

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historical Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. PG #80-14

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (Indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Tent Landing Site

2. Location

street & number 11207 Riverview Road

city, town Fort Washington vicinity of congressional district 4

state MD county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other

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

name Florida on the Potomac (c/o Mr. Leo Brusio)

street & number 7901 Branch Avenue telephone no. 301-868-7900

city, town Clinton state MD zip code 20735

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Administration Bldg. liber 14804

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive folio 8

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD zip code 20772

6. Representation in Existing

title Prince George's County Historic Sites and District Plan

date 1992 federal state  county local

depository for survey records Planning and Preservation Section, M-NCPPC

City, town Upper Marlboro state MD

## 7. Description

Survey No. PG#80-14

Condition N/A

excellent       deteriorated       unaltered       original site  
 good       ruins       altered       moved      Date of move \_\_\_\_\_  
 fair       unexposed

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

### Description

This land consists of 23.6 acres of grassy, open rolling land, until very recently used as pasture for cattle. There are fences along the north, east and south boundaries of the land, while the west boundary is the Potomac River shore line. The northernmost section of this shoreline consists of modest cliffs, while at the southernmost section, the land slopes gradually to the water where there is a landing and boat ramp. A narrow road runs along the south boundary of the property, leading from a twentieth-century livestock barn at the southeast corner of the property to the landing at the southwest corner. There are currently no livestock on this land. Approximately 400 feet west of the livestock barn is a twentieth-century equipment shed. Near the shoreline is a modern bathhouse ("swimming club" building) built of brick with hip roof, and next to it a fenced-in swimming pool; these structures appear not to have been used for many years.

Near the northeasternmost corner of the property is the Lyles family cemetery. The burials are marked by five horizontally laid, above-ground tombstones, each resting on a brick base of 6 to 10 inches height. The brick bases show evidence of recent reconstruction, modern brick and repointing. This small cemetery contains a large inscribed tombstone for Dennis Magruder Lyles ( who died at age 35 in 1828) and four small inscribed tombstones for his four children, Eliza S. (1822-1826), Sarah M. (1819-1826), William J. (1825-1826), and Henrietta B. (1826-1826). Dennis Magruder Lyles, son of Col. William Lyles and Sarah Magruder Lyles of Want Water at Broad Creek, lived with his family at Harmony Hall, and operated fisheries on the south side of Broad Creek, near its confluence with the Potomac. The land which he chose for the burial of his small children (and subsequently himself) was near these fisheries, less than 1 ½ miles from Harmony Hall.

Another cemetery (indicated on a 1966 U.S.G.S. map) has not been found. There are several features (molded gatepost, markers, etc.) near the southern boundary of the subject property, near the cemetery location indicated on the 1966 map; these features might once have been assumed to be grave markers, but clearly are not. The cemetery indicated on the 1966 U.S.G.S. map was probably mistakenly identified, and may never have existed at all.

This grassy pastureland slopes gently to the shoreline. It is bordered on the north by woods, and on the south by partially wooded pasture with grazing cattle and horses. From almost every point of the subject property, there is an unblocked and spectacular view of the Potomac River. At the southwesternmost corner of the property, the land slopes gradually to the water where the landing boat ramp is located.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. PG#80-14

Period	Areas of Significance- check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archaeology-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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		local history
Specific Dates		Builder/Architect:		
check: Applicable Criteria	A	B	C	D
and/or				
Applicable Exception	A	B	C	D
Level of Significance	national	state	local	

## Significance

This land consists of part of the 500-acre property owned in the nineteenth century by the Lyles family, and operated by them as farmland, landings and fisheries. It also marks the resting place of Dennis Magruder Lyles of Want Water and Harmony Hall, and four of his children who died in early childhood. This land was part of the Lyles family's Tent Landing property, sold by the widow of Dennis Magruder Lyles to Philip Edelen.<sup>1</sup> Professional archaeological investigations carried out (1987 to 1990) revealed the existence of prehistoric (Native American) artifacts, with a possible Late-Archaic-to-Late-Woodland-period (circa 4000 B.C. to 1600 A.D.) occupation area in the northwesternmost part of the subject property. The excavations provided no evidence of a major eighteenth/nineteenth-century A.D. landing.

