

Easement

Survey No. CT-68

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Drum Point Lighthouse

## 2. Location

street & number Solomons Island Road South (Maryland Route 2) \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Solomons \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Calvert

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	___ private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	___ private residence
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment	___ religious
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Commissioners of Calvert County

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Prince Frederick state and zip code Maryland 20678

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber

street & number Main Street folio

city, town Prince Frederick state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. CT-68

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move <u>1975</u>
<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.

This hexagonal screw-pile cottage lighthouse is located on the edge of Back Creek, visible from Solomons Island Road. The cottage section of the lighthouse is framed and weather-boarded with an unroofed gallery encircling the lower story. The first story is divided into four equal-sized rooms. There are two rooms on the upper story.

# 8. Significance

<b>iod</b>	<b>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</b>			
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

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<b>Specific dates</b>	1883	1975	<b>Builder/Architect</b>
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check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

This structure originally marked the north side of the entrance to the Patuxent River near Solomons Island. When it was built, it stood out in about 10 feet of water far enough out so that ships could sail between it and the shore. By the time it was decommissioned in 1962, it was seated on dry land at low tide. It is one of three screw-pile cottage-type lights remaining on the Chesapeake Bay. Between 1854 and 1908, 42 examples of this sort of lighthouse were built on the Chesapeake Bay.

The Drum Point Lighthouse was operated by the U.S. Lighthouse Service until 1939, when the Coast Guard took over. In 1962, the lighthouse was replaced by an automatic beacon light. The slowly deteriorating abandoned structure was listed on the National Register in 1973. The lighthouse was moved to the Calvert Marine Museum in 1975.

See: National Register nomination.

A History of Drum Point Lighthouse published by the Calvert Marine Museum, 1978.



*Liasement*  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CT-68  
MAGI # 050068-23

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Drum Point Lighthouse

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Calvert Marine Musuem

CITY, TOWN

Solomon's Island

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Calvert

STATE

MD

COUNTY

**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,

MUSEUM

—COMMERCIAL

—PARK

—EDUCATIONAL

—PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—ENTERTAINMENT

—RELIGIOUS

—GOVERNMENT

—SCIENTIFIC

—INDUSTRIAL

—TRANSPORTATION

—MILITARY

—OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Calvert County Board of Commissioners

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Calvert County Courthouse

MD

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Calvert County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

MD

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Few historic buildings in Calvert County are as well documented as the Drum Point Lighthouse. Being as a project of the U.S. government there are many documents relating to it including original floor plans, color specifications, materials etc. Copies of all these materials are on file in the Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons, Maryland and partial copies are attached to this report. Most of the originals are in the National Archives.

The advantage of a screw pile is that it offers the least amount of resistance to water waves and the wind. Given this base a polygon lends itself nicely to that which is being supported.

In looking at the plans of the lighthouse one immediately calls to mind the work of Orson Fowler the great Mid-nineteenth Century proponent of the architectural designing. That the lighthouse was to be a residence as well as navigational marker, provided the architect with certain unique problems. Lighthouses have traditionally been cylindrical, however, there is no real reason why the residence beneath it could not have been another shape than an octagon. It is admitted by Fowler and others that the circle is a "perfect" form; the lack of corners, bracing, etc., lends itself to many specialized uses with ease. It is a shape which does not lend itself easily to some materials, however, particularly wood. As pointed out by Fowler, the circle is most closely reached by a polygon. An octagon has more obtuse angles than do pentagons or hexagons and seems to have been quite popular.

Orson Fowler was not the first to build an octagon as is evidenced by the fact that he first published in 1849 and the first screw pile lighthouse in the U.S. was an octagon built in the Delaware Bay in 1848. Fowler's work may or may not have influenced the design of the Drum Point Lighthouse but one must admit the striking similarities seen in the floor plans of the lighthouse and the "J.J. Brown Residence" c. 1853. Fowler probably would not have separated the two first-floor bedrooms of the lighthouse with a portion which bisects the angle formed by walls E and F but the other rooms are quite alike. Inner walls form 90 degree angles and attempt to meet the outer walls at 90 degree angles. The lighthouse does not take full advantage of Fowler's observation that acute angles result in difficult to clear corners but the openness achieved by the seemingly long outer walls and the conciseness of a centralized plan do create a more desirable living space for what was necessarily confined existence.

