NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

Easement

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: St. Thomas Manor
other names/site number: St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church — CH-6

2. Location

street & number: Chapel Point Road (State Route 427) — ☐ not for publication
city, town: Port Tobacco — ☒ vicinity
state: Maryland — code: MD — county: Charles — code: 017 — zip code: 20677

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☒ private	☒ building(s)	3	3 buildings
☐ public-local	☐ district	1	sites
☐ public-State	☐ site	1	structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure	1	objects
	☐ object	6	3 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official — Date: 9-23-88

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion;
Church-related residence;
religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion;
Church-related residence;
religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Georgian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
walls brick
roof asphalt
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Built in 1741, St. Thomas Manor is a two-story, seven-bay, brick structure of Georgian architecture. Built on an east-west axis, of Flemish bond construction throughout, and with a high, chamfered watertable, it has a projecting pedimented pavilion front and back, brick quoins at the corners of the building and both pavilions, and a brick belt course between the first and second floor levels of the two principal elevations. Keystoned flat arches of rubbed and gauged brick over the first and second floor windows of both side elevations are of particular interest, as are brick architraves framing the central second floor window of each pavilion, the latter having keystoned, semi-circular arches of rubbed and gauged brick, with rubbed brick continuing below carved stone imposts to form consoles seated on the belt course. (A date stone inscribed 1741 is set beneath the sill of the window of the north pavilion.) A broad, slender chimney with a corbeled cap stands at each end of a gable roof with overhanging, bracketed eaves. The end elevations are unbroken except for two first floor interior doors opening into flanking wings. A fire completely gutted the manor house in 1866, destroying its original roof, believed to have been of a hip-on-hip design. The existing roof, the pedimented architrave of the north entrance door, and the window and door frames, doors and window sash are all contemporary with its subsequent repair. The existing interior finishes, including bold window and door trim, a semi-circular staircase, and elaborate plaster ceiling decorations, were also introduced following the fire; however, the room configuration, including a corner stair passage, central second floor drawing room, and cellar level service rooms reflect the original spatial arrangement with only minor modifications. The only major changes to the house after its circa 1870 repair was the sealing of the fireplace openings, and the addition of a two-story porch centered on the south pavilion in the late-1800s and a two-bay garage to the east wing in the late 1960s. St. Ignatius Church, a large, four-bay, Flemish bond brick structure with carved stone trim, arched windows with keystones and imposts, and a bracketed gable roof and belfry, stands to the west of the manor house and is joined to the latter by what was an earlier chapel. The church, built in 1798, was also gutted by the 1866 fire and its roof and interior rebuilt shortly afterward. Subsequent alterations include the painting over of its nineteenth century frescoed interior decorations in the nave, and the addition of a front entrance vestibule and a baptistry in the early-1960s. The former eighteenth century chapel is notable for the patterned coloring of its Flemish bond masonry, employing dark stretchers and rubbed headers. The building originally had a loggia along its north side, but the three arched openings were later bricked-in and the former porch now houses a passage between

[X] See continuation sheet 7/1

the manor house and the 1798 church. At the east end of the manor house stands a two-story, brick wing that incorporates a one story, eighteenth century, Flemish bond structure with glazed headers and an end chimney. It was raised to its present height following the 1866 fire. Both the east wing and the former chapel are believed to pre-date the manor house, perhaps by as much as a half-century. Other historic features of the site include a small, mid-nineteenth century, frame servant's quarter a few yards east of the manor house, a large tobacco barn about 75 yards to the south that incorporates the frame of a former two-story corn crib, and a cemetery to the west of the house and church. A portion of a brick-walled tunnel leading out from the quarter about 10 yards is believed to have extended downhill to the river. Its age and purpose, however, remain a matter of speculation. While the manor house is said to have had "large and beautiful gardens" in the eighteenth century, no historic landscaping features remain evident. The site is largely cleared and bounded on the north side by MD Route 427, Chapel Point Road. The complex is situated on the crest of a hill, affording it a panoramic vista of the confluence of the Port Tobacco and Potomac Rivers and the Virginia shoreline beyond.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The 1741 manor house, now the rectory of St. Ignatius Church, measures approximately 57-feet wide by 36 feet-deep. The principal elevations are of identical design, each seven bays wide with the three middle bays brought forward to form pedimented pavilions. On both sides the high, chamfered watertable is pierced by glazed windows with flat arches of gauged brick. The first and second floor windows above these have keystoned flat arches of rubbed and gauged brick, and a brick belt course extends the full width of both elevations at the first floor ceiling line. The central second floor window of each pavilion is framed by a consoled architrave of finely laid rubbed and gauged brick, their composition given greater visual emphasis by the setting of the brickwork slightly forward of the surrounding masonry. The transomed door of the north, entrance facade, and a similar but wider door on the south, garden elevation, are headed by segmental arches. All four corners of the building and the corners of the pavilions are trimmed with brick quoins, from grade to eaves. The pediments of the pavilions were rebuilt following the 1866 fire and each has a keystoned, circular window framed by gauged headers. The exposed wall areas of the end elevations of the house are unbroken, and rise to form a single broad chimney stack with a corbeled cap. Evidence that the original roof was of a hipped design is clearly seen in the gable brickwork framing the formerly free-standing stacks. Other than the rebuilding of the pediments, and the raising of the gables, the original exterior masonry remains in a remarkably good state of preservation. Of special interest is the finely laid mortar joints of the window arches and the design of the architraves of the central second floor windows of the pavilions.

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Exterior alterations following the 1866 fire include the rebuilding of the roof to its present gabled design, replacement of all the window and door frames, doors and window sash, exterior shutters (since removed), and construction of a two-story porch centered on the south pavilion. The porch was probably added in the late-1800s and its second floor gallery enclosed early in this century. When the porch was added the middle second floor window of th pavilion was lengthened within the architrave to provide a door. The north entrance door, framed by a shallow pediment supported by half-columns dating circa 1870, is fronted by carved stone steps and a stone-paved stoop with wrought iron railings. While the railings and stone appear early, and possibly original to the house, the supporting brickwork is of more recent vintage.

The interior of the building consists of three functioning floor levels. While the house was completely gutted by the 1866 fire, which destroyed all of its original finishes, the eighteenth century spatial configuration appears to remain essentially unaltered. The fully intact cellar level, for instance, reflects the same basic plan of the first floor. Exterior access to the cellar is gained by a vaulted, brick walled and paved passage beneath the east wing. Interior access is by a stair beneath the semi-circular stair of the first floor. The interior cellar stair is probably not in its original location, however, inasmuch as it rises directly in front of a fireplace once used for cooking or other domestic purposes. In addition to its brick partition walls, original features of the cellar include brick paving in several rooms, and a vaulted chamber that is traditionally said to have been a wine cellar. The southwest corner room has been refurbished and equipped as a modern kitchen.

