

D-796

Taylor's Island Chapel-of-Ease

Taylor's Island

Mid to late 18th century, c. 1825

Private

Estimated to date to the third quarter of the eighteenth century, the structural frame of the Taylor's Island Chapel-of-Ease reflects the presence of the Anglican Church in Dorchester County when few other denominations were active. Built with exposed and decorated corner posts, plates, and wall posts finished with corner beads, the chapel originally stood on the eastern edge of Taylor's Island adjacent to what is still known as Chapel Cove. The rectangular structure, measuring approximately 20' x 30', stood for years in an unfinished state according to the Dorchester Parish vestry minutes. The chapel was repaired or finished during the early nineteenth century, which is evident inside with a remnant piece of late Federal chair rail, narrow beaded edge exterior window trim around six-over-six sash, and a gallery that was clearly installed from this later period. After the parish built Grace Church on Hoopers Neck Road in 1872-73, the old church was used for a variety of purposes on its site at Chapel Cove. During the 1950s, the old chapel-of-ease was moved to a site next to Grace Church in an effort to preserve it.

Due to missing eighteenth century vestry minutes for Dorchester Parish, which was established in 1692-93, it is unclear exactly when a chapel-of-ease was erected on Taylor's Island. Other fragmentary records suggest an Anglican chapel was in place by the third quarter of the eighteenth century. Later vestry minutes during the early nineteenth century indicate that the island congregation was plagued by intermittent

attendance by vestrymen, a lack of consistent ministerial leadership, and an unfinished chapel. In 1821, the Dorchester Parish vestry recorded the following situation:

In accordance with the resolution of the Last Convention Vestry of Dorchester Parish in Dorchester county report that they have at Present there parish a substantial Brick Church which has lately been put into Comfortable repair & about two thirds of the pews have been rented out, they also have a small unfinished Chapell on Taylor's Island made of wood in which a Congregation assembles, they have no funds nor Glebe Lands, the Rev'd G. Weller gives to their Churches as much time as he can spare from the duties of G. Choptank Parish of which he is rector....

Seven years later, in June 1828, the Dorchester Parish vestry ordered an assessment of the condition of the Taylor's Island Chapel, however, the report was never entered into the vestry minutes. It is reasonable to believe, given the early nineteenth century nature of some of the exterior and interior finishes, that work was done on the eighteenth century structure at that time. The chapel was used throughout the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century, and the vestry minutes record various meetings held at the Chapel Cove site. However, in 1872-73, the parish financed the construction of Grace Church at a new site more centrally located on the island, and the old chapel was put to different uses through the balance of the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth. Ultimately, the Grace Foundation of Taylor's Island decided to preserve the building and financed its relocation and renovation once it was moved to the more central site on Hoopers Neck Road.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-796

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other Taylor's Island Chapel-of-Ease

2. Location

street and number 4407 Hooper's Neck Road not for publication

city, town Taylor's Island vicinity

county Dorchester

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

name Grace Foundation, Inc.

street and number P. O. Box 119 telephone

city, town Taylor's Island state MD zip code 21669-0119

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber folio

city, town Cambridge tax map 58 tax parcel 53 tax ID number 059492

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

7. Description

Inventory No. D-796

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Taylor's Island Chapel-of-Ease for Dorchester Parish stands at 4407 Hooper's Neck Road on Taylor's Island and was moved to its current site next to the Grace P. E. Church (D-207) during the mid twentieth century in an effort to preserve this church which had stood on the site of the present Taylor's Island firehouse on the eastern edge of the island. The tributary of Slaughter Creek where the church formerly stood is known as Chapel Cove. Moved to this site by the Grace Foundation, the single-story 20' x 30' braced frame structure, believed to date from the mid to late eighteenth century, was repaired during the early nineteenth century according to surviving vestry minutes. Resting on a brick pier foundation, the single-story gable-front frame church is sheathed with mid twentieth century beaded siding, and the steeply pitched gable roof is covered with wood shingles. Inside the building features an exposed timber frame with corner posts and wall posts treated with corner beads. A early to mid nineteenth century gallery is fixed in the south end.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The former Taylor's Island Chapel-of-Ease for Dorchester Parish stands at the Grace Foundation complex at 4407 Hooper's Neck Road, and the single-story, 20' x 30' frame church faces southwest with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis. Supported by a brick pier foundation, the rectangular frame church is sheathed with mid twentieth century beaded weatherboards, and the steeply pitched roof is covered with wood shingles.

The southwest (main) elevation is a gable-front façade pierced by a single door opening fitted with a beaded board and batten door. The beaded boards are set in a chevron pattern pointing upward. There is an early nineteenth century cast iron latch. The edge of the roof is finished with a flush gable end enclosed with a molded edge bargeboard.

