

K-102

Hodges Bar Farm  
Near Rock Hall

4th quarter 18th Century; 1st quarter 19th Century

Hodges Bar Farm takes its name from a large oyster <sup>bar</sup>~~bay~~ lying off-shore, named for the Hodges family who owned the farm during the first half of the 19th Century. While the tract is also sometimes referred to in the records as Bayside Farm, Hodge's Farm or Driftwood, it is the reference to it as "part of Hinchingham" which points to its origins.

Hinchingham was a 2200 acre parcel patented to Thomas Hynson in 1659. In the 18th Century Hynson's granddaughter, Mary, married William Glanville. Throughout the 18th Century the Glanvilles owned that "part of Hinchingham" which would later be known as Hodges Bar Farm (approximately 216 acres). In the 19th Century the farm was purchased by Samuel Hodges who was probably responsible for enlarging the house to the form it has at present and finishing the interior.

The farm house appears to have begun life as a one-room "A" roof dwelling, composed of the present middle room. After being used for some time, the stair hall and west room were added with a gambrel roof covering both structures. Service rooms were located on the east side of the building where they were later enlarged and survived into the 1960's.

When the house was restored after a severe fire in the late 1960's the structure was exposed, revealing that the now middle room was a separate structure. It had a door and window on the north wall and two windows on the south. It also indicated that the entire roof had been built at one time, in

the same manner as the roof of Godlington Manor. Moreover, whitewashed studs and ceiling in the west room revealed that the "new" room had been used prior to being plastered. The close string stair was similar to several in Chestertown constructed between the 1790's and 1820's. Second floor partitions around the stair were all made of vertical beaded boards. Both rooms on both floors were constructed with fireplaces. Moreover, sufficient headroom existed in the attic for a ladder stair to be installed in the northeast closet, the possible location of the first stair.

A curious anomaly in the structure is the use of a brick partition between the two sections which rises from the basement to the second floor. Since the brick wall is the only wall between the old and new sections and it rises on the new basement walls, that alone would suggest that the middle section was brought up to the new structure from elsewhere. This is one structural "mystery" which will probably never be solved.

Samuel Hodges lived at his bay side plantation until his death in 1851. The inventory of his estate indicates the possessions of a prosperous mid-century farmer. After the death of his second wife, Mary, the following year, the farm went to the nephew of Samuel and his first wife, Sarah Miller. Walter T. H. Miller owned and had probably grown up at Heatherfield farm to the east. On Martinet's Map (1860) Walter N. Miller is listed owner.

After Col. Miller died in 1868, the farm was sold to pay his debts. Between 1868 and 1930 it passed through eleven owners. In 1930 Mr. & Mrs. George Debnam purchased the farm and raised their family in the old

Hodges House. They built several buildings on the property, but only the large dairy barn remains. Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Page purchased Hodges Bar from the Debnams in 1948 and lived there until 1966. In that year a disastrous fire consumed the kitchen wing and part of the gambrel roof.

Dr. Davy McCall undertook a gradual restoration of the house after the fire and eventually constructed a 1-1/2 story wing in place of the old kitchen using architectural elements from an old house near Dover, Delaware and bricks from Wilmer's Mill house which stood near Chestertown.<sup>1</sup>

1. McCall, Davy H., "Hodges Bar Farm," *The Kent Shoreman* Vol. 10, No. 12, 1976, p. 9 ff.

K-102

Circa 1790 and earlier

Hodge's Bar Farm

Near Rock Hall

Private

Hodge's Bar Farm is located on the high ground between the upper, marshy headwaters of Tavern Creek and the Chesapeake Bay, northwest of Rock Hall. The low marshy area must be crossed to reach the farm by land from the east. The axis of the house there is east-west, and the main facade faces south. The house at present is a three-bay wide frame, gambrel-roofed 1-1/2 storey structure with a recent 1-1/2 storey frame and brick, gable-roofed east wing with rear, perpendicular gable-roofed projection. The new wing replaces a frame east wing that burned during the 1960s. A new, glass-door-enclosed porch spans the rear of the main section from the new wing's projection to the west end of the main section. The plan of the main, older section is central hall with one room each side. There are three shed-roofed dormers on each side of the main section, placed opposite each other. The section east of the stair hall in the main section of the house at Hodge's Bar may be an early small house dating from the middle eighteenth century that was raised from 1-1/2 storey height under a gable roof and extended to the west during the Federal period, circa 1790. If so, it is an example of one method of expansion to increase dwelling size that is rarely seen now in the county, though there are a few other examples. The house at White House Farm near Massey (K-163) is another early one-room-with-loft structure with the same type of addition during the same period: stair hall with room on the other side, with the entire structure then enclosed under a gambrel roof. An archeological dig was conducted in the 1970s under the presumed older section of the house and various old articles found documenting life during an earlier period. The property takes its name from an early owner's family name and the fact that to the west in the Chesapeake Bay is an oyster bar that is part of the well-known Swan Point-Swan Creek area oystering grounds. These bars were part of the nineteenth century dispute between oystermen over the rights to harvest there, known as the Oyster Wars. During the late nineteenth century the rights to bars seem to have been leased.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. K-102

Magi No. 1501025204

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Hodge's Bar Farm

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number West side Swan Creek Rd., .7 mile west of Rt. 445,  
northwest of Rock Hall  not for publicationcity, town Rock Hall  vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state Maryland county Kent

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Davy H. McCall

street &amp; number RD , Hodge's Bar Farm, Swan Creek Road telephone no.: 639-2507

city, town Rock Hall state and zip code Maryland 21661

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber EHP 17

street &amp; number Cross Street folio 652

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date February 24, 1970  federal  state  county  localdepository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust  
21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

## 7. Description

Survey No. K-102

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

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

Hodge's Bar Farm is located on the high ground between the upper, marshy headwaters of Tavern Creek and the Chesapeake Bay, northwest of Rock Hall. The low marshy area must be crossed to reach the farm by land from the east. The axis of the house there is east-west, and the main facade faces south. The house at present is a three-bay wide frame, gambrel-roofed 1-1/2 storey structure with a recent 1-1/2 storey frame and brick, gable-roofed east wing with rear, perpendicular gable-roofed projection. The new wing replaces a frame east wing that burned during the 1960s. A new, glass-door-enclosed porch spans the rear of the main section from the new wing's projection to the west end of the main section. The plan of the main, older section is central hall with one room each side. There are three shed-roofed dormers on each side of the main section, placed opposite each other.

(Continued)

# 8. Significance

Survey No. K-102

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The section east of the stair hall in the main section of the house at Hodge's Bar may be an early small house dating from the middle eighteenth century that was raised from 1-1/2 storey height under a gable roof and extended to the west during the Federal period, circa 1790. If so, it is an example of one method of expansion to increase dwelling size that is rarely seen in the county, though there are a few other examples. The house at White House Farm near Massey is another early one-room-with-loft structure with the same type of addition during the same period: stair hall and room on the other side, with the entire structure than enclosed under a gambrel roof. An archeological dig was conducted in the 1970s under the presumed older section of the house and various old articles found documenting life during an earlier period. The property takes its name from an early owner's family name and the fact that to the west in the Chesapeake Bay is an oyster bar that is part of the well-known Swan Point-Swan Creek area oystering grounds. These bars were part of the nineteenth century dispute between oystermen over the rights to harvest there, known as the Oyster Wars. During the late nineteenth century the rights to bars seem to have been leased. The owner has researched the history of the house.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-102

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

D 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

E 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

F 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

G 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

H 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Q. Fallaw, Survey ConsultantCounty Commissioners of Kent Countyorganization Historical Society of Kent County date June 13, 1986Court House778-4600street & number Church Alley telephone 778-3499city or town Chestertown state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

The gambrel-roofed section of the house is now three bays wide on the first storey of the south side and four bays wide on the rear, north side. One south window now lights the east room, a restoration from two windows to what is thought to have been the earlier fenestration. There are two openings in the rear of the east room, a window and a door. For many years the door led to several rooms, including a kitchen, under a long shed-roofed rear addition. That structure has been demolished, and in its place is a long, enclosed porch with one access through the east room door that was formerly used.

The exterior walls of the gambrel-roofed section are covered with horizontal, lapped weatherboard with an exposure of about 8" and a beaded lower edge. This material was applied in the late 1960s. The previous siding had been asbestos cement. A remnant of previous beaded-board material was found on the west end after the fire, although the exposure was probably not as great. The new section is covered with beaded board except for the east end, which is re-used old brick. At both ends of the main section, the west one still exposed, are tall firebacks, extending the full height of the first storey.

Beneath the east part of the main section, beneath the room east of the hall, is a crawl space. Archeologists from the University of Delaware, under the supervision of Jay Custer, dug a tunnel from an opening in the brick cellar wall under the hall wall toward the front, south wall and along that wall to the east end wall and to the fireplace base. They found some old articles, such as china, bottles and a thimble. Their excavations reveal that the east section foundation is entirely of brick and extends only a few feet downward below ground level. One unusual aspect of this crawl space is the chimney base that is centered on the east end, within the wall. Unlike usual bases found in crawl spaces, which are solid, this one is arched. The upper part of the arch can be seen above the crawl space ground. It evidently is a full-depth arch. Perhaps the builder of the house originally intended a cellar there and then had a change of mind. If indeed this eastern part of the main section is older than the western section (and this is not entirely clear), a cellar would have had to have been dug out next to the crawl space and a cellar wall installed between the two sections, replacing the original crawl space wall. This is not an impossible undertaking but an arduous one and in this case would have required considerable rebuilding of the earlier section since the brick foundation wall dividing cellar from crawl space extends upwards to the level of the floor of the second storey, above which the wall is of beaded boards. One is inclined to think that surely the entire main section must have been built at the same time, not one part earlier than the other, but there is a break in the brickwork that can be seen in the front foundation. The rear foundation at the location of a possible joint cannot be seen because of the porch.

The main entry, in the center bay, opens onto the center hall, but it is off-center and opens to the passage side. Its appearance from the exterior is also off-center to the west. The door is not original to the house; it is a replacement for the Victorian door in place when the present owner came. The stair in the central hall rises against the east brick wall, toward the

(continued)

north; it is half turn with two landings. The upper one rather oddly includes the normal location for the first tread of the last run to the second floor. Although its location is defined by the placement of the intermediate, where normally a step would be is simply an extension of the landing, on the same plane. The stair is closed-string and appears to date from the Federal period. The newel and intermediates are simple, with square bases and slender, tapered, turned main shaft. The balusters are rectangular and plain. The second-storey balustrade ends at the wall adjacent to the door to the east bedroom. There is some evidence that there was a corner stair once in the east room's northeast corner, where there was also a ladder stair to the shallow attic between end-wall panelling and the outside, east wall. Under the main stair there is a door to the cellar stair. On the second storey all walls around the stair are of vertical beaded board; these are original. On their back side, within the rooms, a second application of board wall has been made recently. The six-panel doors from the hall to the bedrooms appear original. There is a small room at the front of the stair hall, apparently an original division of space.

During the 1960s there was a fire in the wing that also affected the east end of the main room, scorching panelling and burning floors. Part of the east wall panelling of the first-storey room has been cleaned and reused and new material added. The handsome but quite plain Federal mantel on the east wall is the original. The shelf is broken-edge, with deep composite moldings. The frieze is plain, but there are quite narrow end frieze blocks above the pilasters. The fireplace has been rebuilt. Panelling is raised and beveled, and there is a six-panel door on each side leading to the wing. The smaller mantel in the room above is also said to have survived the fire. It is smaller and simpler and off-center in the board end wall because of its flue location and the presence of the fireplace below. Mantels in the west rooms are replacements brought from outside the area. There was said to have been a Federal-style mantel with fluting on the first storey, but it was stolen.

The first storey rooms were stripped to the frame on the interior for insulation and application of sheetrock. Within the long walls nogging was found. Also, the studs, posts, and ceiling joists of the west room revealed whitewash, an indication that the room was in use before it was finished.

Maryland  
Kent County

1501025204  
K-102  
Hodge's Bar Farm

The exterior of the building is now covered with beaded clapboard, laid over some other clapboard of earlier date. It stands on a brick foundation with low windows lighting the cellar under the west half of the house.

The building is now three bays long. Originally there were two windows east of the off-center door and one west of the door. There are three dormers on each side of the gambrel roof -- which ridge runs east-west. The two-brick chimneys within the gables have a portion exposed behind the first-story fireplaces.

A long leanto porch is located on the north side of the building. This side has four bays on the first story -- two windows with nine over six sash and two doors, one leading to the east room, one to the stairhall.

In the west gable are two full-size windows on each story, allowing a view to the Chesapeake Bay. A basement entrance is also located on this side.

The interior is divided into two rooms flanking a stairhall.

(continued)

Prior to the present owner's acquisition of the property, the house had been severely damaged by fire. Presently, the house is being restored.

When the ceiling and walls were removed from the west room the joists, studs, etc., were whitewashed, probably indicating its use prior to being completed. Some brick nogging remains above the plate. Some trim remained around the door and windows but now only around the door, which has crosettes (dog ears) at the top of the door. (The room is incomplete.)

Stairhall -- has close-string stair, with round-turned newel and corner posts, square plain balusters. One turned "drop" remains. The soffit was plastered. Beneath the first landing is a four-panel (flush panel) door leading to the basement.

The south door, not original, is a six-panel door with vertical battens. A new transom is placed above the door. The wall between the stair hall and east room is solid brick.

Plasterboard (dry wall) has recently been installed in the east room; the most original part of the room is

the paneling north of fireplace. This has been badly charred by the fire but has been cleaned. The recessed panels are surrounded by a bead. Matching paneling has been made and installed above the fireplace and south thereof.

The floors are original throughout -- about 6" regular boards.

On the second story are two rooms above the first story rooms, and a small room at the head of the stairs. All partition on the second story are vertical beaded boards. Doors are original. Both bed rooms have fireplaces. North of the east bedroom fireplace is a small door in the beaded board partition leading to an unlighted attic.

In process of restoration.

Recorder: Michael Bourne  
Maryland Historical Trust  
P. O. Box 1704  
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

February 24, 1970

(Visited February 22, 1970)

Saw of this  
may go on  
page in book

Visited Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> 1970

Hodges Bar Farm, K-102

Written Feb 24<sup>th</sup> 1973

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A long lean-to porch is located on the north side of the bldg. This side has 4 bays on 1<sup>st</sup> story - 2 windows w/ 9/8 sash + 2 doors, one leading to the east room, one to the <sup>stair</sup> hall.

On the west gable are 2 full-size windows on each story, allowing a ~~good~~ view to the Chesapeake Bay. A basement entrance is also located on this side -

Hodges Bos Farm - K - 102

Feb - 1970 - mab

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Prior to the present owner's acquiring the ~~property~~ <sup>house</sup>, the ~~property~~ <sup>house</sup> had been ~~thru~~ a severely damaged by fire. Presently, the house is being restored ~~rehabilitated~~ ~~reworked~~.

