

D-830
Toddville Survey District
Bishops Head
c. 1860 – c. 1950
Public and private

A narrow ridge of land situated above the tidal marsh of Farm and Goose creeks in southwestern Dorchester County evolved from a scatter of small farmsteads and watermens' dwellings during the early to mid nineteenth century to a more populous and thriving fishing village during the mid to late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Known variously as "Todd Town" or Toddville, the village surfaces in name during the late nineteenth land records for "Robinson's Neck," named for the significant number of Robinson family members who resided in this locale. The other predominant surname of Todd, however, inspired the name of the community that, although not identified as such on the Strait election district map of 1877, was well-defined by a score of dwellings, a school, and a Methodist Episcopal church. The village of Toddville today is defined by several dozen houses and other structures dating from around 1860 to 1950. The Zion M. E. Church (D-322) is a singularly distinctive structure with its Gothic Revival inspired design.

By testimony of the 1849 U.S. Coast survey map created by chief engineer A. D. Bache and his assistants, the ridge of land between Farm and Goose creeks was improved by a handful of dispersed farmsteads. Small cleared fields and house lots were surrounded by patches of woodland and the marsh associated with the two meandering creeks. During the quarter century that followed the publication of the coast survey in 1849, the community on Robinson's Neck emerged as a distinct watermens' village with several dozen buildings. Similar to many coastal communities in Dorchester County, the areas directly adjacent to navigable creeks, bays, and harbors of Fishing Bay and Hooper's Strait were prime locations for population and economic growth during the second half of the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century. The village name of "Todd Town"

surfaces in the land records, a name that was supplanted by Toddville around the turn of the twentieth century. While seafood businesses still continue off the shore of Farm Creek with the firm of Meredith & Meredith, some of the older housing stock in Toddville is being subjected to abandonment and decay where a new generation of landholders are not willing to invest and upgrade small frame houses on low-lying land.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-830

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Todddville "Todd Town"
other _____

2. Location

street and number _____ not for publication _____
city, town Todddville vicinity _____
county Dorchester

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

name Various Owners
street and number _____ telephone _____
city, town _____ state MD zip code _____

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber _____ folio _____
city, town Cambridge tax map _____ tax parcel _____ tax ID number _____

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	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>70</u> <u>21</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> funery	structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<u>70</u> <u>21</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory _____

7. Description

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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 community or village of Toddville, also known historically as "Todd Town," is located in southwestern Dorchester County in the Strait Election District. Principal access by land is provided via Toddville Road, and the area is also accessible by water by way of Farm Creek and Goose Creek, tributaries of Fishing Bay. A distinct watermens' community surfaces in the area during the mid nineteenth century, and it prospered with the rise in profits associated with the boom in the oyster and seafood industry between 1860 and 1930. Toddville is defined by approximately seventy (70) contributing historic resources, mostly dwellings, that date from the Civil War era through the second quarter of the twentieth century. A well-preserved example of a common house form is the Todd house (D-836), which is a two-story, three-bay, side hall/parlor plan dwelling extended to the side with a shorter story-and-a-half wing. Joining the Todd house on its lot is a group of late nineteenth and/or early twentieth century outbuildings, the most distinctive being a stilted dairy. One of the best preserved and most distinguished landmarks in the community is the Zion M. E. Church (D-322), a late nineteenth century Gothic Revival frame structure standing on the southwest side of Toddville Road. The church is joined on the lot by a church hall and a cemetery. The church complex is singularly eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. A few commercial buildings remain in the village. The former Toddville Store, also known as the Webster Meredith Store, is a single-story, gable-front frame structure that defines the northwest corner of Toddville and Farm Creek roads. (See D-829) Another commercial site is the seafood packinghouse of Meredith & Meredith (D-732), located at the east end of Farm Creek Road bordering Farm Creek.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The community of Toddville is located in the northern section of the Strait Election District in southwestern Dorchester County, Maryland with Toddville Road serving as the main road access that runs northwest to southeast on a ridge of land bordered by Farm Creek on the north east and the Great Marsh of Goose Creek on the southwest. The linear nature of the community is expanded by a few cross streets; Farm Creek Road intersects Toddville Road and provides a land route to the shore of Farm Creek as well as to the community of Wingate to the southwest. There a few side streets; Toddville Pond Road, Harrison Lane, and Toddville Back Street, that are defined by some contributing resources. The village of Toddville is represented by approximately seventy (70) contributing resources. The seafood packing company, Meredith & Meredith, is located at the east end of Farm Creek Road. (See D-732)

