

D-833
Wingate Survey District
Wingate
c. 1870 – c 1950

Wingate, Maryland is a small watermens' community located in southwestern Dorchester County, and a collection of approximately forty contributing historic resources define this village that surfaced during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The surviving historic structures range in date from c. 1870 to c. 1950 and were built during the peak years of profits related to the oyster harvests and vegetable canning industry that developed across the region.

When the Dorchester County coastline was surveyed by the U.S. engineers researching Chesapeake Bay tributaries, the county road that passed through the area was bounded on either side by small farmsteads, patches of woodland, and marsh that bordered the inlets and creeks feeding into the Honga River. At the north end of Insley Cove, near the present-day Wingate boat ramp, the engineers drew in the symbol for a wind mill, most likely similar to the timber framed smock mills erected across southwestern Dorchester County during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

With the mechanization of agriculture during the second half of the nineteenth century, much of the remaining woodlands were cleared and agricultural production reached in peak for the Strait and Lakesville elections districts. By the time the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas was printed in 1877, a village, although unnamed, was clearly growing with clusters of houses along the road to Bishops Head. Near the site of the windmill was a store operated by I. M. Insley & Brother. Across the road from the store was a farm owned by William M. Wingate, who had purchased 35 acres of "Todd's Luck" in May 1875. Listed as an undertaker and a carpenter in the 1880 U.S. Census, William M. Wingate passed the farm onto his wife Elizabeth and then to their son

Charles M. M. Wingate. Indicated on the 1877 election district map and running through the growing village was the proposed right-of-way for a branch line of the Dorchester & Delaware Railroad that was planned to extend from Cambridge to Bishops Head point.

The predominance of Wingate family residents in this immediate locale surely inspired the naming of the village during the late nineteenth century in an effort to differentiate it from nearby Bishops Head, the site of another store and the location of the district post office. In 1890, when a Methodist membership distinct from the St. Thomas congregation in Bishops Head decided to establish its own congregation, the Wingate Chapel was erected along the main road at the south end of the village. A replacement frame church was erected in the early twentieth century.

During the early twentieth century the village population continued to grow along with the county's overall populace, and the period witnessed the formation of several vegetable packing companies between 1900 and the 1920s. Concurrent with the growth of the vegetable canning industry was the exploitation of the oyster beds in the nearby bays and river bottoms of the tributaries of Chesapeake Bay. The Wingate community prospered enough to warrant the location of a branch of the Eastern Shore Trust Company, known as the South Dorchester Bank, in Wingate around 1914. The South Dorchester Bank lasted until the early 1940s.

The prosperity associated with the vegetable and seafood industries, however, started to wane during the second quarter of the twentieth century, especially after the stock market failure in 1929. The boom in the seafood industry was on a decline throughout the bay during the same period. Since the mid twentieth century farming has largely been discontinued in the Strait election district with the former fields growing into woodlands.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-833

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Wingate Survey District

other _____

2. Location

street and number _____ not for publication

city, town Wingate 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>40</u>	<u>15</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>40</u>	<u>15</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<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-833

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

Wingate, Maryland is a small watermens' village located in southwestern Dorchester County, and approximately forty (40) contributing historic resources define the village that line the Wingate-Bishops Head Road between Wesley Church Road and Hearn's Cove harbor. There are two distinct clusters of contributing resources, one at the north end around the intersection of the Wingate-Bishops Head Road and Wesley Church Road. Defining the north end is Wingate Manor (D-834) and the former South Dorchester Bank Building (D-846). The southern end of the community includes the Wingate United Methodist Church, a remodeled early twentieth century frame structure partially covered by a brick veneer. Several lanes and the southern end of Farm Creek Road contain additional historic resources that were built on the high land bordering these roads. To the north of Wingate village is the Great Marsh of Goose Creek, and to the south are Insley Cove, Wingate Cove and Hearn's Cove.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The community of Wingate in southwestern Dorchester County is a watermens' community of approximately forty (40) contributing resources dating from the period between c. 1870 and c. 1950. The Wingate-Bishops Head Road serves as the route of principal land access, and the high ground on either side of the road are the locations of remaining historic resources. The resources are divided between a cluster of structures at the north end and a larger concentration of buildings at the south end. The two clusters of buildings are divided by the Great Marsh of Goose Creek.

At the north end of the community there are a few surviving buildings, most significantly the two-story, ell-shaped Victorian frame dwelling known as Wingate Manor (See D-834) which is joined on its lot by a Wingate family cemetery framed by sections of cast iron fence. Southeast of Wingate Manor is a single-story, rusticated concrete block building, formerly the South Dorchester Bank (See D-846), which was built around 1914 and converted into a private residence during the mid twentieth century.

The south end of the community is located primarily along the Wingate-Bishops Head Road and Farm Creek Road. The Wingate United Methodist Church, located on the south side the Wingate-Bishops Head Road is a early twentieth century Gothic Revival frame structure defined by pointed arch colored glass windows and partially covered by a mid twentieth century brick veneer. A double-door entrance is flanked by three pointed arch windows, and the gable end is pierced by a diamond-shaped colored glass window. Rising atop the corner of the original church is a square bell tower pierced by pointed arch louvered vents. The top of the bell tower is accented by a simple railing. Attached to the southeast side of the main block is a mid twentieth century concrete block and brick veneered wing that reused pointed arch windows.

Similar to the other watermens' communities in southwest Dorchester County, the oldest surviving house types include the late nineteenth century, two-story, two- or three-bay single-pile, one-room or side hall/parlor plan dwellings supported on brick pier foundations and covered with plain weatherboards or asbestos shingles or

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-833

Name Wingate Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

vinyl siding. The steeply pitched roofs have boxed cornices with extended eaves. Piercing the gable ends are interior brick stove chimneys. Attached to the back or gable ends of the main block are single-story or two-story rear wings. These houses are lighted by six-over-six, two-over-two or single-pane sash windows.

There are as well examples of asymmetrical T- or ell-shaped Victorian dwellings supported on pier foundations and covered with weatherboards. The early to mid twentieth century dwellings follow common bungalow and four-square house forms in frame construction. During the mid to late twentieth century, a scattering of Ranch style houses has been added to the landscape. Some of the property is occupied by resident owners, while other houses and acreages have been purchased by non-residents for second homes or hunting properties.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-833

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	entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	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	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

Wingate, Maryland is a small watermens' community located in southwestern Dorchester County, and a collection of approximately forty (40) contributing resources define this historic village that surfaced during the mid to late nineteenth century. The historic structures range in date from c. 1870 to c. 1950 and were built during the peaks in profits related to oyster packing and vegetable canning during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. While there are distinctive examples of late nineteenth and twentieth century vernacular houses, the collection does not warrant listing on the National Register of Historic Places due to significant loss of integrity through alteration, abandonment, deterioration and demolition.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The village of Wingate in southwestern Dorchester County is a rural community that developed during the second half of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in a response to the growth in the seafood packing and vegetable canning industries that defined the entire region. When the coast lines of Dorchester County were surveyed by the U.S. engineers producing detailed maps of the Chesapeake Bay, the county road through the area featured small farms, patches of woodland, and marsh that bordered the inlets and creeks feeding into the Honga River.¹ At the north end of Insley Cove, near the present-day boat ramp, the engineers sited a wind mill, likely similar to the timber framed smock mills erected across southwestern Dorchester County during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

With the mechanization of agriculture during the second half of the nineteenth century, the much of the remaining woodlands were cleared and agricultural production reached its peak. By the time the 1877 Lake, Griffing and Stevenson atlas was printed, a village, although unnamed, was clearly growing with clusters of houses along the road to Bishops Head.² Near the site of the windmill was a store operated by I.M. Insley &

¹ A. D. Bache, principal engineer, U.S. Coast Survey-Mouth of Honga River and Hooper's Straits, 1848.

