

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CT-156

CLVT 156

magi # 050 1565527

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Mary Coster House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Saint Leonard Road (Maryland Route 765)

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF St. Leonard

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Calvert

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Bright Realty Company

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: AAH 14/542

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

CLASSIFICATION _____

STATUS _____

ADDRESS _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION _____

OWNER OF PROPERTY _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS _____

TITLE _____

DATE _____

PROPERTY _____

STATE _____

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached sheet.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 25 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Wayne L. Nield, II
Historic Sites Survey
Broome's Island, Maryland 20615
886-2050

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Winter 76-77

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Mary Coster House

Prior to its present state of decay, this was a large house consisting of two distinct sections. Each section employed its own method of construction and had its own plan.

The north section was constructed of logs and appears to have been a single story structure with one room downstairs and a loft above. If it had a second story, it was of frame construction. Everything above the plate has been destroyed in this wing.

The logs have been squared on two sides (bark visible on top or bottom) and V-notched. They are of various sizes up to 5" x 10" in thickness and are continuous except where doors or windows occur. The building is nearly a 16' square. The logs are laid with 6" spaces inbetween which are filled with ironstone, brick rubble, and mortar chinking. Vertical strips nailed to the outside walls suggest that the exterior was covered with clapboards. The interior walls were finished with lath and plaster.

Both floors have deteriorated. The ground floor was supported by log joists which rested on the sills. The floor of the upper story was supported by hewn joists which may have been exposed. They are 6½' above the ground floor. 3/4" tongue-and-groove paneling is still in evidence on the stairs and walls but would seem to be a later addition.

The use of this wing and its date provide are not clear. Its last use appears to have been as a kitchen with sleeping quarters above. That it is a structure separate from the house suggests that it was intended as such and may be read as a "dependency." The fact that the chimney is attached to the frame

wing and that that portion has fireplaces is interesting since the log portion does not even have its own flue but is connected to the chimney via a teracotta pipe. This would suggest that the log portion was built later than the frame section.

It should be noted, however, that it is common for houses in this area to begin as one up/one down log structures which are later expanded by frame additions. But here again, there is a problem concerning the plan of this building. Doors vent the middle of the east and west sides, and there is a single window in the north wall. Enclosed stairs occupy the southeast corner, and the vent for a stove-pipe is in the middle of the south wall. In many ways, this plan is like those log buildings which have been positively identified as residences, however, there is usually at least one or more windows in the same sides as the doors. A single window measuring 28" x 42" in the north wall yields a rather dark interior especially in a one up/one down house where the lower room serves so many functions.

Leaving this section, the south wing is an interesting building in its own right. It is a one-and-a-half story structure with a hewn frame held together via mortise-and-tenon joints fixed with trunnels. It may be properly called "post-and-beam." Although, the framing members are not quite as heavy as the term usually connotes. The corner posts run the full height of $1\frac{1}{2}$ stories and a continuous plate joins those posts at a distance above the sills.

The exterior is covered with clapboards. A full porch on the front (West) has collapsed. A notable feature of the house is its gable-end roof with shed roof-dormers. There are two dormers in the front (West) and one on the opposite

side. The eaves are boxed-in and finished with wide ogee (cuma reversa) molding. The eaves conceal flat false plates. There is a large brick chimney on the north end of the house which serviced fireplaces on both levels.

The plan provides for an end-hall on the south end which contains the stairs, the main entrance (which contains a transom but no sidelights) as well as a back door at the opposite end.

The hall leads into a single room, which is approximately the same size as the one in the log wing. This room has its own door to the exterior which appears to have been an alteration cut into the west wall. A single window measuring 54" x 28" vents the east wall. The north wall contains a door leading into the passageway connecting the two wings as well as a large fireplace. The fireplace, which is framed off with hewn timbers measuring 4" x 7" in thickness has been closed-in. It appears to have measured c. 42" x 48". In recent times, a space heater has operated in its place.

This room was finished off with wide pine molding, stained dark. Door moldings are 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide, and the architrave 6". Since base board panels cover the filled-in fireplace; it is assumed that interior trim is a later addition.

The upstairs room in this section is lighted by a dormer on each side, and it, too, has a fireplace.

A larger fireplace may have been filled-in; a smaller one still exists. It measures 25" in width, 27" high, and is 19" deep. On the west side of this fireplace was an entrance into the upper room of the log wing.