The room arrangement of the first floor consists of a front (north) hall, with the main stair in a room to the left and a small sitting room to the right. The hall opens onto what was probably used as a saloon or informal drawing room. Narrower than the hall to provide for larger corner rooms on this side of the house, the positioning of its side walls directly in front of the window of the south pavilion necessitated an unusual boxed return of the walls where they would otherwise have intersected the windows. (See attached floor plan.) The second floor level consists of a large drawing room that is the width of the pavilions and the full depth of the building, front to back. Opening off from this are three bedrooms and the stair passage.

All of the interior finishes date from the repair of the house following the 1866 fire and include bold, one-piece door and window trim, paneled doors, the semi-circular stair with turned balusters and scrolled spandrels, and elaborate plaster ceiling cornices and medallions. All of the former fireplace openings have been pastered over, and the only hearth remaining is that in the first floor dining room.

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At the east end of the house stands a two-story, two-bay, brick wing measuring roughly 17-feet wide by 26-feet deep. The first floor exterior walls are of Flemish bond with glazed headers. The flat arches of the two first floor north windows date circa 1870 while the segmental arches of a first floor door and window on the opposite side are original. The wing, which has an interior end chimney, was raised to two stories in about 1870. The masonry of its first floor walls suggests that it pre-dates the manor house. It is said to have been part of an earlier dwelling replaced in 1741, and that following construction of the existing house it was utilized as a kitchen-service wing.

At the west end of the house stands what remains of a chapel that preceeded the 1798 church. Described as "elegant" in 1774, it is a rectangular, one story structure that once had a loggia across its north side. The three arched openings of the loggia were later in-filled. Two of these now frame sash windows while the third had a door that was recently enclosed by a modern vestibule. One of the more interesting features of this structure is its Flemish bond brickwork of dark stretchers and rubbed headers, and rubbed and gauged brick framing the former arched openings of the loggia. It is not known when the arches were closed, but the brick in-fill appears to date from the late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century. The irregular mortar joints where the chapel walls join the end wall of the manor house suggests that the chapel is older. Church histories state that it was built before 1700. The chapel was also gutted by the 1866 fire. The loggia is now an enclosed passage between the manor house and 1798 church. The sanctuary of the church extends within the former nave of the chapel, and the balance of the interior space is utilized as a sacristry.

St. Ignatius Church, at the far west end of this four-part structure, is a rectangular, Flemish bond brick building with an east-west axis. The west end facade has a modern brick vestibule sheltering the front entrance doors. This is flanked by two windows with stone lintels and keystones. At the second floor level there is a centered arched window. The arch is of gauged brick with a keystone and imposts of carved stone. Flanking it are two windows of the same design as those below. Near the gable peak is a small datestone inscribed with the name of the mason who built the church and the date, 1798. The north elevation, facing the road, is four bays in length and has four arched windows of stained glass set within arched panels. All four windows have arches of rubbed and gauged brick with keystones and imposts of carved stone. The imposts of the windows interconnect to create a stone belt course the full length of this elevation. The watertable is also capped with carved stone, which continues across the west end as well. A second, more formal date stone inscribed in Latin and the date 1798 is set on top of the watertable at the east end of the north wall.

The existing gable roof with overhanging, bracketed eaves, and an open, pyramid-roofed belfry date from about 1870. The interior of the church, completely rebuilt after the 1866 fire, is galleried on three sides and has boxed pews.

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Former circular windows flanking the vaulted sanctuary were bricked-in in the early 1960s, at the same time that frescoed wall and ceiling decorations in the nave were painted over. Some of these decorations, recently restored, remain within the sanctuary. The marble tabernacle on the altar is the only item of church furniture saved from the 1866 fire.

The servant's quarter, a small, one story, clapboard sheathed, frame structure immediately east of the manor house, dates from about 1840, though could in fact be as late as circa 1870. It originally contained three first floor rooms with an unfinished loft above. A partition wall of vertical boards between two of the rooms, both of which were served by a single stove chimney, was later removed. Although the quarter is positioned over the entrance to a now-collapsed tunnel, the latter appears older, and it is not believed that there is any historical relationship between the two. The tobacco barn south of the house evolved from a two-story, three-bay corn crib of heavy, timber framed construction. Built in the mid-1800s, the crib was lengthened at each end and adapted for the curing of tobacco near the turn of this century. Nevertheless, the framing of the earlier building remains essentially intact. In addition to the massiveness of some of its framing members, it also displays many interesting carpentry details not previously recorded in this area.

Non-historic structures include a brick parish hall southeast of the manor house, a shed-roofed, two-bay, brick garage, and a small adjacent porch built against the east end of the east wing of the house. All but the brick end wall of the porch date from the 1960s. The porch appears as a brick-end open shed in photographs of the house from the 1920s and was probably added to the east wing in the mid- or late-nineteenth century. At the northeast corner of the property stands a small, frame, bungalow-style dwelling built early in this century.

In addition to the formal gardens discussed in the Significance Summary, the 1783 tax assessment records the former existance of a barn with open sheds, a corn house, stables, a kitchen, four quarters, a meat house and three tobacco barns. Other ancillary buildings appear on a nineteenth century site plan.

The complex occupies an elevated situation bounded on the north side by Maryland Route 427, open fields and woodland, on the east and south by woodland, and on the west by a private road and open meadows. The land west and north of the St. Thomas Manor property, formerly part of the original manor, are now owned by the State of Maryland as part of Chapel Point State Park.

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8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Religion	1662-1938	1741
Architecture		1798
Archeology		1866

