

D-841  
Hoopersville Survey District  
Middle Hooper's Island  
c. 1880 - c. 1950  
Private and Public

Ever since a land patent was issued to Henry Hooper in 1667, Hooper's Island has carried that name and with it an Anglo-American history of cultivation subsequent to thousands of years of native American occupation. The village of Hoopersville, at the south end of the middle of three land masses of the Hooper's Island chain, emerged during the second half of the nineteenth century. By 1848, cultivated fields and small farmsteads, framed by marsh, non-tidal wetlands, and upland woodlands, bordered the single road that traversed the middle island from end to end with ferries crossing the narrow water passages in between. In the course of the following fifteen to twenty years a distinct village developed on Middle Island, also named for the Hooper family, many of whom still resided there. By 1877, with the publication of the Lake, Griffing and Stevenson atlas, a graphic window was produced that indicates the extent of development at that time. Hoopersville post office is clearly labeled along with School No. 3 and about twenty individual dwellings. The following year, in 1878, a small description of the village was included in the *Maryland Directory*, published in Baltimore. The gazetteer authored by J. Frank Lewis stated that Hoopersville

Is 35 miles from Cambridge, and situated on a neck of land bounded on the west by Tar Bay, east by the Honga River, and south by Hooper's Straits. Location healthy. Business principally oystering, and that done with boatmen. Some small farms, which produce wheat and corn. Land is good; sells at an average of \$40 per acre. M. E. Church, Lodge of Good Templars, and two public schools. Population 40. Wm H. Meekins, Postmaster.

With the boom in the seafood industry during the decades that followed, and the profits realized from the bountiful harvests, new houses replaced older ones, and individuals gathered together to organize island churches and other organizations. The population warranted the construction of

two schools, and two churches. The Bethel Methodist Church on the northern end of the village, built a new meetinghouse type church in 1886. The other Methodist congregation of Zion at the end of the island financed a new church around 1890 using inspiration from the widely popular Gothic Revival. The housing built for the islanders during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries follows local vernacular traditions with one-room plan, side hall/parlor plan, or center hall/single-pile plan frame dwellings that were augmented with bungalow and four-square style houses during the early twentieth century. Construction of new houses during the mid twentieth century included modest versions of the Ranch style dwellings built across the country.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-841

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Hoopersville Survey District

other \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street and number Hoopersville Road and associated cross streets      not for publication

city, town Hoopersville 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>25</u>	<u>8</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" 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>25</u>	<u>8</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:		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
				_____	

## 7. Description

Inventory No. D-841

### 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 Hoopersville Survey District is located on Middle Hooper's Island, a narrow stretch of upland and marsh bounded by Chesapeake Bay and the Honga River in southwestern Dorchester County. Hoopersville Road extends from the north end of the community to the south end with a circular Steam Boat Wharf Road at the south end of the village. The historic resources that define Hoopersville primarily date from c. 1850 to c. 1930 during the period of economic prosperity associated with the rise in the oyster and seafood industry. There are several individually distinctive buildings that have MIHP forms developed. The individual sites include the Hoopersville Memorial M. E. Church (D-318), the former St. John's Methodist Church (D-317) and the Josiah Parks house (D-316). There are an additional twenty-five (25) contributing historic resources that constitute the main village and the a scattering of structures as far north as the bend in the road at the "hill field" cemetery associated with the Josiah Parks house. The community retains enough historic resources with architectural integrity to warrant listing the district on the National Register of Historic Places. The Hoopersville Memorial M. E. Church has already been determined eligible for listing.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The community of Hoopersville is located on the south end of Middle Hooper's Island in southwestern Dorchester County with Hoopersville Road providing the only access by road. Centered in the southern end of the village is Rippon's Harbor, a protected anchorage for workboats and pleasure craft. Operating on the edge of the harbor is Rippon's Brothers Seafood. Located on the eastern side of Steam Boat Wharf Road are two other seafood packing plants; Ruark & Ashton Packing House and Lindy's Seafood. The contributing historic resources that define Hoopersville largely date between c. 1870 and c. 1930, which coincides with the prosperous years of the seafood industry regionally.