Judging from the archaeological report and from nineteenth-century maps, this property is almost certainly **not** the site of Tent Landing. The early maps, supported by present-day topography, suggest that Tent Landing was actually located approximately one-fourth mile north of the subject property. The paved concrete landing/boat ramp on the subject property is of modern construction, and the archaeological investigations provide no evidence that this landing was in use during the eighteenth or nineteenth century.

The gravestones of five members of the Lyles family are in good condition (only the large stone of Dennis Magruder Lyles is broken); their brick bases have been rebuilt and repointed in recent years. Because of the significance of the Lyles family and its historic connections with the Broad Creek area, the grave sites provide a physical reminder of the early plantations and fishing industry along the Potomac; the cemetery represents a direct physical connection with *Harmony Hall* and with the ruins of *Want Water*. The only other structures on the property are the mid-twentieth-century livestock barn and equipment shed, and the modern bathhouse and swimming pool.

This property is unusual for its uninterrupted view of the Potomac River and the Virginia shoreline. It is also somewhat unusual because of the age of the Lyles family cemetery which includes five burials in the 1820s. Although the establishment of a family cemetery on private property (typically about one-quarter mile from the main residence) was common during the nineteenth century, Prince George's County can point to only about a dozen other known surviving family cemeteries as old as this one.

This property was originally included in the Inventory of Historic Resources as the site of the historic Tent Landing; however, present evidence indicates that Tent Landing was probably not located on this property, but approximately one-fourth mile to the north. The only historic feature of the property, therefore, is the Lyles family cemetery, but the cemetery has specifically been listed in Appendix L ("Documented Properties Not Included in the Inventory of Historic Resources") of the *Historic Sites and Districts Plan, 1992*.

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**9. Major Bibliographical Sources**

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Survey No. PG#80-14

See Notes Item #8

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of nominated property 23.6 acresQuadrangle name Mount VernonQuadrangle scale 1:24000

A			B			
	Zone	Easting		Zone	Easting	Northing
C			D			
E			F			
G			H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name title	Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian		
organization	Prince George's County	date	November 2001
	Historic Preservation Commission		
street & number	c/o M-NCPPC, 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive	telephone	(301) 952-3521
city or town	Upper Marlboro	state	MD 20772

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  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023

# PISCATAWAY DIST.

## No. 5.

### Prince George County

Scale 1/4 inch to the Mile



PG. 80-14

PAIRFAX C  
PRINCE GEORGE  
WOOD  
VIRGINIA  
MARYLAND



USGS M.H. Vernon  
1966

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC  
Tent Landing  
AND/OR COMMON  
Riverview/Old Landings & Fisheries

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 11207  
(Bower Farm) ~~11200~~ Riverview Road  
CITY, TOWN Oxon Hill VICINITY OF  
STATE Maryland COUNTY Prince George's

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>OWNERSHIP</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>PRESENT USE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Donald W. Bower  
STREET & NUMBER 11200 Riverview Road  
CITY, TOWN Oxon Hill VICINITY OF

Telephone #:

STATE, zip code  
Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Prince George's County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER

Liber #:  
Folio #:

CITY, TOWN Upper Marlboro

STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7** DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a grazing farm of cleared land adjacent to the Potomac River, opposite Collingwood in Virginia. This site slopes gently to the River's edge, and it probably looks much as it did in Colonial times.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is just about the last operating farm on the Potomac River in Prince George's County. Unlike the high bluffs to the north, this is a flat section of ground that was ideal for a river landing. It shows on older maps as Tent Landing, and it is probably the only remaining vestige of the once-important Potomac River fisheries that operated here since early Colonial times.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- 1) Kellock, COLONIAL PISCATAWAY, (1962), published by the Alice Ferguson Foundation.
- 2) Toogood, Alice. PISCATAWAY PARK & WARBURTON MANOR, (1960's), National Park Service.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_\_\_

