

**Shorter's Store**  
**CH-662**  
**Rock Point**  
**Private**

**1920; 1946**

Shorter's Store is a simple one story frame commercial structure overlooking the Wicomico River. Constructed in two parts, the earliest section was constructed circa 1920 and consists of a side gable single room building with a rear ell and a two bay, full width, shed porch. Around 1946 an addition was attached to the southernmost side, doubling the size of the structure.

Shorter's Store is representative of the simple commercial structures that supplied general merchandise to Charles County's citizens well into the twentieth century. Located near a once thriving steamboat landing in the maritime village of Rock Point, the store was established at the end of the steamboat era and the beginning of the automobile age. Initially developing in response to the growing commercial seafood industry along the Potomac and Wicomico River, Rock Point gained popularity as a tourist destination after the construction of the Southern Maryland Truckline during the first decades of the 20th century.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-662

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

historic Shorter's Store  
 other Norris' Store

### 2. Location

street and number 16181 Cedar Lane not for publication  
 city, town Rock Point vicinity  
 county Charles

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

name Jonathan Halin  
 street and number P.O. Box 103 telephone 301-818-7376  
 city, town Newburg state MD zip code 20664-0103

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 89 p. 103  
 city, town LaPlata liber 2771 folio 475

### 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
- 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
			<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
			<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
					<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
					0	

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. CH-662

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### Condition

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good            | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> altered      |
- 

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

Shorter's Store is a simple one story frame commercial structure facing southeast and overlooking the Wicomico River in the community of Rock Point. Constructed in two parts, the earliest section was constructed circa 1920 and consists of a side gable single room building with a rear ell and a two bay, full width, porch. Around 1946 an addition was attached to the southernmost side, doubling the size of the structure. The entire building is sheathed in asbestos siding and a metal seam roof. A single square chimney flue projects from the interior of the roof near the line of the later addition.

The earliest section of the building includes a centered doorway flanked by two symmetrical 6/6 windows. A full width shed porch with exposed rafters extends the length of the façade and an enclosed shed addition lengthens the rear usable space. The porch is supported with simple square unadorned posts. The side elevation includes a centered window directly under the apex and a small offset square window in the shed addition.

The later addition includes similar fenestration with a single window on either side of a center or near entered door. The door is obscured by a later shed enclosed porch entry with exposed rafters. These windows are 2/2 with narrow horizontal sash. The interior was not available at the time of the survey.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-662

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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

<b>Specific dates</b>	1920-1950	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	1920; 1946		

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 reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Shorter's Store is representative of the simple commercial structures that supplied general merchandise to Charles County's citizens well into the twentieth century. Located on the banks of the Wicomico near a once thriving steamboat landing in the maritime village of Rock Point, the store was established at the end of the steamboat era and the beginning of the automobile age. Initially developing in response to the growing commercial seafood industry along the Potomac and Wicomico River, Rock Point gained popularity as a tourist destination after the construction of the Southern Maryland Truckline during the first decades of the 20th century.

In 192, Ida M. Shorter acquired 4 acres in Rock Point between Neales Creek and the Wicomico River from the estate of her husband, John Thomas Norris. She conducted a general mercantile business there until her death between 1946 and 1950. After this time the property was acquired by her son from a previous marriage, John Thomas Norris, who likely constructed the south addition to the storehouse. The property was owned by the Norris family until 1999.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. CH-662

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 2

Acreage of historical setting 4

Quadrangle name Rock Point

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Shorter's Store is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 89, Grid 16, Parcel **72. 103.**

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Survey

organization Charles County Planning Dept

date 4/16/01

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town LaPlata

state MD zip code 20646

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  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-662

Section 8 Page 1

Shorter's Store  
name of property  
Charles County, MD  
county and state

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Chain of title:

- January 6, 1920                      Walter J. Mitchell to Ida M. Shorter, nee Norris, 4 acres from  
estate of John Thomas Norris.  
**35:698**
- August 31, 1946                      Ida M. and John W. Shorter to John T. and Florence C. Norris.  
Mentions "Shorter's Store Building" as boundary. This for  
residential purposes only. 6580 sq. feet.  
**84:24**
- August 31, 1950                      Ida M. Shorter heirs to John T. Norris. *All of that lot on the banks  
of the Wicomico River on which is located a storehouse in which  
the said Ida M. Shorter conducted a general mercantile business  
until the time of her death...*  
**91:271**
- November 16, 1979                      Will of John T. Norris to Florence C. Norris.  
**Estate No. 5611/Land Records 787:283**
- November 4, 1996                      Florence C. Norris to Florence C. Norris trust  
**2326:569**
- March 31, 1999                      Florence C. Norris heirs to Jonathan Kalin.  
**2771:475/2771:489**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-662

Section 9 Page 1

Shorter's Store  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

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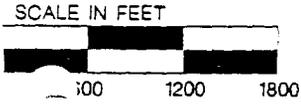
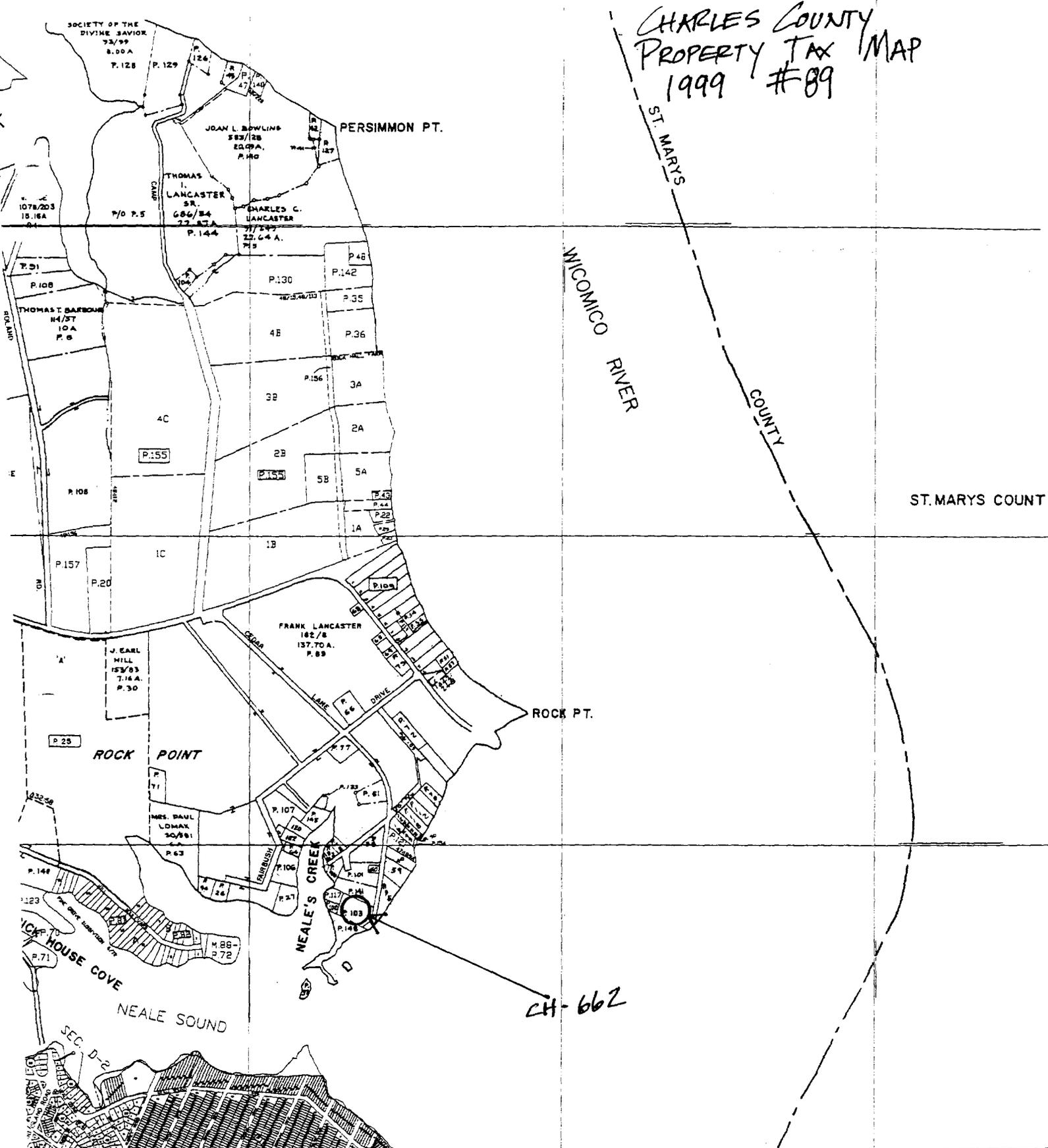
**Major Bibliographic References:**

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

Charles County Circuit Court Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