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

St. Thomas Manor constitutes a site and complex of buildings and other historical features of considerable significance to the history of Roman Catholicism in the United States. The parish, named for St. Ignatius Loyola, originated before 1640 as a mission established by Father Andrew White, S. J., "Maryland's first missionary and historian." Served by an unbroken succession of resident pastors since its founding, it is the oldest continuously active Roman Catholic parish in what were the 13 original, English-speaking colonies. The manor house was built in 1741 as the headquarters of the Maryland Mission of the Society of Jesus and served as the Superior's and later the Provincial's official residence. Today, it is recognized as the oldest Jesuit residence continuously occupied by that order in the world. St. Thomas provided the nucleus from which other missions were established throughout Maryland and as far distant as Philadelphia, New York and southern New England. It was here that John Carroll was ordained the first Catholic bishop of America in 1794, establishing St. Thomas as the first Roman Catholic see in the United States. It was also at St. Thomas that the Society of Jesus was revived in the United States when three priests took their vows in 1805 to become the first professed U.S. Jesuits, ending a suppression of the order that began in 1773. The manor house is considered the oldest surviving Georgian mansion in Maryland, and some historians feel that it may have been the first building of its type to have been built in the colony. The exterior brickwork is an especially important feature of St. Thomas, particularly the finely laid window arches, the architraves of the central second floor window of the pavillions, and the brick quoines -- the earliest known quoins on a Maryland building. St. Ignatius Church is the oldest Roman Catholic church in Charles County and its many distinctive architectural elements, especially the carved stone trim of the exterior, are significant on a broader, regional level. Other architecturally and historically important features of the site include the nineteenth century quarter, one of remarkably few such buildings to survive in this area, the former corn crib, which is the largest structure of its type recorded in Charles County and one that exhibits many construction features not represented elsewhere, and the cemetery, where many parishioners prominent in Charles County history were interred, including the legendary Confederate agent, Olivia Floyd of nearby Rose Hill. Based on the historical and documentary evidence,

☒ See continuation sheet 8/1

the property should contain the archeological remains of the former manor house and chapel constructed prior to the existing 1741 house and 1798 church, related plantation outbuildings, landscaping features, and associated activity areas.

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification	A.D. 1680-1815
Agricultural-Industrial Transition	A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance	A.D. 1870-1930
Modern Period	A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):
Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning
Religion

Resource Type:

Category: buildings

Historic Environment: rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):
Religion
church-related structure
religious structure

Known Design Source: unknown

St. Thomas Manor constitutes a site and complex of buildings and other historic features of considerable significance to the history of Roman Catholicism in the United States. The parish, named for St. Ignatius Loyola, originated before 1640 as a mission established by Father Andrew White, S.J., "Maryland's first missionary and historian." The original manor lands, 4,000 acres lying on both sides of the Port Tobacco River, were granted to the Jesuits by Maryland's Catholic proprietor, Lort Baltimore, in 1649, and it was on or near this site that Father Henry Warren, S.J. founded the first permanent mission in 1662. Served by an unbroken succession of resident pastors since its founding, it is the oldest continuously active Roman Catholic parish in what were the 13 original, English-speaking colonies. The manor house was built in 1741 as the headquarters of the Maryland Mission of the Society of Jesus and served as the Superior's and later the Provincial's official residence. Today, it is recognized as the oldest Jesuit residence continuously occupied by that order in the world. St. Thomas provided the nucleus from which other missions were established throughout Maryland and as far distant as Philadelphia, New York and southern New England. It was here that John Carroll was ordained the first

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Catholic bishop of America in 1794, establishing St. Thomas as the first Roman Catholic see in the United States. It was also at St. Thomas that the Society of Jesus was revived in the United States when three priests took their vows in 1805 to become the first professed U.S. Jesuits, ending a suppression of the order that began in 1773.

The manor house is considered the oldest surviving Georgian mansion in Maryland, and some historians feel that it may have been the first building of its type to have been built in the colony. In its original form it compared favorably with many of the Tidewater region's best known Georgian houses. The exterior brickwork is an especially important feature of St. Thomas, particularly the finely laid window arches, the architraves of the central second floor window of the pavilions, and the brick quoins -- the earliest known quoins on a Maryland building. While the roof and original interior masonry walls are original, enhancing the architectural interest and significance of the building as a whole. The interior woodwork and plaster ceiling decorations, while mid-Victorian, are nevertheless of local importance, being the finest examples of their type in this immediate region.

The original chapel, now connecting the manor house and church, is the second oldest standing religious structure in lower Southern Maryland, and may well be Charles County's oldest standing brick building. The oldest is St. Xaviers Church in St. Mary's County which was built in the 1730s. It is the only church in the lower Southern Maryland counties known to have had an arched loggia, and the decorative coloration of its brickwork is not seen on any other building in this area. St. Ignatius Church is the oldest Roman Catholic church in Charles County and its many distinctive architectural elements, especially the carved stone trim of the exterior, are significant on a broader, regional level. Other architecturally and historically important features of the site include the nineteenth century quarter, one of remarkably few such buildings to survive in this area, the former corn crib, which is the largest structure of its type recorded in Charles County and one that exhibits many construction features not represented elsewhere, and the cemetery, where many parishioners prominent in Charles County history were interred, including the legendary Confederate agent, Olivia Floyd of nearby Rose Hill (NR).

That St. Thomas was the only house described as "elegant" one of only three principal dwellings noted as having formal gardens, and received the highest valuation in proportion to acreage (500) and improvements in the 1783 tax assessments for Charles County considerably augments its value to studies of regional architecture and socio-economic development. The uniqueness of the site and existing historic buildings, its more than 300 years of colonial and post-colonial occupation and physical evolution, and extant descriptions and other documentary evidence for former ancillary structures, clearly establishes St. Thomas Manor's importance as an archeological resource as well.

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St. Thomas Manor and the parish of St. Ignatius Loyola began as a mission founded in about 1640 by Father Andrew White, S.J., on the east side of the Port Tobacco River. Here Father White worked on composing a catechism in the local dialect and converted a number of native Indians and their tribal Queen to Christianity.

Father White, who accompanied Governor Leonard Calvert and the first groups of English colonists to the Maryland province in 1634 and chronicled his observations of the region and its native inhabitants in reports sent back to Rome, was joined at the Port Tobacco mission by Father Thomas Copley, S.J. It was to Father Copley that the original manorial grant of 4,000 acres was made by Lord Baltimore in 1649. Named St. Thomas Manor, 3,500 acres of it lay on the west side of the Port Tobacco River and the 500-acre balance on the east side. In the same year the grant was made Father Copley assigned the manor to Thomas Matthews as a lay trustee of the Jesuits, an action undoubtedly prompted by the religious and political turmoil here and in England. The manor remained in Matthews' name until he conveyed it back to the Jesuits in 1662, the same year a permanent mission was established by Father Henry Warren, S.J. The original chapel is said to have been a log structure located below the existing complex, nearer the river at what became known as Chapel Point, and that this was replaced sometime before the end of the 1600s by a brick chapel and dwelling on the site of the existing house and church.

In 1741 the Jesuits, whose plantation was one of the more prosperous in the region--the 3,500 acres on the west side of the river were managed as leaseholds, while the 500 acres the Jesuits actually occupied was used for the daily support of the priests and mission--began erecting a much more substantial building to serve as their residence and as headquarters of the Society's Maryland Mission. It was an ambitious project for which the priests of St. Thomas were criticized for "raising a palace unbecoming a religious order."

The Georgian mansion they erected was the most architecturally sophisticated house yet built on the Maryland side of the Potomac, a region where even the "finest" houses were seldom more than a story high. And while perhaps not equal to Rosewell or Stratford Hall on the Virginia side of the river, it nevertheless rivaled in refinement most other Tidewater plantation houses of the mid-eighteenth century from Maryland to the Carolinas. Many of the best known Georgian mansions of Maryland and the southern colonies that survive today were, in fact, built a decade or more after St. Thomas, and by virtue of that fact alone St. Thomas warrants special recognition.

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In many respects the house represented a bold political statement as well: a difficult-to-ignore physical reminder of the Jesuit's perserverence and continuing triumph over adversity following a century of religious persecution here and abroad, and an entrenchment, of sorts, against an anti-Catholic climate that was to continue for many years to come. (In Maryland, for instance, the 1692 act establishing the Church of England as Maryland's official church, under which professed Catholics were refused their basic civil rights, remained law until ratification of the Maryland Constitution of 1776. The Society of Jesus also saw a suppression of their order here and in Europe, with the exception of the White Russian Provinces, that began in 1773 and did not end in the United States until 1805.)

The impressiveness of the 1741 manor house and chapel, and their setting high above the river, was clearly without parallel in the context of this region throughout the eighteenth century. There are two particularly interesting early descriptions that seem to emphasize its rather unique local status. The first appears in the 1775 journal of Dr. Robert Honeyman, in the collection of the Huntington Library: "Near the town [of Port Tobacco] is a Roman Catholic Chapel, very elegant with a fine house adjoining..." Far more effusive in his praise, J. F. D. Smythe recorded in his Travels in the United States of America, (London, 1784) that :

> "Near the town of Port Tobacco, upon a commanding eminence overlooking the Potomac, is a seat belonging to the [Society of Jesus] in occupation of a Roman Catholic priest named Hunter in a situation the most majestic, grand and elegant in the whole world. The house itself is exceedingly handsome, executed in fine taste and of a very beautiful model; but imagination cannot form the idea of a perspective more noble, rich and delightful than this charming villa in reality is. And as the best description I could give of it would come so far short as to discrace the place itself, I shall not hazard the attempt."

In the rent roll records for Charles County for the period 1755 to 1774, in which Father George Hunter, S.J., the resident Superior of the Maryland Mission is referenced as "The High Priest in Charles County," St. Thomas was consistantly accorded a comparatively high valuation. This occurs again in the 1783 county tax assessments where St. Thomas's 500 acres and improvements were given a value of 3,500-pounds English sterling, the highest of any property assessed in proportion to acreage and improvements. The assessor, Col. Hoskins Hanson, described the buildings standing as

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"a large & elegant 2 story brick dwelling to which is joined a Chapple dedicated to St. Ignatius, a very large barn with an open shed in front, and a large corn house with two close sheds laid off in convenient stables also a very old kitchen & four negro quarters 3 old Tob^{o} [tobacco] houses and a new meat house, about 20 apple trees & a large & beautiful garden," all "beautifully situated on Port Tobacco Creek."

In 1798 the Jesuits and parish of St. Ignatius replaced the "chapple" with a larger brick building whose architecture was unsurpassed by any public or religious structure in lower Southern Maryland. Despite the 1866 fire the church remains preeminent among Charles County's many examples of ecclesiastical architecture dating before 1900.

St. Thomas remained the headquarters of the Maryland Mission of the Society of Jesus until its status was elevated to that of Province in 1833. Thereafter it was the residence of the Provincial until the Society's headquarters were moved to Georgetown College (D.C.) in 1843.

On December 27, 1866 the manor house, the 1798 church, the original chapel and the east wing were gutted by a fire that is believed to have started in one of the chimneys. All of the interior finishes, church and house furniture, and many church records were destroyed. The church was rebuilt in 1867 for a contract price of $5,800.00. The repair of the manor house began in about the same year; the east wing was repaired and raised to two stories at the same time for a cost of $500.00. It is likely that the original gardens and other adjacent buildings were also destroyed as a result of the fire.

One of the more interesting aspects relating to the rebuilding of the house and church is the fact that it occurred so shortly after the American Civil War, a conflict whose end result had a devastating effect on a local economy previously dependent on slave labor. In the aftermath of the war Charles County quickly descended into political and economic stagnation and social lethargy, and over the next half-century very little building activity of any significance took place. Consequently, there are exceedingly few noteworthy representations of the dramatic and widespread changes in architectural taste that took place in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Thus, the monumental rebuilding of the complex, and especially the high quality of the mid-Victorian interiors, takes on an additional degree of significance in their own right when viewed in that context.

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The St. Thomas Manor property certainly includes significant archeological resources associated with its over 300 years of occupation as a Jesuit parish, with this 10.6 acre parcel containing the manor house, chapel, and church. Based on the historical and documentary evidence, the property should contain the archeological remains of the former manor house and chapel constructed prior to the existing 1741 house and 1798 church, related plantation outbuildings, landscaping features, and associated activity areas. Archeolgical investigations would provide a wealth of information concerning the Jesuit use and development of the property. Testing may help confirm the various phases of construction on the property; define the nature, extent and date of the brick walled tunnel beneath the quarter; and identify the location of the 1662 mission established in this vicinity.

Although no professional archeological investigations have been undertaken on the 10.6 acre parcel to date, archeological testing at Chapel Point (located approximately 2000 feet southwest of St. Thomas Manor) has identified archeological resources related to the Jesuit parish at Chapel Point. Salvage excavations recovered the remains of two human burials and three additional grave shafts eroding out of the bank. The burials dated to circa 1820-1830 and represent the former Jesuit cemetery which was in use at Chapel Point until 1867, when all known burials were exhumed for reburial in the new cemetery at St. Ignatius Church (McGuire 1987:1). The documented presence of Jesuit-related archeological resources in this vicinity clearly demonstrates the potential for such resources to be located on the essentially undisturbed 10.6 acre parcel. Investigation of these resources would greatly enhance our knowledge and understanding of this oldest continuously Jesuit occupied residence in the world.

Reference

McGuire, Patricia
1987 "Preliminary Analysis of Features 1, 2, and 5; Chapel Point (18 CH 79), Charles County, Maryland" Southern Maryland Regional Center File Report No. 6.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, MD.

Charles County Patents, rent rolls and tax assessments, Hall of Records, Annapolis, MD.

Church archives, St. Thomas Manor, Port Tobacco, MD.

Klapthor, Margaret, History of Charles County, Maryland, (LaPlata, 1958).

Trostel, Michael, "St. Thomas Manor," (Historical Society of Charles County, MD, 1983).

Maryland Inventory of Historical Properties, Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD.

McGuire, Patricia, 1987, "Preliminary Analysis of Features 1, 2, and 5; Chapel Point (18 CH 79), Charles County, Maryland" (Southern Maryland Regional Center File Report No. 6).

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: Georgetown University Library, Washington, D. C.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 10.683

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	323600	4259180
B	18	323540	4259050
C	18	323210	4259170
D	18	323220	4259300

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See Continuation Sheet No. 10/1

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries encompass the immediate surroundings of the manor house and church, outbuildings, cemetery and other known historic features associated with the complex.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Richard Rivoire

organization _____ date December 1987

street & number P. O. Box 132 telephone (301) 932-1000

city or town La Plata state Maryland zip code 20646

Easement

CH-6

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

DEC 2 1988

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88003050 **Date Listed:**11/10/88

St. Thomas Manor	Charles	MD
Property Name	**County**	**State**

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

11/10/88
Date of Action

==========

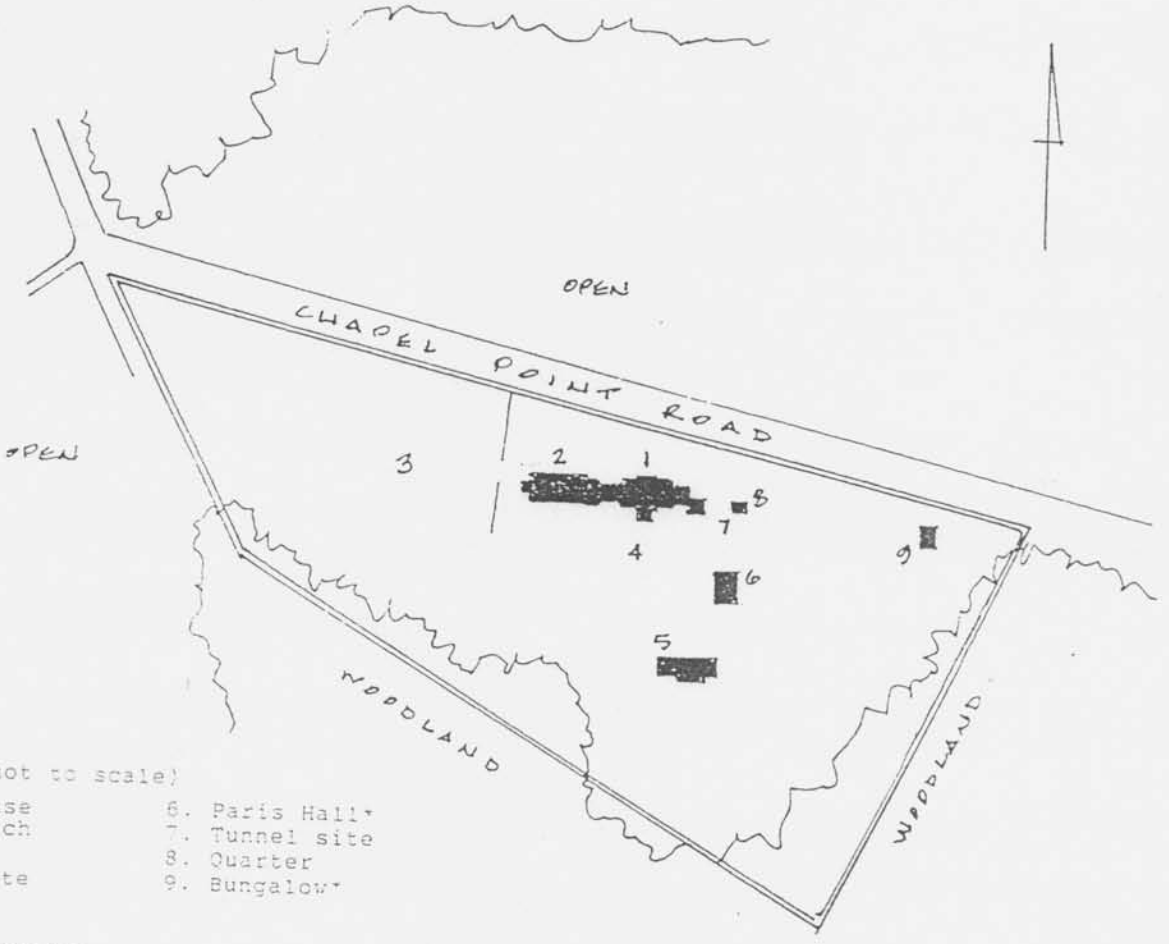
Amended Items in Nomination:

The nomination form has an inconsistent resource count. Ron Andrews with the MD SHPO agrees to change the form to clarify the count - the official resource count is now 8 properties, with four contributing buildings (house, church, quarter, and barn), two contributing sites (cemetery, and tunnel site), and two non-contributing buildings (parish hall, and bungalow).

The form did not have checked Criteria C and D to reflect selected areas of significance. Ron says this was an oversight and agrees to change the form to add Criteria C and D.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP, 1988



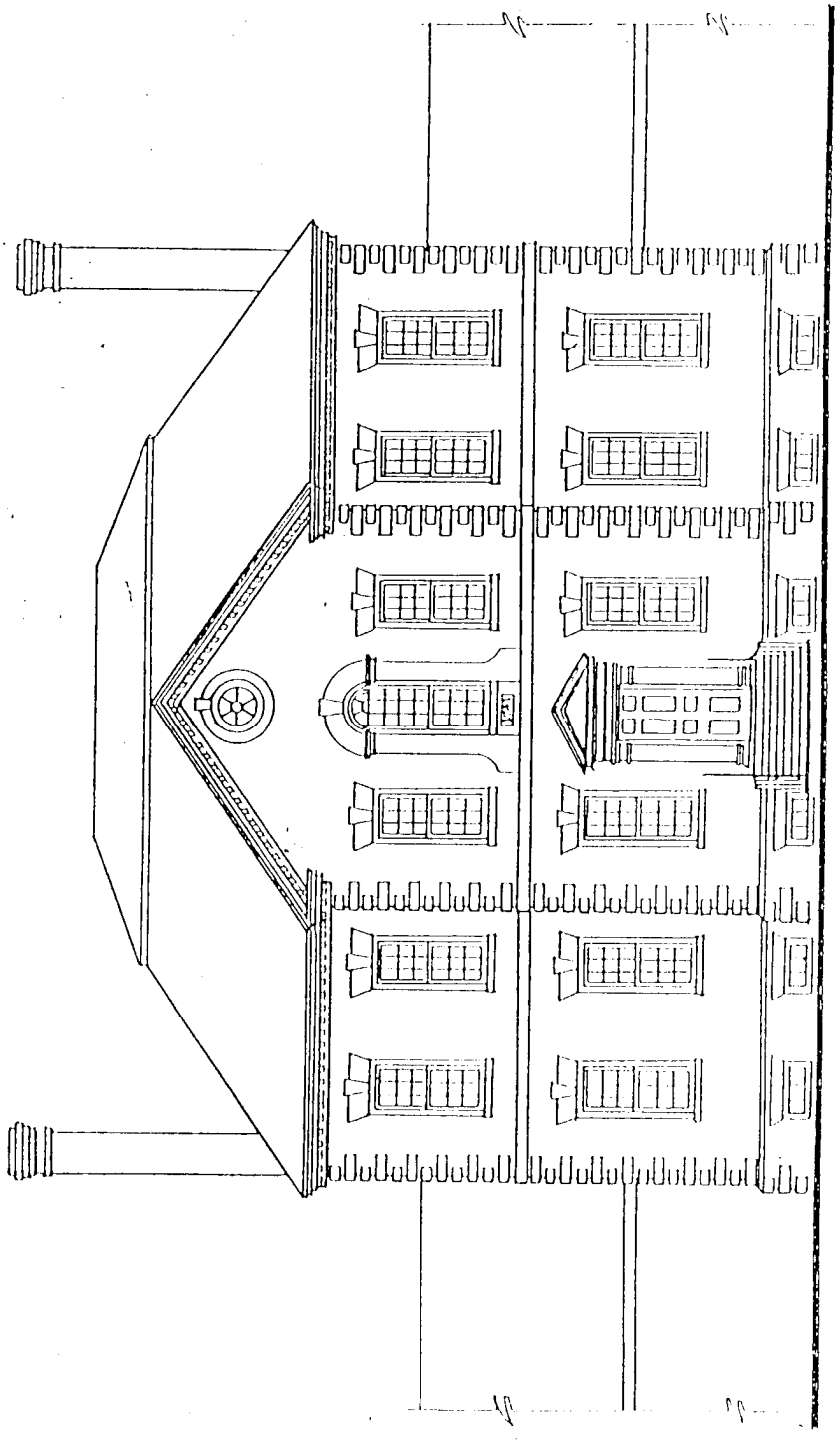
SITE PLAN
(Buildings not to scale)

1. Manor House
2. 1798 Church
3. Cemetery
4. Garden Site
5. Barn
6. Paris Hall*
7. Tunnel site
8. Quarter
9. Bungalow*

* Non-contributing

See Continuation Sheet No. 7/6

CH-6



North Facade, St. Thomas Manor. This rendering, not drawn to scale, shows the house as it is thought to have appeared prior to the 1866 fire.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7/7

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

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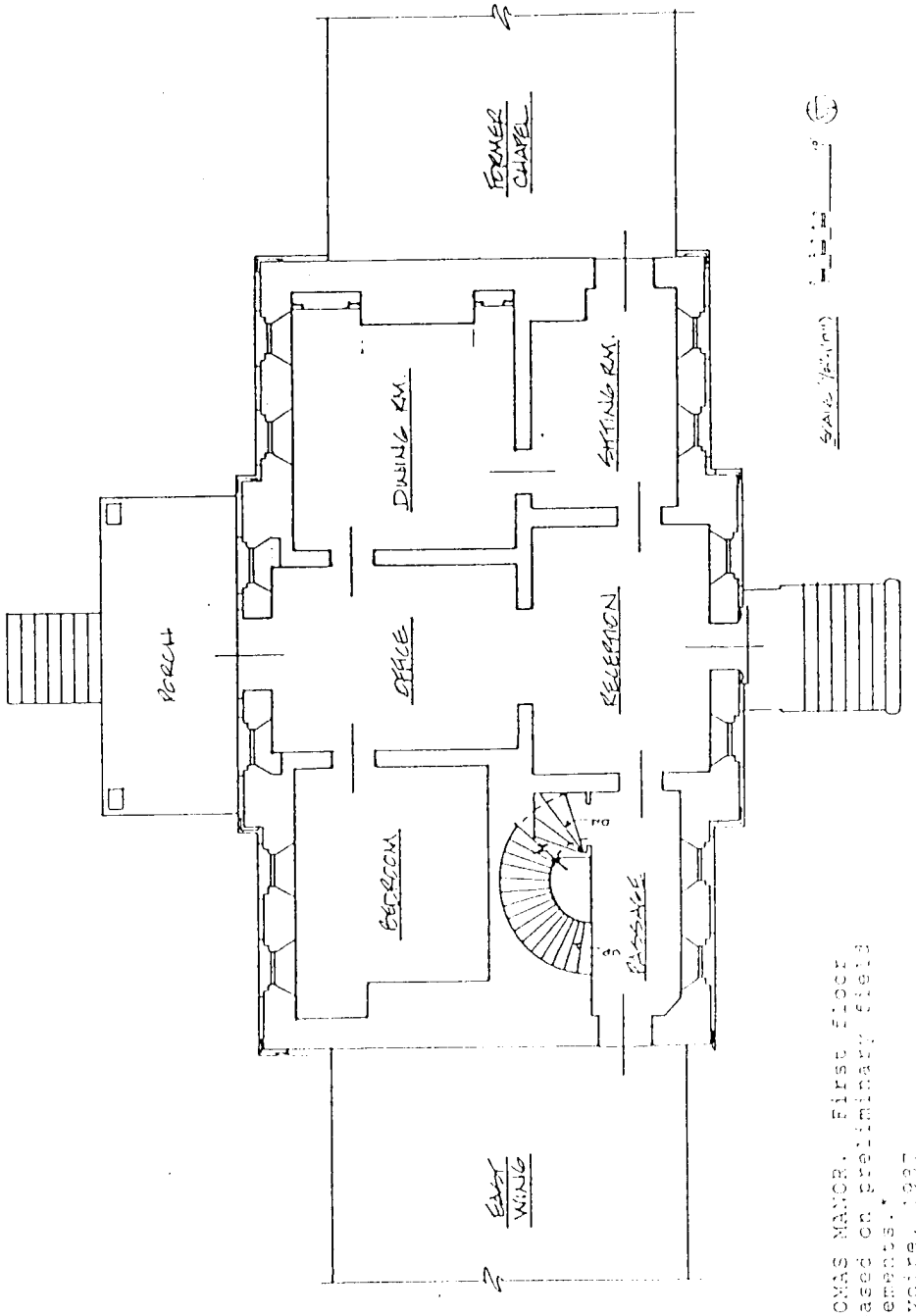
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



ST. THOMAS MANOR, First Floor
Plan based on preliminary field measurements.*
J.R.Rivoire, 1987