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Hodge's Bar Farm K-102

MW3 Feb, 1970

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Im process of Restoration

Λ E

SWAN POINT QUADRANGLE

Swan Point

Little Neck Island

Tavern Creek

Swan Creek

Deep Landing

Gratitude

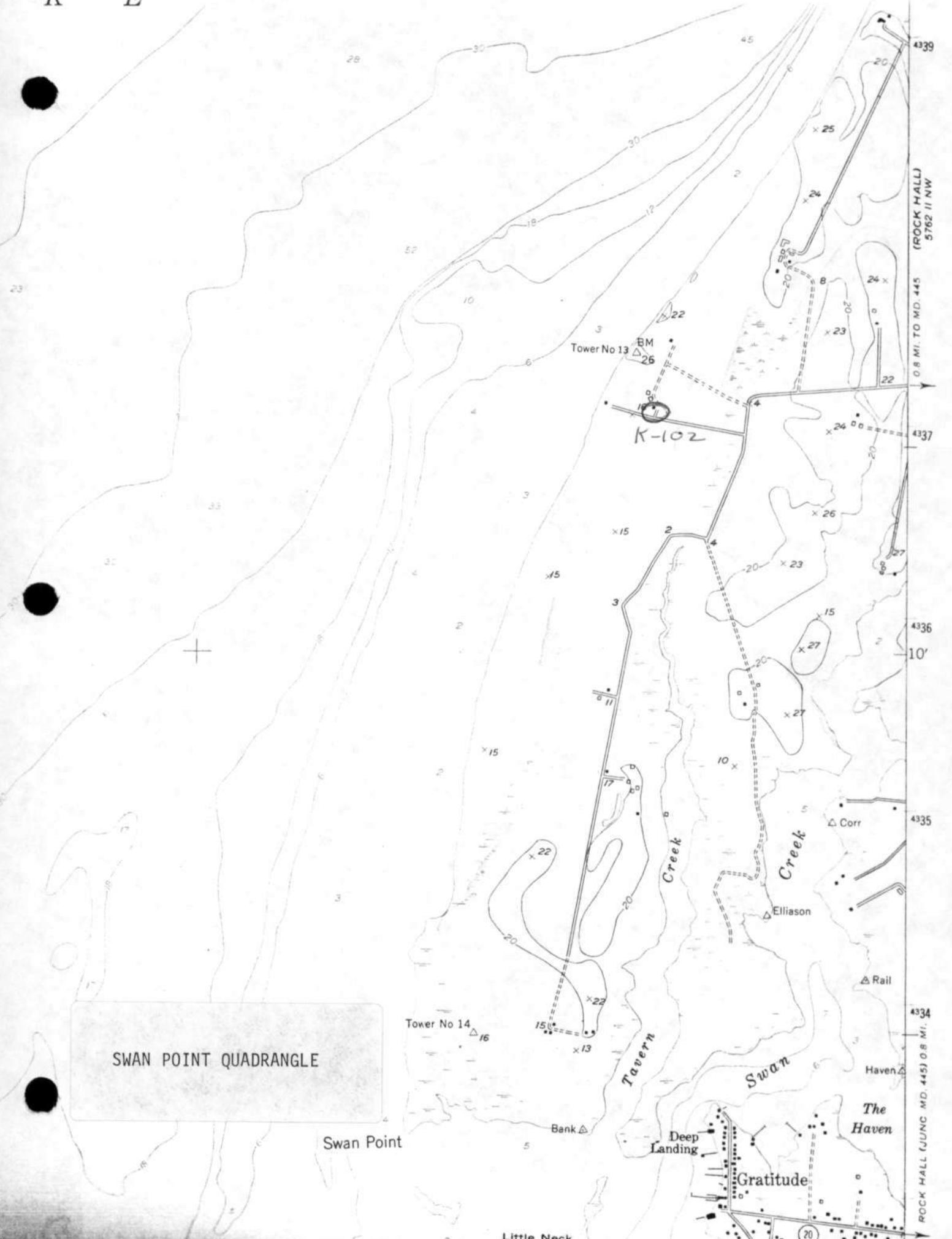
The Haven

Tower No 13

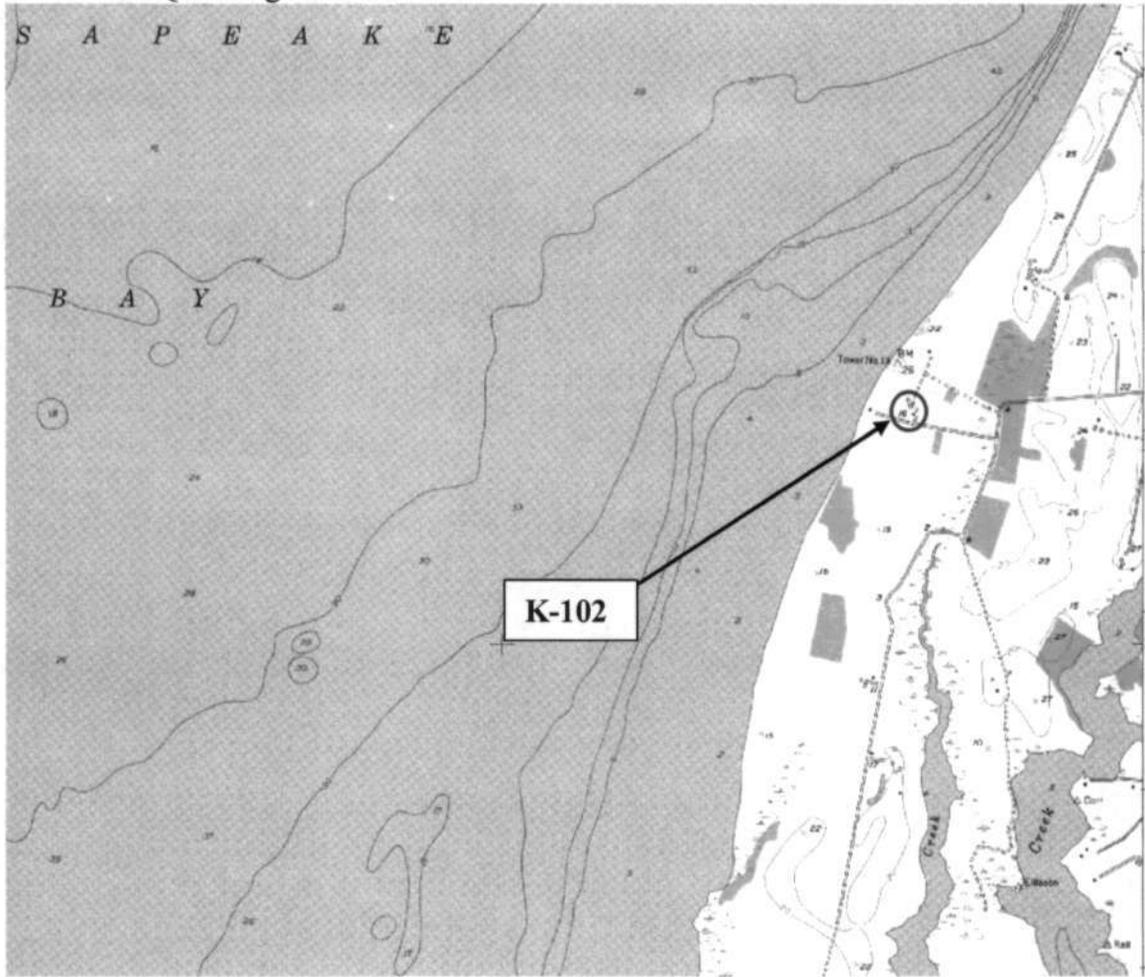
Tower No 14

K-102

ROCK HALL (JUNC MD. 445) 0.8 MI. NW  
ROCK HALL (JUNC MD. 445) 0.8 MI. SW  
ROCK HALL (JUNC MD. 445) 0.8 MI. SE  
ROCK HALL (JUNC MD. 445) 0.8 MI. NE



K-102  
Hodge's Bar Farm  
20450 Glanville Lane, Rock Hall  
Swan Point Quadrangle





K-102

Hodges Bar Farm

Swan Point, near Rock Hall

M. Q. Fallaw - 6/13/86

View to north



K-102

Hodges Bar Farm

Swan Point, near Rock Hall

M. Q. Fallaw - 6/13/86

View to east



K-102

Hodges Bar Farm

Swan Point, Near Rock Hall

M. Q. Fallaw - 6/13/86

East bedroom - view to east

K102-35



K-102  
Hodge's Bar Farm  
20450 Glanville Lane, Rock Hall  
M.Q. Fallaw  
6/13/1986  
Neg. on file at MHT

K-102  
Hodge's Bar Farm  
20450 Glanville Lane, Rock Hall  
M.Q. Fallaw  
6/13/1986  
Neg. on file at MHT



K-102  
Hodge's Bar Farm, interior  
20450 Glanville Lane, Rock Hall  
M.Q. Fallaw  
6/13/1986  
Neg. on file at MHT

K-102  
Hodge's Bar Farm, interior  
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