

## SOUTH DORCHESTER

South Dorchester is an area of tranquil beauty, from its ever changing scenic views of natural wonder, to the colorful ways of the inhabitants going busily about their daily tasks.

It has been said that all life begins in the marshlands! The early settlers must have had this in mind as they began their new lives in South Dorchester. Among those who came to settle from the Western Shore was a man named Henry Hooper who owned a large tract of land, about 2340 acres along Rt. 335 called Hoopers Island. A Catholic settlement was made before 1692 at the upper end of the island, then called Meekins' Neck. There the first Catholic Church was built in Dorchester County. This recently renovated Church known as Tubman Chapel St. Mary's Star of the Sea Parish is probably the oldest surviving Roman Catholic Church on the Lower Eastern Shore.

Hooper's Island is now divided by two navigable thoroughfares. Its western banks are bordered by the Chesapeake Bay and Tar Bay, while its eastern banks border the Honga River. Hooper's Straits borders the south.

Some other communities of Hoopers Island include Honga, Fishing Creek, Hoopersville and Applegarth. Applegarth was once a thriving community but is now uninhabited and accessible only by water.

Along Rt. 336 is a region known as Lakes and Straits. The section called Lakes was so named after the prominent Lake families. Some of its communities are Golden Hill, Lakesville and Crapo.

The region called Straits, known first as Straits hundred, extends from Lakes to Bishop's Head. It includes Elliott's Island, Clay Island and Sandy Island, separated from the mainland by Fishing Bay. Also included are Bloodsworth Island and Holland's Island which lie south of Hooper's Straits.

Captain John Smith sailed through the Hooper's Straits in a storm in 1608. His sails were damaged by the wind and were repaired by using the crew's shirts.

Some other community names that are familiar to this region are Toddville, Wingate, Robbins, Crocheron, and Andrews. The Straits District is bordered on the west by the Honga, on the east by Fishing Bay and the Nanticoke River, and to the south by Hoopers Straits.

Farming, fishing, sailing, oystering and crabbing have been and still are the most important occupations of the area. A number of seafood packing houses have been built to accommodate the communities. Local stores, Post Offices, a community center, a Senior Citizen center, two fire departments, and a kindergarten through eighth grade school now serve this area. It is obvious to visitors of this locale, that great pride is taken in caring for boats, homes, and churches. Also, numerous hunting lodges may be found due to the abundance of wildlife in South Dorchester.

2-651

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Lakes and Straits Districts**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Southern Dorchester County**

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: **Maryland** CODE: COUNTY: **Dorchester** CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:  
**Multiple owners**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Dorchester County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**High Street**

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:  
**Cambridge Maryland 21613**

ACREAGE

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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 type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>		Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In southern Dorchester County there are a number of small settlements composed of old and newer houses and businesses. The buildings are generally of the latter part of the nineteenth century and some from the twentieth century. They all have great similarities throughout this area, though each settlement has its own share of the same form of dwelling, church or business.

Golden Hill is well represented in the survey by the Applegarth house, Medicine Hill, and both stores. On Kirwan Neck are St. John's Church and school and farther to the east is the Gootee Farm, Nooner's Pastureland. In the 1877 atlas there was Wm. Jones windmill between Nooner's Pastureland and the Street Church at Lakesville.

Crapo has several interesting buildings not included in the survey, namely two schools and Ebenezer Church, all dating from around 1900. On the 1877 atlas, Crapo is known by the name: Woodland Town Post Office. Near Crapo is the seperately surveyed Lake Cove and the site of its windmill.

Wingate is divided into the area of near the post office and the village. The postoffice is a small concrete block building which appears to have been built for a bank. (now a residence) The story of its rise and fall is not known by looking at the building, but it bears some similarity to the Union Trust Bank which served the needs of the people of Fishing Creek prior to the depression. The village of Wingate, like all of this area has houses scattered about in no pattern, usually on the higher ground in the area. Most of the buildings here as well as Bishops Head, Toddville and Wesley, are two story frame buildings, either two or three bays long with one and two story extensions, often the size of the main or first portion of the structure. Churches in each of these villages are seperately included. Almost all of the buildings are painted white, frequently with green shutters. An occassional store building is located strategically for the inhabitants. Few of these structures have the "gingerbread" or "carpenter's lace" so frequently encountered in Hoopers Island. The churches in most of these villages are included in the survey seperately.

**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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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"/>		_____
Architecture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____

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

Lakes and Straits Districts are filled with history which has been only slightly researched by those who could afford the time to devote to its pursuit. Laskowski and Jones mention several families connected with the development of this area stating that the economic conditions which caused the increased population were centered around the seafood industry.

Architecturally, this area contains several buildings, dwellings, stores, and churches, dating from the 19th century as well as the early 20th century. The architectural elements as well as the concentration of buildings in this low-lying area are a unique attraction of the area.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Laskowski Papers, 1955.  
 Jones, Elias, New Revised History of Dorchester County,  
 Tidewater Publishers, Cambridge, 1966.

**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
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant**

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland Historical Trust**      DATE: **1975**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Shaw House, 21 State Circle**

CITY OR TOWN: **Annapolis**      STATE: **Maryland**      CODE: **21401**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_



**LAKE DISTRICT BUSINESS REFERENCES.**

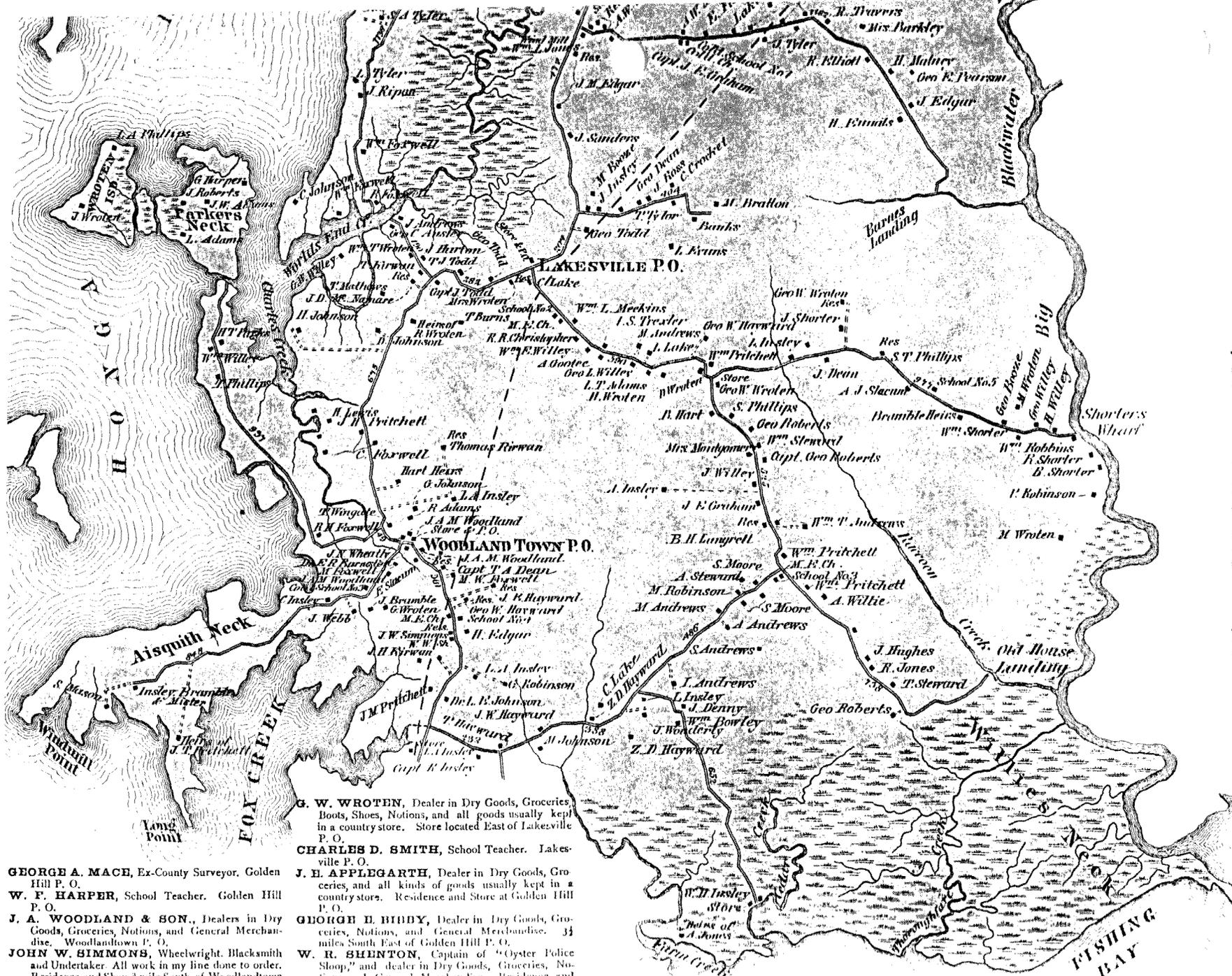
- W. T. STAPLEFORD, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Notions, and all goods usually kept in a country store. Lakesville P. O.
- A. W. COOPER & BRO., Dealers in Dry Goods, Notions, Groceries, and General Merchandise, also the "Celebrated Home-Made Shirt." 2 miles North East of Lakesville P. O.

