

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes    
no

Property Name: Crothers House Inventory Number: CE-1566  
 Address: 97 Chesapeake View Road Historic district:  yes  no  
 City: Perryville Zip Code: 21921 County: Cecil  
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Havre De Grace  
 Property Owner: Howard and Beverlee Neff Tax Account ID Number: 0807009135  
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 143 Tax Map Number: 35  
 Project: MARC Maintenance and Layover Facility Agency: MTA  
 Agency Prepared By: URS Corporation  
 Preparer's Name: Brian Clevon Date Prepared: 1/1/2014  
 Documentation is presented in: MIHP form CE-1566  
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation:  Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended  
 Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
 Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible:  yes Listed:  yes  
 Visited by MHT Staff  yes  no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Crothers house is a two-and-one-half story, T-shaped Colonial Revival stone house with stepped back side wings and a large rear ell. It sits on a knoll and faces northwest. The residence rests on a full basement. The walls are constructed of random ashlar stone. The windows are eight-light-over-eight-light, eight-light-over-twelve-light, eight-light-over-eight-light, and six-light-over-six-light, double-hung, wood-sash units, on the basement, first and second floors and the third floor dormers, respectively. The right wing contains a sun porch and sleeping porch above and has 18-light and 12-light windows on the first and second floors, respectively. The five front gable dormers are clad and sheathed with slate shingles. Additional dormers include one on the rear elevation and three located on the rear ell. The central front portico entrance has a gable roof supported by Tuscan columns and pilasters. The multiple -paned wood door is surrounded by sidelights and a transom window. The side gable roofs on the principle block, side wings and the front gable on the rear ell are sheathed with slate shingles. The principal block has two, interior, gable end chimneys.

The second floor of the right wing is a sleeping porch over a sun porch features window walls with wood panels below each of the 12-light windows. Behind the right wing is a one-story section that rests on a walkout basement. The first floor consists of another sun porch, which features window walls with 15 light window units above wood panels. A circa 2000 second story addition has

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
<b>MHT Comments:</b>	
<u><i>Ami Jankowski</i></u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>5/21/2014</u> Date
<u><i>Plumty</i></u> Reviewer, National Register Program	<u>4/12/14</u> Date

wood walls and vinyl-sash windows. Appended to the rear ell, a circa 1936 shed roof shelters a small wood clapboard room. Behind the right wing and the main block of the house is a circa 1949, wood-frame, vinyl siding clad, shed roofed addition that was built when the residence was converted to apartments. This area currently serves as the kitchen and dining area for the golf course.

The Crothers House at the Furnace Bay Golf Course is typical in massing and form of a large and well-crafted Colonial Revival residence from the 1930s. The residence features notable architectural features such as a pedimented central entrance; the double-hung, wood-sash windows, the dormers, chimneys, and slate roof that associate the house with the Colonial Revival style. Although the residence of State Senators Omar and Margaret Crothers, the Crothers held this office in the 1950s and had not lived in or owned the house since 1940. Their significant achievements are not associated with this building. URS has determined that the Crothers House is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for local architectural significance.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D Considerations: \_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D \_\_\_E \_\_\_F \_\_\_G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program Date

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CE-1566

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Crothers House  
other Furnace Bay Golf Clubhouse

## 2. Location

street and number 97 Chesapeake View Road \_\_\_ not for publication  
city, town Perryville \_\_\_ vicinity  
county Cecil

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

name Howard and Beverlee Neff  
street and number PO Box 768 telephone (410) 392-5346  
city, town Perryville state MD zip code 21921

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cecil County Circuit Courthouse liber 00200 folio 00104  
city, town Elkton tax map 35 tax parcel 143 tax ID number 0807009135

## 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 at MHT  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/> Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	<u>1</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>
				<u>0</u>

