

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CHAS-168

MAGI # 0901684308

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

STODDERT FAMILY CEMETERY (at Southhampton)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

250 feet north of intersection of Dakota Street and  
Cornell Road, North Indian Head Estates

CITY, TOWN

Bryan's Road

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Charles

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: ADD.

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Southhampton Corporation

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bryan's Road

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charles County Courthouse

Liber #: 258

Folio #: 430

STREET & NUMBER

Charles Street

CITY, TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7** DESCRIPTION

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**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

SEE ATTACHED

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

SEE ATTACHED

#7: Description:

The Stoddert Family Cemetery is located at the edge of the woods, about 250-feet north of the intersection of Dakota Street and Cornell Road and two blocks south of the intersection of Dakota Street and Amherst Road in North Indian Head Estates, a residential subdivision located approximately one-half mile north-northeast of the intersection of Maryland Routes 210 and 227 at Bryan's Road.

Despite several attempts at preservation by local residents and the United States Navy, years of neglect and outright vandalism has taken a severe toll on this historically significant eighteenth century cemetery. Occupying an area of about 1600 square feet, the cemetery is encircled by a simple post and chain fence erected by the Navy about ten years ago. There are presently three intact and three broken grave markers, two less than those stones recorded by the D.A.R.\* in the 1930's. Each of the three intact stones are flat slabs laid directly on the ground. Each of the three broken stones were upright markers with shaped cresting typical of the eighteenth and very early nineteenth centuries.

The known graves, including those recorded by the D.A.R. whose markers have been broken and the inscription obliterated or for which no marker remains, are:

1. Melannie (Greenfield) Stoddert (wife of Capt. John Stoddert), who died in 1750.
2. Capt. John Stoddert (son of Capt. James Stoddert), who died in 1767.
3. John Truman Stoddert (son of Capt. John Stoddert), who died in 1765.
4. Lucy Heaberd Stoddert (wife of John T. Stoddert), N.d.
5. William Truman Stoddert (son of Capt. John Stoddert and father of Thomas J.J. Stoddert), who died in 1770.
6. Elizabeth Stoddert (wife of William T. Stoddert), who died in 1803.
7. Chloe Hanson Dent Stoddert (wife of Thomas J. J. Stoddert), who died in 1804.
8. Thomas James John Stoddert, who died in 1805.

\* Daughters of the American Revolution

(at South Hampton)

#7: Description

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It is also believed that the cemetery contains the graves of Captain James Stoddert, who was born in Scotland in 1675 and who died at South Hampton in 1726, as well as those of Thomas and Mary (Marshall) Stoddert, parents of Benjamin Stoddert, first Secretary of the Navy, although their gravestones do not appear in the D.A.R. list.

#8: Statement of Significance:

Located in the midst of a sprawling residential subdivision and displaying the effects of many years of neglect and vandalism, the Stoddert Family Cemetery nevertheless remains a site of great historical significance to this immediate area. In addition to being one of the oldest surviving private cemeteries in Charles County, it is also the last remaining physical vestige of one of the county's most prominent and influential eighteenth century families.

The first of the Stoddert family to settle in Charles County was Capt. James Stoddert, who was born in Scotland in 1675.<sup>1</sup> Capt. Stoddert evidently arrived in Maryland shortly before 1714, the year that his name first appears in the county records. In 1715 he purchased two contiguous tracts of land totalling 1150 acres on Nanjemoy (Avon) Creek.<sup>2</sup> Three years later he acquired the 1200 acre South Hampton tract which had initially been patented by Francis Batchelor in 1663, as well as an additional 1,000 acres in southwestern Charles county near present day Maryland Point.<sup>3</sup> Stoddert's close personal and business relationship with the wealthy Marshall family of Marshall Hall indicate that Stoddert probably made his home at South Hampton, a possibility further reinforced by the fact that his widow, Elizabeth Stoddert, married Thomas Marshall I in 1727.<sup>4</sup>

In 1735 a new patent for South Hampton was issued to John Stoddert, son of James Stoddert, at which time it was renamed South Hampton Enlarged.<sup>5</sup> The Stoddert's relationship with the Marshalls is again reflected in the fact that Capt. John Stoddert married Melannie Greenfield, daughter of William Truman Greenfield of St. Mary's County, and the sister-in-law of Thomas Marshall II, John Stoddert's half-brother.<sup>6</sup> In his will Capt. John Stoddert left one-half of South Hampton to his grandson, Major William Truman Stoddert, son of John Truman Stoddert, and the other half interest to his (John Stoddert's) daughter Mary Truman Stoddert, wife of Benjamin Fendall.<sup>7</sup>

William Truman Stoddert, son of John T. and Lucy H. Stoddert, was born at South Hampton in 1759 and, following the deaths of his father and grandfather, came under the guardianship of his mother's brother, William Smallwood, famed Revolutionary War general. He attended Philadelphia College until 1776 when he enlisted in the Continental Army, subsequently rising to the rank of Major and commander of one of General Smallwood's Brigades. Following the war he returned to Charles County and made his home at Smith's Point, maintaining a prominent position in the political and social affairs of the county until his death in 1793.<sup>8</sup>

The 1783 tax assessments show one-half of South Hampton owned by William T. Stoddert, and the half owned by Benjamin Fendall in right of his wife, Mary Stoddert, to have been improved by several dwelling houses and related dependencies. Since the valuation of Fendall's part of the property was substantially higher than Stoddert's, it is

(at South Hampton)

#8: Statement of Significance

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reasonable to assume that the earlier Stoddert home and cemetery was located on that half of the property.<sup>8</sup> In 1814, Benjamin Fendall sold his rights to the one-half of South Hampton, then including 500 acres, to James Fenwick for \$10,000.00. According to the deed Fenwick had been living on the property for some time previous to the sale.<sup>10</sup> Excluded from the sale was the one-half acre cemetery. It is believed that it was James Fenwick who substantially enlarged the old Stoddert home which once stood about one-quarter mile south of the cemetery. (This house was torn down in the 1960's when the property was developed.) In 1840 the property was owned by Sarah Marshall, who in 1856 sold it to Mary P. Thomas.<sup>11</sup> South Hampton remained in the Thomas family until 1924 when it was sold to Eugene Frye.<sup>12</sup> In 1926 it was acquired by the Hungerford family who made it their home until 1944 when it was purchased by Harry Wooster.<sup>13</sup> It was during the Wooster's ownership that a training track for harness racers was established. Wooster's heirs sold the remaining parts of South Hampton to the South Hampton Corporation in about 1960.<sup>14</sup>

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**Footnotes:**

1. Tombstone inscriptions compiled by the Daughter's of the American Revolution, Southern Maryland Room, Charles County Community College.
2. Charles County Land Records, La Plata, Maryland. Liber F#2, folio 59.
3. Liber H#2, folio 194. See also: Wills (Register of Wills Office, La Plata), Liber AD#5, folio 364.
4. "The Marshalls of Marshall Hall," unpublished compilation of geneological data on the Marshall family in the collection of J. Richard Rivoire, La Plata, Maryland.
5. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. Patents: Liber EI#3, folio 436. See also Liber 5, folio 169 and Certificates # 440.
6. "The Marshalls of Marshall Hall", J. R. Rivoire.
7. Wills: Liber AD#5, folio 364.
8. Klapthor, Margaret Brown. History of Charles County, Maryland. Charles County Tercentenary Commission, La Plata, Maryland. 1958. pp. 89,90.
9. 1783 Tax Assessments, Charles County, District No. 5. Land. Hall of Records, Annapolis.
10. Deeds: Liber IB#11, folio 11.
11. Liber IB#24, folio 199.
12. Liber WMA#46, folio 127.
13. Liber TBM#80, folio 259.
14. Liber 258, folio 430.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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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

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

J. Richard Rivoire, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Charles County Planning Department

DATE

July, 1980

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

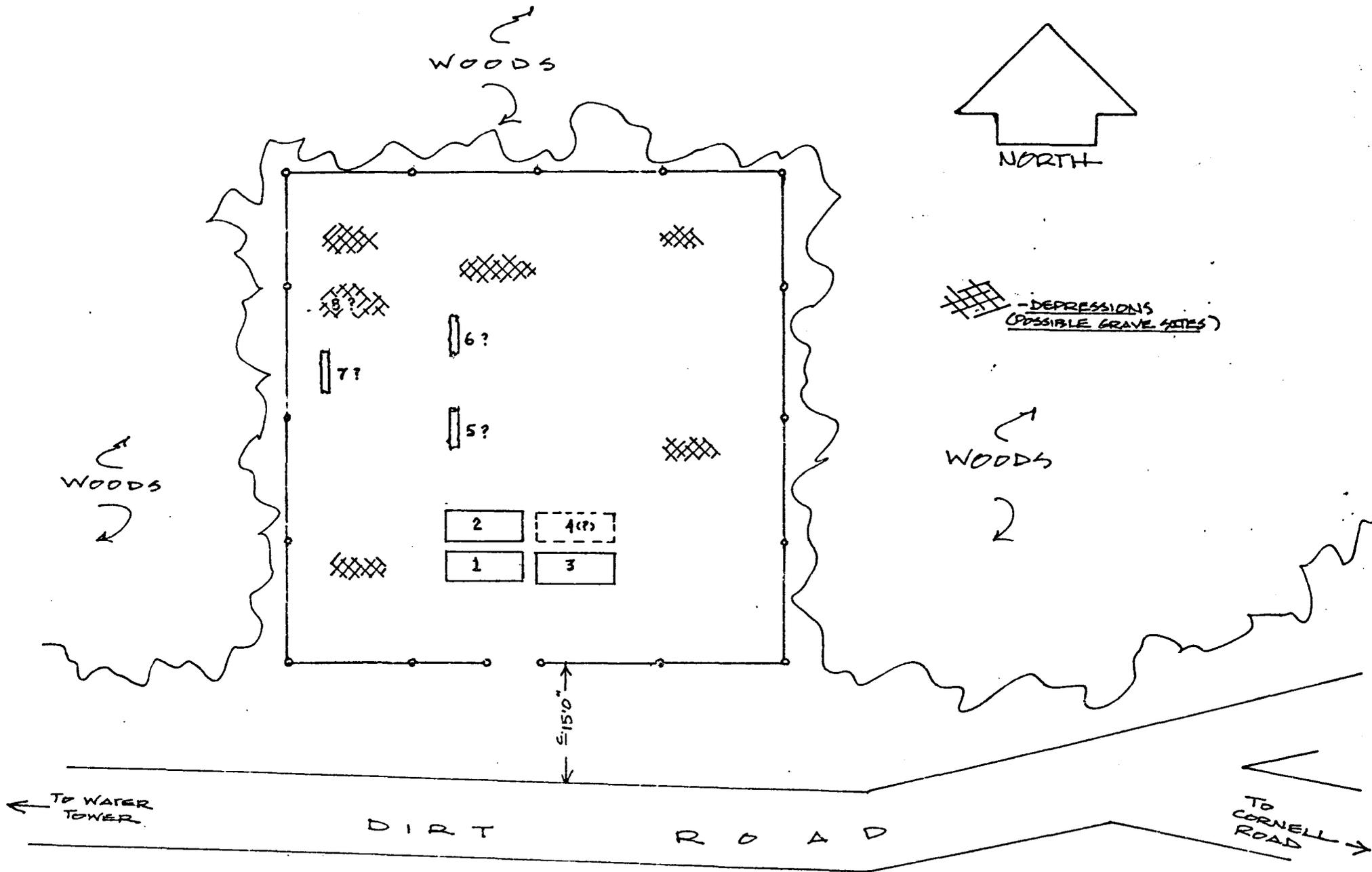
STATE

Maryland

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.

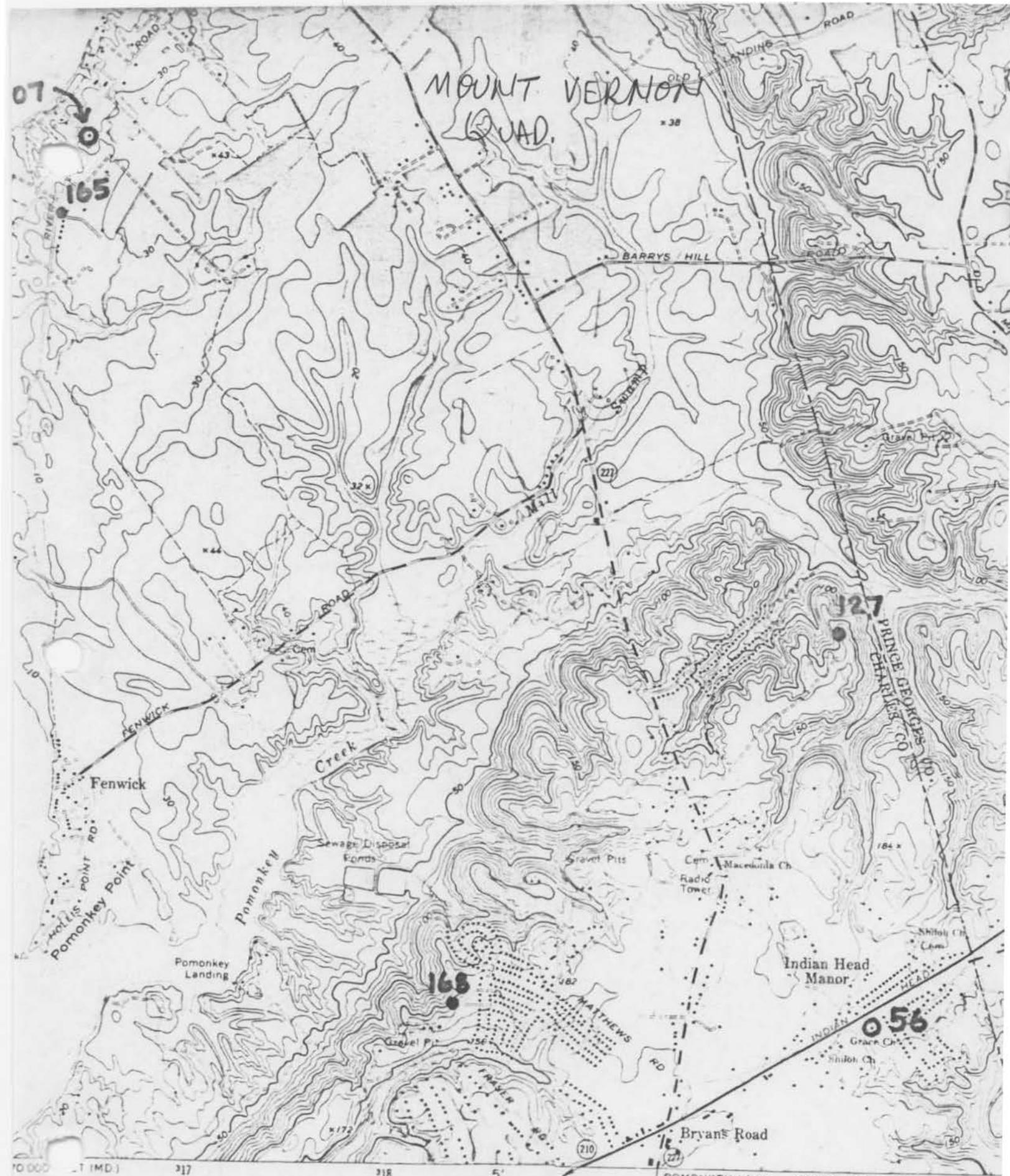
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



10/82 STODDERT FAMILY CEMETERY; CHAS-168  
 ( at South Hampton )  
 J. R. Rivoire, July, 1980

Approx. scale: 3/32" = 1'-0"



MOUNT VERNON  
QUAD.

07  
165

127

PRINCE GEORGES CO  
CHARLES

165

056

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ological Survey  
E

ods from aerial photographs  
Revised by the Geological Survey  
1954



POMONKEY 12 MI  
9 MI. TO U.S. 301  
INDIAN HEAD 5 MI  
SCALE 1:24000

7  
124 MILES 1:17