On the first level of the lighthouse were two bedrooms, a kitchen, and a sitting room. The rooms were nearly of equal size although the kitchen and sitting room were made slightly smaller by a utility well in between them. This well included the stairs, a pantry and a coal room. There were two more bedrooms on the second floor each having a large dormer and closets. The dormer on the east side gave access to the large bell. The ballustrated hexagonal lantern frame crowns the polygonal hipped roof.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY



# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

de Cast, R., The Lighthouses of the Chesapeake, Balto.,  
 1973, p. 71-77  
 Fowler, O., A Home For All, N.Y., 1848 and 1853  
 Witney, D. The Lighthouse, Boston, 1975

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
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STATE	COUNTY
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

Description and significance statements: Wayne Nield.

NAME / TITLE

Form compiled by:	<i>Merry Stinson</i>	March 1978
ORGANIZATION	<i>architectural consultant</i>	DATE
STREET & NUMBER	<i>Rt. 5 Box 262 B</i>	757-2815
CITY OR TOWN	<i>Annapolis, Md. 21401</i>	TELEPHONE
		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

Easement

PLAT # 0500682623

ET-68

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 17 1975
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Drum Point Lighthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Drum Point Lighthouse

**2 LOCATION**

Western shore of Back Creek, Calvert County Marine

STREET & NUMBER

Museum

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Solomons Island

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

CODE

24

COUNTY

Calvert

CODE

009

**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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Calvert County Marine Museum, Ralph Eshelman, Director

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 281

CITY, TOWN

~~Solomons~~ Solomons VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 20688

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Calvert County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CT-68

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1973</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Drum Point Lighthouse was located at the southern end of Drum Point, Calvert County, Maryland at the mouth of the Patuxent River. The Light is now at the Calvert Marine Museum on the western bank of Back Creek on the east side of Maryland, Route 2, north of Solomons Island.

The hexagonal wooden structure is held up by iron supports of the screw-pile type. An auger-like flange was bored into the soft Patuxent River bottom forming the support for the columnar iron base from which the weight of the entire lighthouse, which is fastened to the column, is diffused.

Chesapeake Bay screw-pile lighthouse construction is typically hexagonal or square.

The Keeper's quarters, six-sided and sheathed with weatherboards, is solidly built with mortised and tenoned joints, a hexagonal roof and two dormer windows. An unroofed open gallery encircles the lower story of the structure. On the top of the house is the cupola containing the lighthouse lamp.

A small, second open gallery surrounds the cupola. The original light, described as a "fixed red" on an 1877 chart, was replaced with an automatic light after World War II. The original light from the Drum Point Lighthouse is on exhibit at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels, Maryland.

Originally placed one-sixteenth of a nautical mile from shore, the water around the lighthouse gradually receded until, from 1965 on, the lighthouse had become marooned on the beach. The present site gives the lighthouse a much more appropriate setting at the edge of the water.

Drum Point Lighthouse had been a matter of concern to preservationists for several years. The only way to preserve it and to secure its future was to move it. A memorandum of agreement between the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the General Services Administration and the Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer (June 1973) endorsed the move.<sup>1</sup> The Memorandum of Agreement contains a copy of the positive easement attached to the deed of sale which further protects the lighthouse. The General Services Administration disposed of the Lighthouse after the State of Maryland had been unsuccessful in maintaining the property. The lighthouse was legally inaccessible from the land. After April 1973, when the property was nominated to the Register (and while in Federal ownership), vandals got through fins in the structure. All twenty-two doors and twelve windows were broken, guard rails were damaged and the interior was defaced. Now, on its new site, the lighthouse will undergo restoration and will be accessible to the public. Private donations made possible the painting of the exterior.

<sup>1</sup>Memorandum of Agreement, June 1973, with copy of easement and language, can be found in the files of the Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.

# SIGNIFICANCE

CT-68

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
X 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	X TRANSPORTATION
1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		X INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Drum Point Lighthouse is one of the four remaining screw-pile lighthouses on the Chesapeake Bay.

Any lighthouse, and particularly a historic structure, is fast disappearing as navigational equipment due to the modern communications channels and satellite-related aids.

The Drum Point Lighthouse and other screw-pile lighthouses flourished on the Chesapeake Bay from the second half of the nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. They served as important navigational aids. Although the Drum Point Lighthouse has escaped demolition, its original light, which required a resident attendant, was replaced with an automatic light after World War II.

The first screw-pile lighthouse on the Chesapeake Bay was erected in 1855 in Virginia waters. In the mid-nineteenth century these practical lighthouses began to replace light ships, which were the principal navigation aids, on the Bay.

The United States Lighthouse Board, a branch of the United States Treasury Department, built the Drum Point Lighthouse on five acres in the mouth of the Patuxent River. The State of Maryland conveyed the property on which the lighthouse (only) stands to the Federal government on February 15, 1883. This transaction followed the provisions of an 1874 Maryland law that provides for the transfer of State property to become Federal property of the United States for the purpose of the erecting of lighthouses and other navigational aids.

