NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Mattapax

other names/site number Mattapex; QA-165

## 2. Location

street 106 Shipping Creek Road
not for publication n/a city or town Stevensville vicinity n/a
state Maryland code MD county Queen Anne's code 035 zip code 21666

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide x locally. ( ___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

11-9-98

Signature of certifying official Date

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

QA-165

## 4. 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 Keeper Date of Action

## 5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

__x__ private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

__x__ building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | _____ | buildings |
| _____ | _____ | sites |
| _____ | _____ | structures |
| _____ | _____ | objects |
| 4 | 0 | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in National Register 0
Name of related multiple property listing n/a

QA-165

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling
DOMESTIC secondary structure

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling
DOMESTIC secondary structure

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
roof WOOD
walls BRICK
other n/a

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

QA-165

## 8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

____ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
____ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
_x_ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
____ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
____ B removed from its original location.
____ C a birthplace or a grave.
____ D a cemetery.
____ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
____ F a commemorative property.
____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance c. 1760s-1949

Significant Dates c. 1760s

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder F. Trevor Hogg, architect of 1949 renovations

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

QA-165

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**For major bibliographical references, see footnotes to Section 8.**

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
_x_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # MD 18-3-1
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
_x_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
_x_ Other
Name of repository: Kent Island Heritage Society, Stevensville, MD

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 6.62 acres
USGS quadrangle Kent Island, MD
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | 18 | 383200 | 4307660 | D | 18 | 383050 | 4307660 |
| B | 18 | 383160 | 4307480 | E | __ | _____ | _____ |
| C | 18 | 382940 | 4307510 | | | | |

___ See continuation sheet.

QA-165

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Forrest P. Chisman
organization property owner date September 1998
street & number 106 Shipping Creek Rd. telephone (410) 643-0135
city or town Stevensville state MD zip code 21666

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets
Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)
name as above

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state ____ zip code _____

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**Description Summary:**

Mattapax is a ca. 1760s brick house located approximately five miles south of Stevensville on Kent Island in Queen Anne's County, Maryland. The house is 1-1/2 stories high, three bays wide and one room deep, with flush brick chimneys at either end of a pitched gable roof. It is sited on high ground at the head of a cove that opens into Shipping Creek. The interior retains extensive original woodwork and hardware, and features exceptional paneled fireplace walls. A campaign of renovation in 1949 resulted in the restoration of the early house and the construction of a brick wing to replace an earlier frame wing. Also on the property are a frame cottage, converted from a former garage; a large horse barn; and a frame wagon shed.

**General Description**[1]

The west facade is laid in Flemish bond above a plain water table and a Flemish bond foundation, with random glazed headers interspersed throughout the wall. The door is located in the center bay, flanked by a single 6/6 window on each side. The door opening has been reduced approximately five inches in width. There are segmental brick arches above all first floor openings, and rowlock lintels above two cellar window openings, one below each first floor window. Two 6/3 pitched roof dormers are symmetrically placed on the roof, which is covered with wood shingles. The eaves are finished with a box cornice, complex crown mold and a dentil course bed mold.

The south gable is laid in Flemish bond above a plain water table and an English bond foundation. A pair of four-light windows in the upper gable are the only openings in this wall. The gable eaves are finished with molded and tapered rakeboards. The bulkhead cellar entrance in the west corner of the building has been enlarged and now allows access from the first floor of the house; a second set of steps continues down into the

[1] Transcribed with minor editing and updating from architectural description by Orlando Ridout, V for Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form QA-165, September 16, 1980.

cellar. A shed-roofed porch spans the gable wall; this was installed in 1993, replacing a greenhouse which had been added in the mid-20th century.

The east facade is essentially identical to the west facade, except the foundation is English bond below the plain water table. The door on this facade also has been reduced in width.

The north gable is almost entirely covered by a mid-20th century brick wing. A frame wing shown in historic photographs was demolished when the present wing was constructed, and it is interesting to note that the water table is not carried across this gable wall, possibly indicating an original frame wing.