The side elevations are essentially alike with a pair of six-over-six sash windows spaced evenly on each wall. The windows are framed by beaded edge surrounds common to the early nineteenth century. The base of the gable roof is finished with a diagonal board instead of a boxed cornice.

The northeast wall is dominated by a large exterior brick chimney stack built when the church was relocated to this site.

Inside the church the walls are plastered between exposed wall plates, wall and corner posts. All of the exposed framing members have a scratch bead finish. The front corners have braces above head height, and cut-off ends of the former tie beams are evident in the wall plate. There is a wrought-iron nail bent over on the northeast wall plate. Fixed in the south end of the single room is a later early to mid nineteenth century gallery supported on heavy chamfered posts and supported on each end by iron ell brackets. The manner in which the gallery was built indicates that it was installed long after the

6. Significance

Inventory No. D-796

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SUMMARY SIGNIFICANCE

Estimated to date to the third quarter of the eighteenth century, the structural frame of the Taylor's Island Chapel-of-Ease reflects the presence of the Anglican Church in Dorchester County when few other denominations were active. Built with exposed corner posts, plates, and wall posts that have corner beads, the chapel originally stood on the eastern edge of Taylor's Island adjacent to what is still known as Chapel Cove. The rectangular structure, measuring approximately 20' by 30', stood for years on an unfinished state. The building was repaired or finished during the early 19th century, and a remnant piece of chair rail, window trim and a gallery clearly date from this later period. On its site at Chapel Cove, the church was used for a variety of purposes and it is...

... for a variety of purposes once the parish financed Grace Church in 1872-73. During the 1950s the old chapel-of-ease was moved to a site next to Grace Church in an effort to preserve it.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Due to missing eighteenth century vestry minutes for Dorchester Parish, established in 1692-93, it is unclear exactly when a chapel-of-ease was begun on Taylor's Island. Other fragmentary records suggest an Anglican island chapel was in place by the third quarter of the eighteenth century. Later vestry minutes during the early nineteenth century indicate that the island congregation was plagued by intermittent attendance by vestrymen and lack of ministerial leadership. In 1821 the vestry recorded the following for the parish as a whole:

In accordance with the resolution of the Last Convention Vestry of Dorchester Parish in Dorchester county report that they have at Present there parish a substantial Brick Church which has lately been put into Comfortable repair & about two thirds of the pews have been rented out, they have also a small unfinished Chapell on Taylor's island made of wood in which a Congregation assembles, they

Delmarva Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

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Name Taylor's Island Chapel-of-Ease
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

*have no funds nor Glebe Lands, the Rev'd G. Weller gives to their Churches as much time as he can spare from the Duties of G. Choptank Parish of which he is rector...*¹

Seven years later, in June 1828, the Dorchester Parish vestry ordered an assessment of the condition of the Taylor's Island Chapel, however, the report was never filed in the vestry minutes.² It is reasonable to believe, given the early nineteenth century nature of some exterior and interior features, that work was done on the eighteenth-century structure at that time. The chapel was used throughout the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century, and the vestry minutes record various meetings held at the chapel on Taylor's Island. In 1872-73, the parish financed the construction of Grace Church on a new site more centrally located on the island, and the old chapel was put to different uses through the balance of the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth. Ultimately the Grace Foundation, Inc. decided to preserve the building and financed its relocation and renovation once it was moved to the more central church site on Hoopers Neck Road.

¹ Dorchester Parish Vestry Minutes, 1819-1860, Microfilm at the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History & Culture, Salisbury, University.

² *Ibid.*

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
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Name Taylor's Island Chapel-of-Ease
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Taylor's Island Chapel-of-Ease
Hooper's Neck Road
Taylor's Island, Dorchester County, Maryland

Dorchester Parish Vestry Minutes, 1819-1860.

1821

In accordance with the resolution of the Last Convention Vestry of Dorchester Parish in Dorchester county report that they have at Present there parish a substantial Brick Church which has lately been put into Comfortable repair & about two thirds of the pews have been rented out, they have also a small unfinished Chapell on Taylors island made of wood in which a Congregation assembles, they have no funds nor Glebe Lands, the Rev'd G. Weller gives to their Churches as much time as he can spare from the Duties of G. Choptank Parish of which he is rector & for which services he receives the rents of the pews..& also the advantage of a small subscription from the Congregation on Island...to have the ministry of the gossell (sic) Continued among us & hope that means will be found effectual...we have the entire services of an acceptable (sic) clergyman—we believe much good might be done & we believe Mr. Weller is equally desirous with us that his should be the case for many years our parish has been in a disorganized state without regular religious services & without a Legall Vestry—no delegate representing us in Convention we are not fully aware of the obligations we are under. We therefore will respectfully request that the convention will discharge us from any claims which may ever be standing against us as we have need of all money which can be raised among us for the support of the ministry & for repairing church...

