

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. DE-1203

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Cove Point Landing

and/or common

2. Location

street & number located at end of Park Drive three lots south not for publication

city, town Cove Point vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: recreation

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

name State of Maryland waters; land access via Cove Point Beach Assoc.,
P.O. Box 454, Lusby, MD 20657; land owner Wexford Corp.

street & number P.O. Box 5 telephone no.:

city, town Pasadena, state and zip code MD 21122

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. M.D.A.T. liber JLB

street & number Goldstein Building, 200 Duke Street folio 165/ 425

city, town Prince Frederick state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-1203

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 type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

Standing Wharf Structures: None.

Associated Standing Wharf Structures: None.

Description: Cove Point Wharf is a historic wharf site with no visible features on land or above mean low water.

Previously Existing Wharf Structures: "Map of Calvert County showing Topography and Election Districts" 1902 depicts a short straight wharf perpendicular to the shore. "St. Mary's Folio" 1906 depicts no wharf. "Lower Part of Patuxent River 1907-08" depicts a short wharf perpendicular to the shore. This chart is clearly based on an earlier base map as it shows Cove Point Road leading directly to the wharf and no road to the lighthouse at the point. "Chart no. 20 Natural Oyster Bars Calvert County and St. Mary's Counties, Maryland" 1908 depicts no wharf and only an unimproved road running from Cove Point Road to the landing site. "Soil Map Calvert County, Maryland" 1928 essentially is the same base map as the 1902 map above. These maps and charts indicate a simple short wharf once existed at this landing.

A 1938 aerial photograph of the Cove Point area shows a wharf protruding approximately 165 feet long over the water and located directly off the end of Park Drive. A brochure promoting the Cove Point Beach resort area circa 1936 mentions a "...200-foot pier extending out into deep water..." This is no doubt the same pier as in the 1938 aerial photograph. It is assumed this is the same as the 1896 steamboat wharf which is known to have been in service up to 1928, but no earlier maps or photographs can confirm its exact original location in relation to current roads.³⁹

³⁹ 1938 aerial photograph AHS 10-101, Calvert Soil Conservation District Office, photostatic copy deposited at Calvert Marine Museum archives; and Patricia G. Erickson, "A Community on the Bay," *Potomac Review* (Fall, 1996), p. 76.

8. Significance

Survey No. CP-1203

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1896–1928 **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

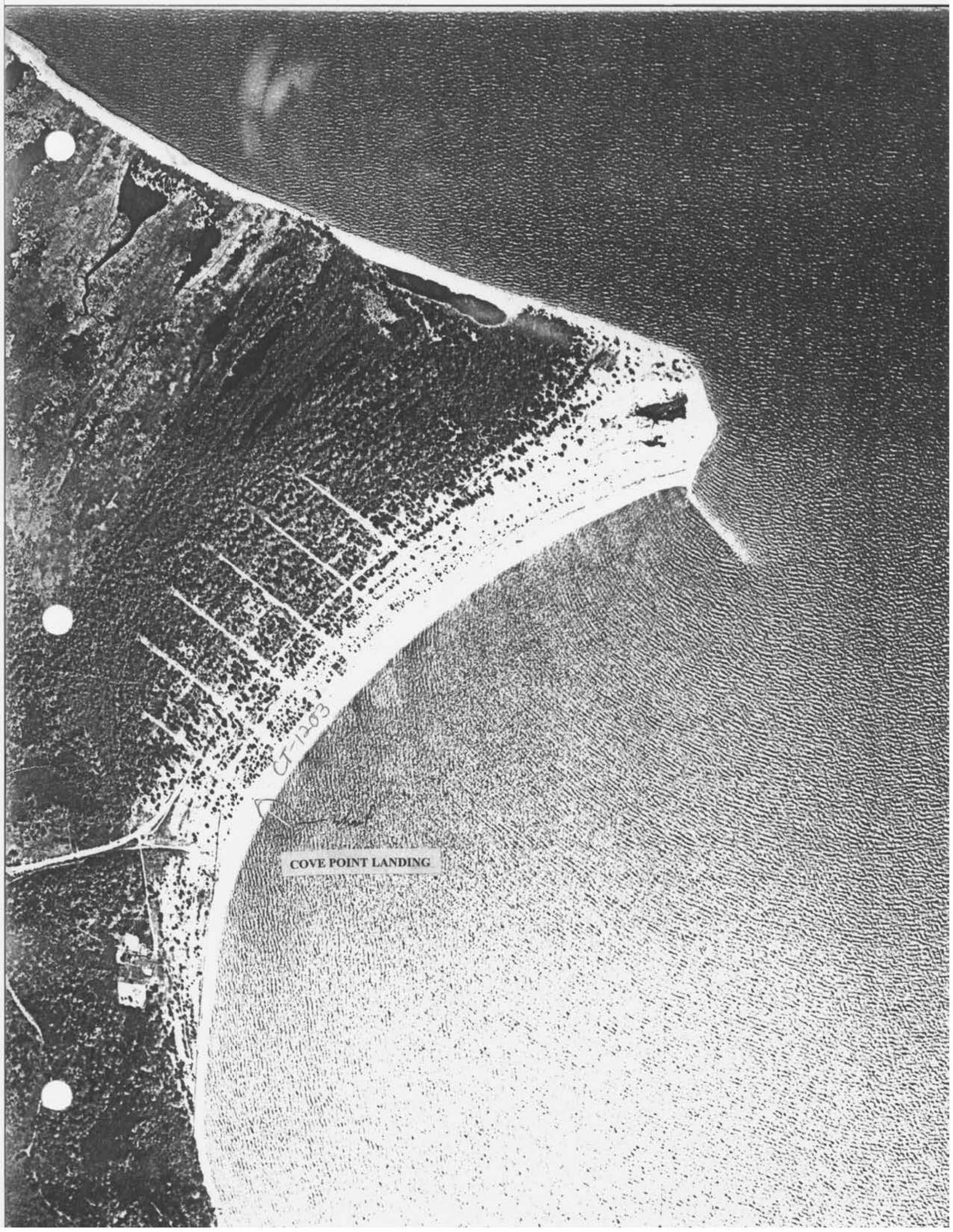
Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Cove Point Wharf is one of twenty historic steamboat wharf/landing sites identified in “Calvert County Steamboat Wharves and Landings: Architectural Level Survey and Inventory.” This survey and inventory was completed in 1996 by Eshelman & Associates for the Calvert County Historic District Commission with funding from the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners. The final report includes a context study which places the historic significance of these steamboat wharf and landing sites within the broad pattern of local county history and regional history of the Chesapeake Bay. The study falls within the theme of “Transportation” within the time periods of “Agricultural-Industrial Transition (1815-1870)” and “Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930).” Refer to this study for a general historical review and historical significance of the resources as a whole.

