sections have only two poles down central axis one in the first four foot room from the side of the section. With the exception of the portion of A that is covered with board and batten siding, the barn has primarily plain vertical wall siding. An occasional hinged ventilation door appears to have been inserted. Although a metal roof now covers the entire structure, there are shingles in place under the metal roof in both sections.

7. DESCRIPTION (CONT.) CT-1048

The barn has two sheds, one on the west side, and the other on the east side. The west shed is twelve feet wide, and the east shed is thirteen. The west shed originally had a shingle roof, that has been replaced with metal. Concrete blocks support the east shed. The timbers in the east shed are much the same as those in section A. There is no evidence for siding on the west wall of section A. The nailers and siding on the east shed are circular sawn. A combination of both cut and wire nails are visible in the east shed. The roof of the east shed ties in awkwardly with the barn. The materials in the east shed seem to post-date the construction of section A, but the lack of evidence for siding on the east wall of section A makes it seem likely that there was at least originally some shed on this side.

Earth-fast posts are used in the construction of the west shed. The west shed has much newer materials, and the barn was completely sided along the west wall. There are, however, no nail holes or nails in the barn rafters below their junction with the west shed, so it is probable that there was also an early shed (probably open-air) at this location. There is a stripping area in the southwest corner of the west shed.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1048

The W.P Dorsey barn is architecturally significant for several reasons. The chronological development of the barn reflects the changing desires for tobacco curing structures. The single most important architectural element revealed in this structure is the lack of posts down the central axis in both sections. The presence of only two posts and the extant board and batten siding, imply the possibility that a flue-curing device was used in this barn. The barn is in close proximity to the Parran barn and the other barns in the county where this flue-curing device was used. It is possible that this device was used in both sections of the barn, since they both have the marked absence of posts down the central axis. The materials of the board and batten siding are consistent with the known date of usage of the device (ca. 1880-1890).