² John L. Graham, ed. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Salisbury, Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, 1976, p. 80.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-833

Name Wingate Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Brother. Across the road was a farm owned by William M. Wingate, who had acquired 35 acres of "Todd's Luck" in May 1875.³ Listed as an undertaker and a carpenter in the 1880 U.S. Census, the "Todd's Luck" farm passed to his wife Elizabeth and then to their son, Charles M. M. Wingate in 1904.⁴ Indicated on the map and running through the growing village was the proposed right-of-way of a branch line of the Dorchester & Delaware Railroad that was to extend from Cambridge to Bishops Head point.

The predominance of Wingate family residents in this immediate area surely inspired the naming of the village during the late nineteenth century in an effort to differentiate it from nearby Bishops Head, the site of another local store and the location of the district post office. In 1890, when a Methodist membership distinct from the St. Thomas congregation in Bishops Head decided to establish its own congregation, the Wingate Chapel was erected along the main road at the south end of the village. A replacement frame church was erected during the early twentieth century.⁵

During the early twentieth century the village population continued to grow along with the county's general population, and the period witnessed the formation of several vegetable packing companies established between 1900 and the 1920s. Concurrent with the growth of the vegetable canning industry locally was the exploitation of oyster beds in nearby bays and river bottoms of tributaries of Chesapeake Bay. The community was prosperous enough to warrant the location of a branch of the Eastern Shore Trust Company, known as the South Dorchester Bank, in Wingate around 1914. (See D-846) The South Dorchester Bank lasted until the early 1940s.

The prosperity associated with the vegetable and seafood industries, however, started to wane during the second quarter of the twentieth century, especially after the stock market failure in 1929. The boom in the seafood industry was on a decline as well during the period. Since the mid twentieth century farming has largely been discontinued in the Strait election district with the former fields growing into woodlands. The housing stock erected during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is reaching levels of deterioration that threaten their futures. Many houses are abandoned. Some efforts are being made to raise houses, old and new, on higher masonry foundations to combat future natural disasters and the threat of sea-level rise.

³ Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 10/150, 31 May 1875, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge.

⁴ Dorchester County Land Record, CL 29/613, 11 August 1904, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge.

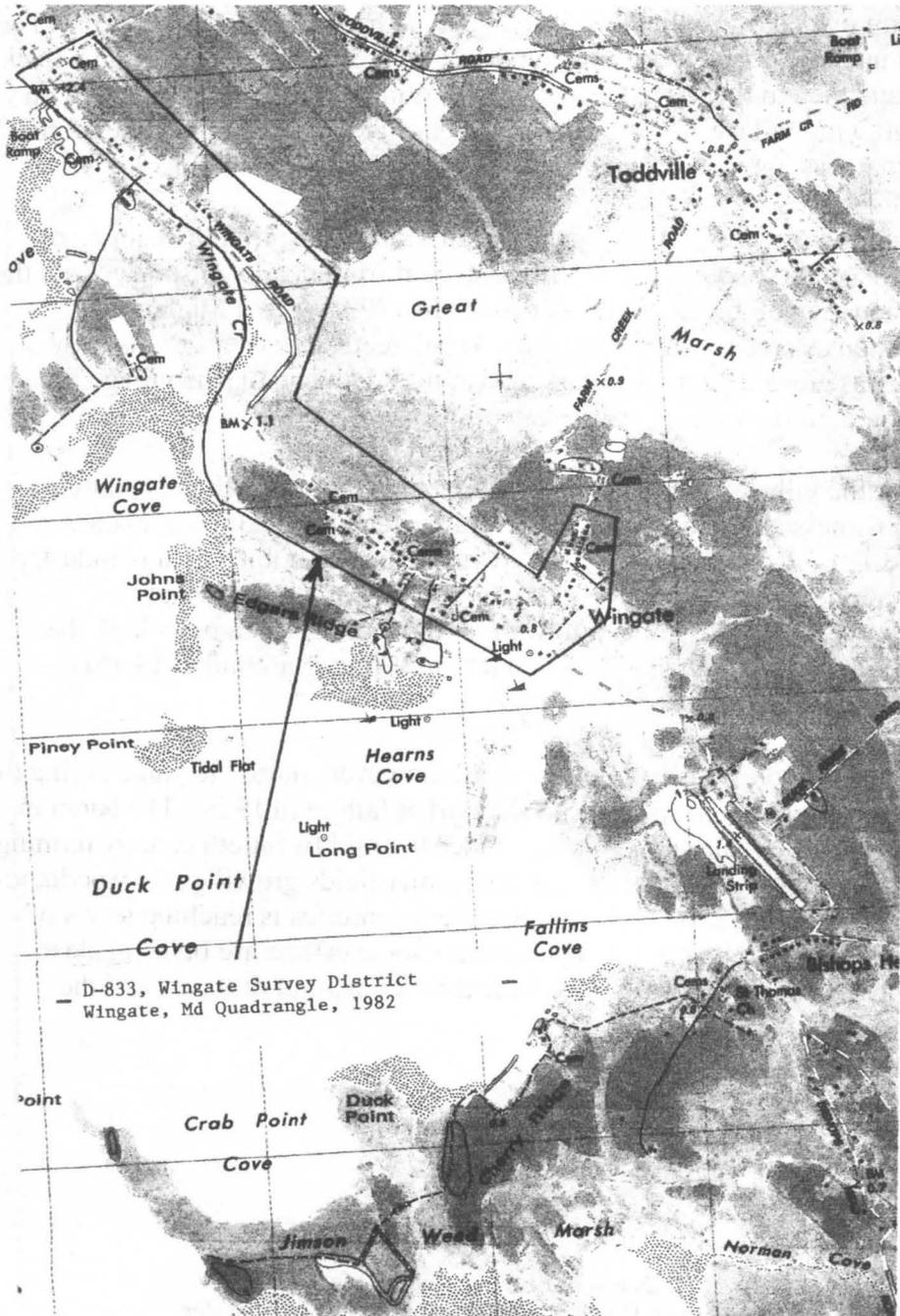
⁵ E. C. Hallman, *The Garden of Methodism*, Peninsula Annual Conference, 1948, p. 312.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-833

