

CAPSULE SUMMARY

CT-1285

Grover's Field

310 Calvert Beach Road

St. Leonard, Calvert County

Ca. 1937

Private

Grover's Field is located at 310 Calvert Beach Road in St. Leonard, Calvert County.

Established circa 1937 on land owned by Sherwood Dowell and "Pete" Grover, the baseball field was home to the St. Leonard's men's baseball team. Following World War II (1941-1945), the field became known as "Goshorn Park" after local player Freddie Goshorn, who was killed in combat during the War. The baseball field remained in the Grover family until 1963, when it was sold to the St. Leonard Development Corporation. Grover's Field continues to serve the local community as a public ballfield.

Laid out circa 1937, the baseball field is situated to the west of the crossroads of Calvert Beach Road and St. Leonard Road in the heart of the town of St. Leonard. To the east of the ballfield is a gravel parking lot. The baseball field consists of a level, grassy playing field with a dirt baseball diamond. Behind home plate is a batting cage, which is constructed of square wood posts with metal fencing between.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-1285

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Grover's Field (preferred)
 other Goshorn Park

2. Location

street and number 310 Calvert Beach Road not for publication
 city, town St. Leonard vicinity
 county Calvert

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

name Patrick Michael Buehler
 street and number PO Box 27 telephone 410/586-0700
 city, town St. Leonard state MD zip code 20685-0027

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse tax map and parcel: M31, P173
 city, town Prince Frederic liber ABE folio 375

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
- Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture		
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense		<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic		<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education		<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input checked="" 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	
			<u>0</u>	

7. Description

Inventory No. CT-1285

Condition

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> altered |
-

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

Grover's Field is located at 310 Calvert Beach Road in St. Leonard, Calvert County. Laid out circa 1937, the baseball field is situated to the west of the crossroads of Calvert Beach Road and St. Leonard Road in the heart of the town of St. Leonard. To the east of the ballfield is a gravel parking lot. The baseball field consists of a level, grassy playing field with a dirt baseball diamond. Behind home plate is a batting cage, which is constructed of square wood posts with metal fencing between.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CT-1285

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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 industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates	1937; 1963	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1937		

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 reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

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HISTORY OF GROVER'S FIELD

Baseball parks have traditionally served as an important meeting place for Calvert County residents. As early as the late 19th century, Calvert County residents were playing the game of baseball almost to the complete exclusion of any other team sport, and, by the turn of the 20th century, virtually every community hosted their own local team. (1) When asked about the popularity of baseball, Waters Ross hypothesized that it was due to the fact that in contrast to other team sports such as football, very little equipment was needed other than a ball, a proper mitt for the catcher and maybe the first baseman, who might also substitute a proper glove with a common work glove, and a bat. (2) Baseball teams during the late 19th and early 20th centuries were formed informally by the men of a community and initially played on "resting" agricultural fields, fields that were lying fallow for the season. (3) Team membership was inconsistent, with members playing according to their availability. Each team, however, would have a core of two or three key players who would be well known to the local community and closely identified with the team. (4) Calvert County teams, particularly those in towns located on the Patuxent River side of the county, would often play teams from St. Mary's County, across the Patuxent River, and in some cases, players from St. Mary's County would come over on boats for games. Teams were racially segregated for most of the 20th century, although white and African-American teams would often play one another.

By the second quarter of the 20th century, community baseball teams began to play on baseball fields specifically designated for that purpose by private landowners or those purchased by the baseball teams, themselves. One of the better known baseball fields in Calvert County was Grover's Field (CT-1285), named for Calvert County baseball great and manager of the St. Leonard team Garner T. "Pete," Grover. Located in St. Leonard, Grover's Field was established following the purchase of an approximately twenty-seven-acre parcel of land on Calvert Beach Road by Sherbert Dowell and Garner Grover in 1937. (5)

Grover's Field is known for its association with Freddie Goshorn, a local pitcher who played at the field in the late 1930s and is said to have been a candidate for the major leagues. (6) A very popular local player, Goshorn was killed in combat during World War II prompting the naming of the field after him for a period following the war. (7) The field later became known as Grover's Field because of the longtime association with Pete Grover, who coached the local St. Leonard team for years.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No CT-1285

Name Grover's Field (preferred)

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

CHAIN OF TITLE

Parcel I:

April 25, 1905: Thomas Parran to Joseph E. Lane
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber Js 5 Folio 329

September 2, 1907: Joseph E. and Sallie E. Lane to Harrison C. Long
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber GWD 7 Folio 532

Parcel II:

November 7, 1910: William and Eliza Moore and Thomas Parran to Harrison C. Long
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber GWD 11 Folio 175

Parcel III:

June 3, 1913: Benson and Julia A. Johnson to Mary A. Long
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber GWD 13 Folio 539

March 19, 1917: Mary A. Long to Harrison C. Long and Katharine A. Long
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber AAH 1 Folio 257

All Parcels:

April 28, 1920: Harrison C. Long and Katharine A. Long to Willard T Toulson
and Annie L. Toulson
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber AAH 4 Folio 296

December 22, 1937: Annie L. Toulson to Sherbert S. Dowell and Garner T. Grover
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber AAH 38 Folio 58

June 30, 1954: Sherbert S. Dowell and Mildred E. Dowell to Garner T. Grover
and Marguerite E. Grover
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber AWR 40 Folio 253

April 10, 1963: Garner T. Grover and Marguerite E. Grover to St. Leonard
Development Corporation, Inc.
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber JLB 57 Folio 150

November 2, 1988: St. Leonard Development Corporation, Inc. to Patrick Michael

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Name Grover's Field (preferred)

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Buehler
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber ABE 456 Folio 375

ENDNOTES

1. Waters Ross, interview by Carrie E. Albee, Mutual, Maryland, June 13, 2002.
2. Ross, June 13, 2002.
3. Waters Ross, "Baseball In Southern Calvert County in 1901-1902," Baseball, Vertical Files, Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, MD.
4. Ross, June 13, 2002.
5. Calvert County Land Records, Liber AAH 38, Folio 58, Calvert County Courthouse, Prince Frederick, MD.
6. Samuel Goshorn, telephone interview by Carrie E. Albee, May 28, 2002.
7. Goshorn.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-1285

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.50 AcresAcreage of historical setting 26.8 AcresqQuadrangle name Broomes IslandQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Grover's Field has been associated with Parcel 173, as denoted on Tax Map 31, since it was laid out in 1937.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title R. Weidlich and C. Albee, Architectural Historiansorganization E.H.T. Traceries, Inc.date 8/26/02street and number 1121 Fifth Street, N.W.telephone 202/393-1199city or town Washingtonstate DC zip code 20001

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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

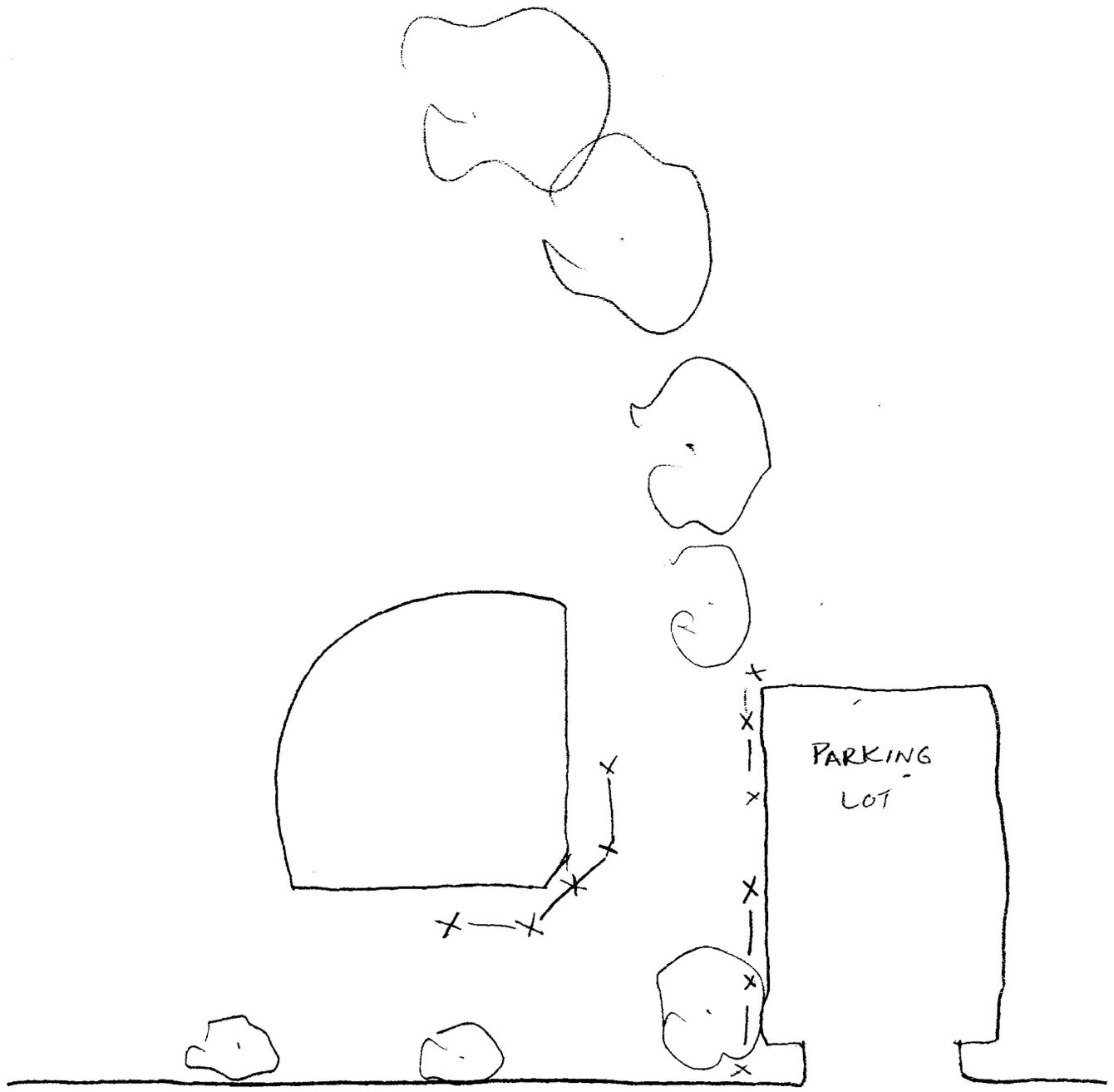
Inventory No. CT-1285

Name Grover's Field (preferred)

Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

Ross, Walter, interview by Carrie E. Albee, Mutual, Maryland, June 13, 2002.