Standing at the north end of the community is the Josiah Parks house, a single-story, five-part, stepped form frame dwelling dating from the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Now covered with vinyl siding, the single-story pile structure was built in a linear fashion with a main block, hyphen, middle section, a second hyphen and a kitchen. A family cemetery across the road is the burial ground for Josiah Parks and others.

Located a short distance south of the Josiah Parks house is the former St. John's Methodist Church, now serving as the Hoopersville Memorial Church Hall. Dating to 1886, the single-story gable front frame church has been raised on an elevated foundation and it is covered with vinyl siding.

The largest concentration of contributing resources is located along Hoopersville Road and intersecting Steam Boat Wharf Road. Two-story, two-, three- and five-bay, single-pile frame dwellings, largely dating to period between 1880 and 1910, are finished with a variety of exterior details including turned post porches, decorated gables, extended eaves, and pointed arch windows in the cross gables. Interior end brick stove chimneys rise through the gable ends. Most of these houses have one or two-story rear service wings.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-841

Name  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 1

---

One of the most dominant structures in the community is the Hoopersville Memorial M. E. Church, an ell-shaped Gothic Revival inspired frame structure erected around 1890. The design of the church follows closely the Plan No. 19A as illustrated in the Catalogue of Architectural Plans for Churches and Parsonages, a publication printed by the Office of Church Extension in 1889. The elevations and plans were drawn by architect Benjamin D. Price (1845-1922). The church has been elevated on raised brick and concrete block foundation.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. D-841

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

The community of Hoopersville on Middle Hooper's Island in Dorchester County is a distinct and significant watermens' community that developed during the second half of the nineteenth century and first half of the twentieth century in response to the explosive growth in the oyster and seafood industry. Settled during the seventeenth century and sparsely occupied until the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the population steadily increased after the Civil War as the seafood markets in Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York demanded Chesapeake Bay oysters, crabmeat, and fish. Remotely accessible by land, Hoopersville is surrounded by water and possesses protected harbors on its Honga River side. The collection of approximately twenty (25) contributing resources, and their relative intact nature, makes the Hoopersville district eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Hoopersville Memorial M. E. Church has already been determined eligible on its own merit under Criteria A and C.

## HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Ever since a land patent to Henry Hooper dating to 1667, Hooper's Island has carried that name and with it a Anglo-American history of cultivation subsequent to thousands of years of native American occupation. The village of Hoopersville, at the south end of the middle of three land masses in the Hooper Island chain, emerged during the second half of the nineteenth century. By 1848, cultivated fields and small farmsteads, framed by marsh and non-tidal wetlands, bordered the road that traversed the middle island with ferries traversing the narrow water passages in between.<sup>1</sup> In the course of the following fifteen to twenty years a distinct village developed on Middle Island, named for the Hooper family who first settled the island and after those that still lived there. By 1877, with the publication of the Lake, Griffing and Stevenson atlas, a window for measuring the state of development on Hooper's Island. Hoopersville post office is clearly labeled along with School No. 3 and about twenty individual dwellings. With the boom in the seafood industry during the decades that followed, and the profits realized from bountiful harvests, new houses replaced older ones, and individuals gathered together to organize island churches. The population on Middle Island warranted construction of a school, which stood near Bethel Methodist Church, erected in 1886. Another Methodist

<sup>1</sup> A. D. Bache, Mouth of the Honga River and Hooper's Straits, Eastern Shore Maryland, 1848, National Archives.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-841

Name Hoopersville Survey District  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

membership Zion Memorial Methodist Episcopal congregation built their own church at the south end of the community. The Zion congregation financed a stylish ell-shaped, Gothic Revival structure around 1890.

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-841

---

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

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

Acreage of surveyed property +/- 100 A  
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.

