

CT-166  
BENIAH BOWEN'S STORE  
(late 19th century)  
Port Republic  
Private

This is a late Nineteenth Century store which is not the first to occupy this cross roads site. The large frame-and-clapboard structure contained a one-room store on the first level and living quarters above. In the 1920's, quarters were enlarged by additions to the south side. Being on a busy cross road, the store with its woodstove was the favorite gathering spot for many in the neighborhood.

## (Capsule)

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

NOTION CT-166  
 CLVT 166  
 MAGI # 0501665611

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Beniah Rowens Store  
 AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Parkers Creek Road and Route 4 (Now Parkers Creek Rd. & Hurry Lane)  
 CITY, TOWN Port Republic CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Maryland VICINITY OF

COUNTY Calvert

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Ogden,  
 STREET & NUMBER

Telephone #:

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: AAH 14/460

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY



STATE OF MARYLAND

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Interviews: Mrs. Howard, and Ollie Bowen

Supplement Docket #80

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

Page 116

**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 Island, Maryland 20615  
588-2050

ORGANIZATION

Winter 76-77  
DATE

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

Beniah Bowens Store

Oral history suggests that there has been a store on this site since well into the Nineteenth Century when this cross-roads was principal in the route between Prince Frederick, Port Republic, and the wharf at Governors Run. Structural evidence, however, suggests that the present structure was built in the 1890's or early 1900's. Ollie Bowen, who has been a resident of this neighborhood for most of his eighty-nine years, was born in the house next to the store. His brother Edward was one of the store's several owners. He recalls that the original store was torn down when he was a boy ("seventy-five or eighty years ago") and replaced by the present structure.

Additions have made the building quite large and produced an L-plan which not only contains the store itself but living quarters and a large storage area as well. The building is two-stories in height and of frame and clapboard construction. The North section was the first built and consists of an elongated structure, two large bays wide (      and      feet long) with its entrance on the west gable end. The store occupied the first floor, as it does today, and the space above was a living quarters. This section has a gable-end roof with deep cornices. The roof is covered with sheet metal and has a flue-chimney exiting the building in the center of the ridge. The clapboards appear to have always been painted white and are attached with machine-cut nails. There are two windows down and two up on each end with three windows and a door venting the north side. These windows are tall, 2/2 and are protected on the first level by solid batten shutters (tongue-and-groove) which can be locked from the inside by means

of a bolt which runs through the wall. The doors are also batten-type with the boards butt joined and laid at 45° angles to the frame. The hardware on the entrance (West) door is quite Victorian in character with its ornate floral patterns. A fancier touch provided for the front door and not found on the side doors are the beaded tongue-and-groove boards of which it is made.

The entrance which is protected by a full porch is made of circular-sawn materials.

Edward L. Bowen purchased the store c. 1923, and his daughter recalls that he made additions. When they purchased the store, it consisted of the store and a single room built into the south side. That room was expanded to two stories and then expanded again by a single story addition to its south end and a kitchen addition on its east side (rear). These additions provided larger living quarters. The south wing is notable for its diamond-window in the gable. These additions are integrated into the whole by a long porch on the west facade which is supported by turned posts decorated with gingerbread brackets.

Edward L. Bowen was just one of several different Bowens to run the store. The first to keep store in this particular structure appears to have been Beniah Bowen. Liber folio shows him acquiring this property in . Supplemental Docket #80 contains an inventory of the store taken upon Beniah Bowens death in 1911. It is complete with a list of his creditors and patrons.