Name Wingate Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

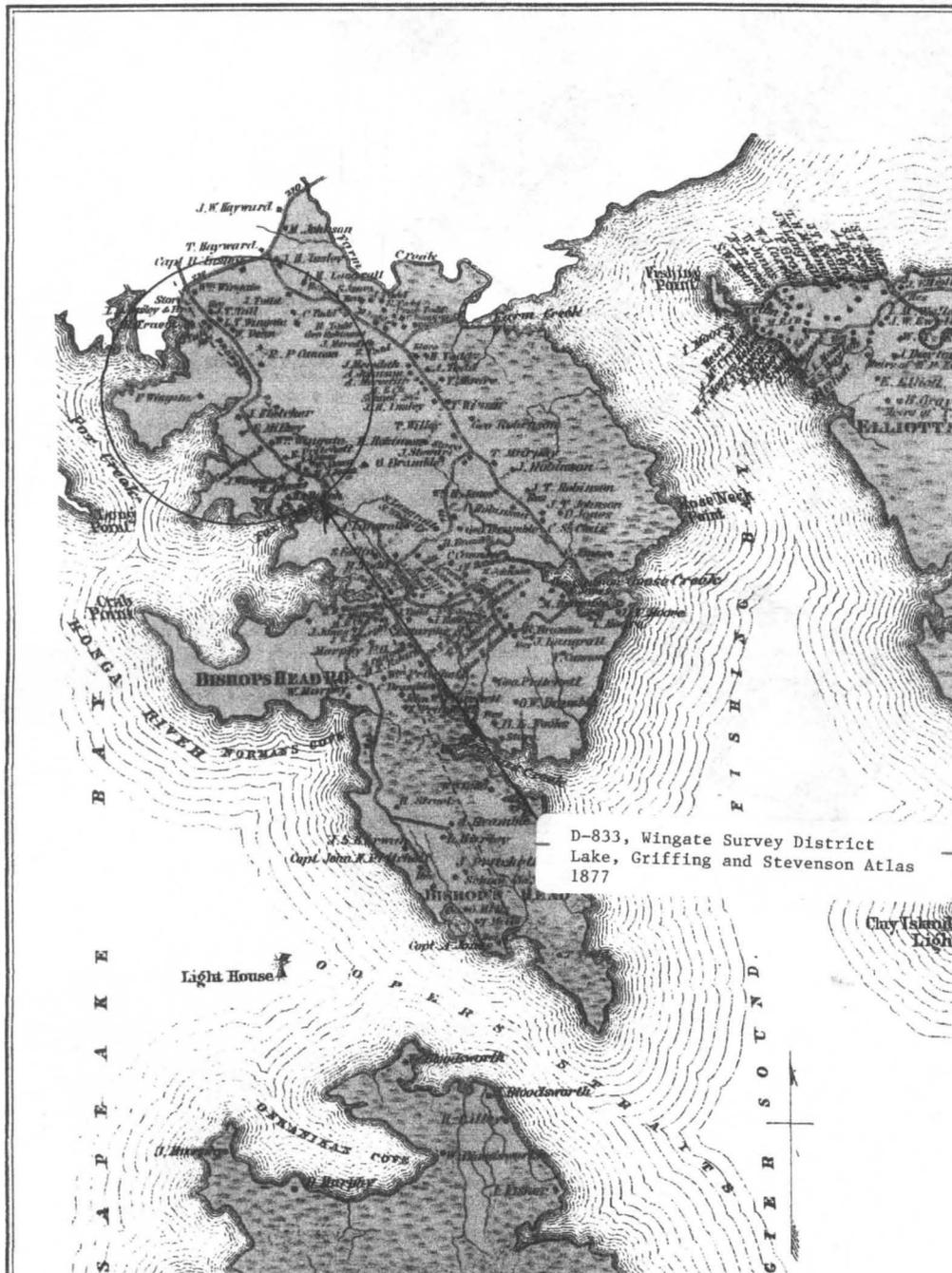


Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-833

Name Wingate Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