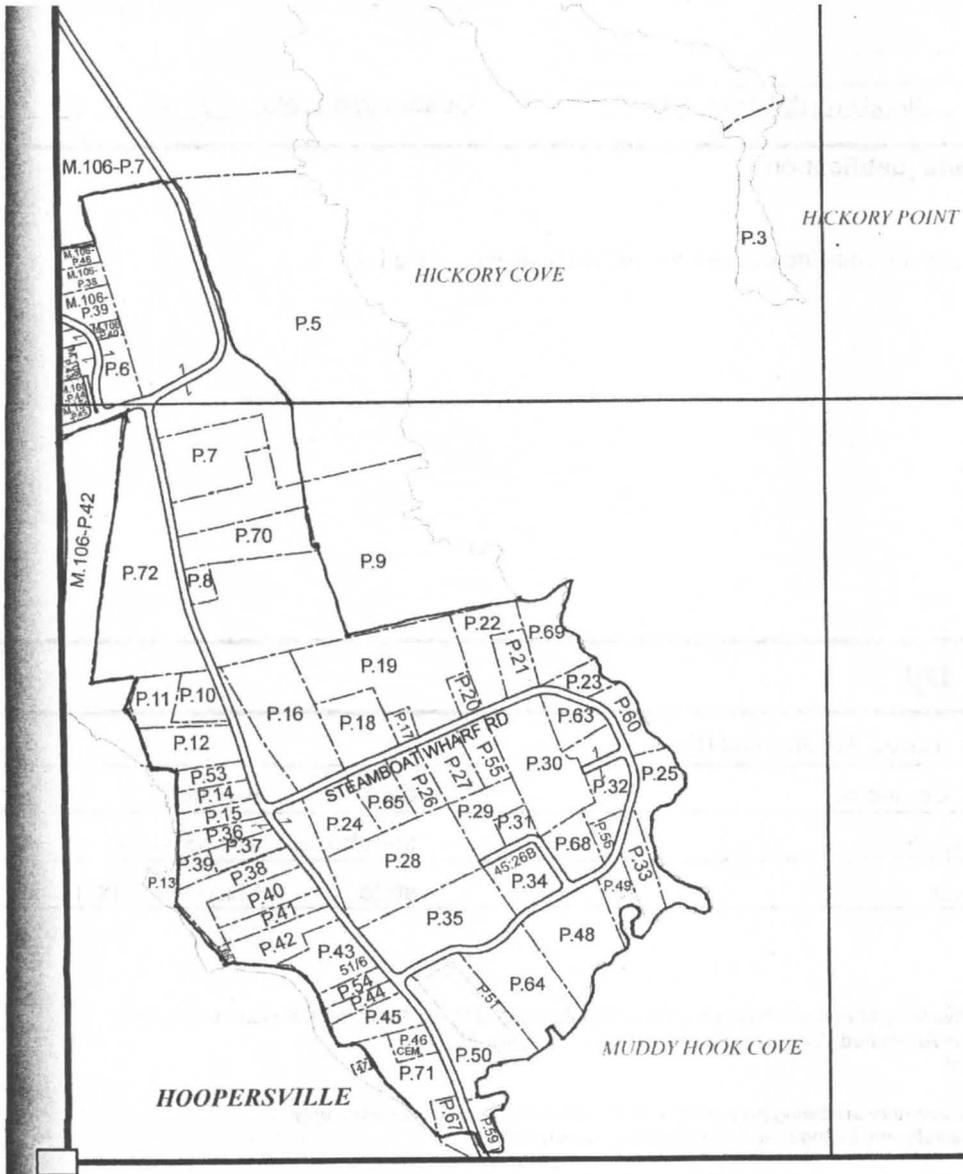
return to:      Maryland Historical Trust  
                    DHCD/DHCP  
                    100 Community Place  
                    Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
                    410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-841

Name Hoopersville Survey District  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1



66065.1mN  
471350.9mE

**COPYRIGHT - 1992 BY THE**

**THESE MAPS ARE PROTECTED.**

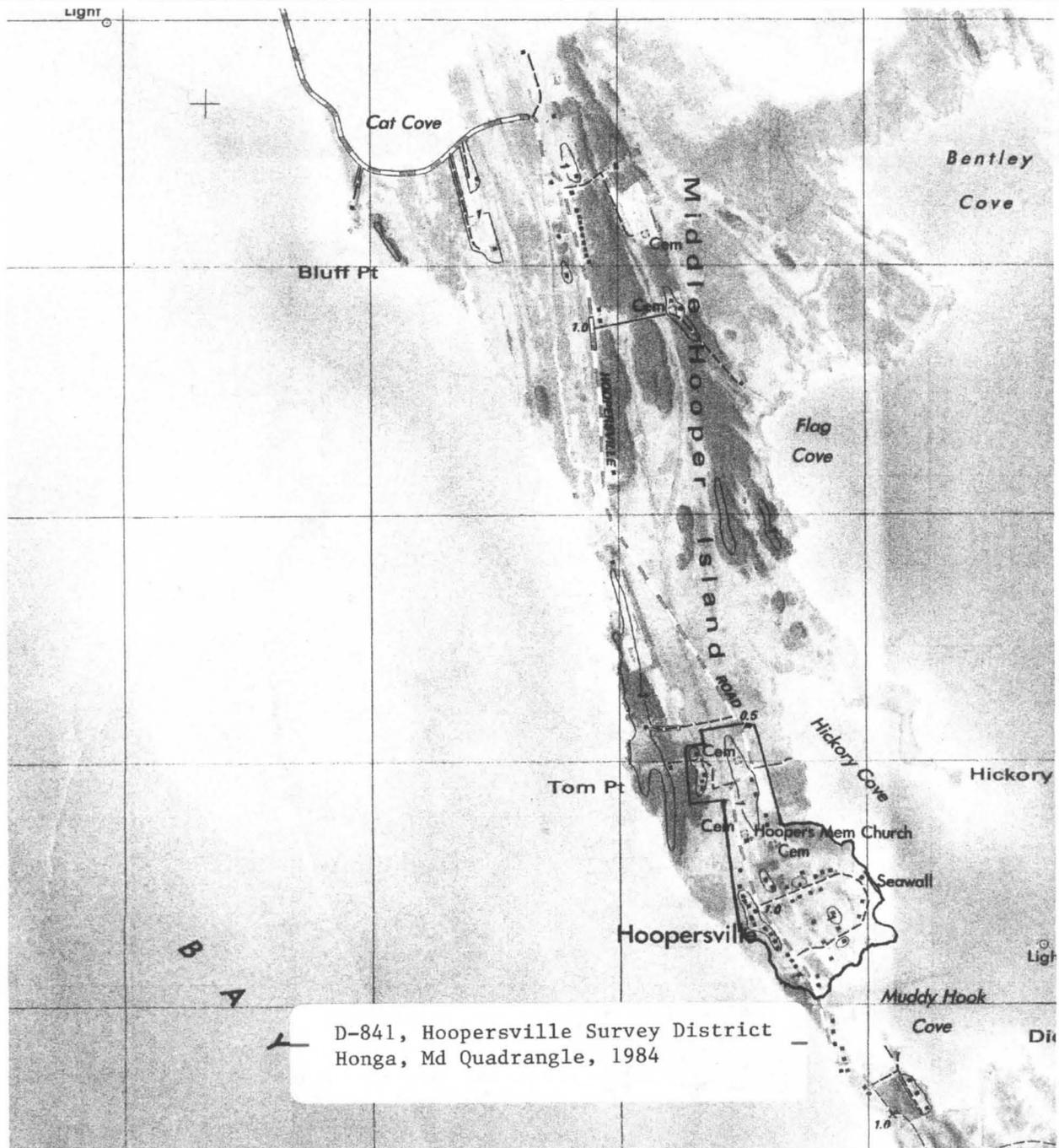
Hoopersville Survey District, working boundary, Dorchester County Tax Map 107

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-841

Name Hoopersville Survey District  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 2