Alexander Mitchell (1780-1868) invented the screw-pile principle. His idea was first used in 1838 at the Malpin Sand Lighthouse at the mouth of the River Thames, England. The principle was later applied to bridges, viaducts and piers. The screw-pile principle is well suited to southern bodies of water and to soft bottoms.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

CT-68

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DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Drum Point Lighthouse  
Calvert County

9

1

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

#9

Johnson, Arnold Burgess. The Modern Light-House Service. Washington:  
Government Printing Office, 1890.  
Laws of Maryland. 1874. Chapter 193.  
Lee, Sidney (ed.). Dictionary of National Biography. XXXVIII.  
New York: MacMillian, 1894, p.62-63.

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CT-68

Brewington, M.V. Chesapeake Bay, A Partial History. Cambridge, Maryland: Cornell Maritime Press, 1953.  
Burgess, Robert H., Chesapeake Circle Cambridge, Maryland: Cornell Maritime Press, 1965.  
This Was the Chesapeake Bay. Cambridge, Maryland: Cornell Publishing, 1963.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	37	2	08	10	4	2	43	36	10	B						
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING							
C											D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

**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 Paul Brinkman, Architectural Historian  
Nancy Miller, Historian IS

ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust DATE Summer 1967, January 1972

STREET & NUMBER 21 State Circle TELEPHONE 267-1438

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis, Maryland 21401 STATE Maryland 21401

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *John N. Pearce* DATE 10/24/75

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

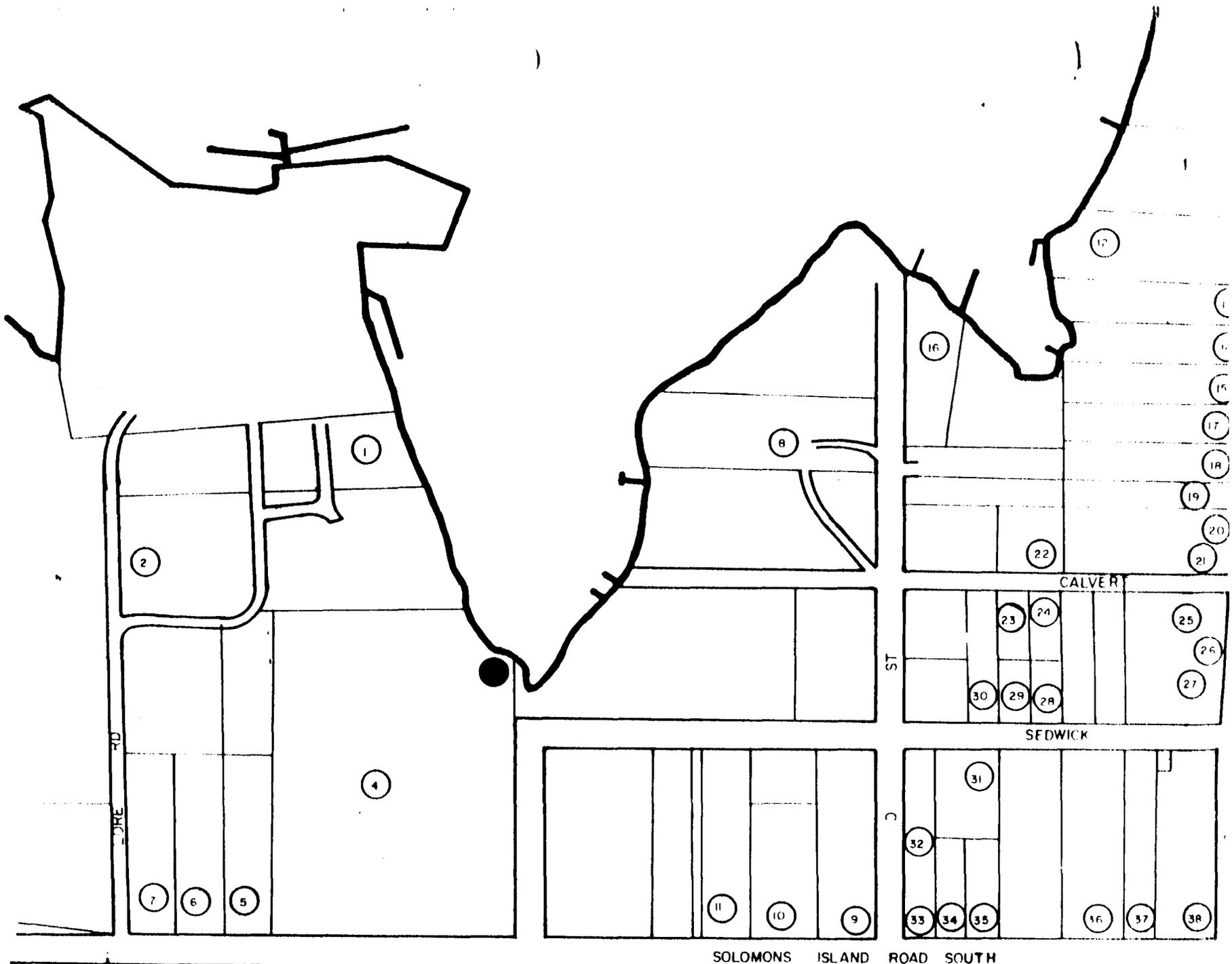
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

OPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



**SOLOMONS**  
**CALVERT COUNTY MAPS # 44, 46**  
**ENLARGEMENT 2 OF 2**

CT-68 (p. 101)



RIVER

IT PATIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Solomons Island Quad CT-68

76°30'  
38°22'30"

170000m E.

172

27'30"

173

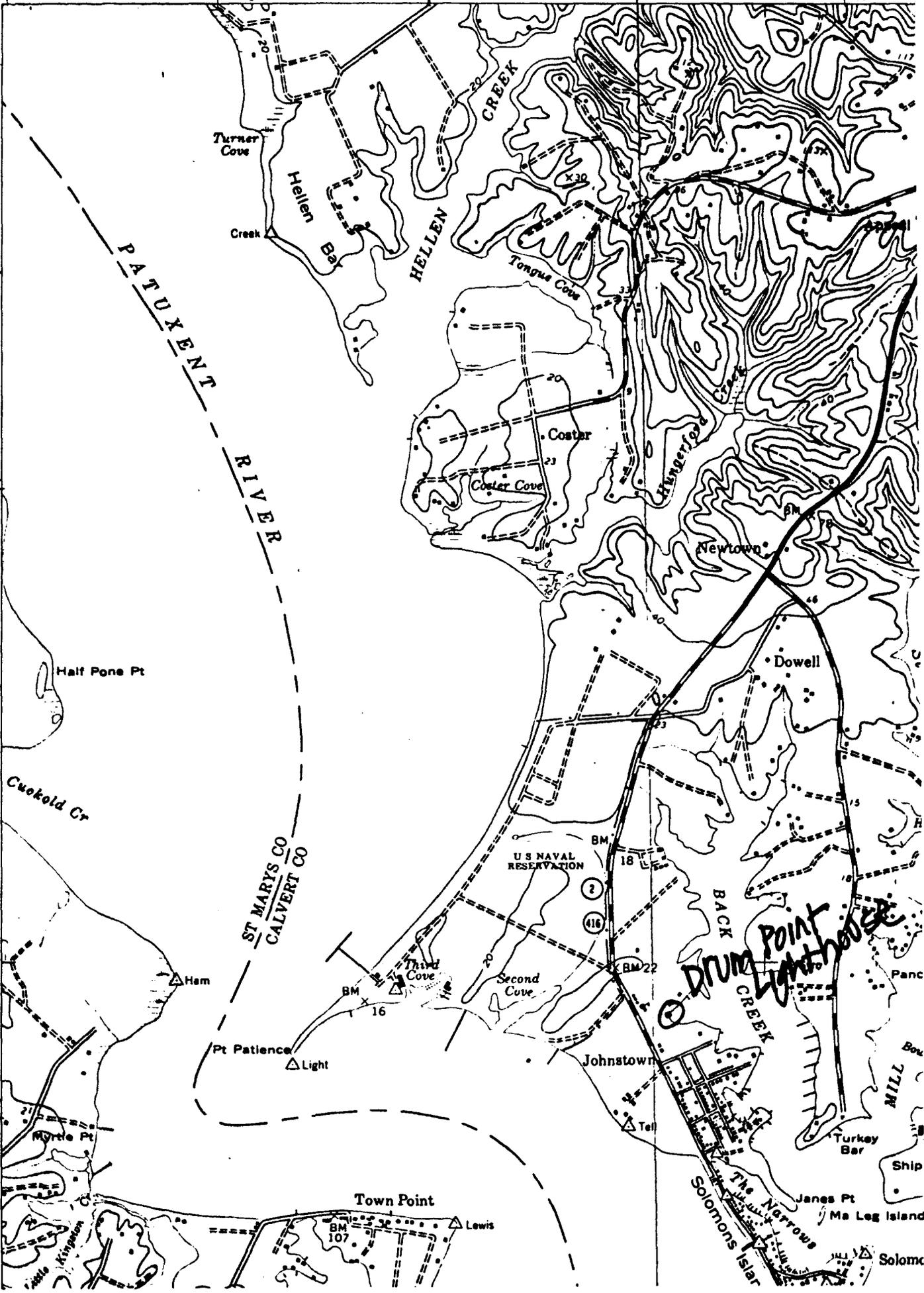
428000m N.

