

CT-1240  
8933 Chesapeake Avenue  
North Beach, Calvert County  
Private

Mother Brown's, located at 8933 Chesapeake Avenue, was built in 1919 and is one of North Beach's earliest surviving commercial buildings. This 1 1/2-story frame commercial structure has a gable-roof pierced on its west side by five dormer windows. The building sits on a poured concrete foundation and its original clapboard siding is sheathed with asbestos shingles. During most of its history, the building operated as a restaurant, though before its closing c. 1963 it contained a carry-out restaurant and liquor store. The building is currently unoccupied and in deteriorated condition.

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA**

**North Beach, Calvert County Survey  
Survey Number CT-1240  
8933 Chesapeake Avenue**

**Geographic Organization:** Western Shore

**Chronological/Developmental Period(s):** 1870-1930; 1930-Present

**Historic Period Theme(s):** 2) Architecture, Landscape and Community Planning  
7) Social/Education/Cultural

**Resource Type:**

**Category:** building

**Historic Environment:** urban

**Historic Function(s) and Use(s):** commercial

**Known Design Source:** none

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. CT-1240

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Mother Brown's

and/or common 8933 Chesapeake Avenue

## 2. Location

street & number 8933 Chesapeake Avenue  not for publicationcity, town North Beach  vicinity of  congressional districtstate 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Irma Gross

street &amp; number 6080 Huntwick Terrace #38 telephone no.:

city, town Delray Beach state and zip code: Florida 33484

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse  liber JLB159street & number 310 Main Street  folio 530city, town Prince Frederick  state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Evaluated in *Architectural Survey and Historic District Evaluation: North Beach, Maryland*date June, 1998  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville  state Maryland

## 7. Description

Survey No. CT-1240

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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 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.

8933 Chesapeake Avenue, known as Mother Brown's, occupies a large lot at the northwest corner of Chesapeake Avenue and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. It fronts Chesapeake Avenue, North Beach's main commercial thoroughfare, and is currently divided into two commercial spaces.

This 1 ½-story, frame commercial building is vacant and in deteriorated condition. Asbestos shingles cover the walls which rest on a low, poured concrete foundation. The building's gable roof features pent eaves on the north and south walls. On the east and west the roof is pierced by five equally spaced dormer windows. Fenestration patterns have been altered repeatedly. Windows on the main facade date to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Several large commercial windows on the north side are now enclosed. The south side features four narrow, rectangular windows, located approximately 12' above grade. All doors are modern replacements.

An old placard on the front facade reads "hamburger steak dinner, \$1.25".

# 8. Significance

Survey No. CT-1240

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) (recreation)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect						
Check: Applicable Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> local							

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

This building is important for its association with the architectural development of the early-20th century summer colony and resort community of North Beach, Maryland. Please refer to continuation sheet for an historical sketch of the town.

This building is among North Beach's earliest surviving commercial buildings. In 1919 the lot was owned by Mrs. F. Mansey and improved with a \$500 building. However, the building is best known either Mrs. or Mother Brown's. The Browns were important landowners and owned several commercial North Beach properties, including the "Pop Brown's" furniture store, located directly north of this building. Through most of its history, this building has operated as a restaurant. Before its closing in c. 1963 it contained a carry-out restaurant and liquor store.

## Section 8: History and Significance

CT-1240

North Beach is a fair to good example of an early 20th century summer resort colony and is a Maryland example of a national trend in community development initiated by the Industrial Revolution. Communities such as North Beach were a result of the growing middle class, mobility and consumerism resulting from the industrial economy that dominated the period. Dozens of beach resorts developed around the Chesapeake Bay in the years between the end of the Civil War and the Great Depression. Some, such as Gibson Island, catered to a rich, white, gentile clientele, while Highland Beach is an example of an African-American summer colony. North Beach was in the middle of the social spectrum. While deed restrictions excluded blacks, Jews were well represented in early North Beach. Excepting this major exclusion, by the standards of the day, North Beach was a heterogeneous middle-class summer community.

North Beach was platted in 1900 (revised in 1908) and incorporated in 1910. The town was developed by a group of principally Washington-based businessmen with ties to railroad, labor and banking. Conceived as a summer residential community and resort, the town was laid out according to a standard grid. In addition to houses, the town featured a variety of tourist and recreation-oriented businesses including theaters, restaurants, dance halls, bingo parlors, amusement arcades, and night clubs--including several gay clubs.