The first floor of the interior has been opened up into one large room with fireplaces centered on each gable wall. There is no surviving evidence of the original interior partition(s), but a blueprint from the 1949 renovation indicates there was a partition to the north of the opposing facade doors. Both fireplace walls are fully paneled with fielded paneling of pine. The south fireplace is flanked on the left by a built-in four-door cupboard and on the right by an enclosed winder stair. A small four-panel door immediately to the right of the fireplace originally served a closet under the stairs, but now opens onto a short run of steps leading to the cellar stairs. The foot of the winder stair projects out into the room but the paneling is carried out and encloses the entire stair. The doors of the built-in cupboard are hung on wrought H-L hinges secured with wrought nails. The doors to the stair and closet are also hung on H-L hinges but with wrought nails on one leaf and 20th century screws on the other leaf, indicating that they have been taken off and remounted. The mantel consist of a beaded board surround with ogee backband. The same architrave is found on the door surround for the cupboard, closet, and stairs. The paneling on the north gable wall is similar but does not run across the entire wall. There is a door to the wing in the alcove to the right and an open space in the paneling to the left. This was probably originally a cupboard, but may also have been the location of a door to the earlier wing. A small cupboard with paneled doors is built into the right chimney breast. The door to the wing is constructed of diagonal beaded

boards on the exterior face and a six-panel frame of stiles and rails on the interior face, fitted with 20th century hardware. The same basic architrave is used on this door as well as the two exterior doors. A handsome complex interior cornice is carried around the entire first floor, but the absence of scars from an original interior partition suggests this may have been tampered with or added during the restoration.

The second floor is divided into two rooms by a beaded board partition. The larger room is to the south, and closets have been inserted on this side of the interior partition. There is no evidence of a fireplace or stove flue in the chimney of this room. One feature of particular interest is the very delicate newel and balustrade around the stair opening. The diminutive proportions of the newel are reminiscent of stair details generally associated with the 1760s in Virginia, but rarely found in Maryland.

The north chamber is heated by a small fireplace on the north gable wall. The majority of this wall is paneled, but a door has been worked into the plan to allow access to the wing. A four-panel cupboard door to the left of the fireplace is mounted on wrought H-L hinges with wrought nails, a second cupboard has been reworked to fit on the right side of the connecting doorway. The original six-panel door between the two rooms has been badly vandalized, but it remains in place, hung on H-L hinges with wrought nails. It is interesting to note that the jamb leaf of each of the hinges throughout the house is concealed behind the architrave trim.

The cellar is now one large room but apparently originally was divided to reflect the hall-parlor plan. Large brick chimney bases with recessed relieving arches are centered on each gable wall. The joists are hewn, whip-sawn and whitewashed.

One room of the modern wing incorporates beaded ceiling joists and fielded pine paneling that were salvaged from the early frame wing.

## Significance Summary

"Mattapax" is significant under National Register Criterion C as an excellent example of mid-18th century vernacular domestic architecture in the Eastern Shore region of Maryland. A small number of 1-1/2 story brick houses survive to reflect this early period in Queen Anne's County, and Mattapax is distinguished by its overall state of preservation and the quality of its interior decorative detailing. The exterior remains in remarkable condition, and the interior paneled fireplace walls are among the finest in the county. Although the first floor plan has been opened up and some changes may have occurred, the majority of the interior detail has survived intact. In date, form, materials, and elaboration it is comparable to Friendship and Bishopton, both Queen Anne's County properties listed in the National Register. Architectural and documentary evidence suggest it was constructed in the third quarter of the 18th century for Henry Carter; the house was renovated and restored in 1949. The period of significance, c. 1760s-1949, corresponds to the period during which the property substantially attained its present condition.

## Resource History

The property upon which the present house stands was purchased by John Carter in 1727.[1] The Carter family had become established on Kent Island in the mid-17th century; John Carter owned considerable property on the west side of the island. Upon his death in 1740, John Carter's will distributed his holdings among his three sons, John, Henry, and Valentine (the latter two then minors).[2] Henry inherited the 98-acre parcel designated "Matepax," and apparently constructed the existing house around 1760. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax lists Henry Carter as owner and occupant of Mattapax, comprising in addition to the dwelling house "1 barn 26 x 20 shedded on two sides, 1 corn house 15 x 18 and 1 granary 16 x 12," all valued at $450.[3]

Henry Carter died in a maritime accident in the Chesapeake Bay in 1799. The Easton Maryland Herald and Eastern Shore Intelligencer reported:

> On Wednesday Evening 1st inst was overset in a squall of wind between the Fort and Fells Point, a schooner belonging to Captain John Morling, from Wye River, in which were Messrs. William Hindman, Henry Carter, William Keats, Patrick McIntire and daughter, a negro woman and a negro lad belonging to Mr. Hindman, and the Captain and his two men. We are sorry to inform our readers, that of this number Messrs. Carter and McIntire, the negro woman and free negro man were drowned. The others were providentially saved.[4]

Henry Carter's will was probated in July, 1799. He left to his eldest son, Valentine, "all the tract of land I live on Mattapax Neck," containing

---

[1] Queen Anne's County Land Records, IK #C, p. 157.
[2] Ibid., p. 50; Jane Baldwin, The Maryland Calendar of Wills (Baltimore: Dulaney Co., 1901), p. 159.
[3] 1798 Federal Direct Tax, transcribed ms., Kent Island Heritage Society.
[4] F. Edward Wright, Eastern Shore Newspaper Extracts, Vol. 1 (Annundsen Publishing Service, n.d.) p. 154.

96 acres, and to his other sons Henry, Jacob, and John, parcels of land of about 250 acres each in Delaware.[5]

The 1800 Federal Census indicates that Valentine Carter lived at Mattapax with his wife, one daughter, and nine slaves. In 1817, he sold the property to his nephew, William Carter, for $1200.[6] The property passed out of the Carter family in 1843, when the heirs of John E. Gibson added it to their other holdings on Mattapax Neck.[7] John W. Gibson sold the tract, then containing 113 acres, to John T. Norman on August 15, 1871 for $6003.[8] Norman set about acquiring adjacent properties, and by 1877 had assembled a tract of 130 acres. Norman declared bankruptcy in 1894, and to settle his debts the property was sold in 1895 to James L. Bryan for $6604.95.[9] Bryan farmed the 130-acre parcel; upon his death in 1936, the property was sold at public auction to the Stevensville Bank for $7100.[10]

In December 1936, E. H. Pickering photographed the house for the Historic American Buildings Survey.[11] This view, taken from the west, shows the brick section intact and whitewashed, with a frame wing projecting from the north gable and a frame smokehouse standing to the north of this wing (the smokehouse burned in the 1970s). Another outbuilding is shown behind the house.

The Stevensville Bank sold the property along with additional acreage to Parke Godwin Sedley and Mary Sybil Sedley in 1937 for $9000.[12] The Sedleys purchased Mattapax as a summer retreat and retirement home. They engaged Centreville architect F. Trevor Hogg in 1949 to renovate the 18th-century house. The frame north wing was replaced with a new L-shaped brick

---

[5] Queen Anne's County Wills, WHN #3, p. 309, May 25, 1799.
[6] Queen Anne's County Land Records, TM #1, p. 269.
[7] Queen Anne's County Land Records, JT #4, p. 7.
[8] Queen Anne's County Land Records, JW #3, p. 67.
[9] Queen Anne's County Land Records, WHC #1, pp. 476-77.
[10] Queen Anne's County Land Records, WHC #3a, p. 272.
[11] Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress, Md.18.3-1.
[12] Queen Anne's County Land Records, WHC #4a, p. 396.

wing containing a master bedroom, foyer/office, bathroom, modern kitchen, and screened porch on the first floor, and a sewing room, bathroom, and storage space in the upper story. Beams from the demolished frame wing were reused as decorative elements in the new foyer/office. Modern systems were installed, including electricity, central heating, plumbing, and a whole-house fan. The cellar floor was leveled and paved with concrete. The roof shingles were replaced. Brick steps were constructed at each of the principal entrances, and shutters were provided for the windows. A greenhouse was attached to the south wall; this was removed in 1993 and replaced with the present shed-roofed porch and cellar entrance.

The 1949 work carefully preserved the interior of the original house, with the exception of the removal of the partition separating the first-floor rooms and the removal of a stair to the cellar which formerly flanked the north chimney on the west.