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. CE-1566

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### Condition

excellent     deteriorated  
 good         ruins  
 fair          altered

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

### Summary

The Crothers House was built in 1936 and is an excellent example of a large, high-style Colonial Revival residence. Located on a knoll overlooking Principio Furnace Road, which is approximately 1,000 feet to the north, the residence is approached from the side by a stone-lined curved asphalt driveway that comes off Chesapeake View Road (Attachment 2, Figures 1 and 2). The residence is currently used as the clubhouse for the Furnace Bay Golf Course. The property was surveyed from the exterior grounds.<sup>1</sup>

### Residence

The Crothers house is a two-and-one-half story, T-shaped Colonial Revival stone house with receding side wings and a large rear ell. It sits on a knoll and faces northwest. Curved sidewalls constructed of random ashlar flanking the curving entry drive which leads to the front of the house. The drive is lined with a small random ashlar retaining wall, contains a central planting bed, and is shaded by a copse of deciduous ornamental trees (Attachment 2 Figures 1 and 2).

The main block is five bays wide and the northeast recessed wing is one-bay wide, while the opposite or southwest wing consists of a two-story, stone and wood sun porch, with tripartite windows across the façade elevation (Attachment 2, Figures 3-5). The central front entrance features a tripartite sidelights and transom framing a single leaf nine-light wood door. A one-story front portico projects out from the central entrance bay and contains a pedimented gable roof with cornice and dentils supported by fluted Tuscan columns and pilasters. The windows are double-hung, wood-sash units. First floor windows are eight-over-twelve lights, second floor windows are eight-over-eight lights and third floor dormer windows are six-over-six lights. The sun porch has what appear to be multi-pane casement windows, the first floor being three vertical stacks of eight lights, and the second floor (sleeping porch) windows are three vertical stacks of four lights.

The side gable roofs on the principle block, side wings and the front gable on the rear ell are sheathed with slate shingles. The principal block has two, interior, gable end chimneys stacks that appear large enough to accommodate two flues. The side-gable oriented roof is covered with slate shingles. The front slope contains five gable-roofed dormers with wood facing and sidewalls. The dormer roofs are clad with slate shingles. Additional roof dormers include one on the rear elevation and three located on the rear ell.

The second floor of the right (southwest wing) wing is an enclosed sun porch and features window walls with wood panels below each of the 12-light windows. Behind the right wing is a three-story appendage that includes a walkout basement (Attachment 2, Figure 5). The first floor is consistent with the first floor of sun-porch façade wing and features window walls with 18 light window units above wood panels. A second story addition was added in 2000 and has wood walls and vinyl-sash windows. Appended to the rear ell is a 1936 shed roof, wood clapboard rear entry vestibule (Attachment 2, Figures 6 and 7). Behind the left (northeast) wing and the main block of the house is a 1949, wood-frame, vinyl siding clad, shed roofed addition that was built when the residence was converted to apartments

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<sup>1</sup> Architectural historians were advised by MTA to conduct surveys of the historic properties from the public right-of-ways or through the use of aerial photographs. As a result, a property survey may not include architectural descriptions of all elevations. Also, architectural historians were not allowed interior access to the properties, unless otherwise noted.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CE-1566

Name: Crothers House  
**Continuation Sheet**

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(Attachment 2, Figure 8). This area currently serves as the kitchen and dining area for the golf course. An exterior wood and metal fire escape crawls up the rear elevation and of the main house and appendages on this side of the building.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CE-1566

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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

**Specific dates**      1936      **Architect/Builder**

**Construction dates**      1936

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Summary

The Crothers House is an excellent example of a large, two-and-a-half-story Colonial Revival House that was constructed in 1936. Omar and Margaret Crothers, who lived in the house for 4 years, built the house. Both of the Crothers would later serve in the Maryland State Senate during the 1950s. Margaret was the second woman to serve that capacity. This grand scale house evidences many of the character-defining features associated with Colonial Revival architecture and is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for architecture.

### Significance

The stone clubhouse on the Furnace Bay Golf Course was constructed as a private residence in 1936, for Omar and Margaret Crothers, who purchased the 148.5 acre property that year. Omar Crothers was a Maryland State Senator who served in the Maryland Senate from 1951 until 1954. Following his death, Margaret was appointed to her husband's seat to finish his term, becoming the second woman to serve in the Maryland Senate (Maryland State Archives 2003).