Most surviving historic buildings were constructed in the 1920s and 1930s, and include a good collection of early-20th century vernacular buildings. Represented building types include bungalows, shotguns, American Four Square and gable-front cottages. Most commercial buildings are either destroyed or extremely altered. Many of the town's historic structures were altered in the years immediately following World War II. In the post-war years North Beach completed a transformation begun in the 1930s, from a resort and summer colony to a permanent suburban community.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CT-1240

Laws of Maryland, various volume 1900-1950, Maryland Law Library, Annapolis, Maryland.  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps; 1923, 1930 and 1932, Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.  
Calvert County Tax Assessments, District 3; various years 1919 through 1947.  
s W. Williams, Otto Mears Goes East: The Chesapeake Beach Railway, Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, Maryland, 1975.  
David C. Holley, Chesapeake Steamboats: Vanished Fleet, Tidewater Publishers; Centreville, Maryland, 1994.  
Robert H. Burgess, Chesapeake Circle, Cornell Maritime Press; Cambridge, Maryland, 1965.  
Mary Corddry, City on the Sand: Ocean City and the People Who Built It., Tidewater Publishers; Centreville, Maryland, 1991.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name North BeachQuadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UTM References Do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Calvert County tax map 200, block 2, lot 13

### 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	<u>Sherri Marsh</u>	
organization	<u>Retrospect Cultural Resource Services</u>	date <u>May-98</u>
street & number	<u>9 Southgate Avenue</u>	<u>(410) 268-6099</u>
city or town	<u>Annapolis</u>	state <u>MD</u>

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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.

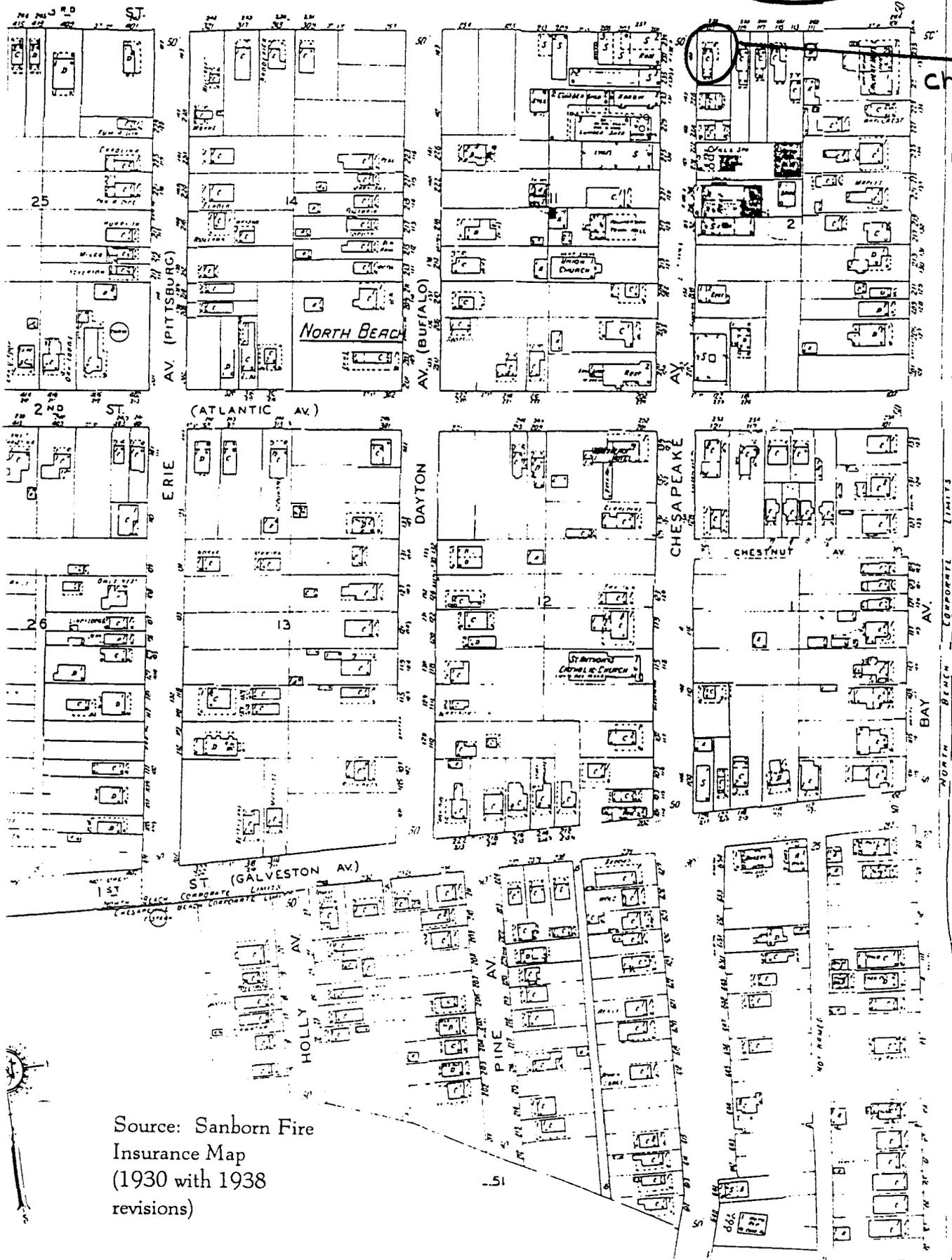
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

CT-1240  
45 (4320)  
**3**

MD... 502 4

JULY 1930  
**CHESAPEAKE BEACH**  
MD.

