

QA-559
Bryantown
Queenstown vicinity, Queen Anne's County

Constructed late-19th century through mid-20th century
Privately and publicly owned

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Bryantown is a mid-19th century rural settlement that lies along Bennett Point Road south of Queenstown and west of the Wye River in Queen Anne's County. The settlement currently consists of two non-contiguous groups of dwellings, one clustered around Old Bryantown Road, and one clustered around the public landing at Bryantown Landing Road. The dwellings date from the late-19th through the mid-20th centuries and include several I-houses, a general store, and small 20th century cottages. The area along Bryantown Landing Road retains its village-like feeling, due the closely-spaced houses, the narrow, lightly traveled road, and the anchoring presence of the Bennett Point General Store. The area along Old Bryantown Road is less cohesive due to the re-routing of Bennett Point Road, the large lots, and the high-speed traffic.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bryantown evolved during the 19th century in order to provide services to the otherwise isolated farms on Bennett Point and Piney Neck. Strategically located approximately 3.5 miles southeast of Grasonville and southwest of Queenstown, Bryantown was accessible by a public landing and provided a store, blacksmith, mill, and other businesses. During the 20th century, improved roads and automobiles eliminated the need for most locally-based businesses. However, the now county-owned landing and nearby Bennett Point General Store have remained active as a vestige of this rural village.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-559

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Bryantown (preferred)
other Guys

2. Location

street and number See Continuation Sheet ___ not for publication
city, town Queenstown X vicinity
county Queen Anne's

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

name Multiple
street and number N/A telephone N/A
city, town N/A state N/A zip code N/A

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne's County Circuit Court liber Multiple folio Multiple
city, town Centreville tax map 66 tax parcel 5, 31-35, 37, 39, 46, 50-53, 55, 57 tax ID number Multiple

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	15	0 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	0	0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	0	0 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	0	0 objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	15	0 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				0	

7. Description

Inventory No. QA-559

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Bryantown is a mid-19th century rural settlement that lies along Bennett Point Road south of Queenstown and west of the Wye River in Queen Anne's County. The settlement currently consists of two non-contiguous groups of dwellings, one clustered around Old Bryantown Road, and one clustered around the public landing at Bryantown Landing Road. The dwellings date from the late-19th through the mid-20th centuries and include several I-houses, a general store, and small 20th century cottages. The area along Bryantown Landing Road retains its village-like feeling, due the closely-spaced houses, the narrow, lightly traveled road, and the anchoring presence of the Bennett Point General Store. The area along Old Bryantown Road is less cohesive due to the re-routing of Bennett Point Road, the large lots, and the high-speed traffic.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Bryantown is a mid-19th century rural settlement that lies along Bennett Point Road south of Queenstown and west of the Wye River in Queen Anne's County. The settlement currently consists of two non-contiguous groups of dwellings, one clustered around Old Bryantown Road and one clustered around Bryantown Landing Road.

Old Bryantown Road is a remnant of an old road that forms a loop off of Bennett Point Road just north of Perry's Corner Road. While Bennett Point Road and Perry's Corner Road are paved, 2-lane roads, Old Bryantown Road is a short gravel lane. Compared to the heavily traveled Bennett Point and Perry's Corner Roads, Old Bryantown Road is quiet and shaded. Six dwellings constructed before 1960 stand along this section of Bennett Point Road and Old Bryantown Road:

- 208 Old Bryantown Road: a late-19th century, 2-story, 3-bay, wood-frame I-house with a central gable and a full-width front porch.
- 1014 Bennett Point Road: a 1-story, 3-bay, wood-frame, side-gable house constructed in 1955.
- 1018 Bennett Point Road: a late-19th century, 2-story, 3-bay, wood-frame I-house with scalloped bargeboards and fascia boards.
- 1112 Bennett Point Road: a 1 ½-story, 3-bay, wood-frame Cape Cod house constructed in 1939 with a large, concrete block boat house behind it.
- 1118 Bennett Point Road: a 1-story, 3-bay, wood-frame, side-gable house constructed in 1938.
- 1751 Perry's Corner Road: a ca. 1900 2-story, 3-bay, wood-frame I-house with a central gable and a full-width front porch.

Further south, Bryantown Landing Road forks to the southeast from Bennett Point Road and slopes down to the Wye River. The Bennett Point General Store occupies the corner of Bryantown Landing and Bennett Point Roads. Small dwellings line the upper part of Bryantown Landing Road. The hedge to an agricultural field and a large lot with a late-19th century dwelling line the lower part of the road. At the base of the road is a county-owned landing. The current ramp and parking area at the landing are recent; there is no visible evidence of the early landing. Eight dwellings constructed before 1960 and the general store stand along or adjacent to Bryantown Landing Road.