Cove Point Landing was located three lots south near the end of Park Drive, off Cove Point Road (Route 497). The landing was located about midway along the hollow below Cove Point. No visible wharf structures are present. Cove Point Landing was probably a “flag stop” similar to Drum Point Landing. At such stops a flag was used to signal in daylight and a lantern at night. This landing was called “Cove Point wharf” by the Weems Steamboat Company in its 1896 literature.⁴⁰ In 1907 the wharf generated \$1,019.74 in local freight, \$31.34 in through freight, and \$739.28 for passengers, for a total revenue of \$1,790.36.⁴¹

⁴⁰ A 1938 aerial photograph AHS 10-101, Calvert Soil Conservation District Office, photostatic copy deposited at Calvert Marine Museum archives, shows a wharf located immediately at the end of the first road to the right off Cove Point Road in the Cove Beach Community. Today the first road to the right in the community is Park Drive; however oral communication from Dorathy Ordwein and Cora Dixon to Ralph Eshelman, December 20, 1996, indicates this first road is now grown over by trees and that Park Drive is actually 3 lots to the north of the first road shown on the aerial photograph; and *Summer Homes and Historical Points Along the Routes of the Weems Steamboat Company* (1896), p. 5.

⁴¹ “Maryland Delaware & Virginia Railway Company Annual Report, Statement of Freight and Passenger Revenue by Wharves for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31st, 1907.” Original in private ownership, copy deposited in collections of Calvert Marine Museum.



