

D-832
Crocheron Survey District
Crocheron
c. 1880 - c. 1930
Private and Public

Crocheron is a village of approximately twenty-five frame structures that define the Bishops Head peninsula; bounded by Tedious Creek on the east and Hooper's Strait on the west. Built upon low upland and man-made elevations of oyster shell, the village is named for the Crocheron family who relocated to Dorchester County from New York state during the post Civil War decade. A small community had developed in the vicinity during the third quarter of the nineteenth century, enough to warrant a county school by the late 1860s or early 1870s. Nathan Crocheron (1802-1889) tried his hand in business or prospecting in the gold fields of California. The 1850 national census locates him on the South Fork of the American River. After the Civil War, however, he came back east and purchased land from Ezekial Johnson, a waterman, whose daughter Triphinia had married his grandson, Eugene Crocheron (1857-1927). Both Crocherons are listed in the 1880 U.S. Census for Dorchester County as dry goods merchants. In 1890, Eugene Crocheron acquired a two-hundred acre tract of land in Strait Election District bordering Fishing Bay and Hooper's Strait.

During the period of intensive oyster and seafood harvests in Tangier Sound and throughout the Chesapeake, the villages of southwestern Dorchester grew in size and population. The general prosperity of the period encouraged plans for the construction of a branch rail line from Cambridge to Bishops Head, terminating or passing through the village of Crocheron. While the branch line was never realized, profits from the seafood harvests spurred construction of a generations of new housing between 1880 and 1930. On the Crocheron family acreage, the family financed a waterfront store, oyster packing house, and a domestic complex anchored by a large ell-shaped Victorian house (See D-837). The store served as the local post office, and Eugene Crocheron, and his sister-in-law, Minnie Crocheron, served as postmasters from 1901 to 1968.

A long-time fixture in Crocheron during the mid to late twentieth century was Brady P. Todd & Son, which opened a seafood packing company on Tedious Creek in 1947. They harvested and packed crabmeat, hard and soft crabs, and oysters; employing about thirty workers. (See D-735) Built over the course of several decades with various additions and modifications, the packinghouse had three piers to handle boats tied up three and four deep waiting to unload oysters during the mid twentieth century. The Brady P. Todd packinghouse operated until 1995 when it was closed.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-832

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Crocheron Survey District

other

2. Location

street and number _____ not for publication

city, town Crocheron _____ 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	25	10
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	25	10
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	_____	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	Number of Contributing Resources	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	previously listed in the Inventory	

7. Description

Inventory No. D-832

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 Crocheron Survey District is located at the southern end of the Bishops Head peninsula on land bordering Fishing Bay and Hooper's Straits. White Wood Cove, a sizable indentation of Tedious Creek, provides sheltered harbor for bay craft in and out of Fishing Bay. Crocheron Road provides the only road access to this remote community in southern Dorchester County. The community developed during the late years of the nineteenth century and early decades of the twentieth century; coincidental with the rise in oyster and seafood harvests in Tangier Sound and its tributaries. The land along Crocheron Road and other communities streets provided higher ground to build upon. The village of Crocheron also includes houses and the Bethany United Methodist Church (D-838) and a former schoolhouse now serving as the church hall that are located along Phillips Gun Club Road, which leads down to the Bishops Head Point at the southern tip of the peninsula.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Crocheron Survey District is the southernmost grouping of historic resources that define the Bishops Head peninsula. Crocheron Road provides the only road access to a community built on elevated ground infilled with oyster shells and surrounded by marsh to the north, south and west. Tedious Creek and Fishing Creek border the peninsula to the east, and Hooper's Straits on the west. The historic community of Crocheron contains approximately twenty-five (25) contributing resources that date from c. 1880 to c. 1950.