- 1241 Bennett Point Road (Bennett Point General Store): ca. 1894, 2-story, 3-bay, wood-frame general store with a front-gable roof and large, mid-20th century addition.
- 105 Yewell Road: 1-story, 3-bay, wood-frame, side-gable house constructed in 1920.
- 201 Bryantown Landing Road: 1 ½-story, 3-bay, wood-frame Cape Cod house constructed in 1942.
- 205 Bryantown Landing Road: 1 ½-story, 3-bay, wood-frame Cape Cod house constructed in 1945 and positioned with its gable end facing the street.
- 209 Bryantown Landing Road: 1 ½-story, 4-bay, wood-frame Cape Cod house constructed in 1957.
- 219 Bryantown Landing Road: late-19th century, 2-story, 6-bay, wood-frame house constructed in at least three sections.

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- 1301 Bennett Point Road: late-19th century, 2-story, 3-bay, wood-frame I-house with a central gable, full-width front porch, and large side addition.
- 1305 Bennett Point Road: 1-story, 3-bay, wood-frame Cape Cod house constructed in 1945.
- 1320 Bennett Point Road: late-19th century, 2 ½-story, 2-bay, wood-frame gable-front-and-wing house.

Bryantown lies along the road from Queenstown down Bennett Point near its intersection with the road serving Perry's Corner and Piney Neck. The topography around Bryantown is generally flat with a slight slope down to the Wye River. Large agricultural fields and forests lie west of Bennett Point and Old Bryantown Roads, while recent subdivisions have been constructed east of Bennett Point Road along the Wye River.

8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-559

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates See construction dates **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1880, 1894, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1938, 1939, 1942, 1945, 1955, 1957

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bryantown evolved during the 19th century in order to provide services to the otherwise isolated farms on Bennett Point and Piney Neck. Strategically located approximately 3.5 miles southeast of Grasonville and southwest of Queenstown, Bryantown was accessible by a public landing and provided a store, blacksmith, mill, and other businesses. During the 20th century, improved roads and automobiles eliminated the need for most locally-based businesses. However, the now county-owned landing and nearby Bennett Point General Store have remained active as a vestige of this rural village.

RESOURCE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

The 19th century settlement of Bryantown was strategically located approximately 3.5 miles southeast of Grasonville and southwest of Queenstown (by road) and provided basic services to the otherwise isolated farms on Bennett Point and Piney Neck. Bryantown provided a store, blacksmith, and mill, and was accessible by a public landing. The adjacent settlement of Perry's Corner, one mile to the west, had another store, a church, and a school. Historic maps provide a glimpse of how Bryantown developed.

The earliest map documentation of Bryantown is J. G. Strong's 1866 Map of Queen Anne's County. The 1866 map shows a settlement marked "Bryantown" at the location of the current Old Bryantown Road. On the west side of the road are three buildings, one marked "R. S. Bryan." On the east side of the road are two buildings, one marked "W. H. Walters," and one marked "Store." The map shows no development at the landing site.

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson's 1877 map of Queen Anne's County shows a larger cluster of buildings along Old Bryantown Road, although the settlement is unnamed. On the west side of the road are two residences owned by R. S. Bryan, the residence of William Bridges, and a store owned by William Bridges (advertised as a "dealer in dry goods, notions, hats, caps, etc.").¹ On the east side of the road are the residence of the "heirs of Waters," an unidentified building, a building marked "shoe shop," the residence of William Sommers, and the residence of W. Waters. The 1877 map also shows development around the new landing at the base of what is now Bryantown Landing Road. On the west side of the road are the B. S. Carriage Shop and the S. C. Merchant Residence.² On the east side of the road are the residence of T. Dillahay and the steam saw and grist mill of William D. Wrightson.

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey maps from the late 19th through the early 20th centuries show clusters of buildings in Bryantown but are not specific as to their associated names and functions. The 1935 Maryland Geological Survey map identifies the settlement as "Guys" (a name sometimes applied to the landing) and shows seven buildings on the west side of Old Bryantown Road and six on

¹ The list of patrons included with the map describes R. S. Bryan as a farmer owning 360 acres and William Bridges as a merchant with 6 acres.

² The carriage shop was possibly owned by B. Sherwood, described as a farmer with 27 acres. S. C. Merchant advertises in the business references as a blacksmith and carriage maker, "repairing all kinds, promptly and neatly done."

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the east. Around the landing, the map shows eight buildings on the east side of Bryantown Landing Road (along the creek) and one building on the west. The 1951 Maryland Geological Survey map identifies the settlement as "Bryantown" and for the first time shows the current route of Bennett Point Road with the loop formed by Old Bryantown Road. The 1950 map shows a tight cluster of seven buildings on the west side of Old Bryantown Road, a group of three buildings in the loop formed by Old Bryantown and Bennett Point Roads, and a row of five buildings further south on Bennett Point Road. Although Bryantown Landing Road is now shown, there appear to be five buildings west of the road path and three buildings east. There is another cluster of four buildings further south on Bennett Point Road. The 1960 Maryland Geological Survey map shows the same pattern as the 1951. Bryantown today has only a few vestiges of its 19th century origins: 208 Old Bryantown Road, 1018 Bennett Point Road, the Bennett Point General Store, 219 Bryantown Landing Road, 1301 Bennett Point Road, and 1320 Bennett Point Road. As automobiles and better roads have eliminated the need for most locally-based businesses and erased the rural village character around Old Bryantown Road, the center of gravity of Bryantown has shifted south to the public landing. The landing, now county-owned, is still heavily used by locals, and the nearby Bennett Point General Store continues to operate as a convenience and outdoor supply store.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property approximately 8 acres
Acreage of historical setting unknown
Quadrangle name Queenstown Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries for Bryantown are irregular and include only contributing buildings, defined here as those constructed before 1960. The contributing buildings occupy Queen Anne's County Tax Map 66, Parcels 5, 31-35, 37-39, 46, 50-53, and 55, 57. These parcels total approximately 8 acres.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Julie Darsie		
organization	Betty Bird & Associates LLC	date	September 2005
street & number	2607 24 th Street NW, Suite 3	telephone	(202) 588-9033
city or town	Washington, District of Columbia	state	N/A