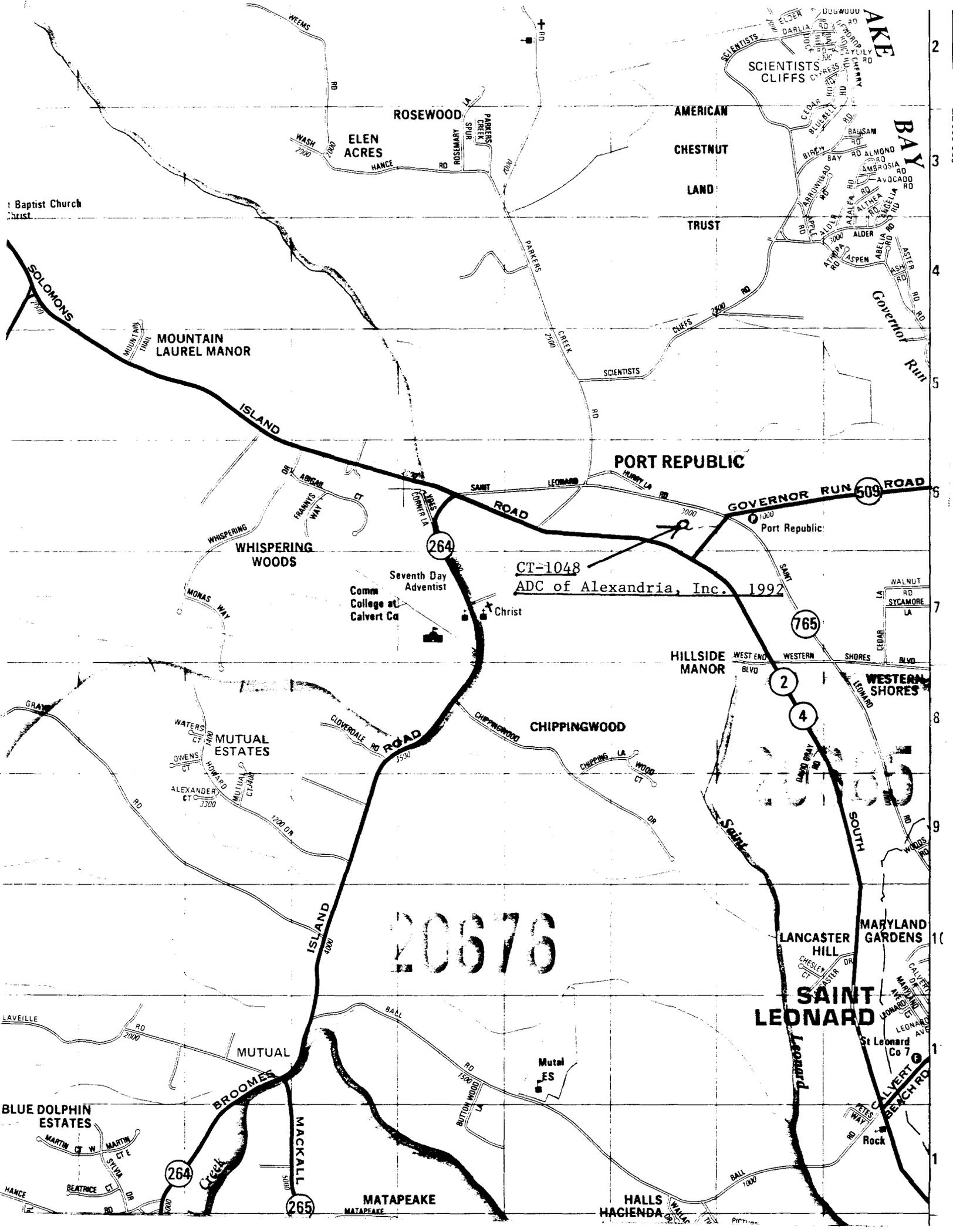
This barn also yields information regarding agricultural history in Southern Maryland. In February 1990, a tobacco barn survey was initiated in order to study the tobacco barns of Calvert County. Until fairly recently, tobacco was the most important farm crop of the county. More acreage was devoted to its cultivation than for both of the next most extensive farm products (corn and wheat). The barns and stripping houses related to this "Tobacco Culture" are widely recognized as the most common element on the rural landscape. These structures are also the most threatened, as the market for tobacco declines. They seem to have, at present, only limited capabilities for re-use. Many barns and stripping houses now stand empty. The purpose of this survey has been to gather information and document a wide sample of these structures before they disappear from the landscape.

Historic Period theme(s): 1830-; tobacco; agriculture  
Geographic Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert Cty MD  
Chronological/Developmental Period: 1830-present  
Resource Type(s): Tobacco barn

This barn developed and changed over the years. The original barn was a squarish structure measuring twenty-four by twenty-four feet. It had sheds on the east, west and south sides. The existence of a south shed is deduced from the fact that there is no evidence for siding along the south wall of section A. Later, sometime after the usage of circular sawn timber and wire nails became common, an aisle and section B were added to the barn. At this time, the south shed was removed in order to make way for the aisle. The east and west sheds of section A were probably removed and totally rebuilt in order to extend across the

8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1048 (CONT.)

entirety of the new structure, at this time, or perhaps somewhat later. This explains the existence of more modern materials and techniques in these sheds than is implied by the materials of section A. In addition to these changes in plan, the barn has been altered by the addition of a metal roof, and the removal of the original doors on the east and west sides of section A.