COVE POINT LANDING

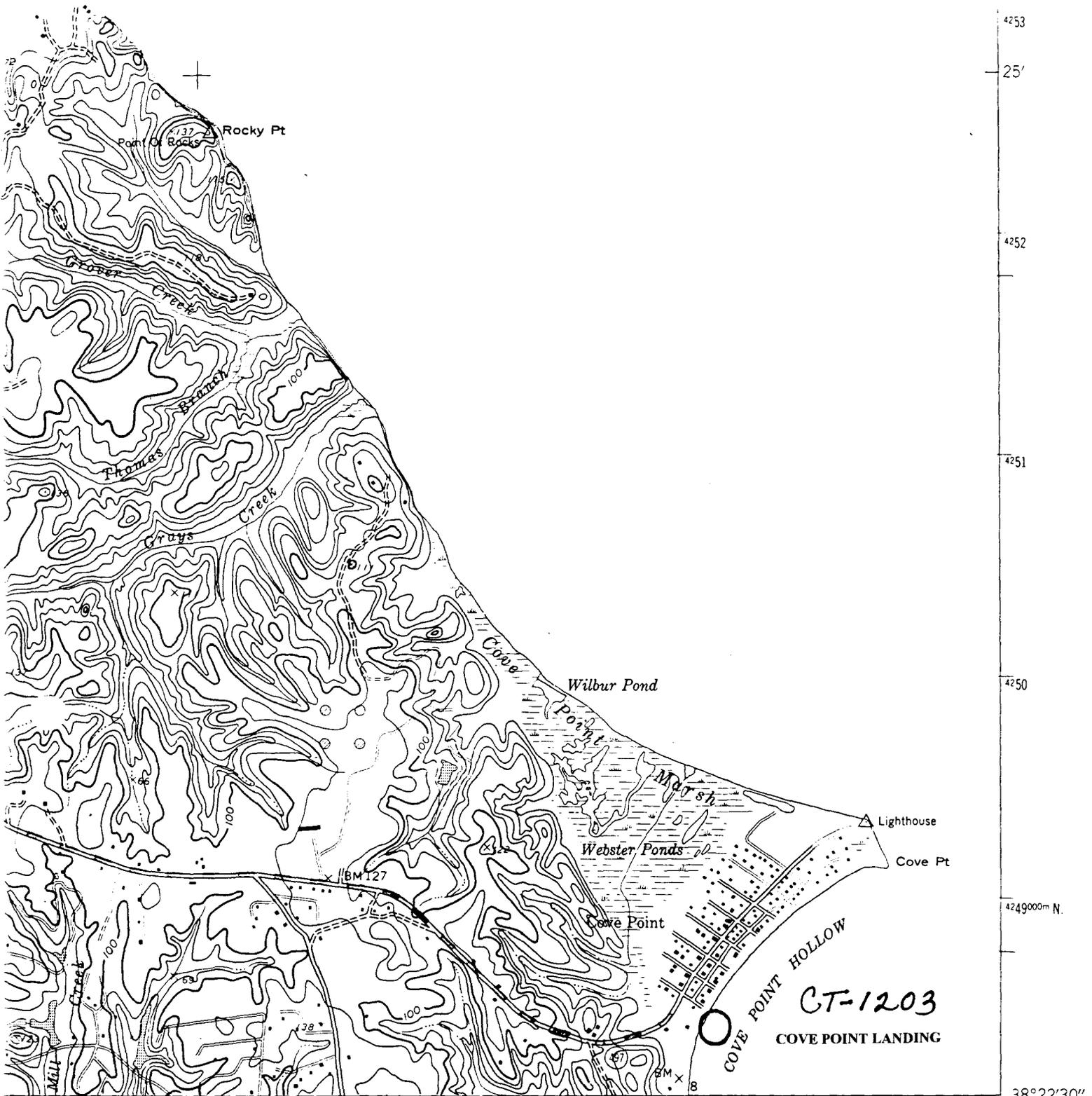
CT-1283

1938

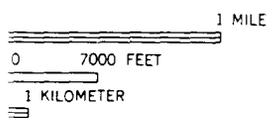
AWS-10-101

Cove Point Landing

Calvert Soil Conservation District



4253
25'
4252
4251
4250
4249000m N.
38°22'30"
76°22'30"



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty		Light-duty	
Medium-duty		Unimproved dirt	

State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

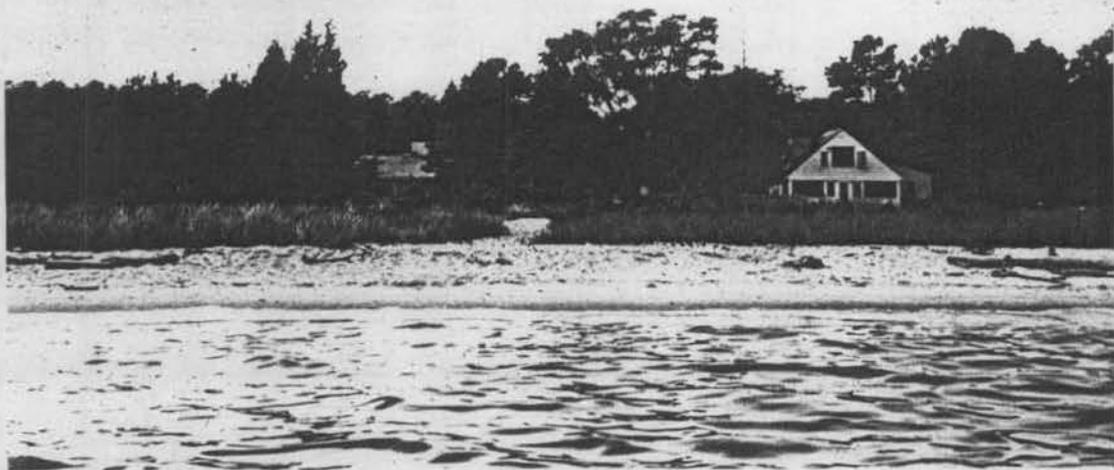
COVE POINT, MD.

N3822.5—W7622.5/7.5

ARDS
22092
ON REQUEST

1943
PHOTOREVISED 1974
AMC 5700 W. W. W. SERIES

(BARREN ISLAND)
5760 N. 5E



Cove Point Landing

CT-1203

Cove Point Landing
Calvert Co., MD

Ralph Eshelman

Aug 1996

neg: MD SHPD

View northwest toward end of Park Drive. Wharf site
located 3 lots south (left)