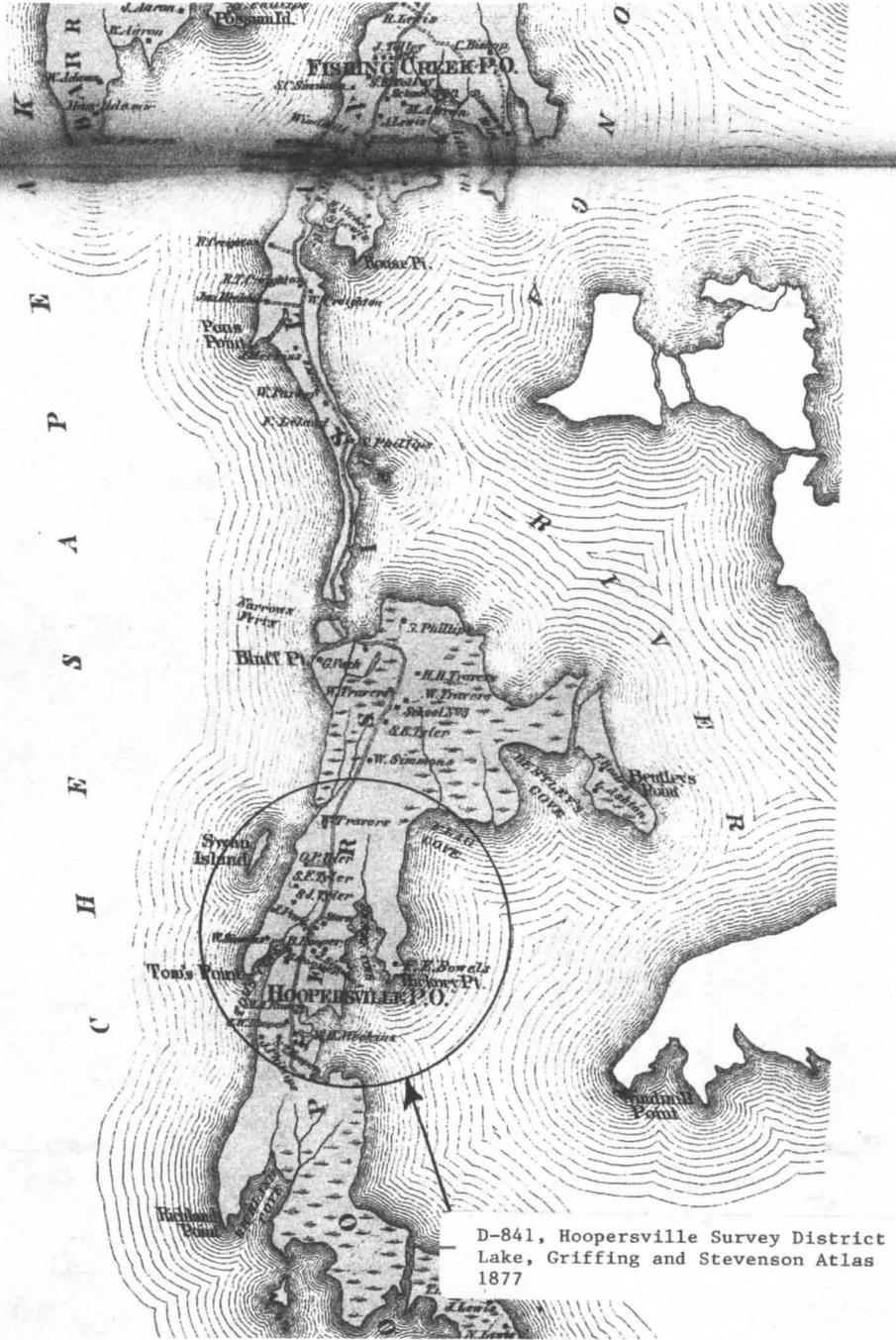
# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-841

Name Hoopersville Survey District  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 3

