

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CHAS-175

MAGI # 0901754408

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC EDWARD PYE GRAVESTONE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER St. Charles R. C. Church Cemetery, Old Indian Head Road

CITY, TOWN Glymont VICINITY OF Indian Head 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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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 Contact: St. Mary's, Star of the Sea Church Telephone #: _____

STREET & NUMBER Md. Rte. 210

CITY, TOWN Bryan's Road VICINITY OF _____ STATE, zip code Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. None

Liber #: _____
Folio #: _____

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____



DESCRIPTION

CH 175

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE c. 1940

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SEE ATTACHED

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

#7: Description:

The monument marking the grave of Edward Pye is located in the former St. Charles Roman Catholic Church cemetery, now under the auspices of the Church of our Lady, Star of the Sea (also known as St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church). The cemetery, still in use, is on the north side of Old Indian Head Road (Strauss Ave.), about one-quarter mile west of its junction with Maryland Route 225, and one-quarter mile southwest of the junction of Maryland Routes 210 and 225, at Glymont. It is said that the marker was moved to this location from its original site where a Pye family home formerly stood (about one-half mile directly north of the Church site) when that property was acquired and developed by the federal government in about 1940; however, no records documenting this move have been located.

Of ornately carved sandstone, emblazoned with the coat-of-arms of the Pye family on the crest and a skull and crossbones at the base, this monument is unique in Charles County in terms of its artistic merits, and despite its age and the fragile composition of the stone, displays no evidence of wear or deterioration. Inasmuch as the marker displays carvings of a quality of design and composition unrivaled by any others of similar type and age in the region, it possibly was imported from England where the Pye family originated from and to which they maintained close social, family and economic ties throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The inscription on the stone, below the arms and the motto: "In Cruce Glorior," reads:

Edward Joseph Pye, Esq.
Born Feb. 6, 1767
Died Jan. 2, 1801
The Father of four Childⁿ

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

- PREHISTORIC
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS
- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1801

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE ATTACHED

#8: Statement of Significance:

This elaborately carved monument marking the grave of Edward Joseph Pye (1767-1801), emblazoned with the coat-of-arms of the Pye family and with a skull and crossbones at the base, is a remarkably well-preserved and sophisticated example of the stone carvers art. The fact that the marker is of sandstone makes it particularly unique since this material deteriorates very quickly in this climate and very few sandstone monuments, either flat or upright, survive. The stone is said to have been moved to this location from its original site near an early home of the Pye family that stood about one-half mile north of here when the Federal government acquired and developed the property in the early 1940's. Its subsequent placement directly behind a larger monument of more recent vintage has no doubt contributed to its continued maintenance.

The Pye family were English Catholics and many members of the family remained loyal to the British throne during and after the American Revolution. Wealthy and for the most part well educated, they maintained close social, family and economic ties with England, frequently traveling back and forth between the two countries. In addition to landholdings in Britain and a plantation in Louisiana, they owned extensive property in Maryland. One of the largest single tracts they owned in Charles County was Cornwallis Neck, the peninsula bounded by the Potomac River and Mattawoman Creek that makes up present day Glymont and Indian Head. Encompassing some 5,000 acres, Cornwallis Neck (also referred to as Mattawoman Neck) was initially granted to Thomas Cornwallis, a prominent colonial figure, in 1665. The means by which the Pye family acquired this property is not yet known, but since Cornwallis died in England leaving a considerable extate in Maryland, it is possible that the Pye family either purchased it or inherited it in England.

The first mention of the Pye name in the Charles County land records occurs in 1706, although a "Mr. Edward Pye" appears as one of the Commissioners appointed to purchase lands in Charles County for the purpose of establishing towns and ports under the Maryland General Assembly's 1683 Act for the Advancement of Trade.¹ This is probably the same Edward Pye who commanded a company of "foote" soldiers in Charles County in 1689.² There is no mention of an Edward Pye in the seventeenth century land records, the first being Charles Pye in 1706 and Walter Pye in 1719. In a complicated series of transfers executed in 1767 by Edward, Duke of Norfolk, it is recorded that Charles Pye (who had died sometime prior to 1767 and who was conceivably the son of Edward Pye of 1683 and 1689) was the owner of over 5,000 acres of land in Charles County which descended to his son, John Pye, when his mother, then living in England, relinquished her rights to her late husbands Maryland estates.³

According to the 1783 tax assessments, the heirs of John Pye owned 2751 acres of Cornwallis Neck, the acreage having been reduced from the original 5,000 as a result of a series of transfers and divisions between various branches of the family.⁴ By 1800 their holdings amounted to less than half the amount recorded in 1783. By 1850 the family and its fortune had collapsed, largely due to losses suffered in the sale of their properties in England and Louisiana. Although a few descendants of the Pye family continue to live in the area, the name itself has disappeared.