LAKE, GRIFFIN & STEVENSON, 1877

LAKE & STRAIT DISTRICTS

D-651





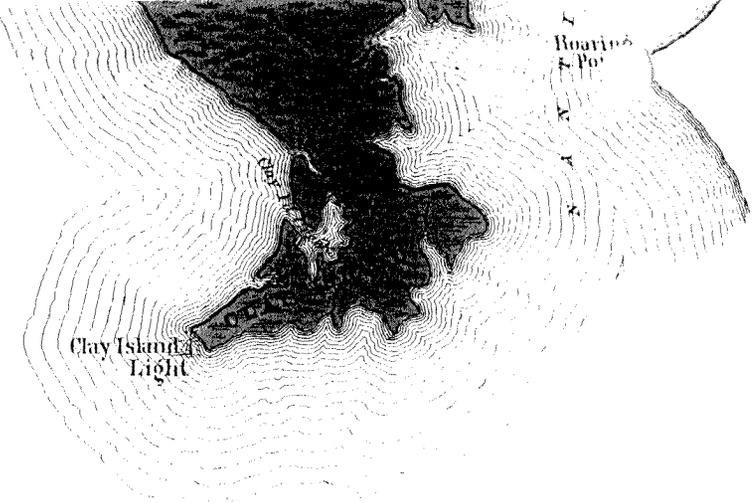
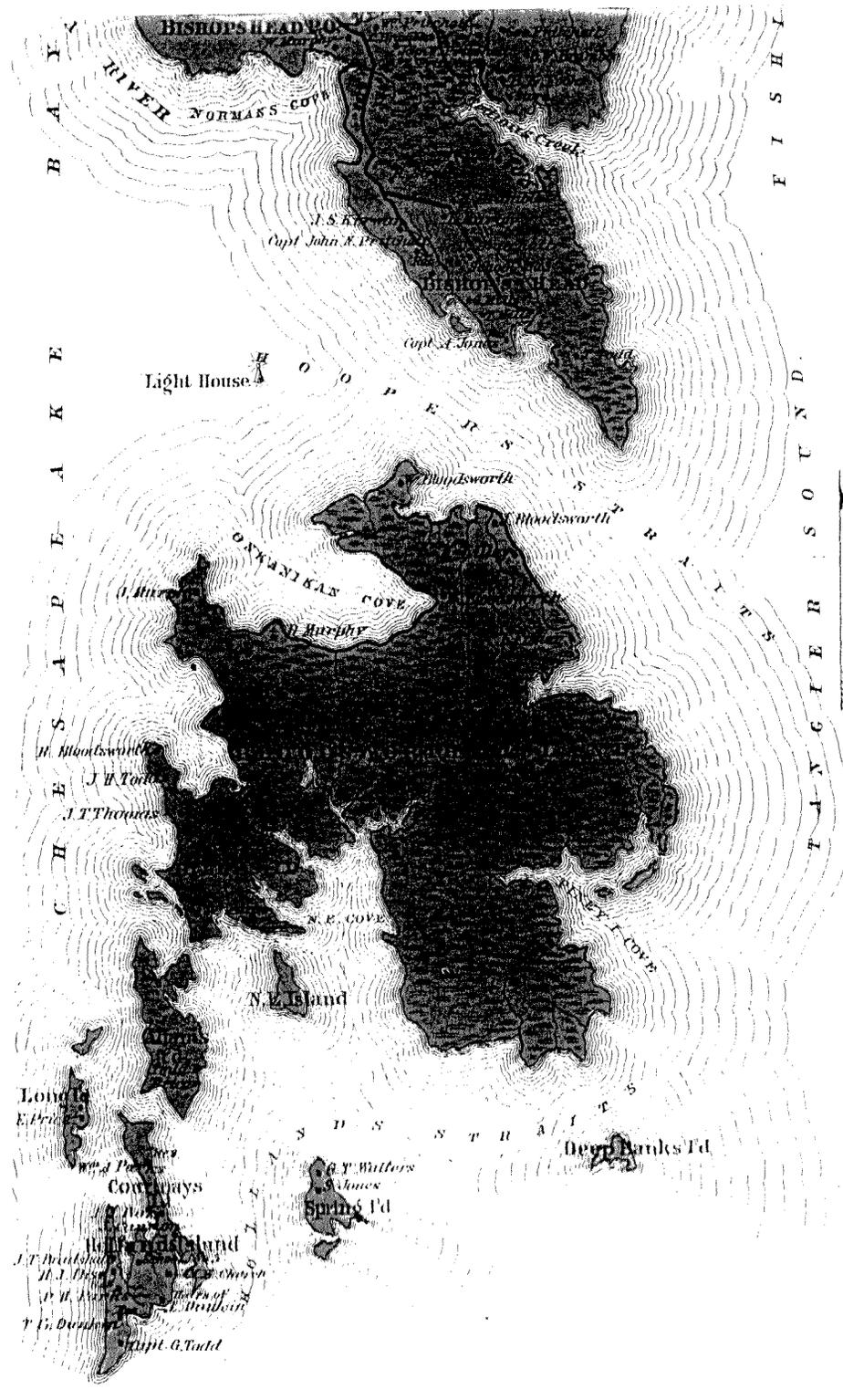
LAKE, GRIFFING & STEVENSON, 1877