Prior to the Crothers' purchase of the property and the construction of the stone house, the area of the golf course had been part of the property owned by Levi H. Evans, and later his daughter and son-in-law, Josephine and Robert Bromwell. The *1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas* indicates a Dr. R.E. Bromwell living on the then 224-acre property, possibly in the cross-gabled farmhouse (CE-1564) that currently stands approximately 600 feet east of the clubhouse. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century following Robert Bromwell's death in 1906, the property was part of a dairy farm owned by Edwin and Alice Rowland, and later their son Frank Rowland (Cecil County News 1906). The farm was known as "Friendship Dairy Farm" (Cecil County Land Records Liber CK 4 f. 208, Liber CSP 1 f. 539, and Liber HWL 16 f. 454; Cecil County Historical Society, n.d.). The property took its name from a tract patented by Nathaniel Chew in 1801 as "Friendship" (CCCC MSA S1194-333). The Rowland's dairy farm was located on the eastern half of the 452-acre tract. The western part of that tract was part of the farm at Lindenwood (CE-700).

Omar and Margaret lived in the house for four years and sold it in 1940 to Eleanor DeForest Butler, who owned it until 1947 (Cecil County Land Records Liber WEB 16 f. 155). One of the present owners, Beverlee Neff, believes that once the house was sold in 1947 to Dominic Ernest Capriotti, it was subdivided into apartments to provide post-World War II housing for workers at Aberdeen Proving Ground and the Naval Training Center at Bainbridge. The

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name: Crothers House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 1

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Neffs purchased the 148.5 acre tract containing the stone house in 1966 (Cecil County Land Records Liber 200 f. 104). An addendum to the deed describes the inventory of the house and indicates that the house had been subdivided into 12 apartments. Beverlee Neff stated that she and her husband continued to rent apartments in the stone house until 2000, when the property was converted to a golf course, and the stone house was remodeled on the interior for use as a clubhouse and shop.

### NHRP Evaluation: Eligible, Criterion B and C

The Crothers House at the Furnace Bay Golf Course is a significant example of a large Colonial Revival house associated with early 20<sup>th</sup> century country estates for the wealthy. The house's large scale and landscaped setting was typical of grand country homes that served as a retreat for the wealthy in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The residence features notable architectural features such as a pedimented central entrance with Tuscan columns. The double-hung, wood-sash windows, multiple pane windows, the dormers, double chimneys, and slate roof associate the building with the style. The sleeping porch are typical of southern examples of this house type. Although the house built and lived in by the Crothers, both of whom were Maryland State Senators, the Crothers were not senators when they lived in this house and the house does not appear to have association with the significant achievements of the Crothers. The house retains integrity of setting, feeling, association and location, and although has rear additions that are not sympathetic to the original architectural character, retains sufficient integrity of design, materials and workmanship to convey its stylistic association. The Crothers House is considered an important local example of Colonial Revival architecture and is eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C for architecture.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CE-1566

Cecil County Historical Society. Vertical file for "Farms of Cecil County." Undated photo and text description of Friendship Dale Farm, residence of Frank L. Rowland.

Cecil County News. Obituary, *Dr. Robert E. Bromwell*. March 28, 1906.

Land Records of Cecil County, Maryland. Available online at MDLandRec.Net Digital Image Retrieval System. Accessed online at [www.mdlandrec.net](http://www.mdlandrec.net) in September, 2013.