The Sedleys improved the outbuildings and converted a former garage into a cottage; they also undertook a program of landscaping, raising the level of the ground around the house to create lawns and planting numerous ornamental and fruit trees.[13]

The Sedleys sold the property in 1955 to Edwin A. Probert of Wilmington, Delaware;[14] ownership subsequently changed several times. The present owners purchased the property in 1996.

---

[13] Interviews with Barbara Sedley Sinclair, July 12-13, 1998.
[14] Queen Anne's County Land Records, TSP #56, pp. 220-24.

==========

**HISTORIC CONTEXT**

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern 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

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

Resource Type:
Category: Building(s)
Historic Environment: Rural
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Known Design Source:
none

==========

**GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is described by metes and bounds, courses and distances, according to a plat and survey by S. I. Land Surveys, Inc. dated March 18, 1996 and recorded in Queen Anne's County, Maryland, Plat Book Liber LR 155, folio 212.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property, approximately 6.62 acres, encompasses the remnant of the parcel historically associated with the property and represents its immediate historic setting.

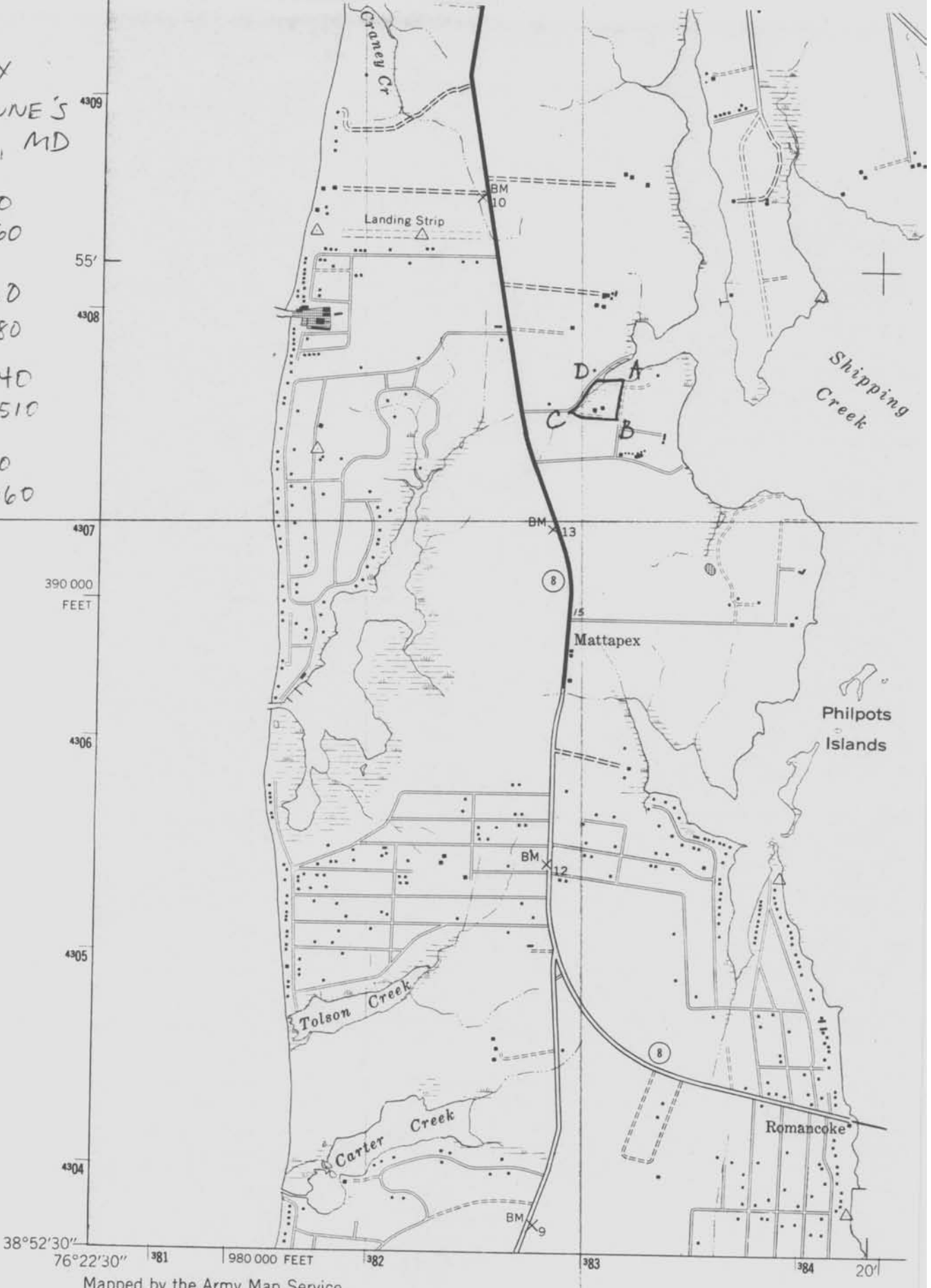
QA-165
MATTAPAX
QUEEN ANNE'S
COUNTY, MD

A: 18-383200
4307660

B: 18-383160
4307480

C: 18-382940
4307510

D: 18-383050
4307660




Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey

Control by USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods and by planetable surveys 1942. Aerial photographs taken 1942

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system

MN GN
8½° 151 MILS
0°49' 15 MILS

QA-165
MATTAPAX
QUEEN ANNE'S CO., MD
PETER KURTZE, 9/98
NEG AT MD SHPO
WEST FACADE

#1 OF 6

QA-165
MATTAPAX
QUEEN ANNE'S CO., MD
PETER KURTZE, 9/98
NEG AT MD SHPO
EAST ELEV.

#2 OF 6

QA-165
MATTAPAX
QUEEN ANNE'S CO, MD.
PETER KURTZE, 9/98
NEG AT MD SHPO
ADDITION, FROM SE

#3 OF 6

QA-165
MATTAPAX
QUEEN ANNE'S CO., MD
PETER KURTZE, 9/98
NEG AT MD SHPO
1ST FL., FACING S

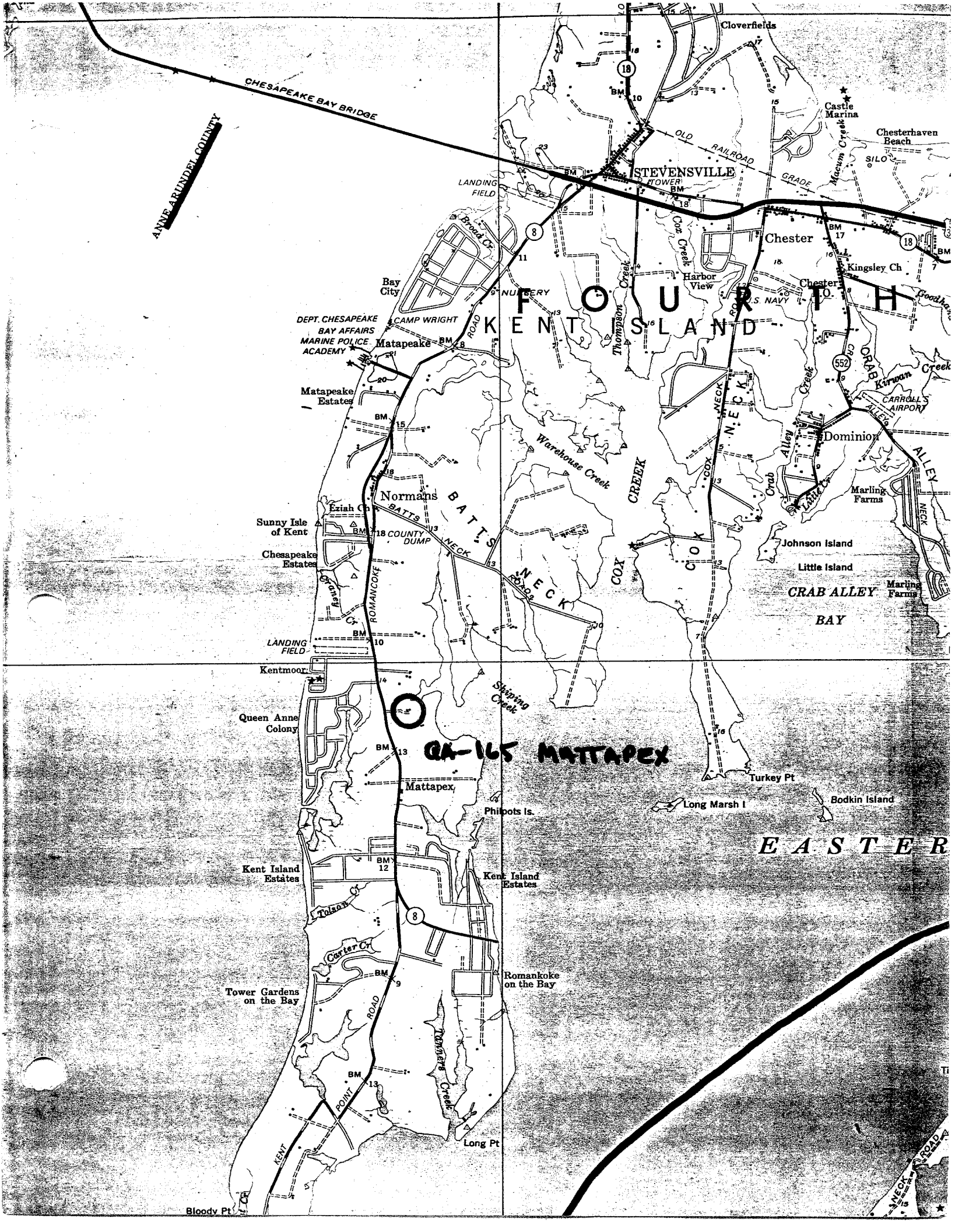
#4 OF 6

QA-165
MATTAPAX
QUEEN ANNE'S CO., MD
PETER KURTZE, 9/98
NEG AT MD SHPO
1ST FL., FACING N

#5 OF 6

QA-165
MATTAPAX
QUEEN ANNE'S CO., MD
PETER KURTZE, 9/98
NEG AT MD SHPO
2ND FL., FACING N

#6 OF 6


CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
Cloverfields
Castle Marina
Chesterhaven Beach
OLD RAILROAD GRADE
STEVENSVILLE
TOWER
LANDING FIELD
Broad Cr
Cox Creek
Chester
Kingsley Ch
Harbor View
Chester
Bay City
NURSERY
DEPT. CHESAPEAKE BAY AFFAIRS MARINE POLICE ACADEMY
CAMP WRIGHT
Matapeake
Matapeake Estates
FOURTH
KENT ISLAND
Thompson Creek
U.S. NAVY
Goodhart
CRAB
Kirwan Creek
CARROLL'S AIRPORT
Warehouse Creek
COX NECK
Cox Alley Creek
Dominion
ALLEY NECK
Normans
BATTS NECK
