

CAPSULE SUMMARY

CT-1292

Mackall Post Office and General Store

10550 Mackall Road

St. Leonard, Calvert County

Ca. 1914

Private

The Mackall Post Office and General Store, located on the grounds of the Mackall Farm opposite Rodney's Point on St. Leonard Creek, is situated on the west shore of St. Leonard Creek. The Mackall Farm, or "Brewhouse" (CT-57) property, along with the associated wharf, has long been a center of trade, passenger traffic, and postal activity. Records indicate that postal service was conducted at this location as early as 1876, under the direction of the Mackall family. The present Mackall Post Office, constructed 1914 and moved in the 1930s, served the community until 1956. During this time, Thomas B. Mackall, followed by his wife Evelyn P. Mackall, served as postmaster. The Mackall Post Office is characteristic of the early-20th-century rural community post office in Calvert County.

The circa 1914 Mackall Post Office and General Store is a modest wood-frame building that rises one story in height and is three bays wide and one bay deep. The building features wood weatherboard cladding, cornerboards, and a side-gabled roof with asphalt shingling. An interior-end brick chimney with a concrete cap rises above the roofline. The building was moved to a nearby site on the property in the 1930s and, as a result, has a concrete-block pier foundation. The interior of the building features a one-room plan with two-and-a-half-inch wide wood planks on the floor, plywood on the walls, and beaded paneling on the ceiling. The post office is one of several buildings on the four-acre property. Most notable is the Federal-style house that was constructed on the 1790s of wood frame with two massive brick double-shouldered chimneys on the west elevation. Other outbuildings include a barn, tractor shed, meat house, corncrib, shed, and a garage.

7. Description

Inventory No. CT-1292

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.

The Mackall Post Office and General Store is located on the grounds of Mackall Farm, also known as the Brewhouse (CT-57). The property is situated at the end of Mackall Road on the west shore of St. Leonard Creek. Currently, the post office sits amid other outbuildings associated with the farm, facing south toward the main house. The circa 1914 Mackall Post Office and General Store is a modest wood-frame building that rises one story in height and is three bays wide and one bay deep. The building features wood weatherboard cladding, cornerboards, and a side-gabled roof with asphalt shingling. An interior-end brick chimney with a concrete cap rises above the roofline. The building was moved to a nearby site on the property in the 1930s and, as a result, has a concrete-block pier foundation. The interior of the building features a one-room plan with two-and-a-half-inch wide wood planks on the floor, plywood on the walls, and beaded paneling on the ceiling. The post office is one of several buildings on the four-acre property. Most notable is the Federal-style house that was constructed on the 1790s of wood frame with two massive brick double-shouldered chimneys on the west elevation. Other outbuildings include a barn, tractor shed, meat house, corncrib, shed, and a garage.

SETTING

According to deeds, the post office is situated on Mackall Farm at the mouth of St. Leonard Creek, where it flows into the Patuxent River. The post office is one of several buildings on the four-acre property. Most notable is the Federal-style house that was constructed on the 1790s of wood frame with two massive brick double-shouldered chimneys on the west elevation. The other outbuildings include a barn, tractor shed, meat house, corncrib, shed, and a garage. The post office has been moved to its current location between the corncrib and a shed, directly to the north of the house. The original road, which ran in a north-south direction to the west of the house, is still evident. According to the current owner, the post office sat along this road before being moved to its present location in the mid-20th century.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The facade or south elevation features a centered entry flanked by 6/1 windows. The entry consists of a single-leaf wood door with five horizontal panels and a square-edged wood surround. Sheltering the entry is a shallow front-gabled hood supported by cutout wood brackets. Two wood steps lead to the door opening. Each window features a narrow wood sill and a square-edged wood surround.

The side elevations each contain a single one-light awning window. Like those on the facade, the window openings are framed by square-edged wood surrounds and have narrow wood sills. All of the windows feature metal security bars that have been installed on the interior of the building. The north or rear elevation has no openings.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the post office consists of one room. The floor features two-and-a-half-inch-wide wood boards and the ceiling has been clad with narrow beaded paneling. The walls have been reclad and currently feature plywood sheets. The square-edged wood baseboard that surrounds the room is five-and-a-half inches in height. Likewise, the four windows and the entry are framed on the interior by square-edged wood surrounds that are three-and-a-half inches in width. The door is detailed with a brass box lock with a brass knob. Along the rear and west walls of the room are built-in wood shelves that are not original to the post office. Other detailing in the room is confined to the exposed interior-end brick chimney. It features stretcher-bond construction and an attached stove. The stove, which appears to be original, is a Wizard Model No. 119, made by the B. G. Bibb Stove Company of Baltimore, Maryland.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CT-1292

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates	c1914; 1956	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	c1914; c1950		

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.)