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

11/19/73

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

PG: 80-14  
ADC of Alexandria, Inc  
1993

BROAD CREEK

SILESIA  
Silesia Co 47

Potomac River Waterfront Conservation Area

RIVERVIEW

SWAN CREEK

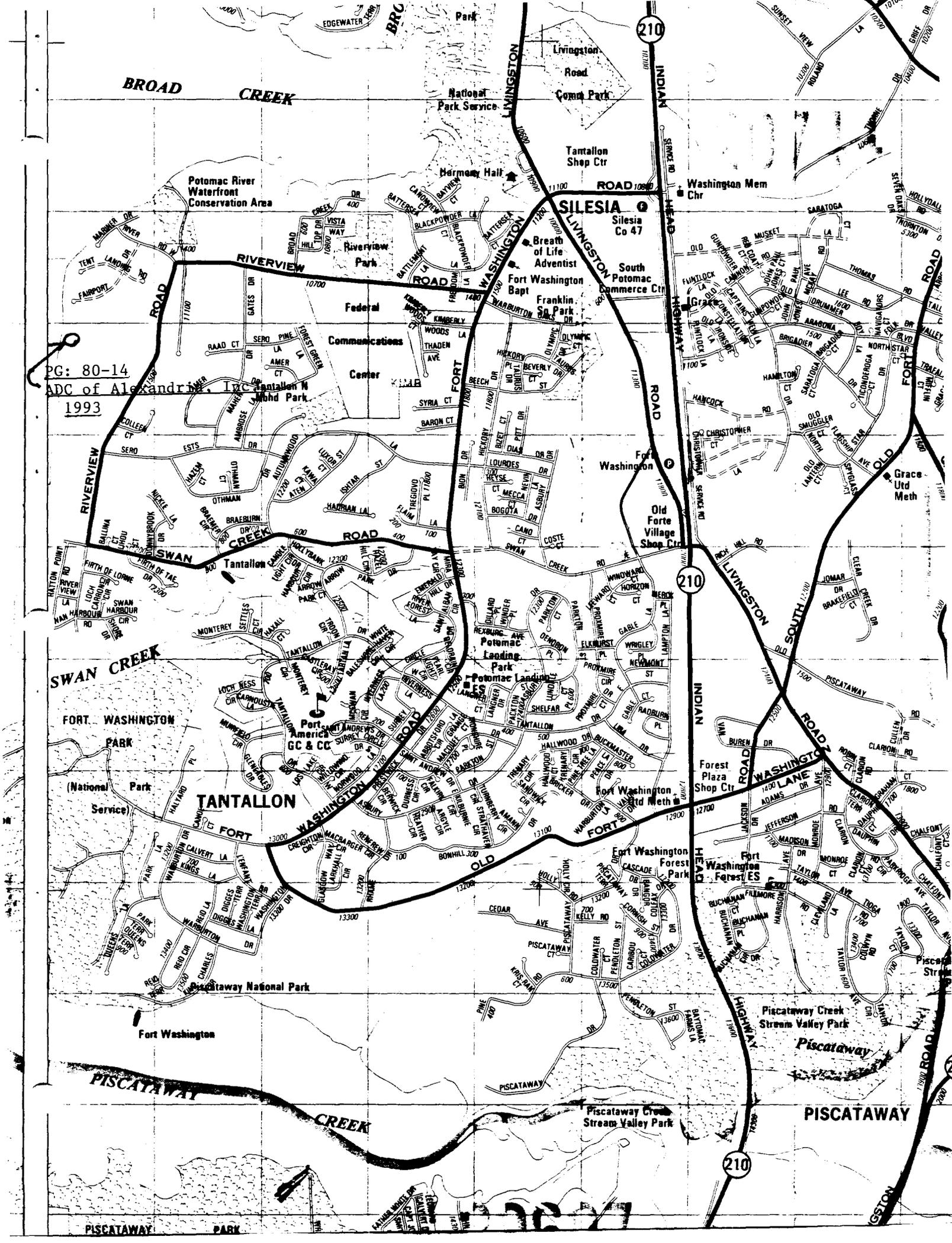
TANTALLON

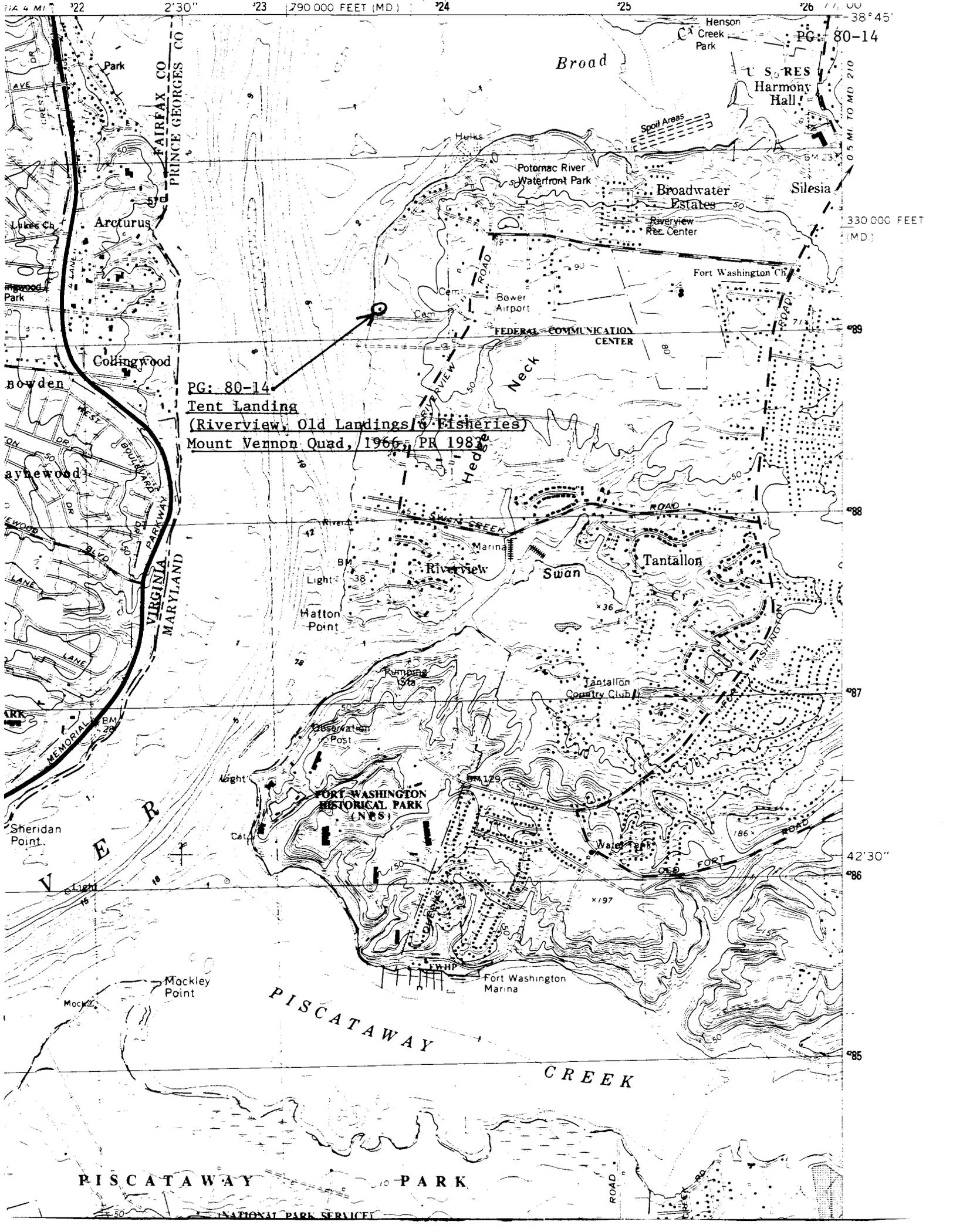
PISCATAWAY CREEK

210

210

210





PG: 80-14  
Tent Landing  
(Riverview, Old Landings & Fisheries)  
Mount Vernon Quad, 1966, PR 1982

PISCATAWAY PARK

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE