

CH-527
Killough Cottage
Cobb Island
Private

1934

The Robert & Mazel Killough Cottage is one of many seasonal vacation cottages built on Cobb Island between the 1930s and 1950s. Erected in 1934, this modest Craftsman Bungalow features a compact plan, front gable roof, and modest detailing.

The Killough Cottage is a representative example of the many small summer cottages erected on Cobb Island over the first half of the 20th century. In nearly original condition, the house was one of 150 cottages erected as a vacation cottages prior to 1935. The Killough Cottage displays elements of the Craftsman style and a roughly bungalow-type form. This style and form was popular for seasonal cottages due to its relative simplicity and emphasis on porches for outdoor living.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH-527

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Robert & Mazel Killough Cottage
common/other name _____

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2. Location

=====

street & number 18289 Piedmont Street not for publication _____
city or town Cobb Island vicinity _____ state Maryland code MD
county Charles code 017 zip code 20025

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing		Noncontributing		
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____
No X

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Craftsman Bungalow

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation piers: poured concrete infilled with block

roof Front gable: asphalt shingles

walls Frame: wood weatherboard

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-527

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1934

Significant Dates 1934

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

CH-527

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records. Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Hickling, Lee. *An Illustrated Centennial History of Cobb Island*. Cobb Island, MD: Ambell Press, 1989.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*. La Plata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is designated as Parcel on Map 90 "Cobb Island" Section B-2, lots 722-723 on the Charles County Property Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Killough Cottage has been associated with lots 722 & 723 since its construction in 1934.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Kathryn Gettings Smith, Architectural Historian
organization Charles County Planning Dept. date May 10, 1999
street & number P.O. Box B telephone 301-645-0689
city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646

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12. Property Owner
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name Louis M. Hesen, Jr.
street & number 18289 Piedmont Drive telephone _____
city or town Cobb Island state MD zip code 20025
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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-527

Section 7 Page 1

Killough Cottage
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

The Robert & Mazel Killough Cottage is one of many seasonal vacation cottages built on Cobb Island in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. Erected in 1934, this modest Craftsman Bungalow features a compact plan, front gable roof, and modest detailing.

Located on two lots on Cobb Island, an early 20th century vacation community, the Killough Cottage stands among a group of early "cottages." It stands on a level lot that is enclosed by wire fencing.

Standing on what was originally a poured concrete pier foundation, the house consists of a 1-story frame structure with a front gable roof and an interior parged chimney. A full-width enclosed front porch extends across the front of the house. A small visor roof shelters this porch from the sun. Another enclosed porch extends across the rear elevation and has similar visors sheltering the north and south sides of the porch.

The facade (behind the enclosed porch) consists of a centered single-leaf panel-and-light wood door flanked by 6/1 wood sash windows. The north elevation is broken by three windows, two large 6/1 windows flanking a small 4/1 window. The rear wall of the main house contains a single 6/1 wood sash window and a panel-and-light wood door. Finally, the south wall holds just two 6/1 wood sash windows. All of the windows are trimmed with square-edged wood casings.

The house has been altered by the infilling of the original pier foundation with concrete block, and by the addition/extension and enclosure of the rear porch.

OUTBUILDING:

A single frame shed, approximately contemporary with the main house, stands in the northwest corner of the lot. The shed is characterized by its sloping roof, exposed rafter tails, and wood German siding. To single leaf doors open into the shed.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-527

Section 8 Page 1

Killough Cottage
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

The Killough Cottage is a representative example of the many small summer cottages erected on Cobb Island over the first half of the 20th century. In nearly original condition, the house was one of 150 cottages erected as a vacation cottages prior to 1935. The Killough Cottage displays elements of the Craftsman style and a roughly bungalow type form. This style and form was popular for seasonal cottages due to its relative simplicity and emphasis on porches for outdoor living.

After European settlement of the Maryland Colony, Cobb Island became the possession of Captain James Neale, a prominent early English settler who acquired a 2,000-acre tract in Charles County in 1642. The island likely obtained its name from Neale, who was known for his trade links with Spain. Tradition states that he paid for his colonial grant with Spanish gold coins, or "Cobs," so named for their thick and rough appearance. Thus, his lands became known as "Cobb Neck" and the island at its tip, "Cobb Island."¹

The island remained unsettled until the last quarter of the 19th century. In 1889, Philadelphian George Vickers, bought the island as a summer retreat. He built a spacious eclectic Victorian house on the island which still stands today. He, his wife and children, lived on the island for six months of the year.² One significant historic event took place on the island during Vickers' tenure there. The radio pioneer, Reginald A. Fessenden, a colleague of Vickers' brother-in-law, conducted an experiment there on December 23, 1900, that resulted in the first radio transmission of intelligible speech in the world.³

The island began its modern development as a summer resort after 1918, when prominent Charles County farmer and lobbyist, Robert Crain, purchased the island. Born in 1865 to an old Charles County family, Crain went on to study law, and become one of the most

¹ Hickling, Lee. *An Illustrated Centennial History of Cobb Island*. Cobb Island, MD: Ambell Press, 1989: pp.4-5, 9.

² Hickling, Lee. *An Illustrated Centennial History of Cobb Island*. Cobb Island, MD: Ambell Press, 1989: pp.13-14.

³ Hickling, Lee. *An Illustrated Centennial History of Cobb Island*. Cobb Island, MD: Ambell Press, 1989: p.17.

Section 8 Page 2

Killough Cottage
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====
influential and successful lobbyists in Maryland. He practiced law in Baltimore and ran a large farm in Charles County, which he was constantly expanding as he bought land throughout Cobb Neck. His house, Mt. Victoria, stands today atop a hill overlooking his one-time 10,000-acre estate.⁴

Crain planned to market Cobb Island as a vacation destination and resort community, but first had to overcome the dismal quality of the county roads that provided access to the island. Through his numerous political ties, Crain succeeded in getting state funding for the "Southern Maryland Trunk Line," now Robert Crain Memorial Highway (U.S. Route 301), that connected the southern tip of Charles County to Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County. Construction on the new concrete-paved highway was begun in 1922 and completed in 1927.⁵

After purchasing the island for \$17,000 in 1918, Crain formed the Cobb Island Development Company and hired a civil engineer, Edmund P. Russell, to survey the property and lay out streets and lots. The Baltimore land agents, F.B. Bannister & Company was hired to promote and sell the lots at prices ranging from \$50 to \$200. In 1923, the first buyers purchased a lot and erected the first summer cottage. At that time, the Development Company had just begun to build a bridge connecting the island to the mainland across Neale Sound.⁶

Early brochures for the Cobb Island community praised its natural advantages, peacefulness, and water assets. Construction of cottages slowly increased over the next few years with 87 cottages built by 1926. The contractors James A. Dyer & Thomas Shorter built many of the early cottages on the island. By 1929, 110 cottages had been erected, and by 1935 there were 150 residences on

⁴ Hickling, Lee. *An Illustrated Centennial History of Cobb Island*. Cobb Island, MD: Ambell Press, 1989: pp.37-39.

⁵ Hickling, Lee. *An Illustrated Centennial History of Cobb Island*. Cobb Island, MD: Ambell Press, 1989: pp.38-41.

⁶ Hickling, Lee. *An Illustrated Centennial History of Cobb Island*. Cobb Island, MD: Ambell Press, 1989: pp.38-40.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-527

Section 8 Page 3

Killough Cottage
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

the island.⁷

By the end of the 1940s, Cobb Island had been transformed from a strictly seasonal resort community to a permanent settlement with numerous year-round residents.⁸ As visitors took up permanent residence, the houses were altered and enlarged to accommodate year-round living. Many of the early cottages were demolished or enlarged. The community today contains over 400 homes, mostly occupied by permanent residents.

Robert Killough and his wife, Mazel, purchased lots 722 and 723 on Cobb Island from the Cobb Island Development Company's successor, the Wollaston's Manor Corporation in 1934. The present cottage was erected shortly thereafter. The couple sold the lot & cottage for \$1,000 to Henry O. Woods in 1945. By this time the couple was listed as living in Prince George's County. Woods and his wife retained the property until 1998, when they sold it to Louis M. Heslen, Jr.

The current owner plans to demolish the cottages and erect a new dwelling on the site.

⁷ Hickling, Lee. *An Illustrated Centennial History of Cobb Island*. Cobb Island, MD: Ambell Press, 1989: pp.47, 56, 63.

⁸ Hickling, Lee. *An Illustrated Centennial History of Cobb Island*. Cobb Island, MD: Ambell Press, 1989: p.69.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-527

Killough Cottage
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Modern Period, 1930-present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-527

Killough Cottage
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====
Chain of Title:

May 4, 1934: Wollaston's Manor Corporation to
Robert & Mazel Killough
Charles County Land Records
Liber WMA 58 Folio 688

August 30, 1945: Robert J. & Mazel L. Killough of
Prince George's County to Henry O.
Woods
Sales contract May 31, 1940
\$1,000
Lots 722 & 723
Charles County Land Records
Liber 82 Folio 159

April 28, 1975: Henry O. Woods to Henry O. &
Katherine E. Woods
Charles County Land Records
Liber 386 Folio 56

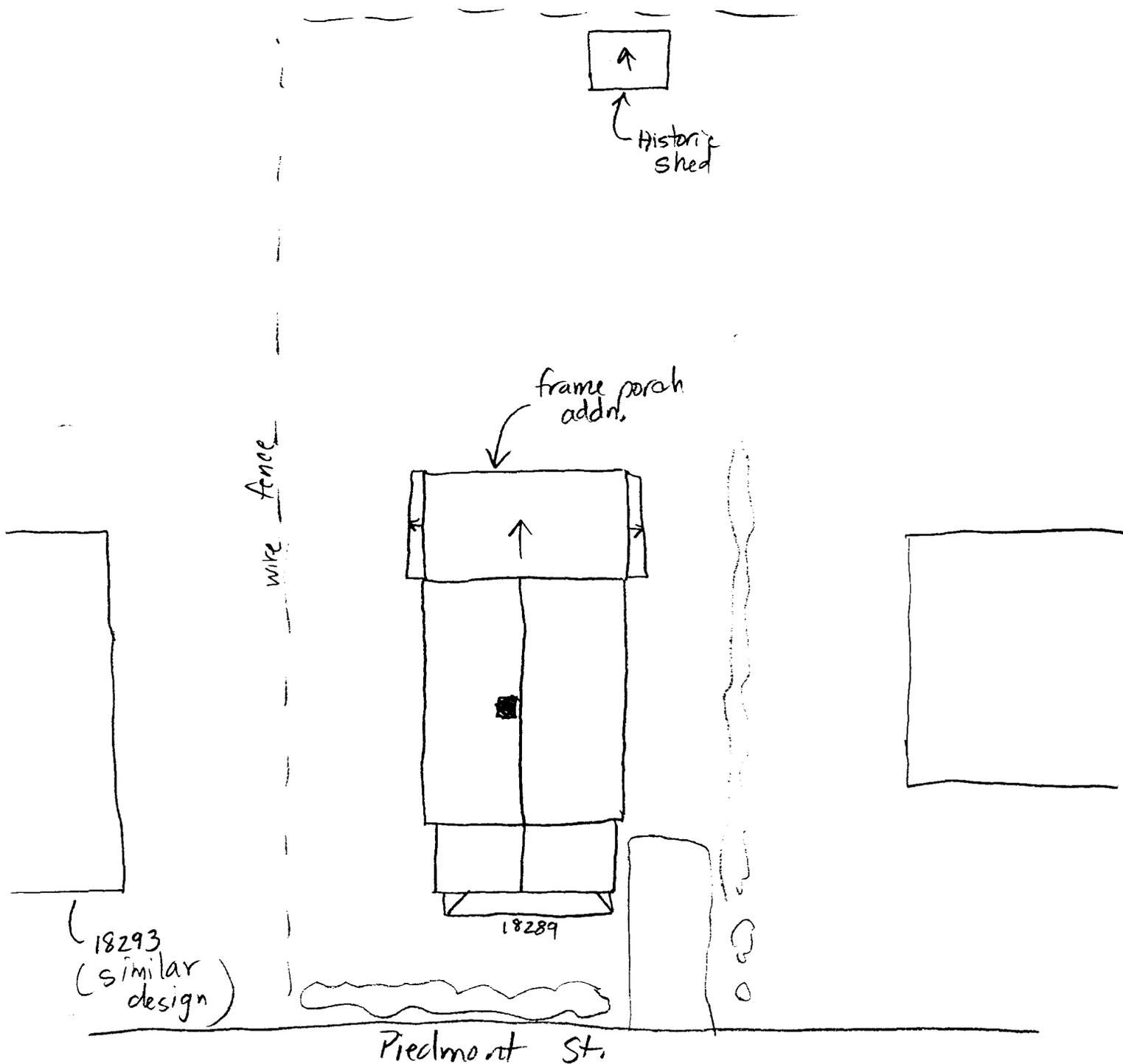
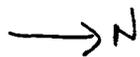
February 16, 1998: Henry O. & Katherine E. Woods to
Louis M. Heslen, Jr.
Lots no. 722 & 723, Section B-2
(Plat Book 44, Folio 145)
Charles County Land Records
Liber 2513 Folio 227

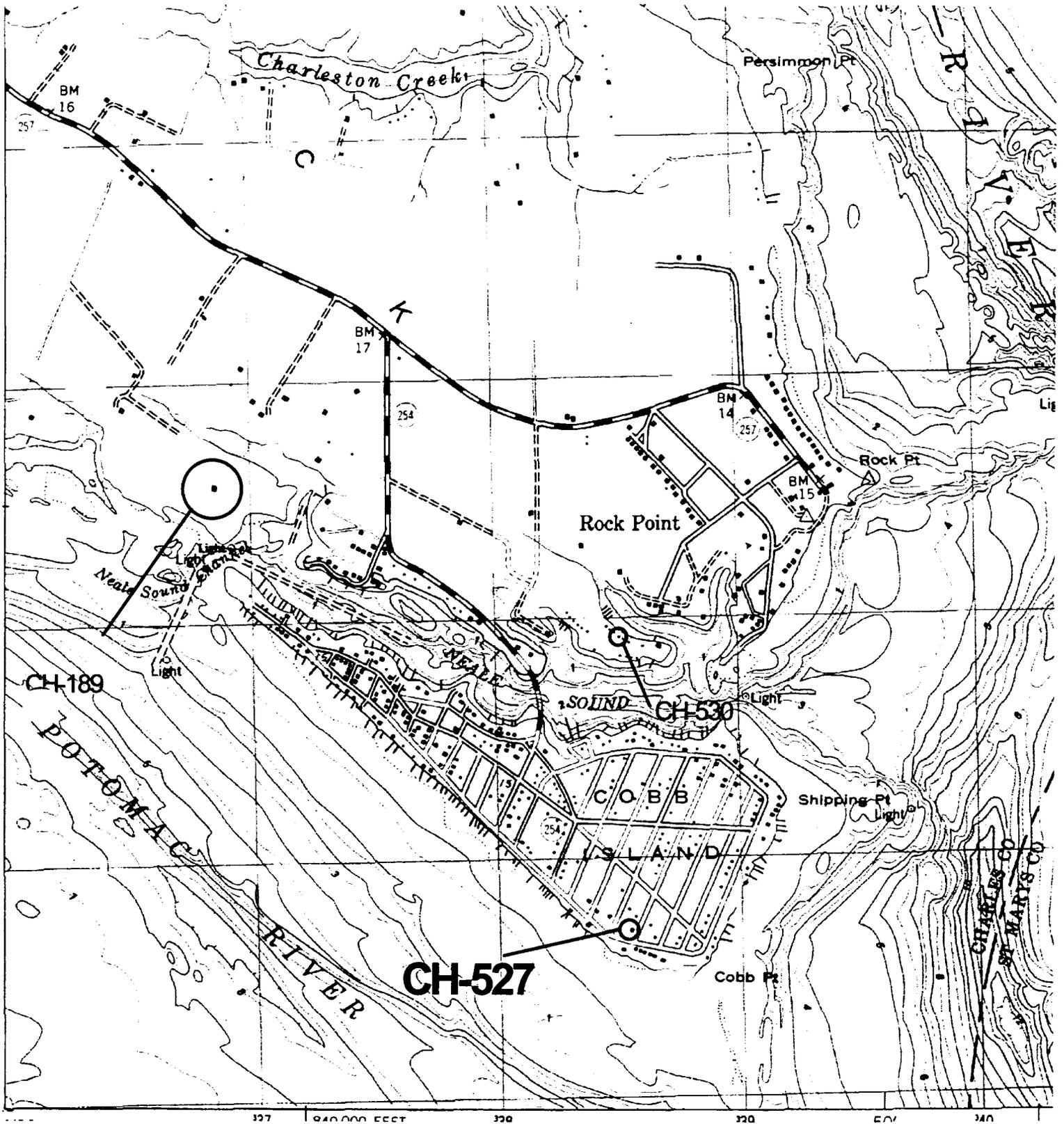
RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

2/99

KILLOUGH COTTAGE
18289 Piedmont St.
Cobb Island
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

CH- 527





Killough Cottage
Charles County, MD

CH-527

ROCK POINT, MD QUAD



CH-527

KILLOUGH COTTAGE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

2/99

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING SW

1 OF 3



CH-527
KILLOUGH COTTAGE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH

2/99

MARYLAND SHPD
LOOKING NE

2 OF 3



CH-527

KILLOUGH COTTAGE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH

2/99
MARYLAND SHPO
SHED- LOOKING NW
3 OF 3