A title search reveals that the house has changed hands many times. During most of this century, it has been owned and occupied by a black family named Boyd. AAH 14/542 shows that Hayes and Hennie Boyd purchased the property on April 5, 1916. Prior to then, it appears to have been owned and occupied by whites. The Bowens owned this house and according to early deeds, it was once on a 90 acre tract. Chancey AAH 1/31 indicates that Sarah E. Bowen owned the property until her death in 1892. She inherited the property from her father, James Williams in 1884.

When and from whom Williams acquired the land is as yet uncertain. A grave has been recorded on the property and a tombstone which belongs to Mary Coster who died in 1869. The 1850 and 1860 census reports show the Coster family in this neighborhood. In 1850, Jane Coster was 40 years old, and Mary Coster was 56 years old.

Significance

This is a $1\frac{1}{2}$ story post-and-beam house with an end hall plan. Attached to it are the remains of a one up/one down log structure, which was last used as a kitchen.

Bibliography

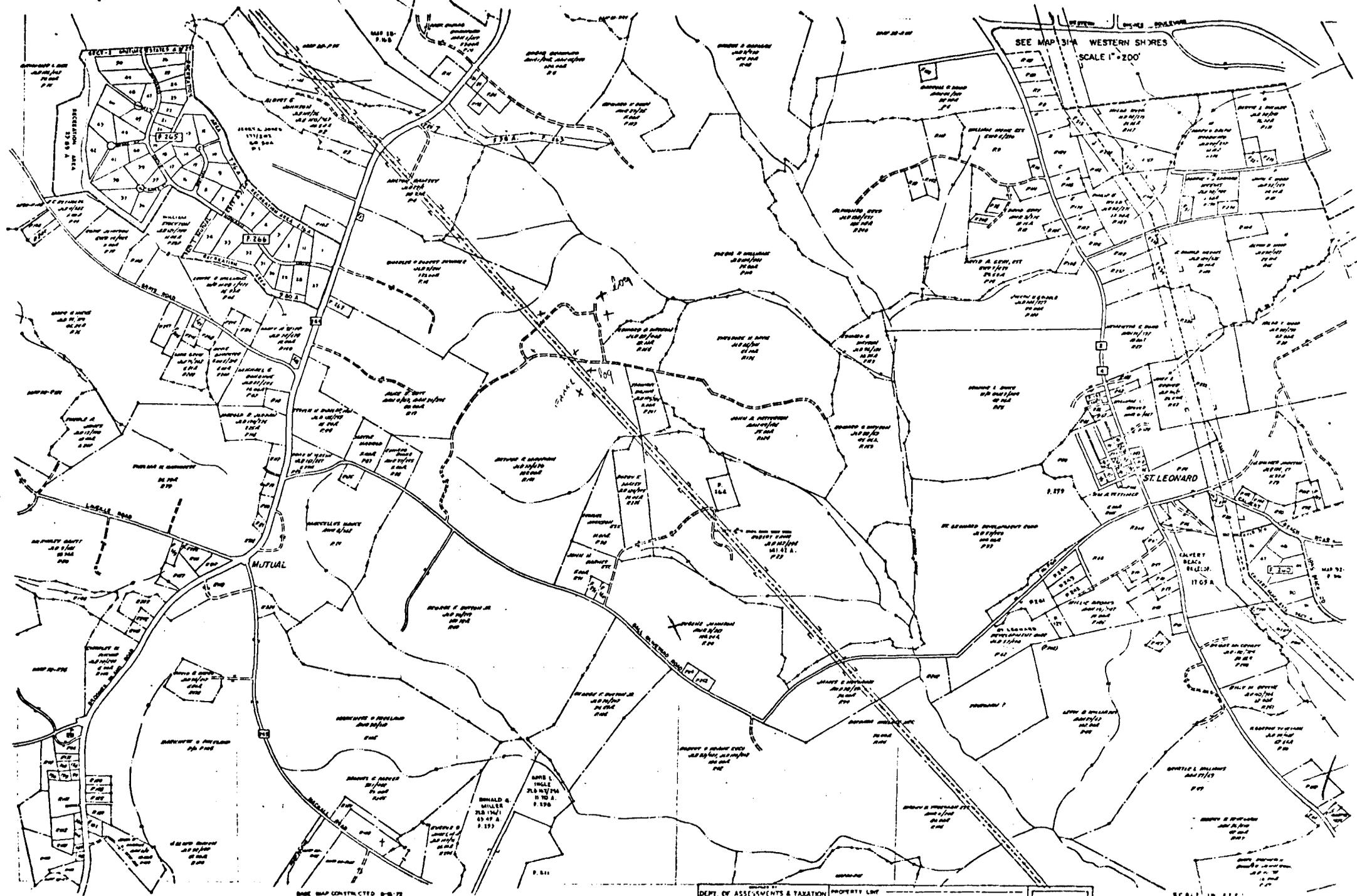
Calvert County Land Records AAH 14/542
Chancery AAH 1/31