The principal house types defining the community of Toddville are two-story, two-, three- or four-bay frame dwellings supported by brick pier or continuous brick foundations. Most of these late nineteenth century dwellings are covered with vinyl siding, and are capped by medium sloped asphalt shingle roofs. The edges of the roofs are finished with boxed cornices and extended eaves with returns. Many of the two-story, two- or three-bay side hall or center hall/single-pile houses are extended to the side or rear by shorter single-story or story-and-a-half dining room and/or kitchen wings. The Todd house (D-836) is one of the best preserved examples of this common house form. The Todd house also survives with several outbuildings and a small family

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burial plot. One of the more distinctive outbuildings behind the Todd house is a stilted dairy building that retains its louvered side vents and interior shelving. A few of the two-story, side hall or center hall plan frame dwellings have corners trimmed with paneled pilasters and/or cornice blocks. Interior end brick stacks finished with corbelled caps survive on the Todd house and many others in the village.

One of the few commercial buildings in the village is the Toddville Store, also known as the Webster Meredith Store (D-820), a single-story gable-front frame structure marking the corner of Toddville and Farm Creek roads. The weatherboard frame store building has six-over-six sash windows retaining metal security bars.

The most architecturally distinguished structure in the village is the Zion M. E. Church, a late nineteenth-century Gothic Revival building designed and built around 1890. Modeled after a published plan created by Benjamin D. Price and published in a volume of church and parsonage designs (See D-322). The church features a corner entrance and bell tower capped by a broach spire. Joining the church on the lot is a nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery and a church hall.

The early to mid twentieth century witnessed the construction of several bungalow and four-square style houses that were built atop rusticated or plain block foundations. Most are covered with artificial materials such as vinyl siding or asbestos shingles. The mid twentieth century improvements included a handful of single-story Ranch style dwellings.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-830

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 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.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

A narrow ridge of land situated above the tidal marsh of Farm and Goose creeks in southwestern County evolved from a scatter of small farmsteads and watermen's dwellings during the mid nineteenth century to a more populous and thriving fishing village during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Known variously as "Todd Town," or Toddville, the village surfaces by name during the late nineteenth century on Robinson's Neck, named for the significant number of Robinson family members who resided in this locale. The other predominant surname of Todd, however, inspired the name of the community that, although not identified as such on the Strait election district map of 1877, was well-defined by a score of dwellings, a school, and a Methodist Episcopal church. The village of Toddville is defined by several dozen houses and other buildings dating from c. 1860 to c. 1950. The Zion M. E. Church (D-322) is a singularly distinctive Gothic Revival building eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. While the remaining contributing resources are widely dispersed along Toddville Road and its associated side streets, the community retains enough historic and architectural significance to warrant listing the district on the National Register of Historic Places.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

By testimony of the 1849 U.S. Coast survey map created by chief engineer A. D. Bache and his assistants, the ridge of land between Farm and Goose creeks was improved by a handful of dispersed farmsteads. Small cleared fields were surrounded by patches of woodland and the marsh associated with the two meandering creeks. During the quarter century that followed the publication of the coastal map, the community on "Robinson's Neck" emerged as a distinct watermen's village with a several dozen houses, a school, and a Methodist Episcopal church. (See Lake, Griffing and Stevenson atlas map of the Strait Election District) Similar to many coastal communities in Dorchester County, the areas adjacent to the creeks, bays and harbors off Fishing Bay and Hooper's Strait were the locations of distinct population and economic growth during the second half of the nineteenth century and first half of the twentieth. The village name of "Todd Town" surfaces in the land records, a name that was replaced by "Toddville"