Edward Joseph Pye, who died in 1801, is believed to have been the brother of Charles Pye who sold the land where St. Charles Church was later built to the "Roman Catholic Congregation of Cornwallis Neck" in 1800. In his will Edward Pye disinherited two of his four children, but his tombstone acknowledges the fact that he was indeed the "Father of four Children." 5

Footnotes:

1. Klapthor, Margaret Brown. History of Charles County, Maryland. (Charles County Centennial Commission, La Plata, Maryland.) 1956. p. 32.
2. Ibid.
3. Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland. Liber O#3, folio 585.
4. 1783 Tax Assessments, Charles County: District No. 5, Land. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.
5. Register of Wills Office, La Plata, Maryland. Wills: Liber AL#12, folio 15.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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 & 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

N. R. FIELD SHEET

STATE: _____
 COUNTY: _____
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY NUMBER _____ DATE _____

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
 BOX 1704
 ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME
 COMMON: PYE GRAVE (EDWARD JOSEPH)
 AND/OR HISTORIC: _____

2. LOCATION
 STREET AND NUMBER: ST. CHARLES CHURCH YARD
 CITY OR TOWN: GLYMONT - N. SIDE OLD INDIAN HEAD "HYWAY"
 STATE: MD. CODE: _____ COUNTY: CHARLES CODE: _____

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>GRAVE</u>	_____
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>MARKER</u>	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
 OWNERS NAME: CONTACT: ST. MARY'S STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH (CATHOLIC)
 STREET AND NUMBER: GLYMONT
 CITY OR TOWN: INDIAN HEAD STATE: MD. CODE: _____

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Charles County (?) or Church Records
 STREET AND NUMBER: St Mary's Star of the Sea, Indian Head
 CITY OR TOWN: Ju Plata STATE: Md. CODE: _____

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE OF SURVEY: _____
 DATE OF SURVEY: _____ Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: _____
 STREET AND NUMBER: _____
 CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ CODE: _____

STATE: _____
 COUNTY: _____
 ENTRY NUMBER _____ DATE _____
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The particular sandstone grave marker for Edward Joseph Pye, Esq. is of interest as ~~for~~ so few of this type were able to withstand the detrimental effect of ind. climate.

Several Pye graves, including the one surveyed, were moved some years ago to this location from their original site on the Potomac River. Until approximately 30 to 40 years ago the Pye family home stood where the "River's Edge Restaurant" now exists. This home, from local memories, was of mid eighteenth century date and contained a "large and elegant mirrored ball room". After the Pye family lost their fortune (Civil War?) the home was turned into a hotel and supposedly served as President Grant's "secret" White House. The house stood on a crest some feet above the water level and at the shore was a rather large wharf for Washington & Bay Dound steamers. At the time the present bldg. was erected many Indian artifacts were unearthed including two seventeenth cent. bowls⁽¹⁾ and a skull and ax found in ~~the~~ hollow trunk of a tree⁽²⁾.

The grave, in English script, reads:

Edward Joseph Pye, Esq.

Born Feb. 6, 1767

Died Jan. 2, 1801

The Father of four childⁿ

The Generation of the Righteous shall be Blessed.

at the crown is the family coat of arms with the "Motto" "IN ERUCE GLORIOR" and a skull and crossbones near the base.

As the grave was moved here from its original site ~~the body~~ relatively late the body was not exhumed. The stone merely

(1) - excavated & other artifacts by J.R. F. Worth

(2) - Smithsonian Institute, Wash. D.C.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/> | 16th Century <input type="checkbox"/> | 18th Century <input type="checkbox"/> | 20th Century <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15th Century <input type="checkbox"/> | 17th Century <input type="checkbox"/> | 19th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> | Education <input type="checkbox"/> | Political <input type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic <input type="checkbox"/> | Industry <input type="checkbox"/> | Science <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> | Invention <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Art <input type="checkbox"/> | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> | Military <input type="checkbox"/> | | _____ |
| | Music <input type="checkbox"/> | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

rests between two footstones of another family.
 Many legends surround this young father of four and one better known relates how young Joseph, a most handsome man, was at a poker game during which there was a violent storm. After the storm Joseph, with his favorite stallion, ~~returned~~ home via its long cedar lined drive (still extant in Potomac Heights, a nearby development) and while intoxicated attempted to force his horse to walk a fallen cedar. The horse slipped on the wet wood and both rider and horse died with broken necks.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

[Empty space for major bibliographical references]

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: *Richard Pivovitz*

ORGANIZATION: *MTT* DATE: *10/20*

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: *Cunap.* STATE: *MD* CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

INDIAN HEAD QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND-VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW/4 INDIAN HEAD 15' QUADRANGLE