See Continuation Sheet

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.0 acre  
Acreage of historical setting 1.0 acre  
Quadrangle name Havre de Grace Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary encompasses the immediate grounds of the house as defined by the circular driveway on three sides of the house. This area includes the relevant landscaping associated with the house, but not the surrounding fields that were converted into a golf course ca. 2000.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Brian Clevon / Sr. Architectural Historian; Sarah Michailof / Cultural Resources Specialist		
organization	URS Corporation; Staughan Environmental Inc.	date	January 2014
street & number	12420 Milestone Center, Ste150; 10245 Old Columbia	telephone	301.820.3000; 301.362.9200
city or town	Germantown; Columbia	state	MD

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  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name: Crothers House  
**Continuation Sheet**

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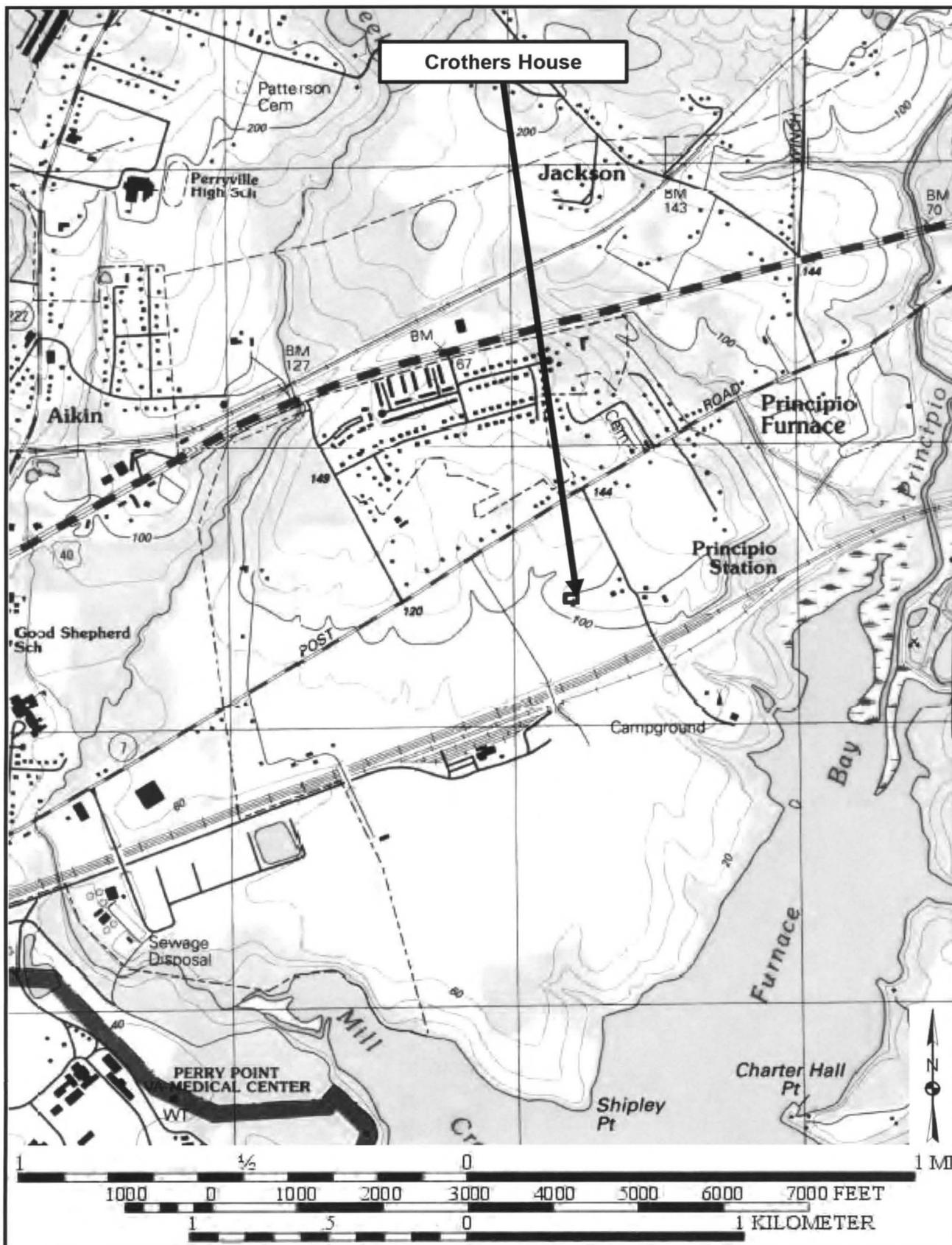
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Maryland State Archives. Archives of Maryland (Biographical Series). Margaret J. Crothers Jackson (c. 1908-2003). MSA SC 3520-12131, Copyright June 9, 2003. Available online at <http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc3500/sc3520/012100/012131/html/12131bio.html>

Neff, Beverlee. Personal communication, October 14, 2013.