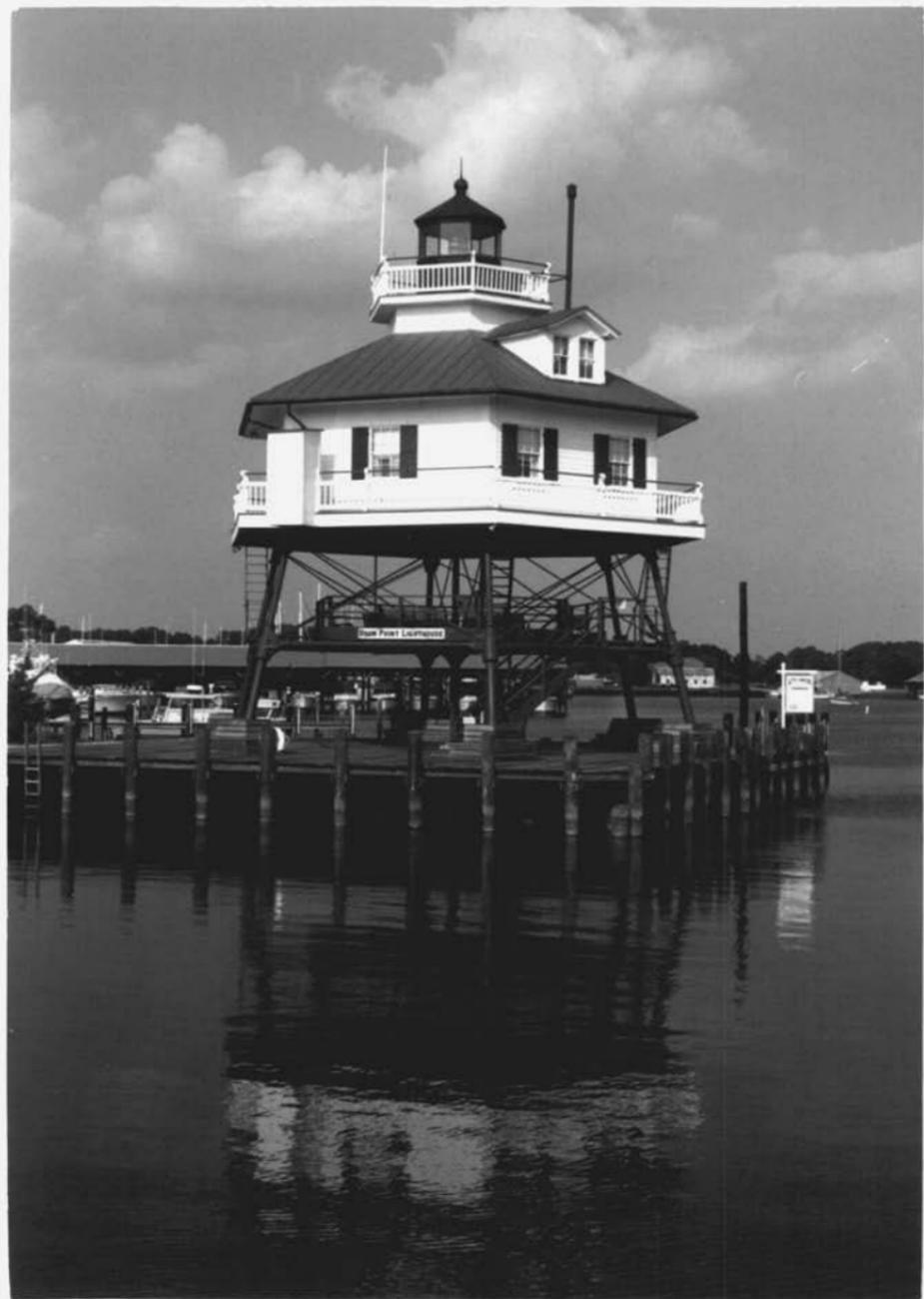
447

445

444

20'





Ct-68 Drum Point Lighthouse  
Solomons Island Road  
Solomons

Camille Wells  
view from the southwest

9/86

CT-68



Drum Point lighthouse

CT-68

RECEIVED

5



Dum Point lighthouse CT 68