The principal historic buildings that define the community of Crocheron include the Bradye P. Todd & Son seafood packing company (D-735) on Tedious Creek, the Crocheron Store (D-831), the Eugene Crocheron house (D-837) and the Bethany United Methodist Church (D-838). The oldest housing stock include two story, two- and three-bay, single-pile frame houses with gable roofs. Defined by two-over-two or single-pane sash windows, these center hall or center staircase houses have one or two-story rear service wings. At least one example has a hyphen extending to the rear to join the kitchen wing. The most distinctive and largest house in the community is the Eugene Crocheron house, an ell-shaped Victorian dwelling built around 1890-1900 on a slightly elevated twenty-acre site on Crocheron Road. The house is joined on the lot by several turn-of-the twentieth century outbuildings. Also standing on the twenty-acre parcel is the Crocheron Store, a late nineteenth century waterfront commercial building erected as a warehouse and general store that also incorporated a post office. The store faces White Wood Cove. Across the cove from the store is the Bradye P. Todd & Son seafood packing house, a second quarter of the twentieth century structure built in stages between 1938 and the 1950s.

Standing on the west side of the village along Phillips Gun Club Road is the Bethany United Methodist Church, a second quarter of the twentieth century ell-shaped frame structure finished with Colonial Revival details. Located on the south side of the church is the church hall, a former school, and it is a single-story gable-front frame structure lighted by six-over-six sash windows.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-832

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

Crocheron is a village of approximately twenty-five (25) frame structures located on the Bishops Head peninsula, bounded by Tedious Creek and Hooper's Straits. Built upon low upland and man-made elevations of oyster shell, the village is named for the Crocheron family who relocated to Dorchester County from New York state during the post Civil War period. Nathan Crocheron (1802-1889) tried his hand in business in the gold prospecting on South Fork of the American River, where he was counted as part of the 1850 U. S. Census.¹ After the Civil War, however, he came back east and purchased land from Ezekial Johnson,² a waterman, whose daughter Triphinia had married Nathan's grandson Eugene Crocheron (1857-1927). Both Crocherons are listed in the 1880 U.S. Census for Dorchester County as dry goods merchants.³ In 1890, Eugene Crocheron acquired a two-hundred acre tract of land in Strait Election District bordering Fishing Bay and Hooper's Strait.⁴

During the period of intensive oyster and seafood harvests in Tangier Sound and throughout the Chesapeake, the villages of southwestern Dorchester grew in size and population. The general prosperity of the period encouraged plans for the construction of a branch rail line from Cambridge to Bishops Head, terminating or passing through the village of Crocheron. While the branch line was never realized, profits from the seafood harvests spurred on the construction of a generation of new housing between 1880 and 1930. On the Crocheron family acreage they built a waterfront store, oyster packing house, and a domestic complex including an ell-shaped Victorian house (See D-837) The store served as the local post office, and Eugene Crocheron, and his sister-in-law, Minnie Crocheron, served as postmasters from 1901 through 1968.

A long-time fixture in Crocheron has been Bradye P. Todd & Son, which opened a seafood packing company on Tedious Creek in 1947.⁵ They harvested and packed crabmeat, hard and soft crabs, and oysters,

¹ Seventh Census of the United States (1850), California Population Schedule, Ancestry.com.
² Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 10/235, 21 July 1875, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.
³ Tenth Census of the United States (1880), Dorchester County Population Schedule, Ancestry.com.
⁴ Dorchester County Land Record, CL 14/383, 11 August 1890, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.
⁵ Virginia Jenkins, "Bradye P. Todd & Son, Inc." Business Summary, as part of MIHP Form D-735.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-832