East New Market,  
Drugs, Medicines,  
e Staffs, Fancy and  
Perfumery, Lamps,  
tions carefully com-  
with care and dis-  
will find our Medi-  
and of the



**BUSINESS REFERENCES.**

- SEAW,** General Mechanic, Iron and Surgeon.
- ERS,** Mariner and Captain of " "
- ES,** Proprietor of Steam Saw : all kinds of Sail Vessels built
- FT,** Shoemaker.
- chool Teacher.**
- ician and Surgeon.** Residence d of Taylor's Island. Taylor's
- EDIN,** Ship Builder. Ship Taylor's Island. P. O. Taylor's
- VERS,** General Merchandise, e of everything. Stock of all Stock complete in all branches, at you want ask for it. Prices s Island P. O.

**LAND DISTRICT REFERENCES.**

- A. DEAN,** Owners of the lissa J. Tyler," plying between id Baltimore. All kinds of sidence Hoopers' Island Dis- der in Dry Goods, Groceries, rnal assortment of goods at rry," Hoopers' Island District.

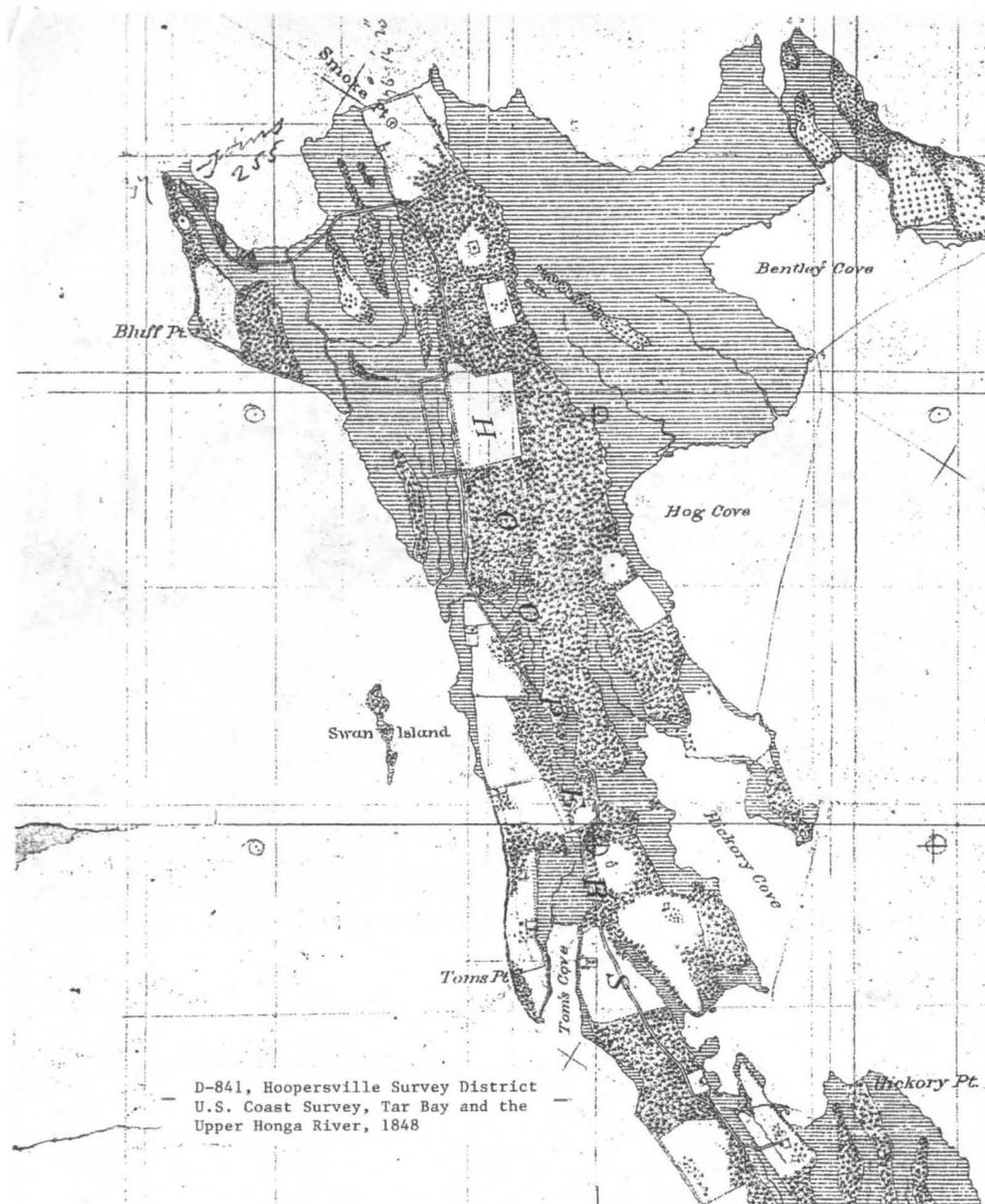
D-841, Hoopersville Survey District  
Lake, Griffing and Stevenson Atlas  
1877