Baptist Church  
Christ

MOUNTAIN  
LAUREL MANOR

ELEN  
ACRES

ROSEWOOD

AMERICAN  
CHESTNUT  
LAND  
TRUST

SCIENTISTS  
CLIFFS

PORT REPUBLIC

WHISPERING  
WOODS

Seventh Day  
Adventist  
Comm  
College at  
Calvert Co

CT-1048  
ADC of Alexandria, Inc. 1992

HILLSIDE  
MANOR

MUTUAL  
ESTATES

CHIPPINGWOOD

20676

LANCASTER  
HILL  
SAINT  
LEONARD

BLUE DOLPHIN  
ESTATES

MUTUAL

Mutal  
ES

MARYLAND  
GARDENS

MATAPEAKE

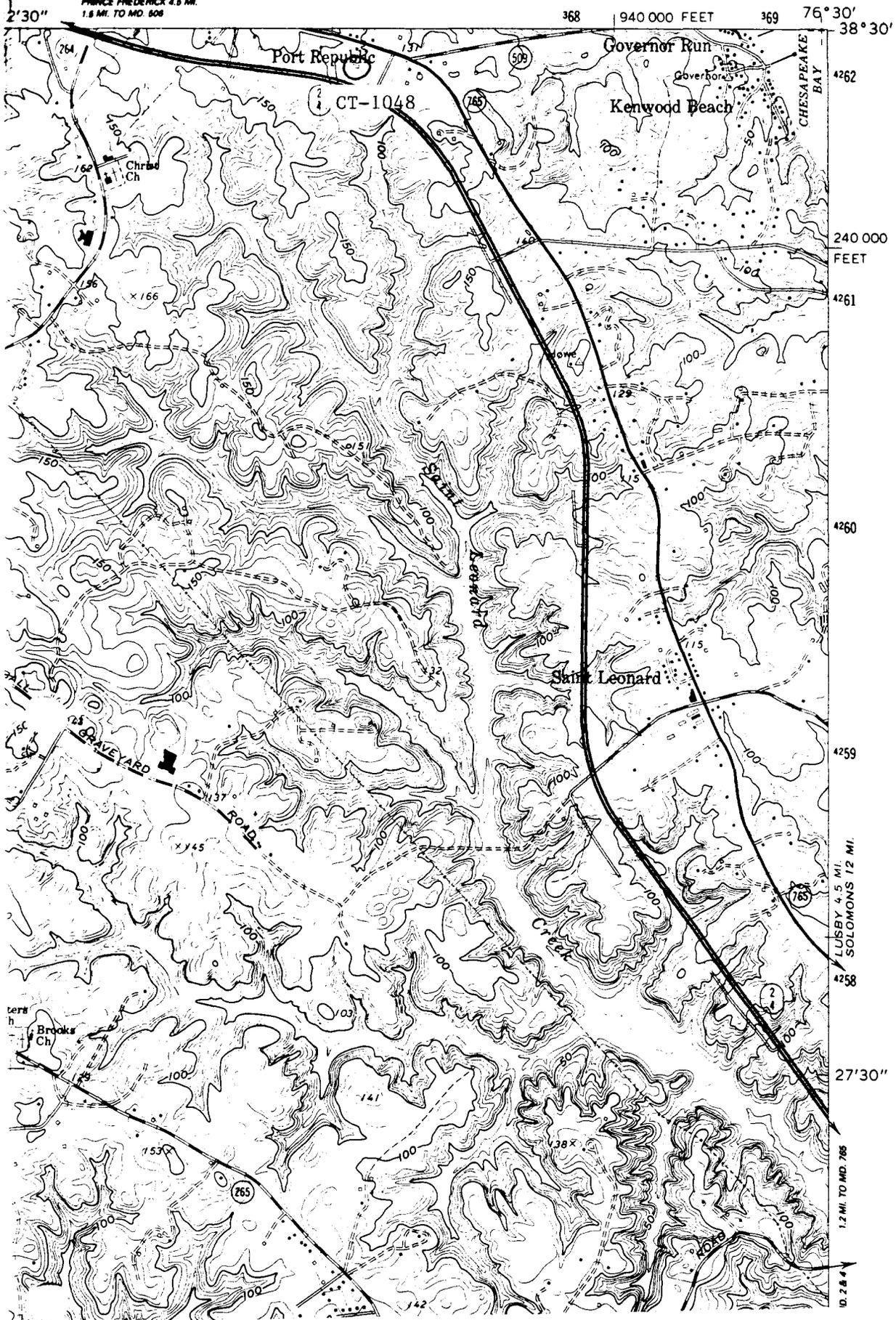
HALLS  
HACIENDA

St Leonard  
Co 7

Rock

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NE/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE



USGS TOPOGRAPHIC, BROOMES ISLAND 7.5 " QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000, 1986

BM 134

4256





CT-1048 Dowsy Gray, Jr

Fort Republic

Tora L. Williamson

Northwest

March, 1990