The Mackall Post Office and General Store, located on the grounds of the Mackall Farm opposite Rodney's Point on St. Leonard Creek, is situated on the west shore of St. Leonard Creek. The Mackall Farm, or "Brewhouse" (CT-57) property, along with the associated wharf, has long been a center of trade, passenger traffic, and postal activity. Records indicate that postal service was conducted at this location as early as 1876, under the direction of the Mackall family. The present Mackall Post Office, constructed 1914 and moved in the 1930s, served the community until 1956. During this time, Thomas B. Mackall, followed by his wife Evelyn P. Mackall, served as postmaster. The Mackall Post Office is characteristic of the early-20th-century rural community post office in Calvert County.

HISTORY OF THE CALVERT COUNTY POST OFFICE

Perhaps the most socially significant of Calvert County public buildings are the numerous late-19th- and early-20th-century post offices that are scattered throughout the county. Rural and small town post offices, such as the Mackall Post Office, were critical communication links between the local rural community and the outside world, as well as an important federal presence in an area without any other significant government building either on the local, state or federal level. Often located at key transportation locations such as river landings or crossroads and frequently operated out of an existing residence or store, the rural post office provided both a practical and social venue for local residents who often had to travel significant distances to retrieve their mail. Furthermore, post offices were often built with private money by individuals with a philanthropic interest, or more frequently, an interest in bringing more people to their store or landing. These individuals or members of their family were often the postmasters of the respective post office, a position that was viewed with great respect and affection in the community and in the County in general.

In 1796, just four years after the permanent establishment of a national post office, three post offices were authorized in Calvert County in the communities of Huntingtown, Lower Marlboro and St. Leonard. (1) Few additional post offices were established in the county until the late 19th century when post offices began to be established in large numbers all over the county. As the post office was closely tied to transportation routes, this burst of new post office establishment may reflect a significant improvement in transportation land routes following the close of the Civil War. In some cases these post offices were short lived and subject to the willingness of private citizens to financially subsidize and operate them, such as that at Mill Mount. Other post offices became more or less permanent mail locations and were eventually taken over by the United States Postal Service, such as the Barstow, Chesapeake Beach and Owings post offices.

Unlike mail delivery in urban areas where mail was being handled and delivered to people's doors by federal postal workers by the mid-19th century, rural mail delivery was slower, more expensive, and hardly convenient. Mail delivery was made to area post offices only periodically, and due to the long distances some residents had to travel to get to the post office, trips to the post office

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were often delayed until they could be combined with other essential errands. (2) Postal service maps from the late 19th century give some idea of where mail was being delivered by the federal government and how frequently. In 1869 and throughout the period, mail came into the county from both Washington, D.C. and Baltimore land routes, and the water routes from as far as Philadelphia. The major postal land route, which originated in Washington, D.C. and ran through Dunkirk, Sunderland, Huntingtown, Prince Frederick, Port Republic, and St. Leonard was traveled up to 6 times a week, while secondary routes from these major stops to outlying towns such as Lower Marlboro, Willows, Broomes Island and Olivet were traveled less frequently. (3) The major water route during this period came down the Chesapeake Bay, making stops along the way at wharves and landings such as Plum Point, Governor's Run and Drum Point, then proceeded up the Patuxent River where it crossed back and forth between St. Mary's County and Calvert County.

Post offices during the late 19th century were generally contained within general stores. This was a practical arrangement for county residents as well as an economically advantageous one for the proprietor of the general store, as residents could obtain their mail and necessary goods in the same trips. In rarer cases, post offices might be operated out of a private residence. Particularly during the second quarter of the 20th century, however, many freestanding post offices were constructed, as in the case of Mackall Post Office. These freestanding buildings were single-story one- or two-room wood-frame structures with gable roofs. Interiors featured a wood counter to separate the customer from the postmaster, wood post office boxes, and shelves lining the walls for packages and supplies. These rural post offices largely fell out of use in the third quarter of the 20th century when the United States Postal Service improved rural free delivery and Calvert County residents could receive their mail in mailboxes on their own property.

HISTORY OF THE MACKALL POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE

The history of the Mackall Post Office and General Store predated the construction of the post office that stands on the property today. Located on Mackall Farm and the nearby Mackalls Wharf, the property on which the post office stands has been the site of marine trade since the early 18th century. Steamships, most notably those of the Weams Steamboat Company, stopped at the wharf, bringing trade, passengers, mail, and supplies between Baltimore, Maryland and Lancaster County, Virginia. It is believed that the wharf was active as early as 1821. (4) Written histories report that the property was owned in second quarter of the 19th century by the Sollers family, although no primary documentation supports this thesis. (5) The property was sold to Dr. Richard C. Mackall in 1841. With much of its history tied to the Mackall family, the wharf became known as Mackalls Wharf and the plantation was later named Mackall Farm.

During the last quarter of the 19th century, the Mackall property, consisting of 177 acres of land, was divided between John B. Mackall, Levin C. Mackall, and Elizabeth L. Bowen. John B. Mackall, who resided on the property, deeded his fifty-acre portion to his wife Louisa J. Mackall on January 25, 1892. Additionally, she had purchased Levin C. Mackall's portion in 1886 for \$1,000. John B. Mackall was the first appointed postmaster of the Mackall Post Office. He was appointed postmaster on February 29, 1876. Postal service under John B. Mackall's incumbency ran from the date of his initial appointment as postmaster until February 8, 1877.

Service was reestablished on July 12, 1878 and ran until July 16, 1884. At that time, service was transferred to the Sollers Post Office. Postal service was once again reestablished on October 8, 1884 and the following day Louisa J. Mackall, John's wife, was appointed postmistress of the Mackall Post Office. Louisa Mackall served as postmistress until December 15, 1910, when service was temporarily discontinued and mail was then transferred to Wallville. (6) Post records do not indicate why the disruption in service continually occurred at the Mackall Post Office.

On July 13, 1914, service returned to the Mackall Post Office and Thomas B. Mackall was appointed postmaster. Thomas Mackall was Louisa Mackall's sole heir and inherited all of the Mackall property. At that time, the property was referred to in deeds as

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"Home Place" bordering St. Leonard Creek. It was during the postal tenure of Thomas B. Mackall that the present post office building was constructed. Thomas Mackall served as the postmaster of the Mackall Post Office until August 1, 1949, when his wife Evelyn P. Mackall was appointed Acting Postmaster. She served in this temporary role until December 7th of that year, when she was officially appointed Postmaster of the Mackall Post Office. On April 30, 1956, service at the Mackall Post Office was permanently discontinued and mail service was transferred to St. Leonard. (7) According to Mabel Mackall Briscoe, daughter of Thomas and Evelyn Mackall, the post office also served as a general store. Items sold at the store include stove black, boot laces, and pick axes. The building was moved from the west side of the house to the north side of the house in the 1930s.

Evelyn Mackall retained ownership of the then four-acre property until 1977, when she conveyed two tracts of land to Mary Mackall Walters and James Russell Walters. The post office and surrounding buildings were located on tract one of two parcels of land. At that time, tract one consisted of 4.056 acres of land and the second adjoining tract measured .0287 acres of land. The property, including both parcels of land, remained in the Mackall family until 1992, when current owners Darlene V. and James H. Howard, Jr. purchased it. The building is currently used for storage.

CHAIN OF TITLE

February 13, 1886: Levin C. Mackall and Martha J. Mackall, wife, to Louisa J. Mackall
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber SS 7, Folio 169

January 25, 1892: John B. Mackall to Louisa J. Mackall
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber JS 3, Folio 482

No Date: Louisa J. Mackall to Thomas B. Mackall
Will Records of Calvert County
Liber AAH 1, Folio 306

January 29, 1946: Thomas B. Mackall and Evelyn P. Mackall, wife, to Ida Marguerite Gray
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber AWR 6, Folio 173

January 29, 1946: Ida Marguerite Gray to Thomas B. Mackall and Evelyn P. Mackall
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber AWR 6, Folio 174

December 28, 1977: Evelyn P. Mackall to Mary Mackall Walters and James Russell Walters
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber JLB 223, Folio 807

May 4, 1992: Mary Mackall Walters and James Russell Walters to Darlene V. and James H. Howard, Jr.
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber ABE 605, Folio 248

ENDNOTES

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Continuation Sheet

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1. "Post Offices of Calvert County," Post Offices, Vertical Files, Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, MD.
 2. "History of the United States Postal Service," on the World Wide Web at <http://www.usps.gov/history>.
 3. "Post Route Map of the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland and the District of Columbia with adjacent parts of New York, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia," 1869, Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; "Post Route Map of the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland and the District of Columbia with adjacent parts of New York, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia," May 15, 1879, Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; and "Post Route Map of the States of Maryland and Delaware and of the District of Columbia Showing Post Offices with the Intermediate Distances on Mail Routes in operation on the 1st of March, 1900," Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; Anne M. Sundermann, Harbours, Creekes & Places: The Steamboat Wharves & Landings of Calvert County, Maryland, (Prince Frederick, MD: Calvert County Historic District Commission, 2001), p. 44.
 5. Sundermann, p. 44.
 6. Mackall Post Office Records, Calvert County, MD, United States Postal Service Archives, Washington, D.C.
 7. Mackall Post Office Records.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 4.08 Acres

Acreage of historical setting 177 Acres

Quadrangle name Cove Point

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Mackall Post Office and General Store is located on Parcel 190 as denoted on Tax Map 39. Built in 1914, the building was moved in the 1930s to another location on Parcel 190.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title R. Weidlich and C. Albee, Architectural Historians

organization E.H.T. Traceries, Inc.

date 8/26/02

street and number 1121 Fifth Street, N.W.

telephone 202/393-1199

city or town Washington

state 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

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Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-1292

Name Mackall Post Office and General Store

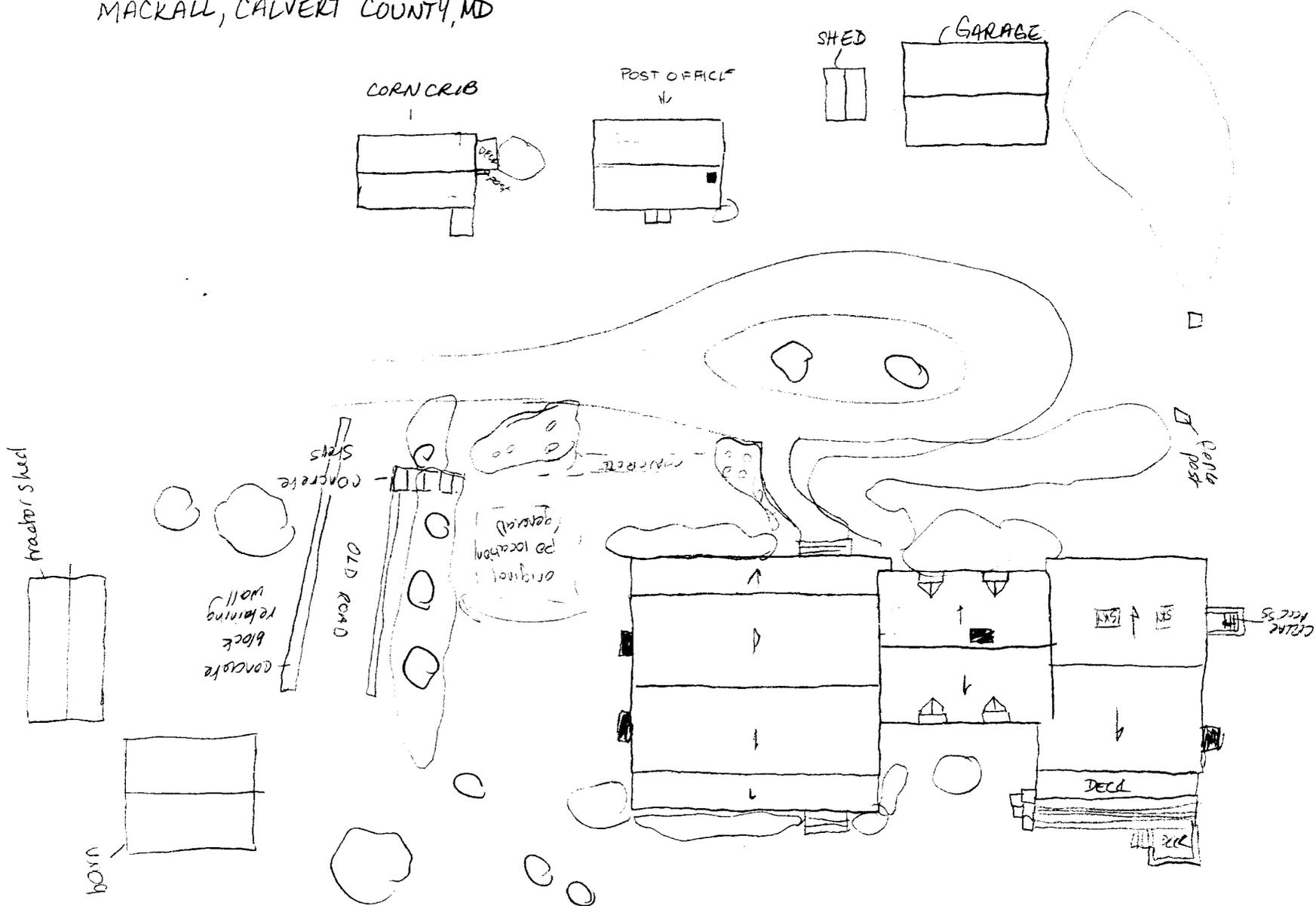
Continuation Sheet

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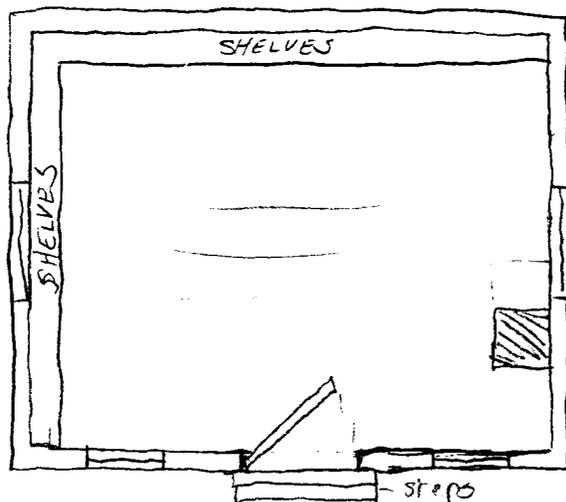
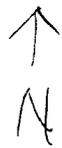
Mackall Post Office Records, Calvert County, MD, United States Postal Service Archives, Washington, D.C..

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
 CT-1292, MACKALL POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE
 10550 MACKALL ROAD
 MACKALL, CALVERT COUNTY, MD

NA



CT-1292



CT-1292, MACKALL POST OFFICE AND GENERAL STORE
10550 MACKALL ROAD
MACKALL, CALVERT COUNTY, MD

FIRST FLOOR
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE N↑

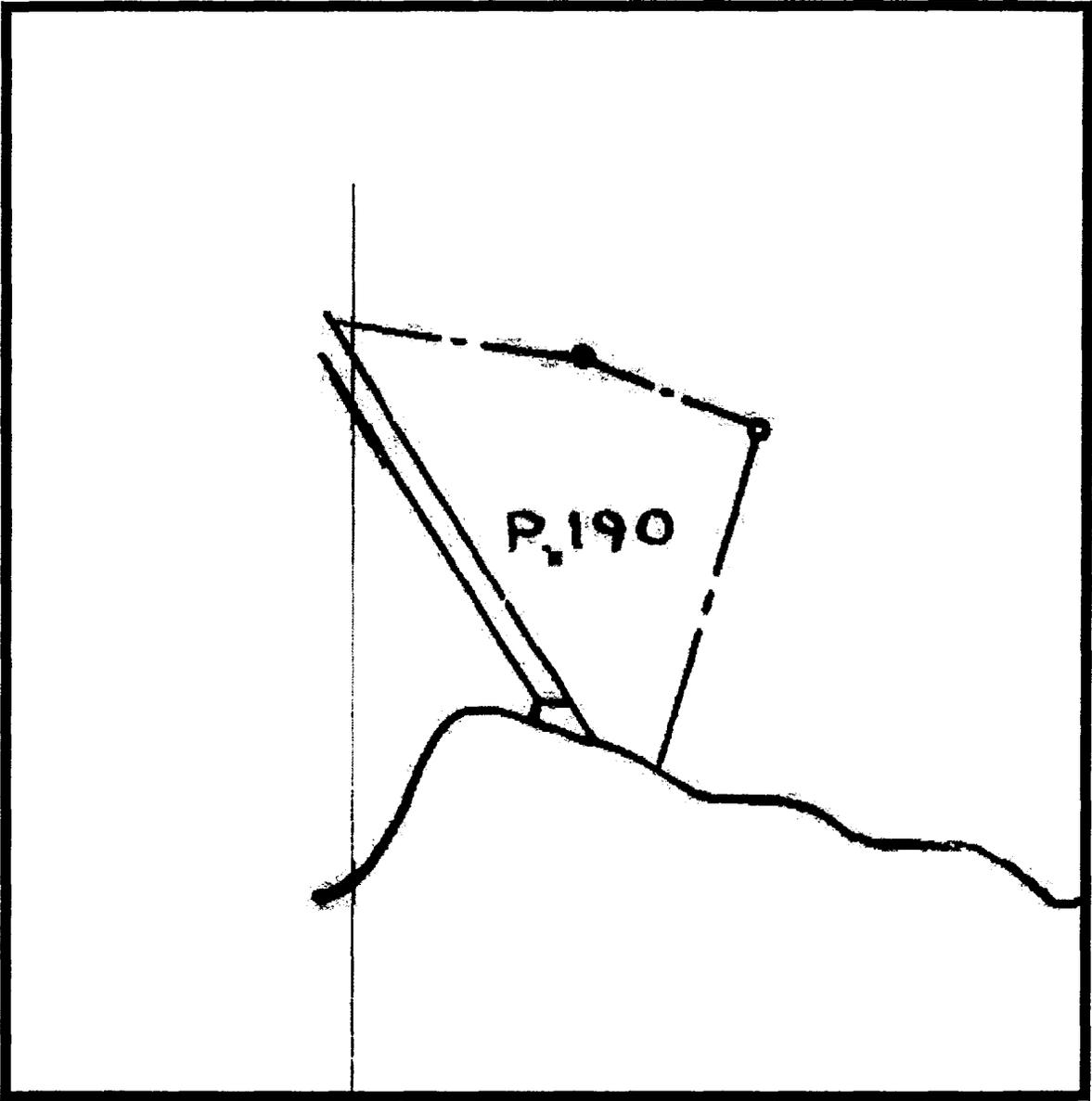
MAY 2002

CT-1292

CT-1292

	Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation CALVERT COUNTY Real Property Data Search	Go Back View Map New Search
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District - 01 Account Number - 145592 Map 39 Parcel 190



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 For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning
 web site at www.mdp.state.md.us



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Mackall Post Office AND GENERAL STORE

10550 Mackall Road

Calvert County, MD

EHT Tracerics

May 2002

Maryland SHPO

South Elevation, Looking North

1 OF 7



CT-1292

Mackall Post Office AND GENERAL STORE

10550 Mackall Road

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

May 2002

Maryland SHPO

NE Corner, Looking SW

2 OF 7



CT-1292

Mackall Post Office AND GENERAL STORE

10550 Mackall Road

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

May 2002

Maryland SHPO

NW Corner, Looking SE

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CT-1292

Mackall Post Office AND GENERAL STORE

10550 Mackall Road

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

May 2002

Maryland SHPO

Interior, Post Office, Looking SE

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CT-1292

Mackall Post Office AND GENERAL STORE

10550 Mackall Road

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

May 2002

Maryland SHPO

Corncrib, Post office, and Garage, Looking NE

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CT-1292
Mackall Post Office AND GENERAL STORE
10550 Mackall Road
Calvert County, MD
EHT Traceries
May 2002
Maryland SHPO
Shed, West Elevation, Looking East

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Mackall Post Office AND GENERAL STORE

10550 Mackall Road

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

May 2002

Maryland SHPO

Barn and Tractor Shed, Looking West

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