Name Crocheron Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

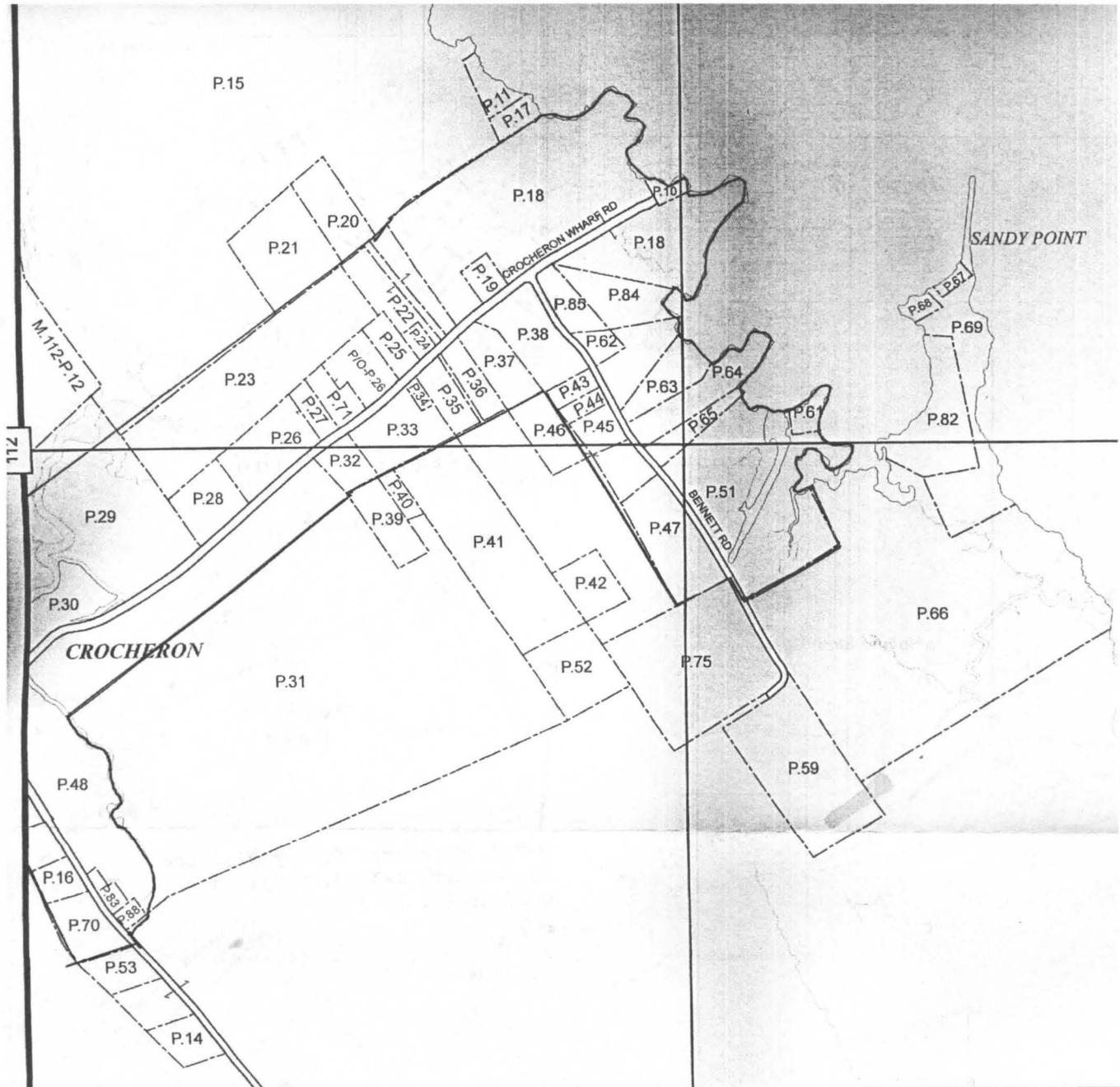
employing about thirty workers. Built over the course of several decades with various additions, the packinghouse had three piers to handle the boats tied up three and four deep waiting to unload oysters during the mid twentieth century. The Bradye P. Todd packinghouse operated until 1995 when it was closed.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-832