*Rooms identified as to current usage.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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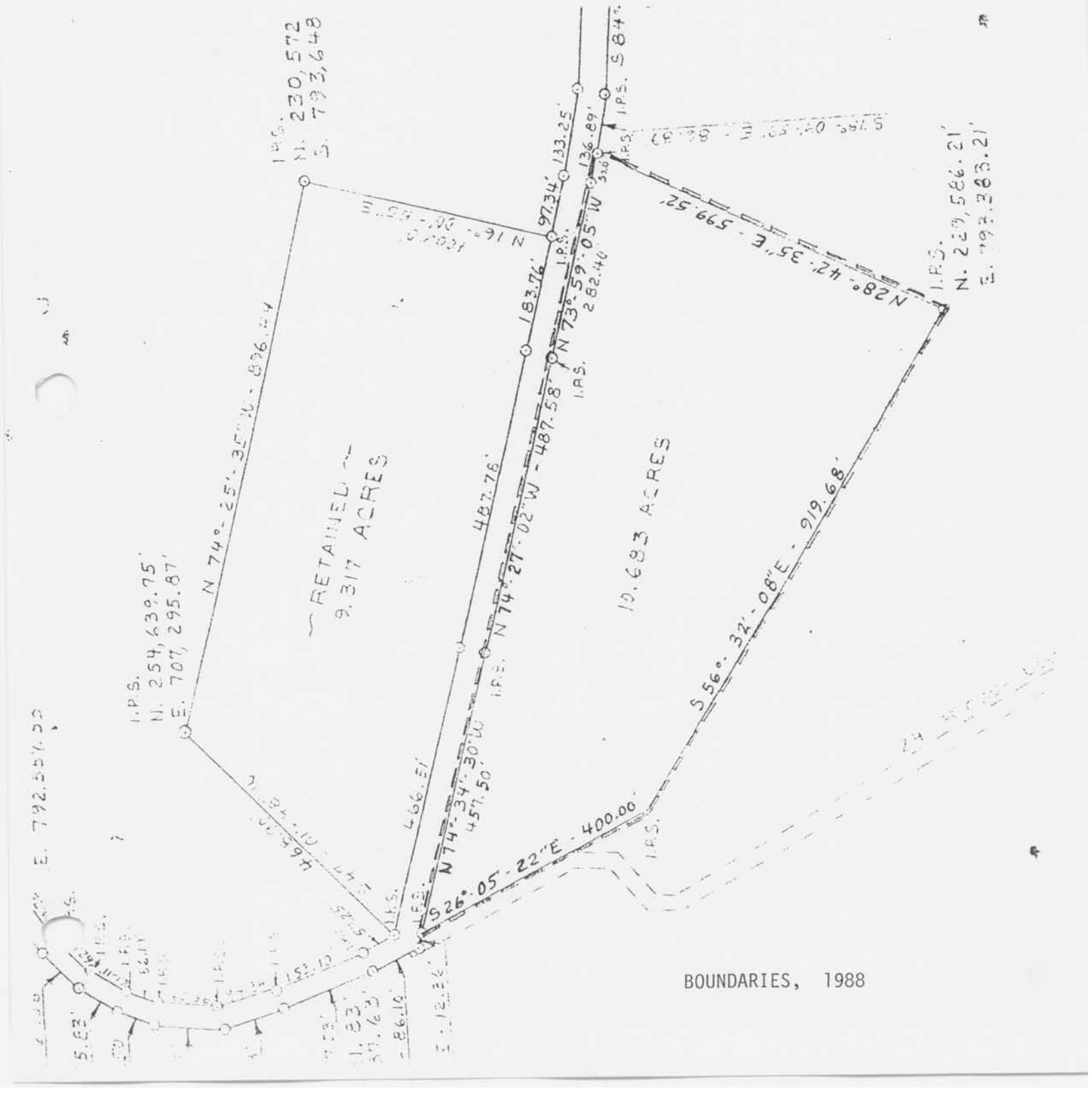
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