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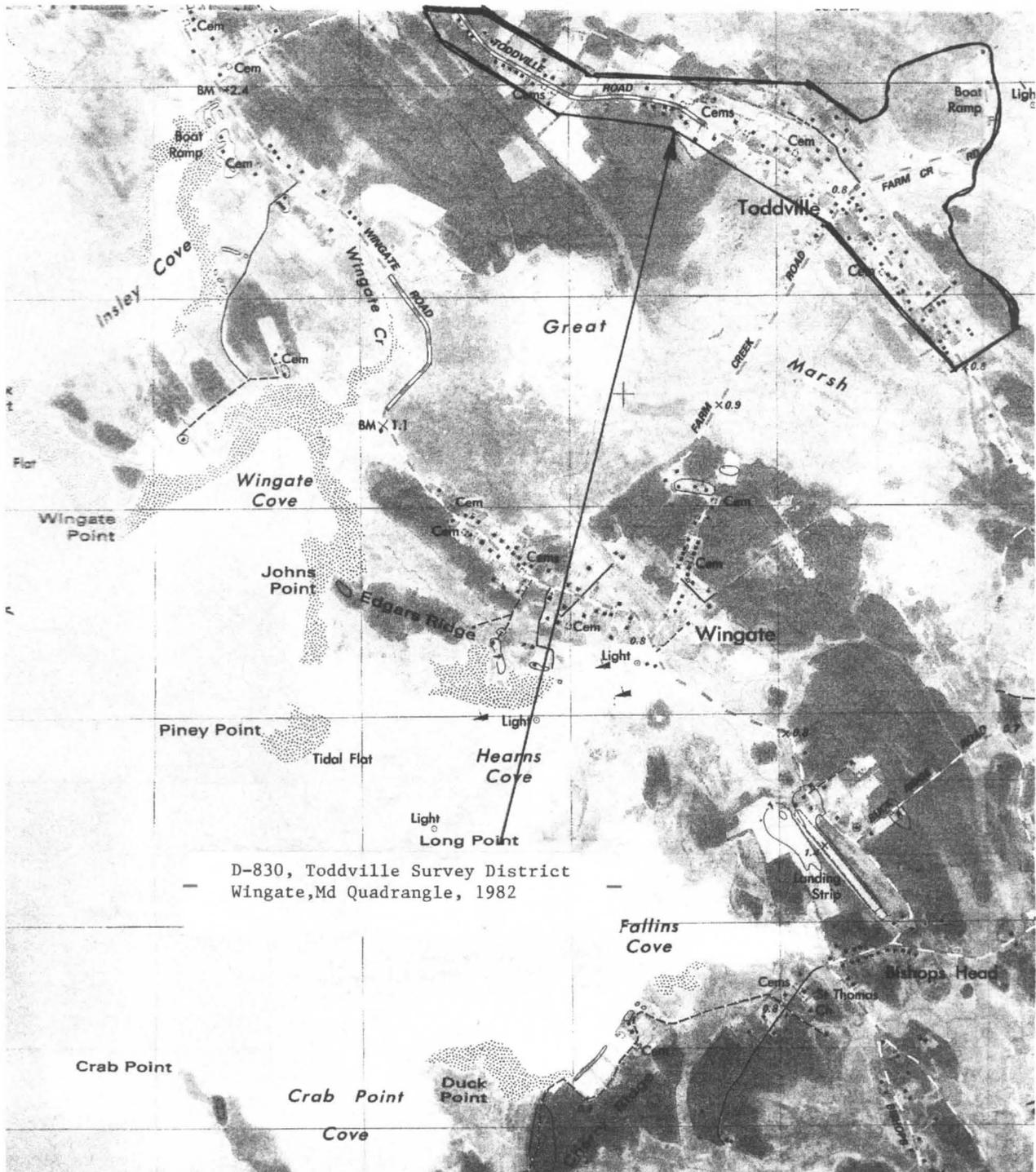
during the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. While the seafood business still continues off the shore of Farm Creek with the firm of Meredith & Meredith, the older housing stock in Toddsville is being subjected slowly to abandonment where a new generation of residents are not willing to invest and repair the houses located on low, vulnerable land.

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D-830, Toddville Survey District, Toddville, Dorchester County, (Zion M. E. Church, D-322) north elevation, Paul Baker Touart, 7.2013

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D-830, Toddville Survey District, Zion M. E. Church Hall (D-322), Toddville, southeast elevation, Paul Baker Touart, 7.2013

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D-830, Toddville Survey District, Toddville, Dorchester County, (Toddville Store, D-829), northeast
Elevation, Paul Baker Touart, 7.2013

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D-836, Toddville Survey District, Toddville, Dorchester County, (Todd House, D-836), southeast elevation, Paul Baker Touart, 10.2013

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D-830, Toddville Survey District, Toddville, Dorchester County, northeast elevation of house on Toddville Road, Paul Baker Touart, 7.2013.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County, Maryland.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property _____

Acreage of historical setting _____

Quadrangle name Bloodsworth Island, MDQuadrangle 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	Private Consultant	date	10.10.2013
street & number	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.