LAKE & STRAIT DISTRICTS

D-651

**GEORGE A. MACE**, Ex-County Surveyor. Golden Hill P. O.  
**W. F. HARPER**, School Teacher. Golden Hill P. O.  
**J. A. WOODLAND & SON.**, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Notions, and General Merchandise. Woodlandtown P. O.  
**JOHN W. SIMMONS**, Wheelwright, Blacksmith and Undertaker. All work in my line done to order. Residence and Shop 1/4 mile South of Woodlandtown P. O.

**G. W. WROTEN**, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots, Shoes, Notions, and all goods usually kept in a country store. Store located East of Lakesville P. O.  
**CHARLES D. SMITH**, School Teacher. Lakesville P. O.  
**J. H. APPLGARTH**, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, and all kinds of goods usually kept in a country store. Residence and Store at Golden Hill P. O.  
**GEORGE E. BIDDY**, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Notions, and General Merchandise. 3 1/2 miles South East of Golden Hill P. O.  
**W. R. SHENTON**, Captain of "Oyster Police Sloop," and dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Notions, and General Merchandise. Residence and Store, one mile East of Golden Hill P. O.



# STRAIT

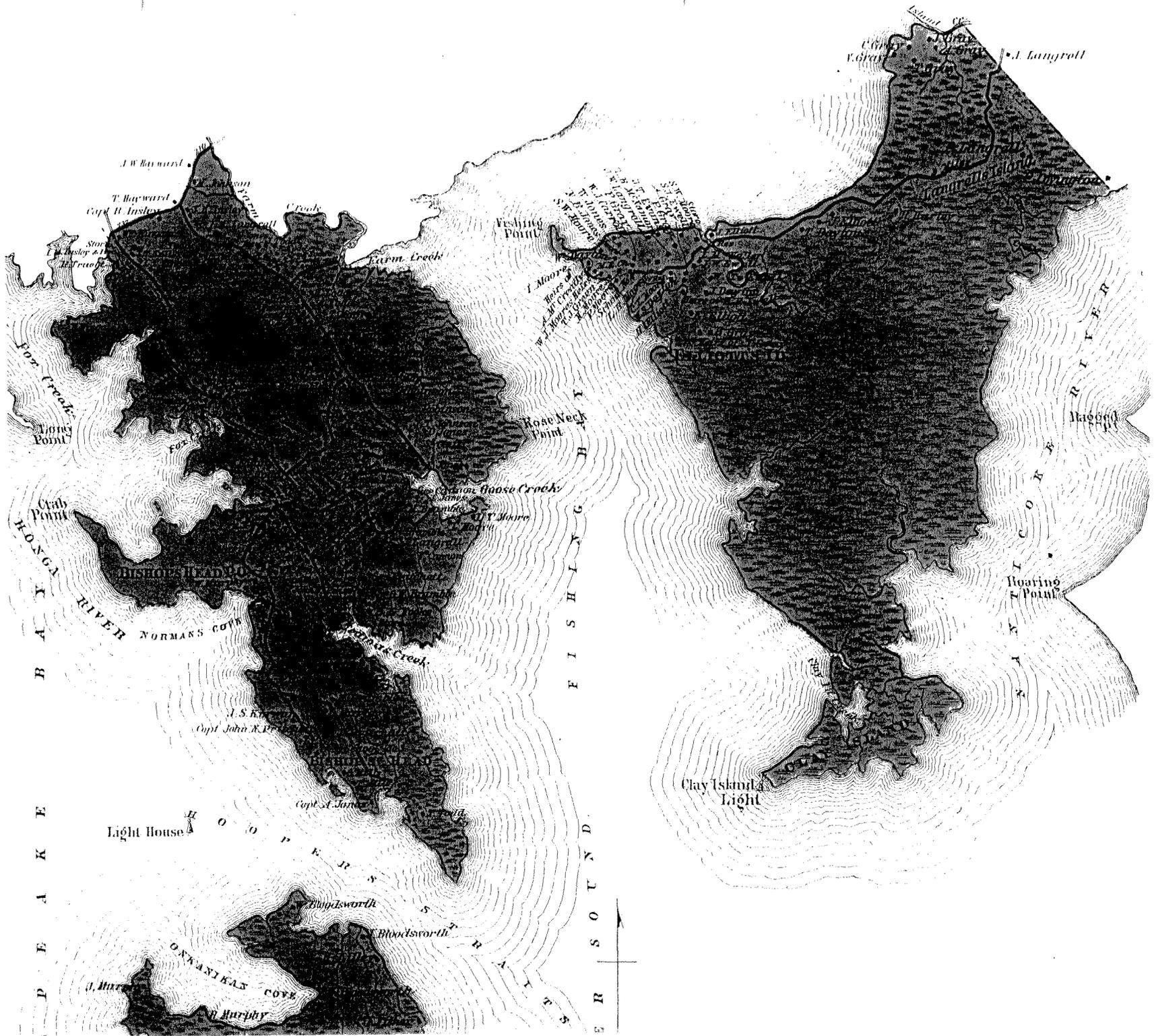
DIST. No. 10  
DORCHESTER CO.

### STRAIT DISTRICT BUSINESS REFERENCES.

- B. L. FOOKS, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Ready Made Clothing, Notions, &c. Bishops' Head P. O.
- JAMES T. ROBINSON, Oysterman and J. P. Bishops' Head.
- JOHN T. TALL, Blacksmith. Bishops' Head.

LAKE, GRIFFIN & STEVENSON, 1877

LAKE & STRAIT DISTRICTS D-651



LAKE SUPERIOR DISTRICTS, 1877

D-651