COUNTY DUMP
Eziah Ch
Sunny Isle of Kent
Chesapeake Estates
Longney Cr
ROMANCOKE
Crab Alley Cr
Little Cr
Marling Farms
Johnson Island
Little Island
CRAB ALLEY BAY
LANDING FIELD
Kentmoor
Shipping Creek
Queen Anne Colony
QA-165 MATTAPEX
Mattapex
Turkey Pt
Long Marsh I
Bodkin Island
Philpots Is.
EASTER
Kent Island Estates
Tolson Cr
Carter Cr
Romankoke on the Bay
Tower Gardens on the Bay
ROAD
Tanners Creek
POINT
Long Pt
KENT
Bloody Pt
NECK ROAD

QA-165
Mattapex

**Mary McCarthy**
**Spring/Summer 2003**
**Digital color photo on file at MHT**

QA-165 Mattapex
Kent Island
Orlando Ridout V 1980
View from Southeast

QA-165 Mattapex

~~QA-192 Shipping Creek Plantation~~
Kent Island
Orlando Ridout V 1980
West facade

QA-165 Mattapex
Kent Island
Orlando Ridout V 1980
View from Southwest

QA-165 Mattapex
Kent Island
Orlando Ridout V 1980
Paneling, south gable wall

QA-165 Mattapex
Kent Island
Orlando Ridout V 1980
Paneling, north gable wall