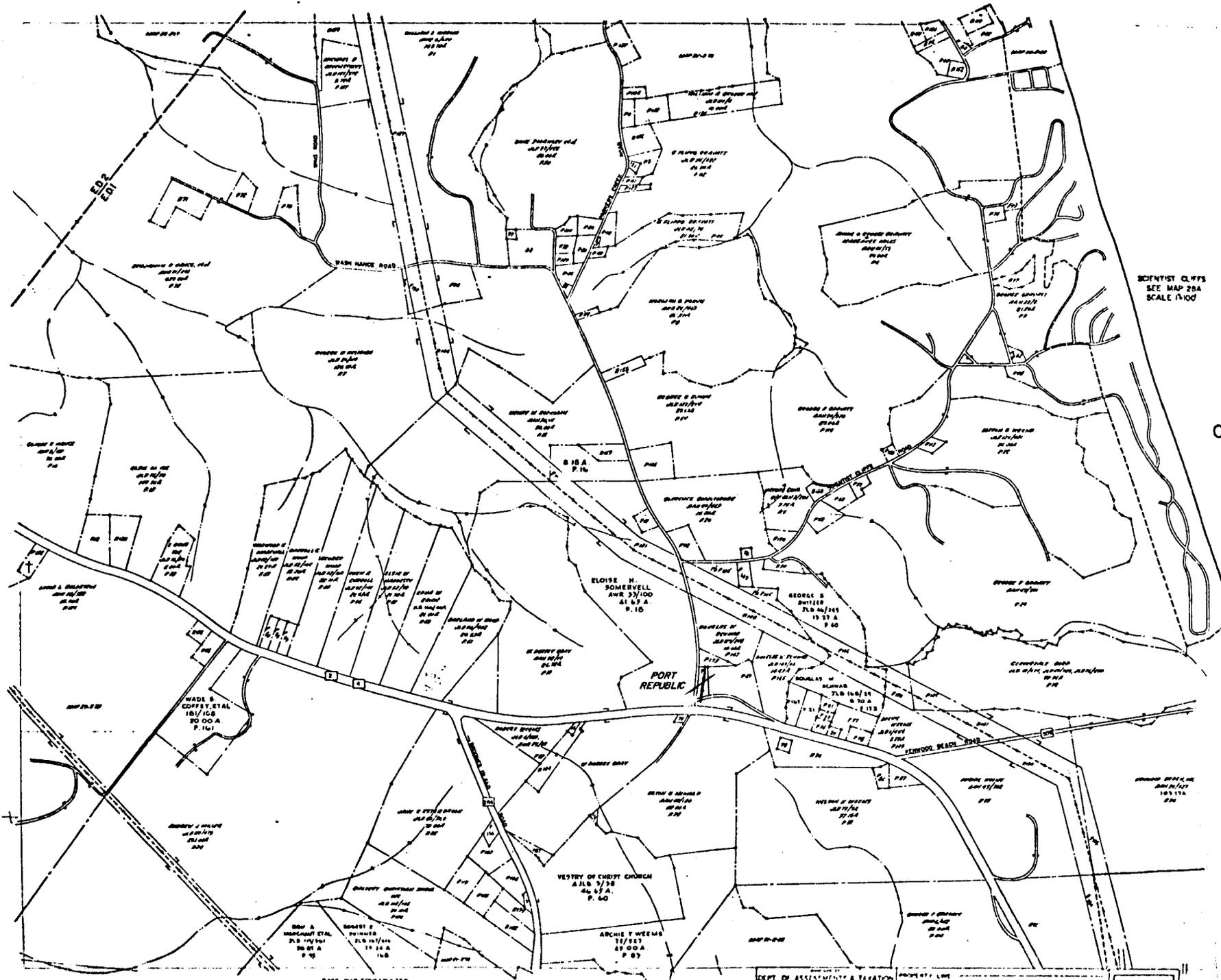
The interior appears to have changed relatively little since the large single room is panelled with tongue-and-groove on the walls and ceiling.

Shelves and cases fill the walls and in the center of the room is a flue chimney which serves a space heater. There are those in the neighborhood who remember when it served a woodstove which was surrounded by a square sand-pit. This was the gathering place for many and where much local news and gossip was exchanged. The sand-pit was the recipient of much tobacco juice.

That Port Republic was a much busier gathering spot then, it appears today is suggested by the fact that the intersection once supported two stores. Parker Creek Road used to cross the present Route 2 & 4 and head west past Christs Church. "Hardestys" store stood on the west side of Route 2 & 4 (Solomons Island Road) opposite Beniah Bowen's. It is said that when business was slow the two storekeepers would stand on their respective porches and talk.