Papenfuse, Edward C. *Historical List, Senate, Cecil County (1838-1966)*. Annapolis, MD: Maryland State Archives, 1990. Available online at <http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/speccol/sc2600/sc2685/senate/html/cesenate.html>

Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation. Real Property Database record for Furnace Bay Golf Course. Accessed online at <http://www.dat.state.md.us/> on September 18, 2013.



PROJECT MARC Maintenance and Layover Facility		<b>USGS Topographic Map Showing Crothers House</b>	
SCALE 1:24,000		<b>URS</b>	Project No. 20836023
SOURCE USGS 7.5' Series Havre de Grace MD 1998			Attachment 1

**Photo Log**

**CE-1566, Crothers House**

Cecil County, Maryland

Photographer: Brian Clevon

Date: October 22, 2013

Fuji Frontier Silver Edition Digital Printer on ILFORD Express Digital B&W Silver Gelatin RC paper

Verbatim UltraLife Archival Grade DVD-R

CE-1266, 2013-10-22_01	Driveway, view S
CE-1266, 2013-10-22_02	Driveway, view N
CE-1266, 2013-10-22_03	House, view S
CE-1266, 2013-10-22_04	House, view SE
CE-1266, 2013-10-22_05	House, view NE
CE-1266, 2013-10-22_06	House, view NNW
CE-1266, 2013-10-22_07	House, view NW
CE-1266, 2013-10-22_08	House, WSW



CE-1566. Crothers House

Cecil County, Maryland

Brian Clevin

October 22, 2013

MD SHPD

Driveway, view South

1/8

5388446. Crothers House. (8)\_046

<ILFORD>. (Frances True 2010). 02/19/14



CE-1566, Crothers House  
Cecil County, Maryland

Brian Clevin

October 22, 2013

MD 3470  
Driveway, view North

2/8

5388448, Crothers House - (?)\_845

(ILFORD), (FORD), (T) (S), (C) (R) (14)



CE-1566, Crothers House

Cecil County, Maryland

Brian Clevin

October 22, 2013

MD SHPD

House, view South

3/8

5388440: Crothers House - (2)\_840

(ILFORD), (Faded Tree DS), 22/19/14



CE-1566, Crothers House

Cecil County, Maryland

Brian Clevens

October 22, 2013

MD SHPO

House, view Southeast

A/B

5388443, Crothers House\_ (3)\_041

<ILFORD>, <From: Title 5310>, 02/19/14



CE-1566, Crothers House

Cecil County, Maryland

Brian Clevin

October 22, 2013

MD SHPO

House, view Northeast

5/8

5380443, Crothers House\_147\_042

(ILFORD), (Frank True BDN), 02/10/14



CE-1566, Crothers House  
Cecil County, Maryland  
Brian Clevon

October 22, 2013

MD SHPD  
House, view North-Northwest

6/B

5328445, Crothers House\_ (5)\_843

<ILFORD>, (Froese True 825), 32/19/14



CE-1566, Crothers House  
Cecil County, Maryland

Brian Cleven

October 22, 2013

MD SHPD

House, view Northwest

7/8

5388448, Crothers House - (8) - 044

<ILFORD>, <Foster, Yale SPD>, 02/19/14



CE-1566, Crothers House  
Cecil County, Maryland  
Brian Cleven

October 22, 2013  
MD SHPD

House, view West-Southwest (1)\_039

8/8

<ILFORD>, <Power True 88U>, 02/19/14