BOUNDARIES, 1988

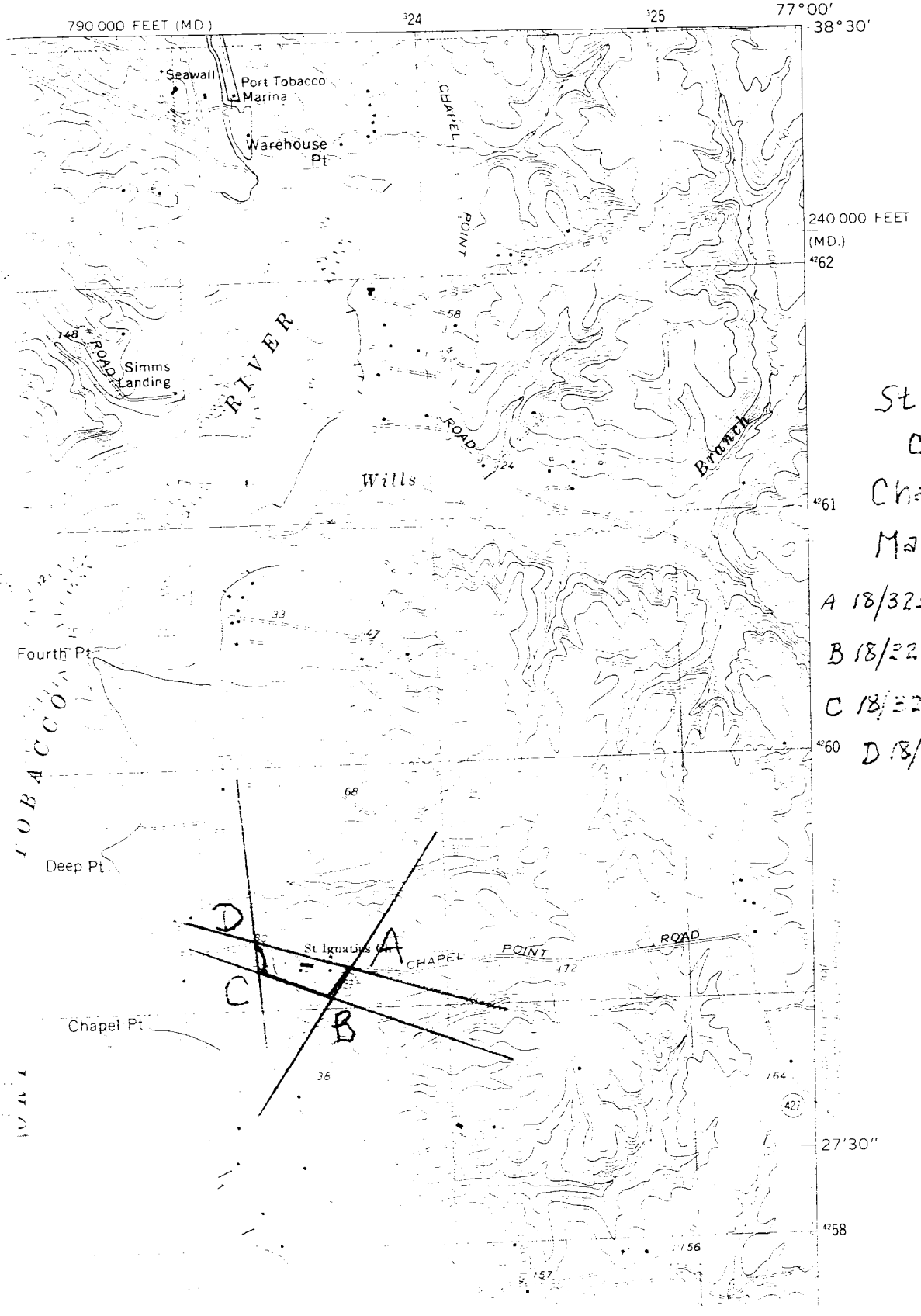
MATHIAS POINT QUADRANGLE

MARYLAND – VIRGINIA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC – BATHYMETRIC)

NE 4 NANJEMOY 15' QUADRANGLE

5561 III SW (LA PLATA)



St. Thomas Manor

C11-6

Charles Co.

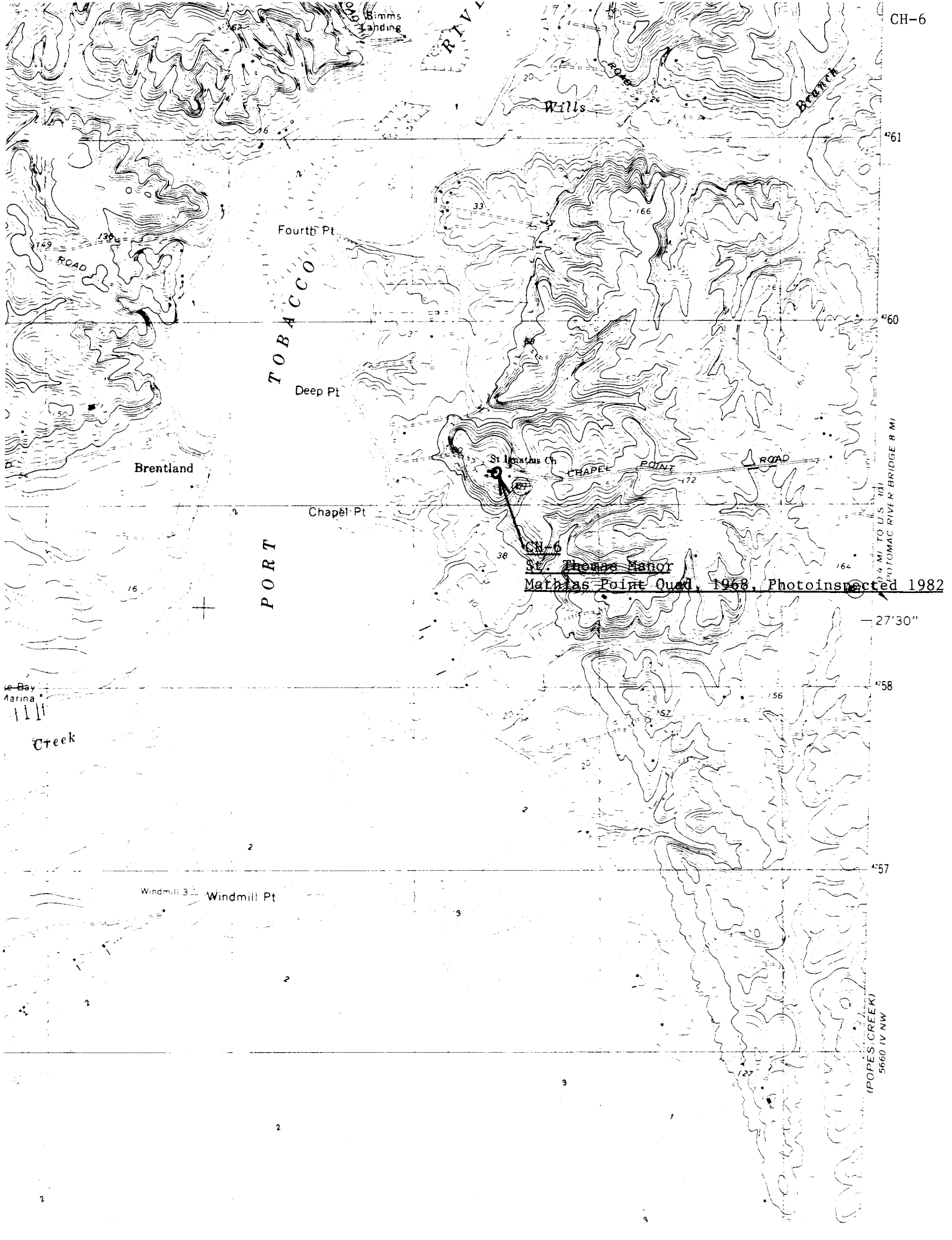
Maryland

A 18/323600/4259180

B 18/323540/4259050

C 18/323510/4259170

D 18/323220/4259300


CH-6
Bimms Landing
Wills
Branch
ROAD
Fourth Pt
TOBACCO
ROAD
Deep Pt
Brentland
St Ignatius Ch
CHAPEL POINT ROAD
Chapel Pt
PORT
CH-6
St. Thomas Manor
Mathias Point Quad, 1968, Photoinspected 1982
4261
4260
27'30"
4258
4257
Creek
Windmill Pt
0.4 MI TO U.S. 301
POTOMAC RIVER BRIDGE 8 MI
(POPES CREEK)
5660 IV NW

CH-6

CH-6 St. Thomas Manor 1969

St. Thomas Manor

CH-6

Rivoire

May 88

St Thomas Manor

CH-6

Rivoire

May 88

St Thomas Manor

CH-6

Riviere

May 88

St. Thomas Manor CH-6

1st fl J. R. Rivoire May 1988

St. Thomas Manor

CH-6

2nd Fl

J. R. Revoire

May 1988

St Thomas Manor

CH-6

Rivoire

May 88

St Thomas Manor

Ch. 6

Rivoire

May 88

CH-6

ST. THOMAS MANOR

St. Thomas Manor CH-6

SE elev J. R. Rivoire May 1988

St Thomas Manor

CH-6

Rivoire

May 88

St. Thomas Manor

CH-6

Record

May 88