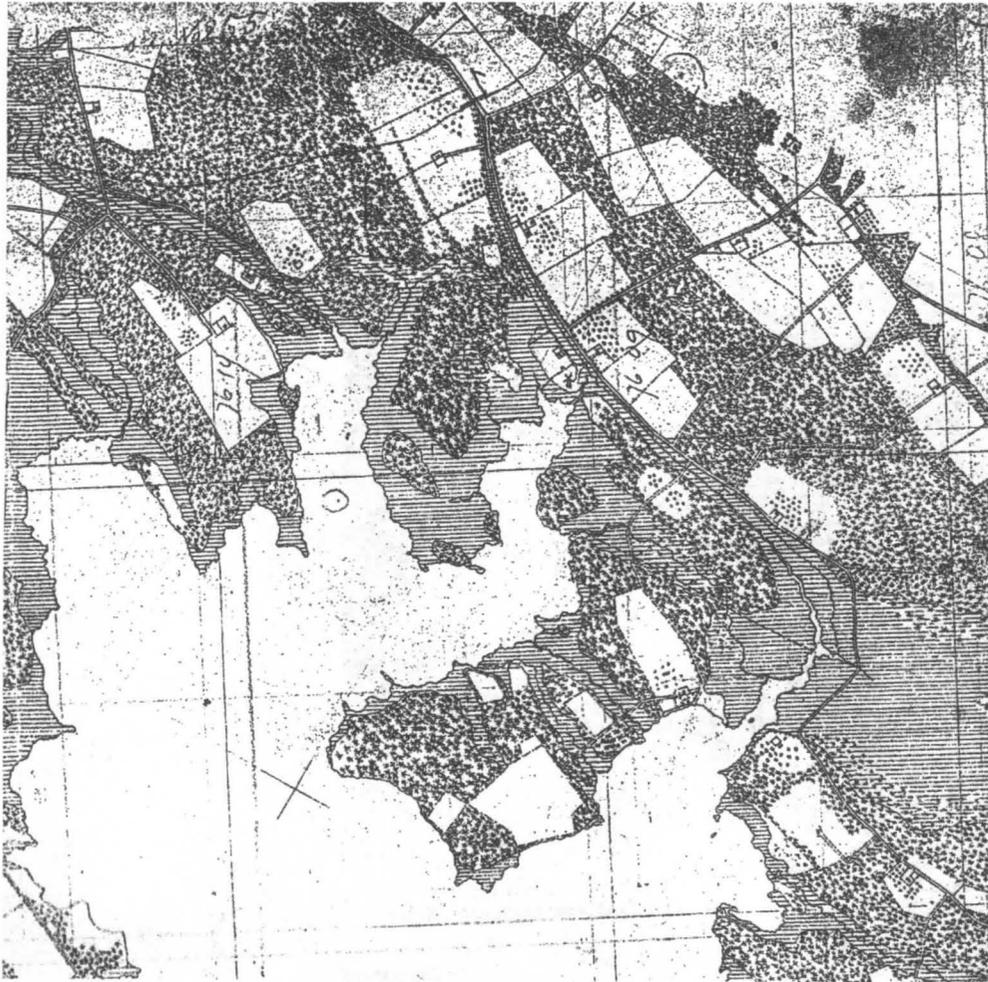


Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-833

Name Wingate Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4



— D-833, Wingate Survey District
U.S. Coast Survey—Mouth of the Honga
River and Hooper's Straights—1848 —

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-833

Name Wingate Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5



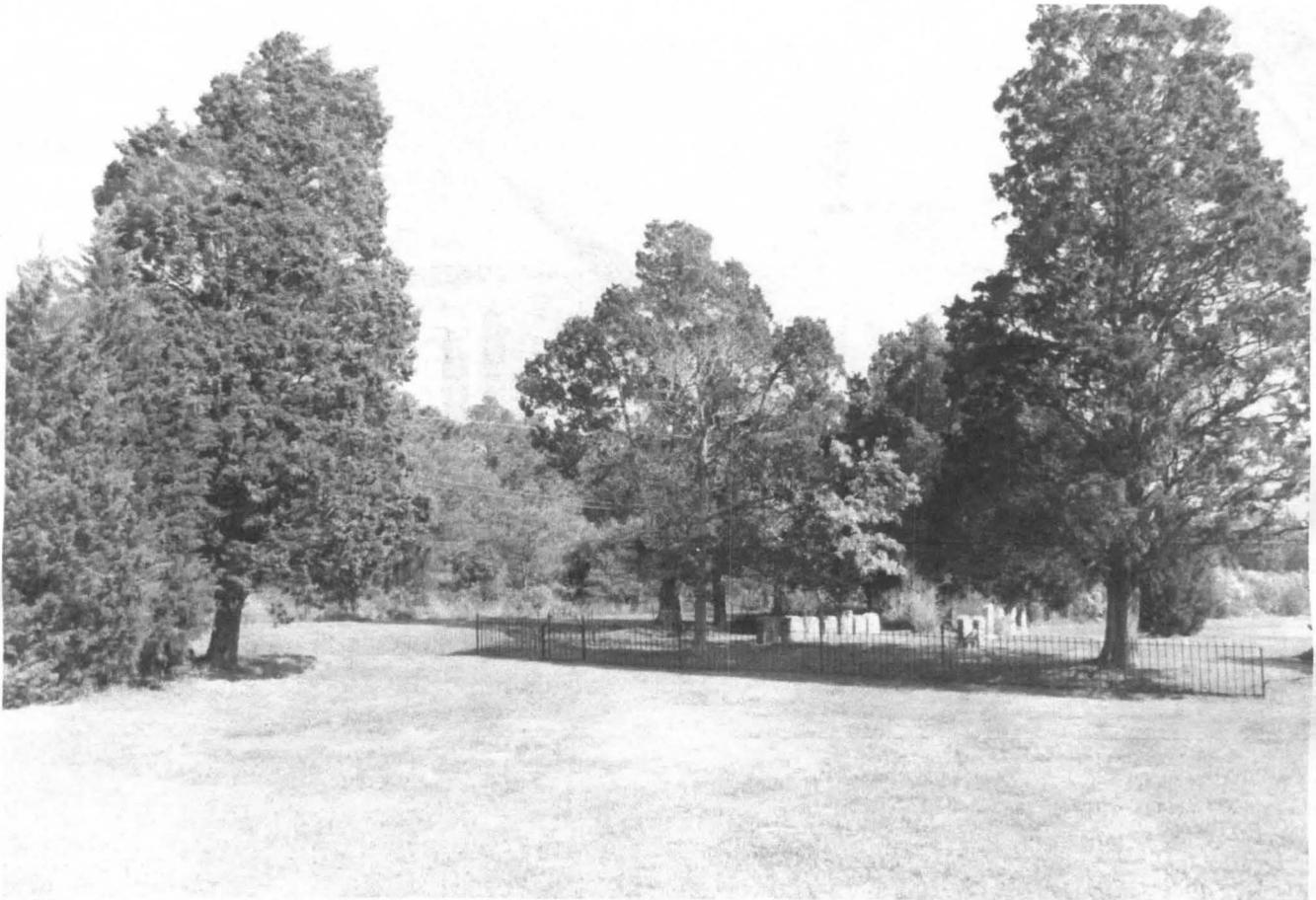
D-833, Wingate Survey District, southwest elevation of Wingate Manor (D-834), Wingate, Paul Baker Touart, 9.2013

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-833

Name Wingate Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 6



D-833, Wingate Survey District, Wingate Manor cemetery, Paul Baker Touart, 9.2013

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-833

Name Wingate Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 7



D-833, Wingate Survey District, northwest elevation of former South Dorchester Bank (D-846),
Paul Baker Touart, 9.2013

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-833

Name Wingate Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 8



D-833, Wingate Survey District, northeast elevation of Wingate United Methodist Church, Wingate, Paul Baker Touart, 9.2013

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-833

Name Wingate Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 9



D-833, Wingate Survey District, southwest elevation of houses along the Wingate-Bishops Head Road, Wingate, Paul Baker Touart, 9.2013.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-833