Name Crocheron Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2



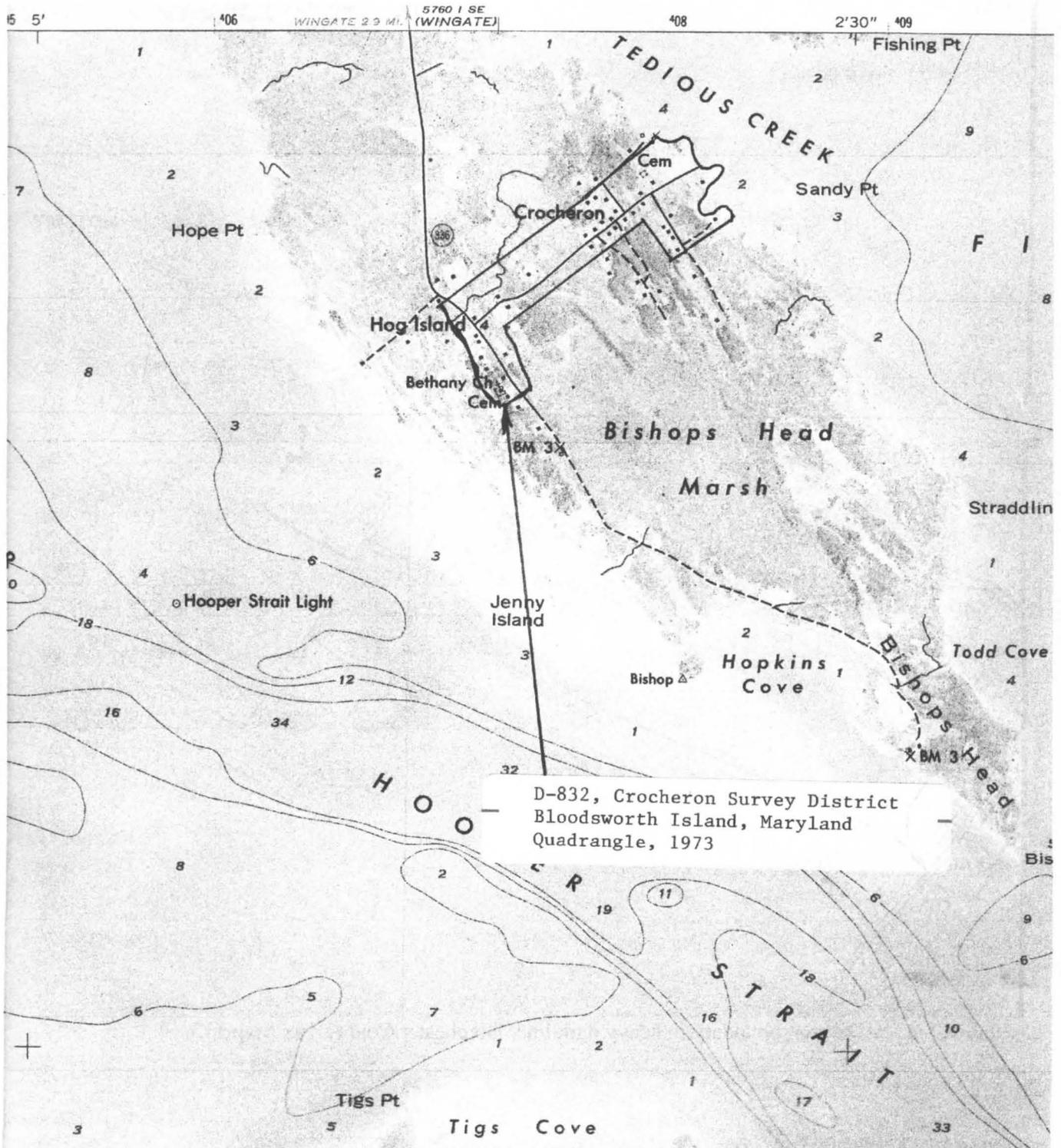
Crocheron Survey District, boundary in heavy dark line, Dorchester County Tax Map 113.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-832

Name Crocheron Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3



Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-832

Name Crocheron Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-832

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County, Maryland.
U.S. Census records, various years, Ancestry.com.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property @ 80 acres

Acreage of historical setting _____

Quadrangle name Bloodsworth 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	Private Consultant	date	9.4.2001
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

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-832

Name Crocheron Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1



D-832, Crocheron Survey District, Crocheron, Phillips Gunning Club Road, looking northwest,
9.2013, Paul Baker Touart

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-832

Name Crocheron Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 2



D-832, Crocheron Survey District, Crocheron, Crocheron Road looking northeast, Paul Baker Touart, 9.2013