June 21, 1828

The Vestry appointed a committee Mssrs. Jno. Brohawn and Leven (Levin) Keene to meet Mr. John C. Traverse and to make arrangements respecting the Rights of the Ground attached to the Chappel of our parish on T. Island and to make a report of the condition thereof at there (sic) next meeting to the Vestry or sooner if possible....

Horatio Jones, Register

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse

Dorchester Parish Vestry Minutes, 1819-1860, Microfilm Edward H. Nabb Center for Delmarva History & Culture, Salisbury University.

Interview with John S. "Pat" Neild, Grace Foundation, 11.10.10.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 113,256 square feet

Acreage of historical setting 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Taylor's Island, MD

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	11/18/2010
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Hooper Co

Oyster Cove

Catons Cove

Neck

Ant Bar

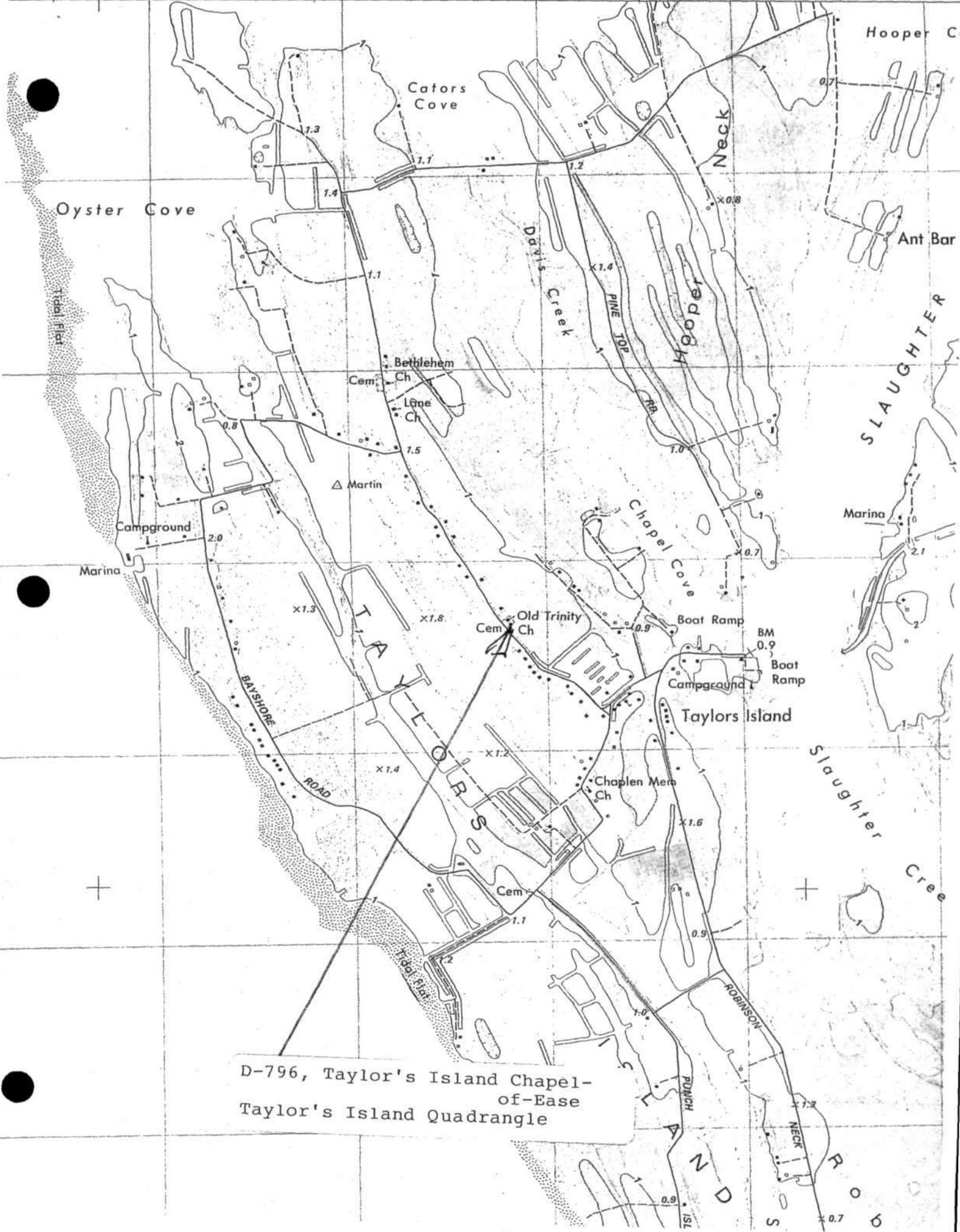
SLAUGHTER

Marina

Taylor's Island

Slaughter Cree

D-796, Taylor's Island Chapel-of-Ease
Taylor's Island Quadrangle





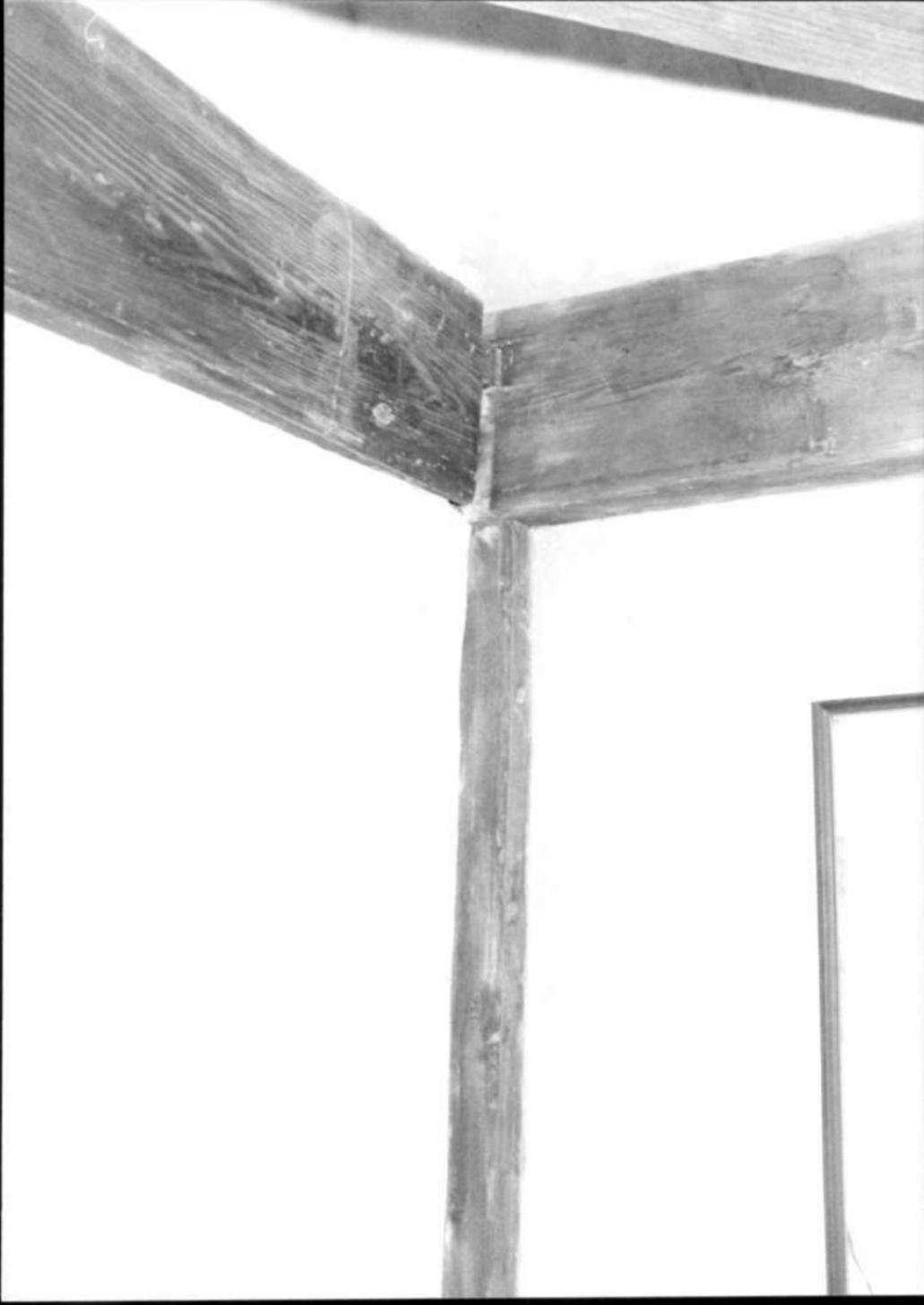
D-796

TAYLOR'S ISLAND CITADEL - OF - EAST
TAYLOR'S ISLAND, DOCKRIDGE CO., MD.
WEST ELEVATION

11. 2010, PAUL B. TOWARD, PHOTO.

NEB./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 of 3



D-796

Taylor's Islands (TAYLOR-
OF-EASE

Taylor's Islands,

UNREGISTERED CO. LTD.

EXPOSED KNOWING

11. 2010, PAUL B. TOWNSEND,

PITUIT.

NET. (LTD. 1755. TRUST

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D-796

TAYLOR'S ISLAND (HARPER-OK. EASE

TAYLOR'S ISLAND, DONCASTER C. MD.

BALCONY - WEST END

WETLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

11. 2010, PAUL B. TOUARI, PITUIT.

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