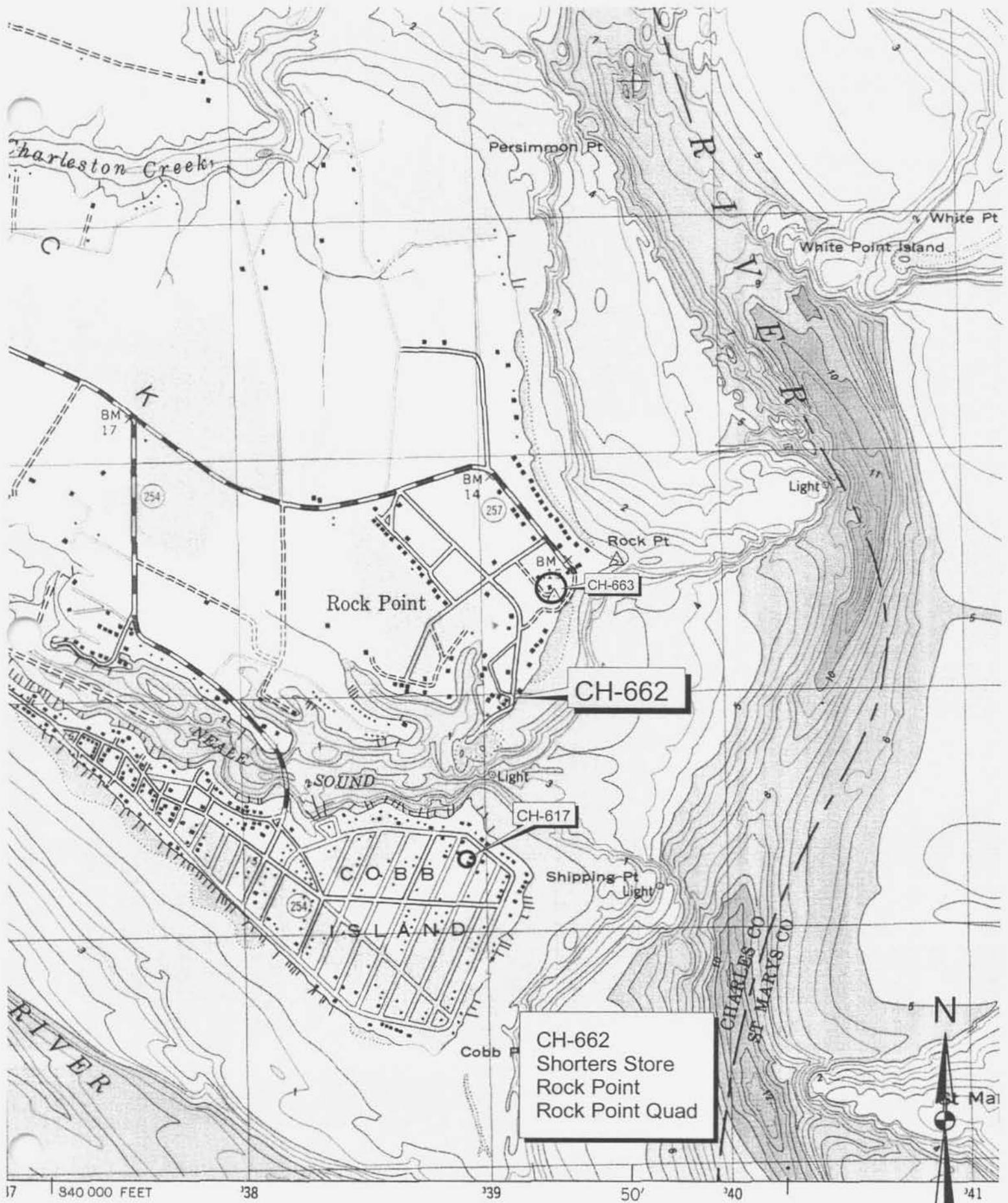
Klaphor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland. LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

# CHARLES COUNTY PROPERTY TAX MAP 1999 #89



COMPILED BY <b>MARYLAND OFFICE OF PLANNING          PROPERTY MAPPING SECTION</b>		PROPERTY LINE SUBDIVISION BOUNDARY CONTAINING OWNERSHIP - <i>Z</i> <i>z</i> <i>z</i> <i>z</i> PARCEL NUMBERING - <i>z</i> <i>z</i> <i>z</i> <i>z</i> <small>(PARCELS UNBUNDLED TO IDENTIFY AND INDEX OWNERSHIP MUST BE PRECEDED BY A MAP NUMBER)</small>	
<small>THE INFORMATION SHOWN HEREIN HAS BEEN COMPILED FROM DEED DESCRIPTIONS AND IS NOT AN ACTUAL SURVEY. IT SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS UNLESS NOTING ERRORS ARE LIKELY TO HAPPEN TO THE PROPERTY MAPPING SECTION, 301 W. PINESTON ST., BALTIMORE, MD 21201</small>		SCALE 1"=600' (RF 1:7200)	
REVISED TO	DATE	LIBR	BY
	JUL '99		CAT
			PHOTO
			QUADRANGLE





CH-662  
 Shorters Store  
 Rock Point  
 Rock Point Quad

17 | 840 000 FEET | '38 | '39 | 50' | '40 | '41

g Agency  
 ological Survey

NATIONAL OCEAN SURVEY  
 HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY INDEX





CH 662  
SHORTERIS/NORRIS' STORE  
ROCK POINT  
2/2001  
C. CURREY  
MD SHPO  
LOOKING NW 1 OF 2



CH-662  
SHORTER'S / NORRIS' STORE  
ROCK POINT  
2/2001  
C. CURREY  
MD SHPO  
LOOKING WEST  
2 of 2