5883 II NE
(MOUNT VERNON)

10'
BLUFF SANCTUARY

12

13

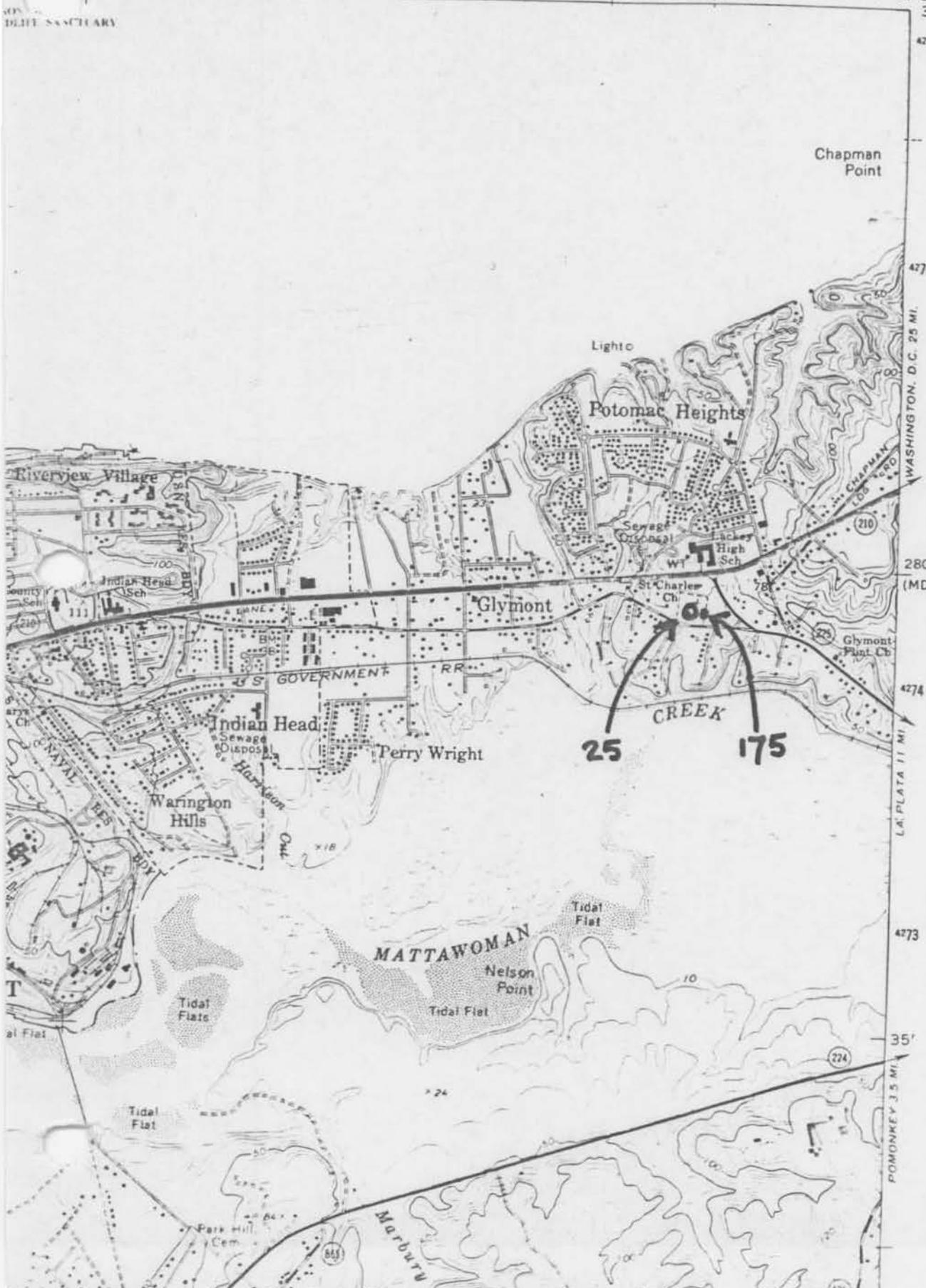
760 000 FEET (MD.)

77° 07' 30"

38° 37' 30"

477

CH-175



Chapman Point

Light

Potomac Heights

Riverview Village

Indian Head Sch

Glymont

St Charles Ch

CREEK

25

175

Indian Head Sewage Disposal

Perry Wright

Warrington Hills

MATTAWOMAN

Nelson Point

Tidal Flat

Tidal Flat

Tidal Flat

Park Hill Cem

Marbury

476

280 000 FEET (MD.)

474

LA PLATA 11 MI

473

35'

POMONKEY 3.5 MI

224

425

Edward Joseph Pyc Esq
Born Feb. 6, 1767
Died Jan. 2, 1801
The Father of four Children

CH-175

EDWARD PYE GRAVE