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-832

Name Crocheron Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 3



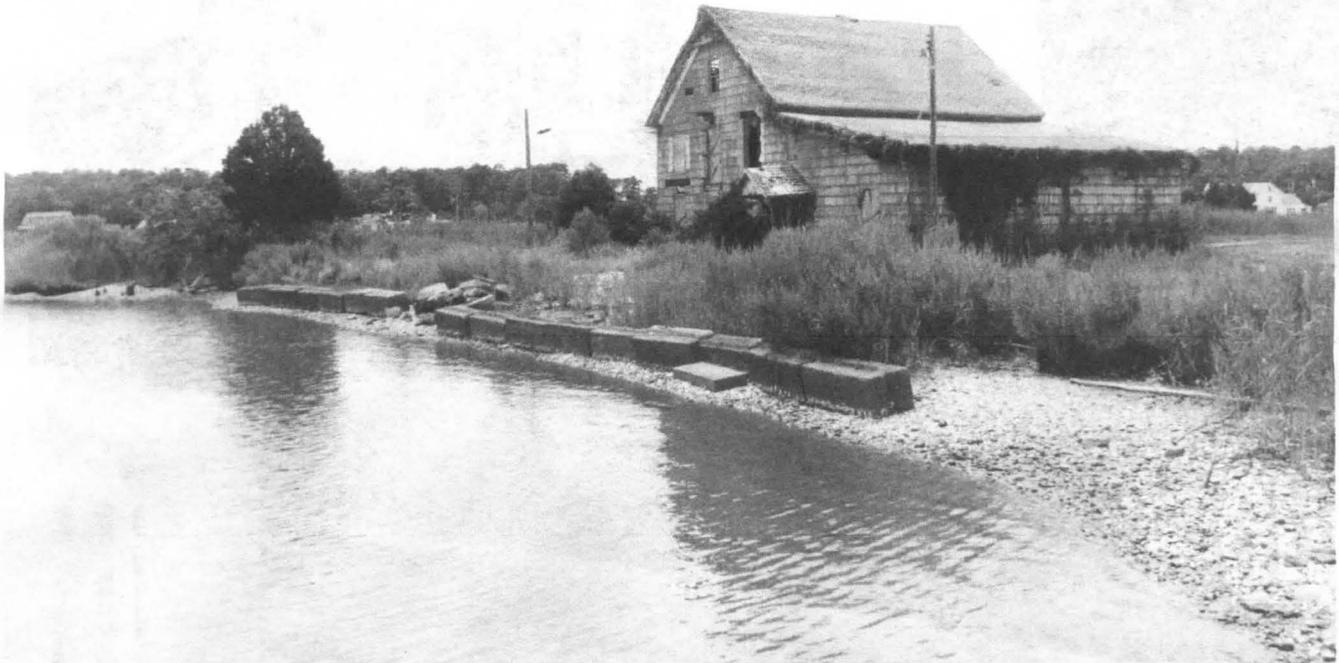
D-832, Crocheron Survey District, Crocheron, Crocheron Road looking northeast, Paul Baker Touart, 9.2013

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-832

Name Crocheron Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 4



D-832, Crocheron Survey District, N. & E. Crocheron Store (D-831), northeast elevation, Paul Baker Touart, 8.2013