Hutchins, files of Mrs. Arlene

Morrison, H., Early American Architecture

CT-156

30



926 929 932 935 94

DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION
 SUB DIVISION BOUNDARY
 CONTINUING OWNERSHIP - 2 11 - 2
 PARCEL NUMBER - P 245120000 TO 245120000
 SCALE 1" = 600'
 PREPARED TO: JUNE 17, 1922
 I.P. 147

PROPERTY LIST
 SUB DIVISION BOUNDARY
 CONTINUING OWNERSHIP - 2 11 - 2
 PARCEL NUMBER - P 245120000 TO 245120000
 SCALE 1" = 600'
 PREPARED TO: JUNE 17, 1922
 I.P. 147

SCALE IN FEET

MAP NO. 31

926-228

240
237
234
231
228

20676

CHESAPEAKE

BAY

bins Map 12 240,000 FT

MD 230,000 FT

GOVERNORS RUN

SAINT LEONARD

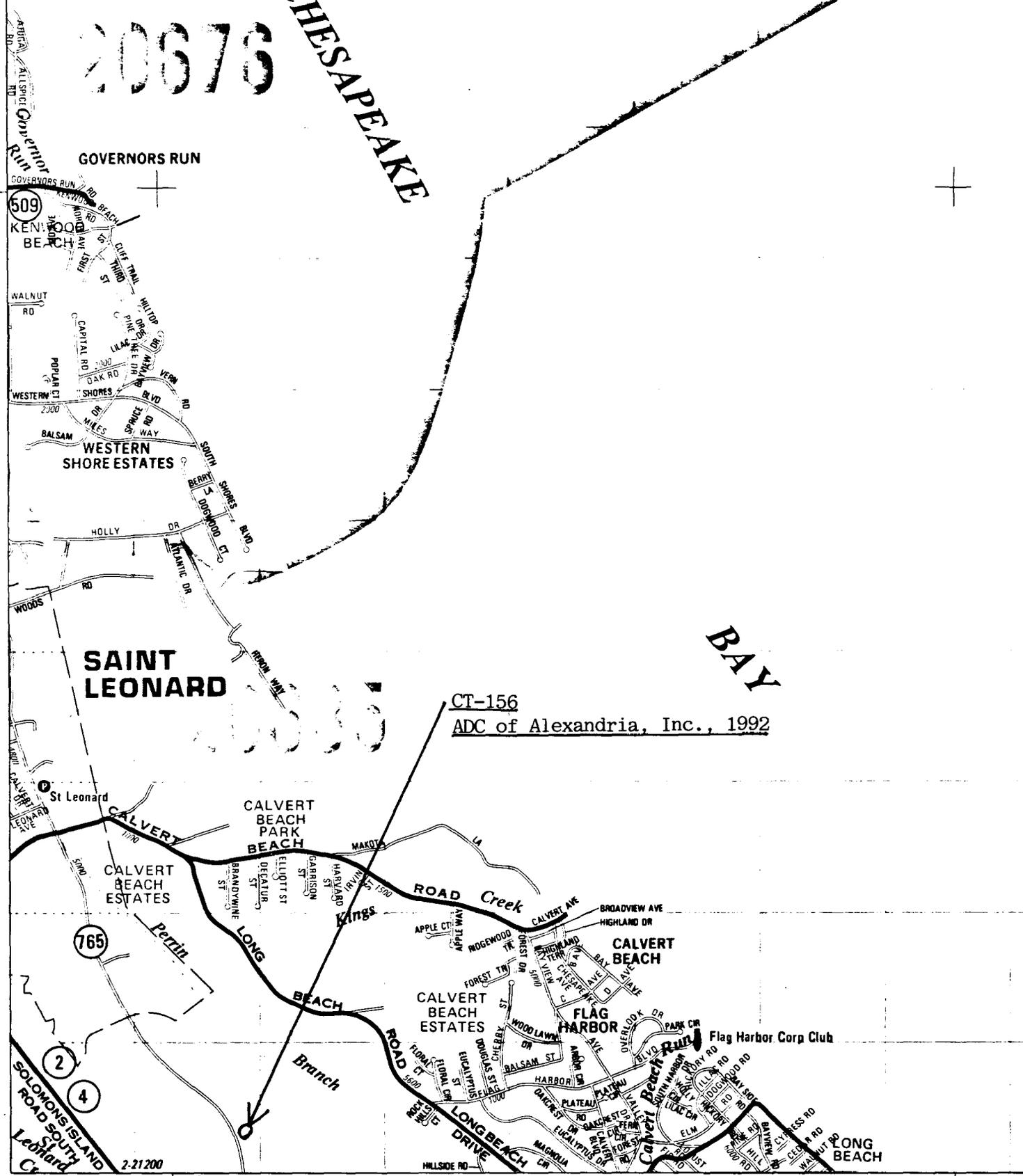
CT-156

ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1992

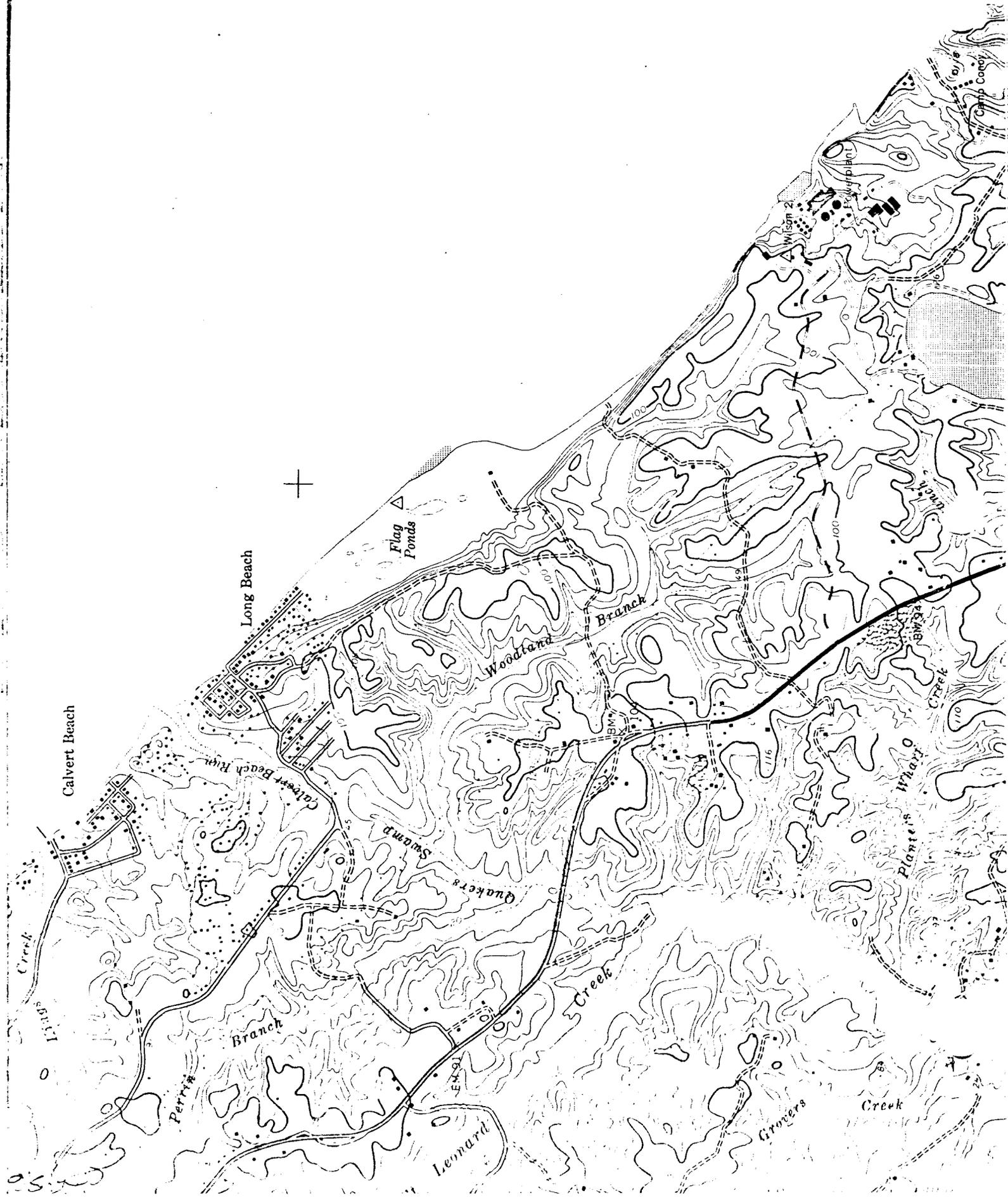
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2 4

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CT-156

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Historic Sites Survey
Broomes Island, Maryland 20618
586-2050

CLVT-156

Mary Coster House

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