CALVERT BEACH ROAD

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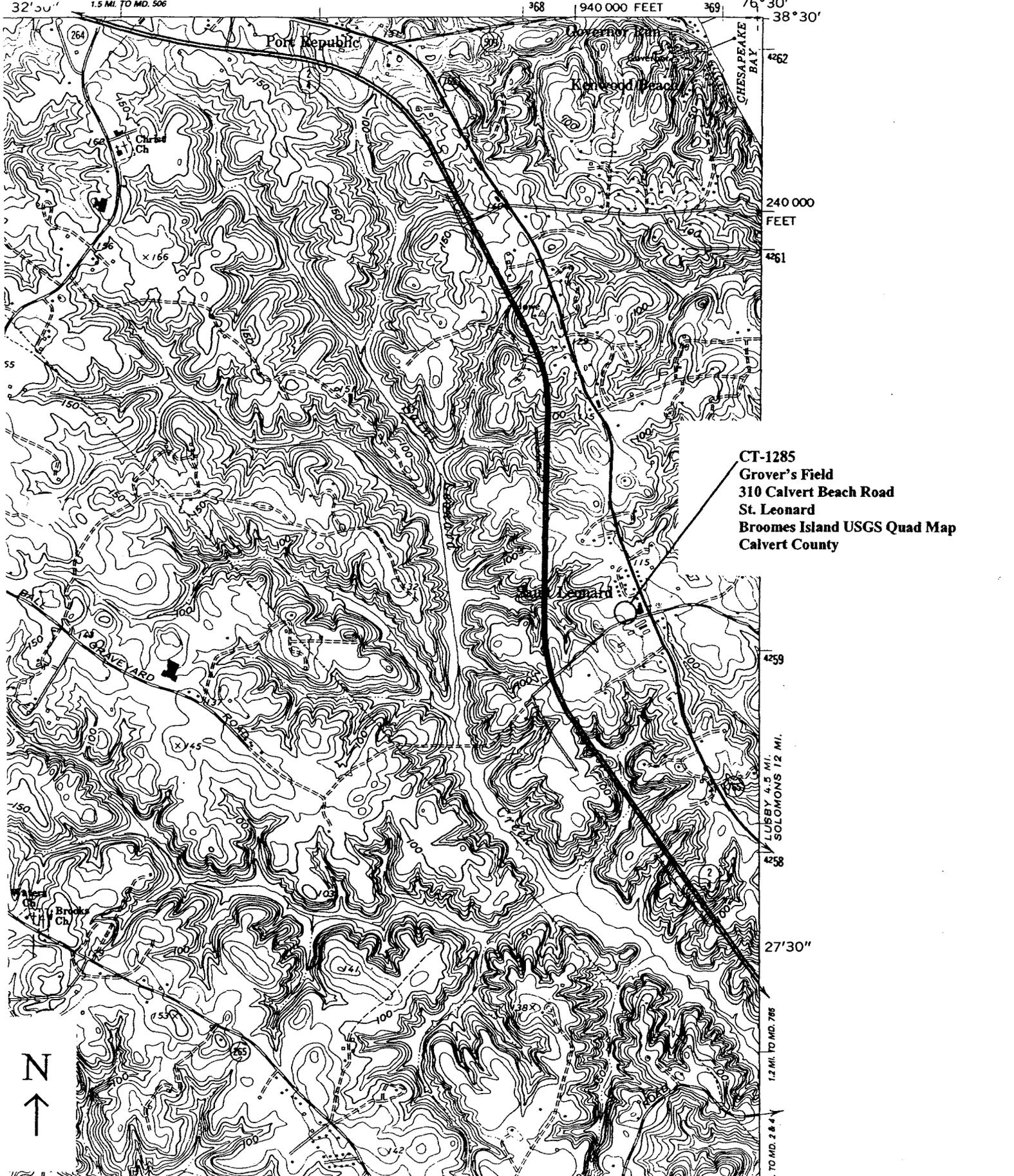
RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
CT-1285
GROVER'S FIELD
310 CALVERT BEACH ROAD
ST. LEONARD, CALVERT COUNTY, MD

BROOMES ISLAND QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NE/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE

PRINCE FREDERICK 4.5 MI.
1.5 MI. TO MD. 506

368 940 000 FEET 369 76° 30' 38° 30'