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-841

Name Hoopersville Survey District  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 4



# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-841

Name Hoopersville Survey District  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 9 Page 5



D-841, Hoopersville Survey District, Hoopersville Road looking north from south end of village,  
Paul Baker Touart, 9.2013

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-841

Name Hoopersville Survey District  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 9 Page 6

---



D-841, Hoopersville Survey District, Rippons Harbor, Hoopersville, looking southwest, Paul Baker Touart, 9.2013

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-841

Name Hoopersville Survey District  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 9 Page 7



D-841, Hoopersville Survey District, Hoopersville, Steamboat Wharf Road looking west, Paul Baker Touart, 9.2013.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-841

Name Hoopersville Survey District  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 9 Page 8



D-841, Hoopersville Survey District, Steamboat Wharf Road looking northwest, Hoopersville, Paul Baker Touart, 9.2013

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-841

Name Hoopersville Survey District  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 9 Page 9



D-841, Hoopersville Survey District, Hoopersville Road (Josiah Parks House, D-316) northwest elevation, Paul Baker Touart, 9.2013

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. D-841

Name Hoopersville Survey District  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 9 Page 10



D-841, Hoopersville Survey District, Hoopersville, southeast elevation of Zion M. E. Church,  
D-318, Paul Baker Touart, 9.2013