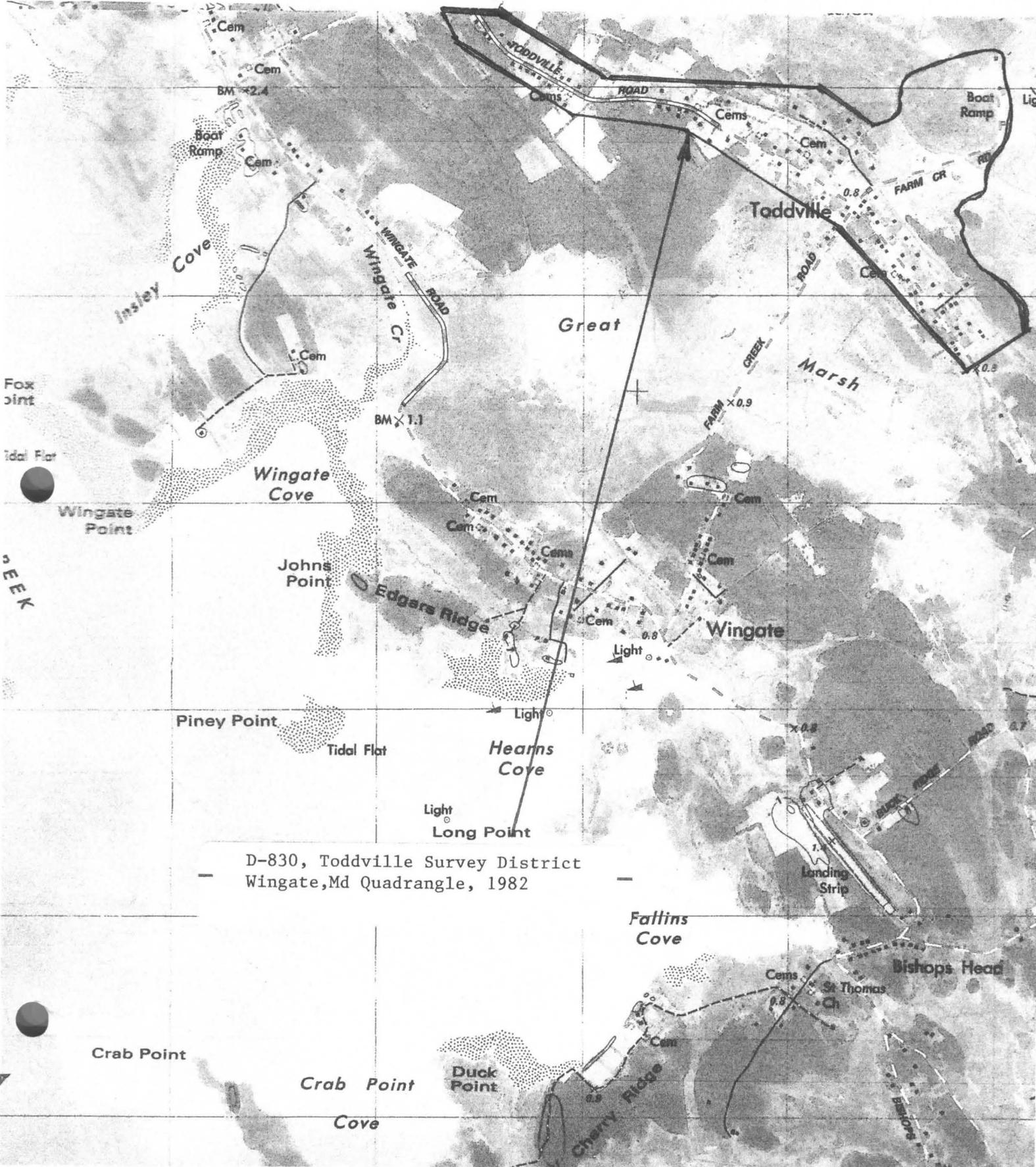
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

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D-830, Toddville Survey District
 Wingate, Md Quadrangle, 1982



D-830-

ZION UNITED METH. ^{CITIZEN}
TODDVILLE, DORCHESTER Co. ^(D-322)
WONNHEAST ELEVATION ^{MD.}
7-2013, PAUL B. TOWNSEND,
WTR./MD. HIST. TRUSS ^{PITTSV.}

#1 OF 3



D-830

TODDVILLE Survey District

Zion U. M. Church Lane (D-322)

Toddville, Drexelton G. Mt.

7.2073, Paul B. Towant, Atty.

WEL. JUD. TRUST

2 OF 3



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TODDVILLE Survey DISTRICT

TODDVILLE, DORCHESTER C., MD.

TODDVILLE ROAD LOOKING SOUTH

7. 2013, PAUL B. TOWNSEND, PHOTO.

NETZ/MD HISTORICAL TRUSS

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