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

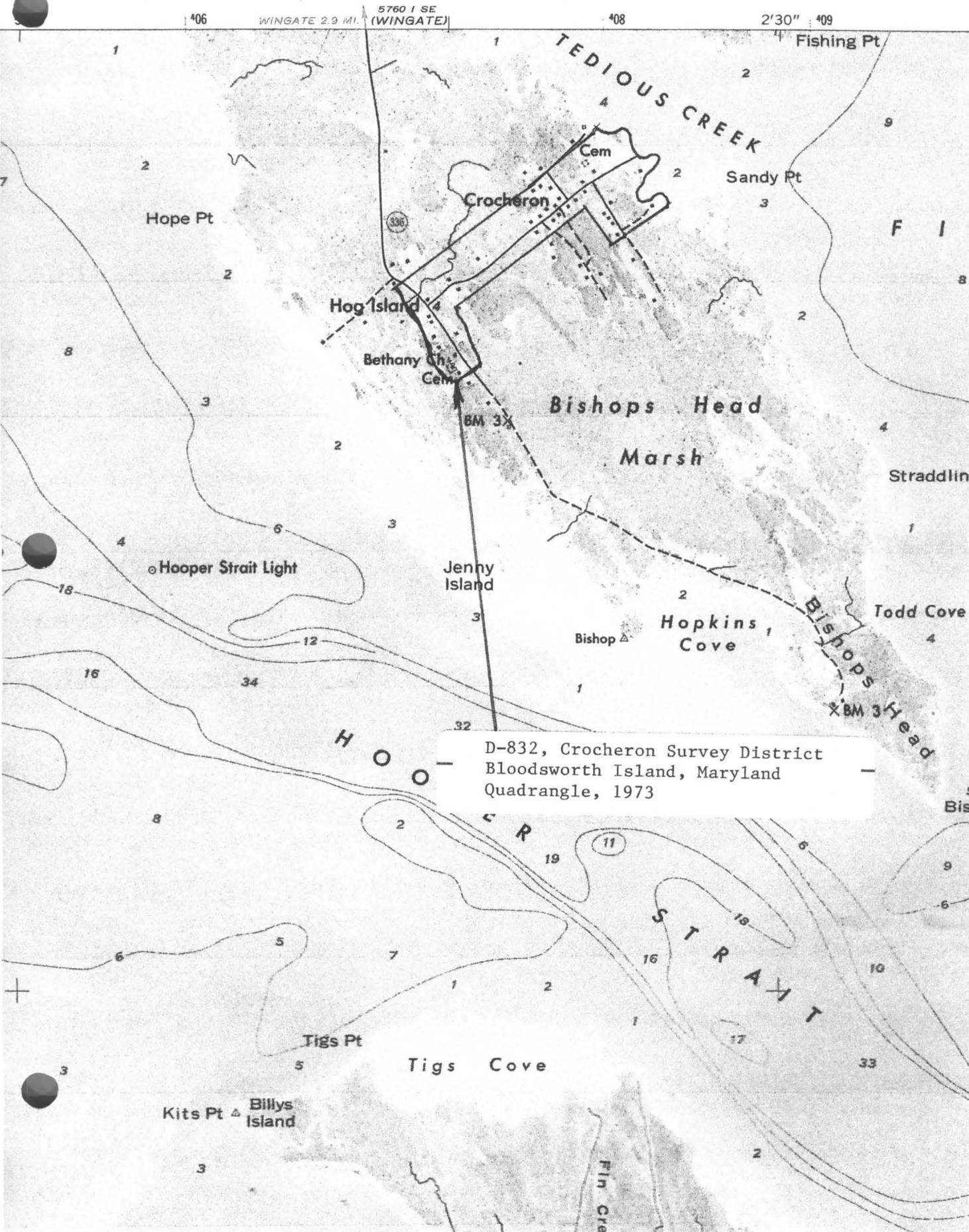
Maryland Historical Trust
Inventory of
Historic Properties Form
Inventory No. D-832

Name Crocheron Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 5



D-832, Crocheron Survey District, Crocheron, Eugene Crocheron House (D-837), Paul Baker Touart, 9.2013



D-832, Crocheron Survey District
Bloodsworth Island, Maryland
Quadrangle, 1973



D-832
CROCHERON Survey DISTRICT
CROCHERON, DORCHESTER Co., MD.
PITLUPS GUNNING CLUB ROAD LOOKING
NORTHWEST

9.2013, PAUL B. TOWART, PHOTO.

NEH / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

#1 OF 3



D-832

CROUCHMAN Survey District
CROUCHMAN, Dorchester Co. Md.

CROUCHMAN ROAD LOOKING NORTHEAST

9. 2013, PAUL B. TOWART, PHOTO.

NEB. (MD) HISTORICAL TRUST

2 OF 3



D-032

CROCKERON Survey District
CROCKERON, DOVERESTON A., MD.

CROCKERON ROAD LOOKING NORTHEAST

9.2013, PAUL B. TONANT, PHOTO.

NET./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

#3 OF 3