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

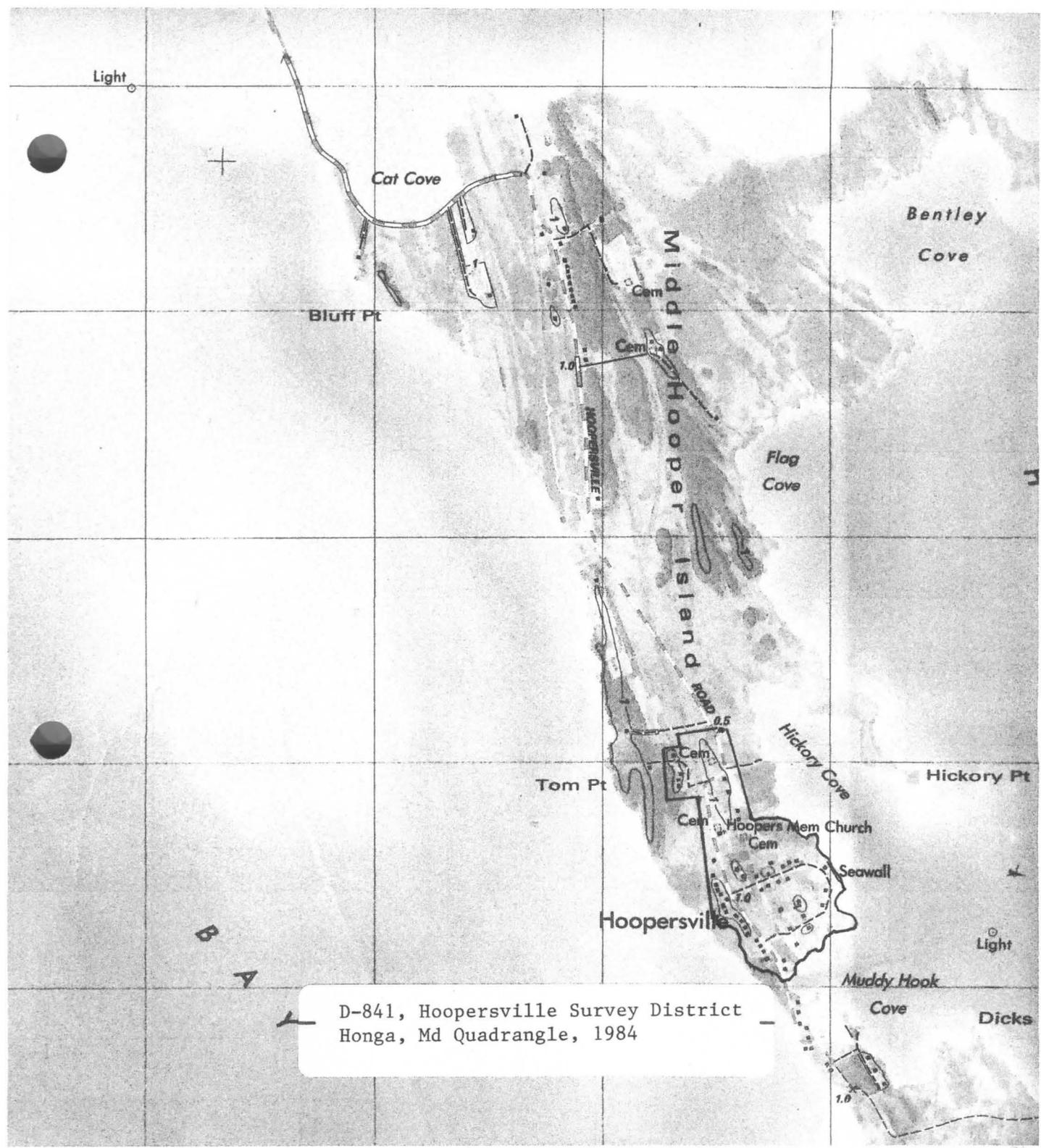
Inventory No. D-841

Name Hoopersville Survey District  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 11



D-841, Hoopersville Survey District, Hoopersville Road, Mt. Zion Memorial Church Hall (D-317), Southwest elevation, Paul Baker Touart, 9.2013



D-841, Hoopersville Survey District  
 Honga, Md Quadrangle, 1984



D-841

HOOPERSVILLE Survey District

HOOPERSVILLE, DORCHESTER Co., MD.

HOOPERSVILLE, DORCHESTER Co., MD.

9.2013, PAUL B. TOWANT, PHOTO.

NEZJ MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

#1 OF 5



D-941  
HOODENSVILLE Survey District  
HOODENSVILLE, DOUGHERTY CO., MD.  
STEAMBOAT WHARF RIMS LOOKING WEST  
9.2013, PAUL B. TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPHER  
NEH./MD HISTORICAL TRUST

# 2 OF 5



D-841

HOOPERSVILLE Survey District  
HOOPERSVILLE, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, MD.

RIPPONS HARBOR with Road N. E  
CHURCH on RIGHT

9.2013, PAUL B. TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER  
N.W. / MD. (Historical Trust)

#3 of 5



D-841

HOOPERVILLE Survey District  
HOOPERVILLE, DORCHESTER Co., MS.  
STEAMBOAT WITARE ROAD LOOKING  
NORTHEAST

9.2013 Paul B. Touart, PHOTO.  
WET/MS HISTORICAL TRUST

# 4 OF 5



D-841

HOOPERVILLE Survey District  
Josiah Parks House (D-316)

Northwest elevation

9. 2023, Paul B. Tourant, PIVVY.

N.E.G. / M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

# 5 OF 5