Name Wingate Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 10



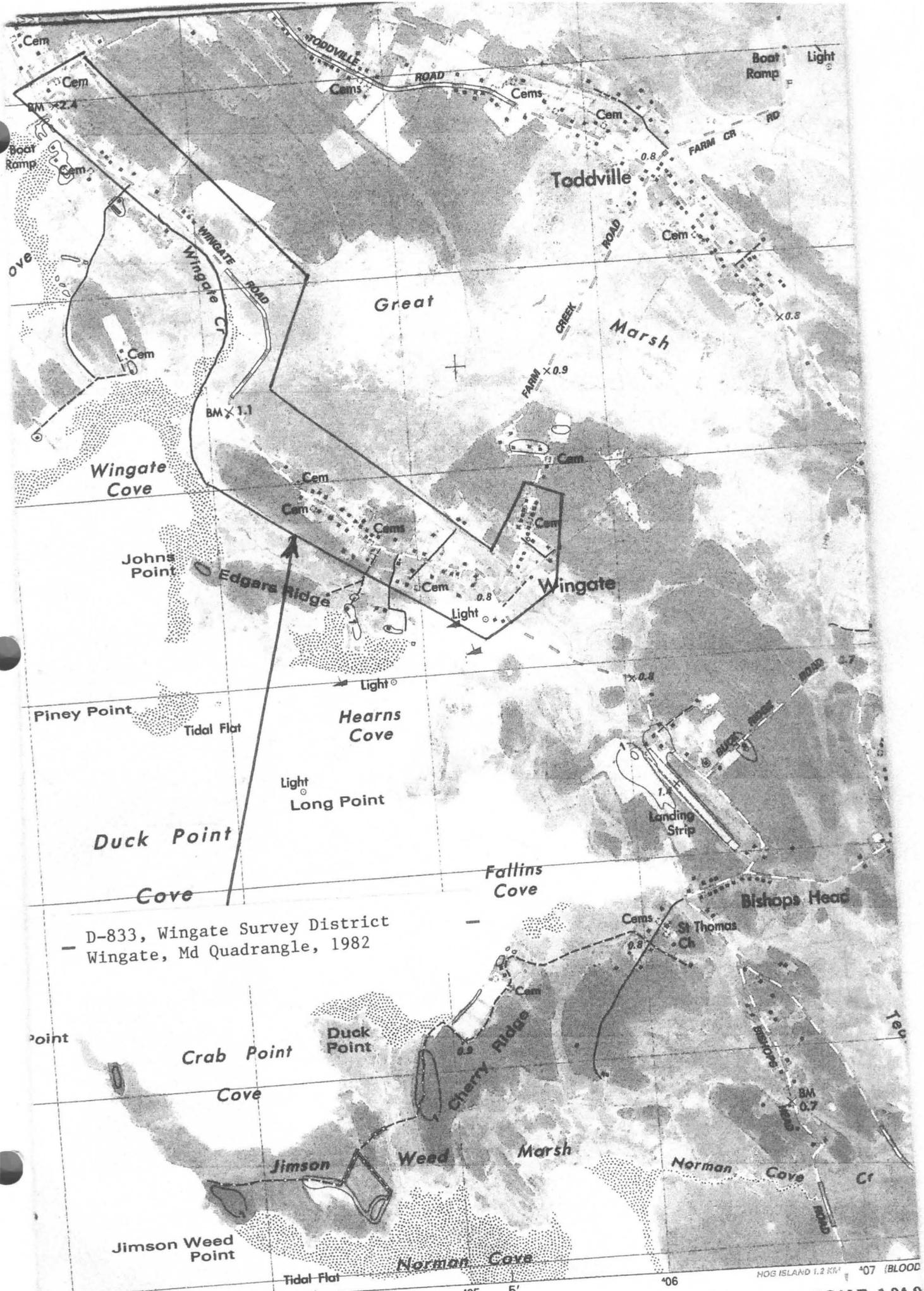
D-833, Wingate Survey District, Wingate, Maryland, Paul Baker Touart, 9.2013

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Maryland Historical Trust
Inventory No. D-833

Name Wingate Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1



D-833, Wingate Survey District
 Wingate, Md Quadrangle, 1982



D-833

WINGATE Survey District

WINGATE, DISTRICT B, MD.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION ALONG WINGATE-
BISHOPS HEAD ROAD

10.2013, PAUL B. TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEA/MD HISTORICAL TRUST

#1 OF 3



D-833

WINGATE Survey DISTRICT

WINGATE, DOVERESTON C., MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION OF BUILDINGS

ALONG NORTHEAST SIDE OF

WINGATE-BISHOPS HEAD ROAD

NO. 2013, PAUL B. TOMALT, PHOTO.

NEG./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2 OF 3



D-833

WINGATE Survey DISTRICT

WINGATE, Dorchester Co., MD.

10.2013, Paul B. Towart, PITTSV.

NEC. JMD. Historical Trust

#3 of 3