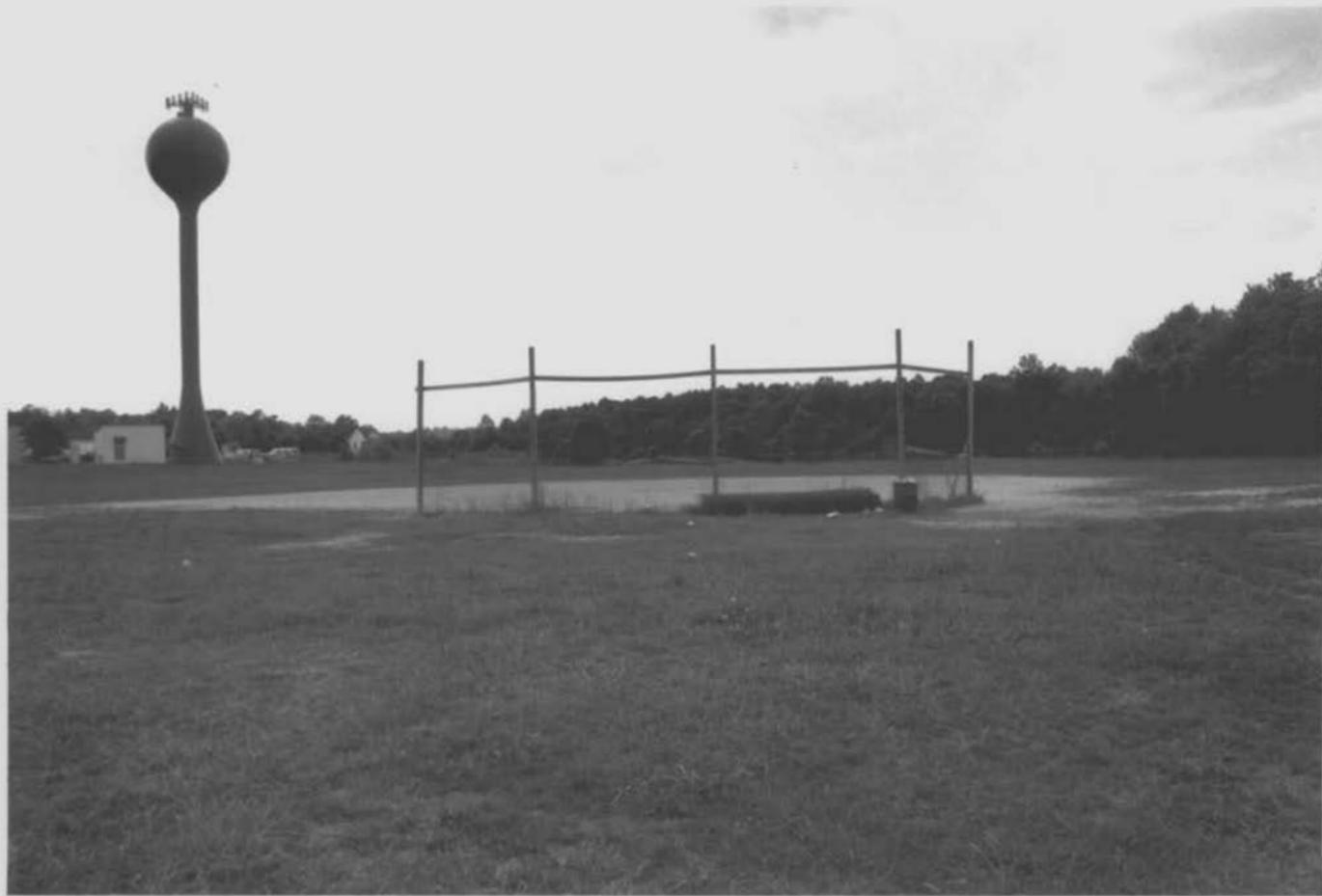


CT-1285
Grover's Field
310 Calvert Beach Road
St. Leonard
Broomes Island USGS Quad Map
Calvert County

LUSBY 4.5 MI.
SOLOMONS 12 MI.

1.2 MI. TO MD. 786
TO MD. 2 & 4





CT-1285

GROVER'S FIELD

310 CALVERT BEACH ROAD

CALVERT COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES

MAY 2002

MARYLAND SHPO

BALL FIELD, LOOKING NW

1 OF 1