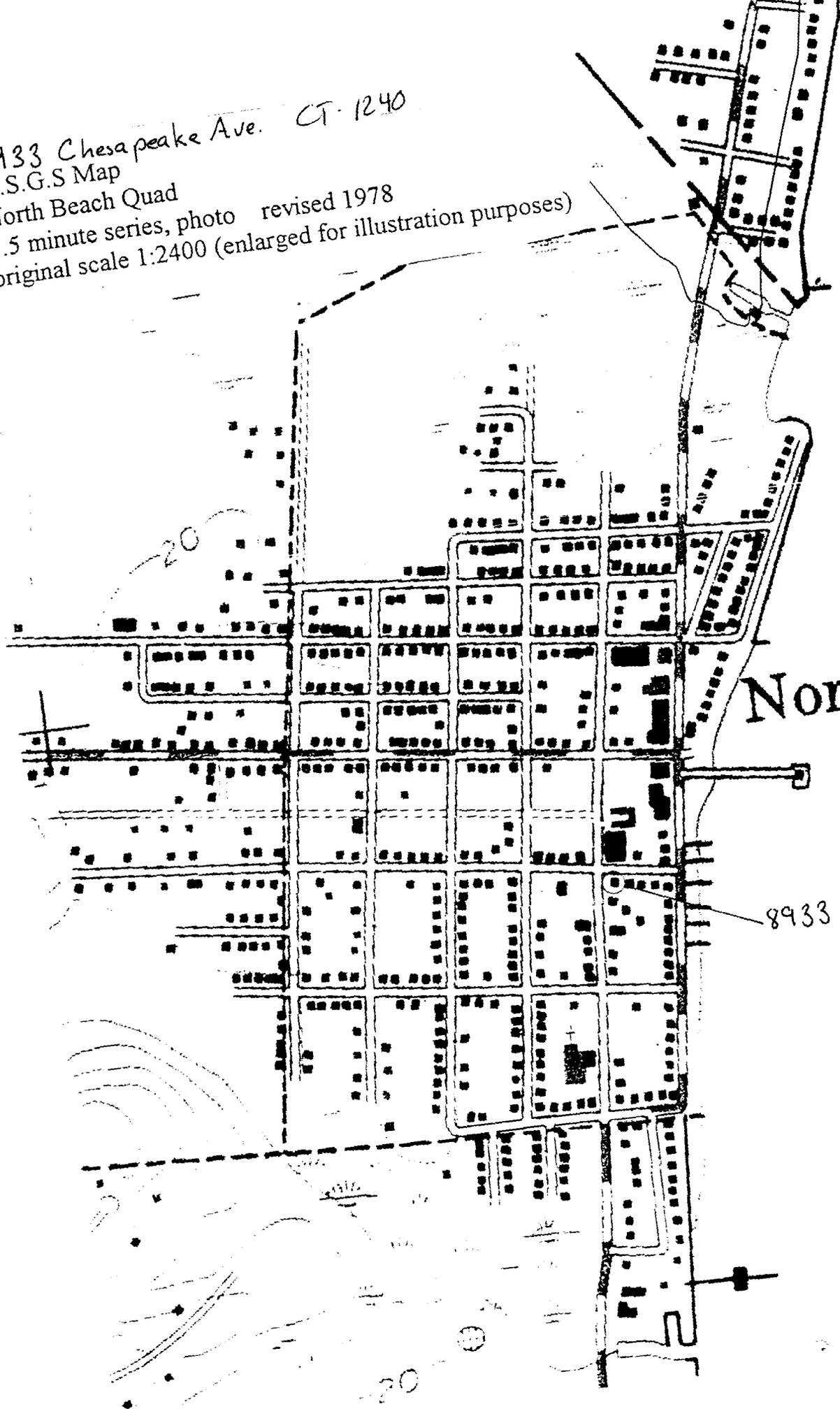
8933  
Chesapeake  
Ave.



CHESAPEAKE BAY

Source: Sanborn Fire  
Insurance Map  
(1930 with 1938  
revisions)

8933 Chesapeake Ave. CT-1240  
U.S.G.S Map  
North Beach Quad  
7.5 minute series, photo revised 1978  
original scale 1:2400 (enlarged for illustration purposes)



North Beach

8933 Chesapeake Ave.



LIQUORS · BEER  
WINE & FOOD

LIQUORS · BEER  
WINE & FOOD

MILK  
ICE

LIQUOR

CT-1240

8933 Chesapeake <sup>AVENUE</sup> (MOTHER BROWNS) NORTH Beach

CALVERT COUNTY, MD

SHERRI MARSH

3/98

WEST ELEVATION

1/1