CT-160

27



SCIENTIST CLYDS  
SEE MAP 28A  
SCALE 1/100

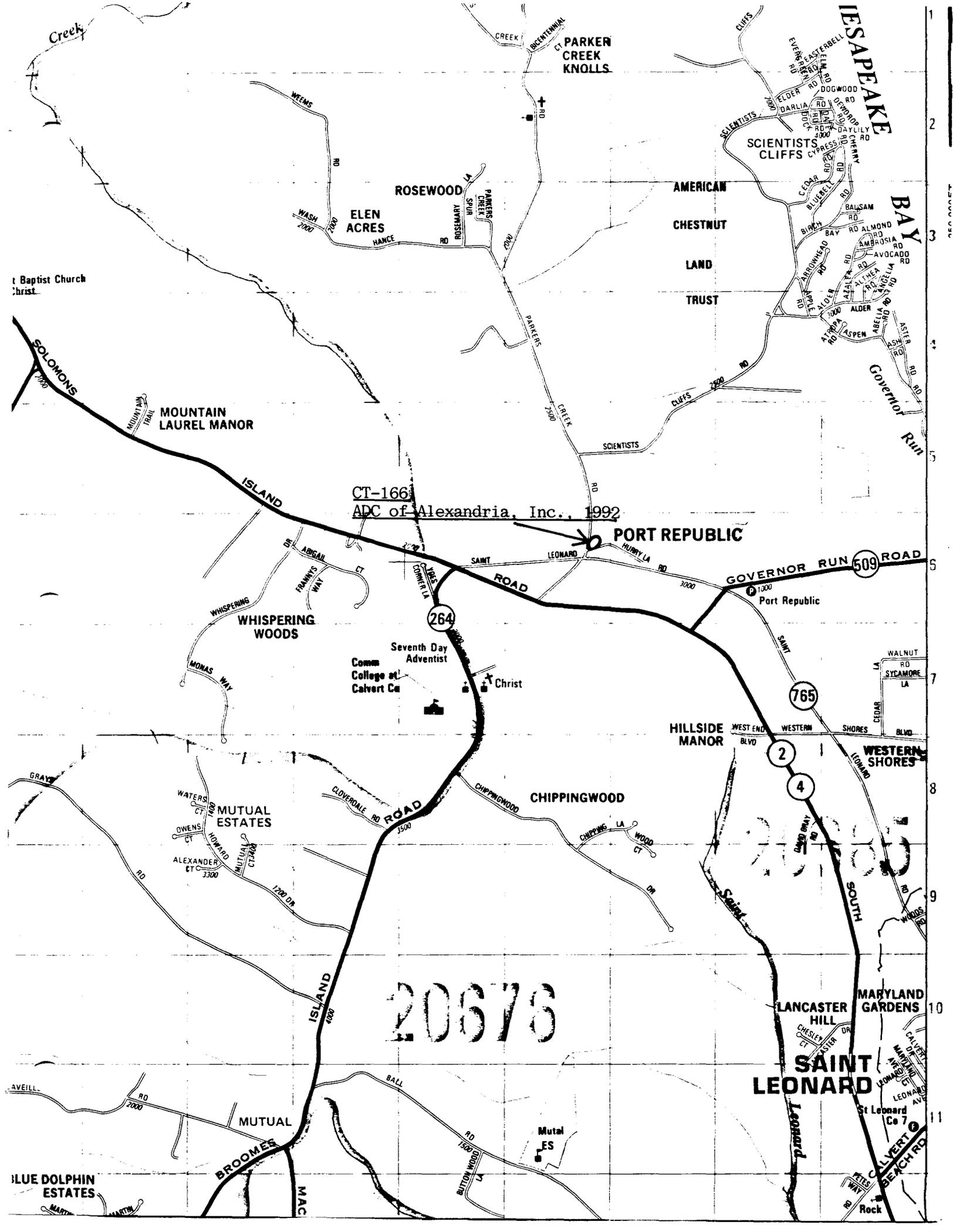
COPYRIGHT - MAP DIVISION - 1967  
NO DEPT OF ASSESS & TAX

BASE MAP CONTINUED  
FROM THIS BLAD  
PLANNED BY DEPT. OF  
MAP DIVISION 1-10

DEPT OF ASSESSMENT & TAXATION  
1967 MAP 28A  
PORT REPUBLIC, MARYLAND  
SCALE 1/100

PROPERTY LINE  
ALL DIMENSIONS IN FEET  
UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED  
PARTIAL BLOCKS  
SCALE 1/1000





CT-166  
ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1992

PORT REPUBLIC

20678

t Baptist Church  
Christ

MOUNTAIN  
LAUREL MANOR

WHISPERING  
WOODS

Seventh Day  
Adventist  
Comm  
College at  
Calvert Cm

HILLSIDE  
MANOR

MUTUAL  
ESTATES

CHIPPINGWOOD

SAINT  
LEONARD

BLUE DOLPHIN  
ESTATES

MUTUAL

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MARYLAND  
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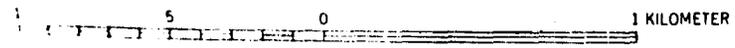
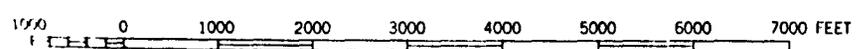
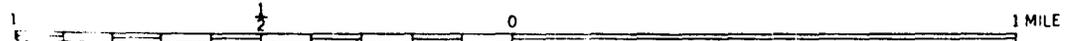
35' 363

BOUVENS 3 MI. (BROOMES ISLAND) 5660 1 NE

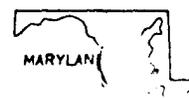
365 32'30"

ACTUAL 4 MI. BROOMES ISLAND 5.9 MI.

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
SEA LEVEL  
ELEVATION IS MEAN L. W. WATER



CT-146



CT - 33  
CLVT-166

Beriah Bowens Store