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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

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

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LIST OF ADDRESSES

1014, 1018, 1112, 1118, 1241, 1301, 1305, and 1320 Bennett Point Road
201, 205, 209 and 219 Bryantown Landing Road
208 Old Bryantown Road
1751 Perry's Corner Road
105 Yewell Road

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

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Bryantown
Continuation Sheet

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

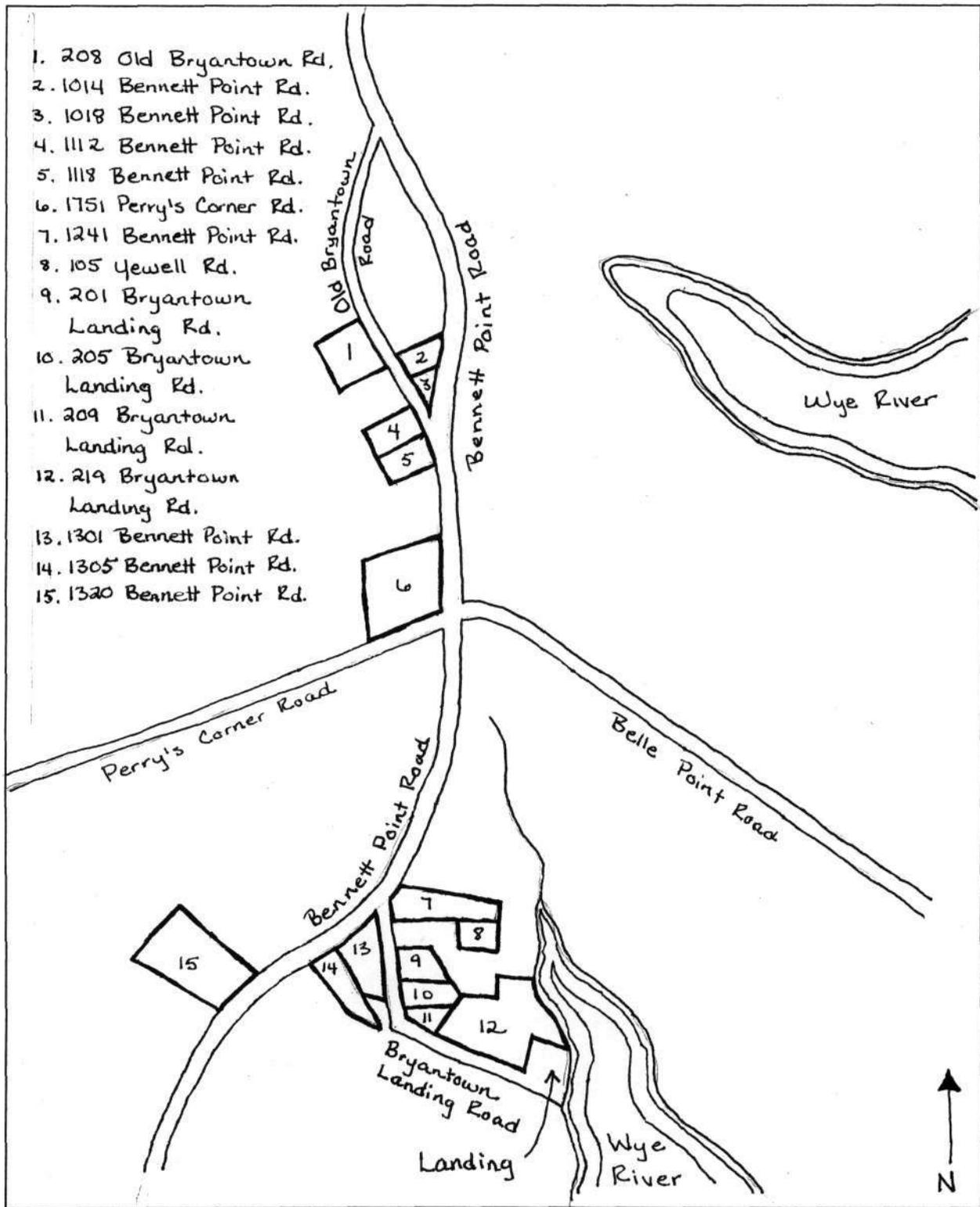
Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson. *An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne Counties, Maryland*. Philadelphia: Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson, 1877.

Maryland Geological Survey. *Queen Anne's County Atlas*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1935.

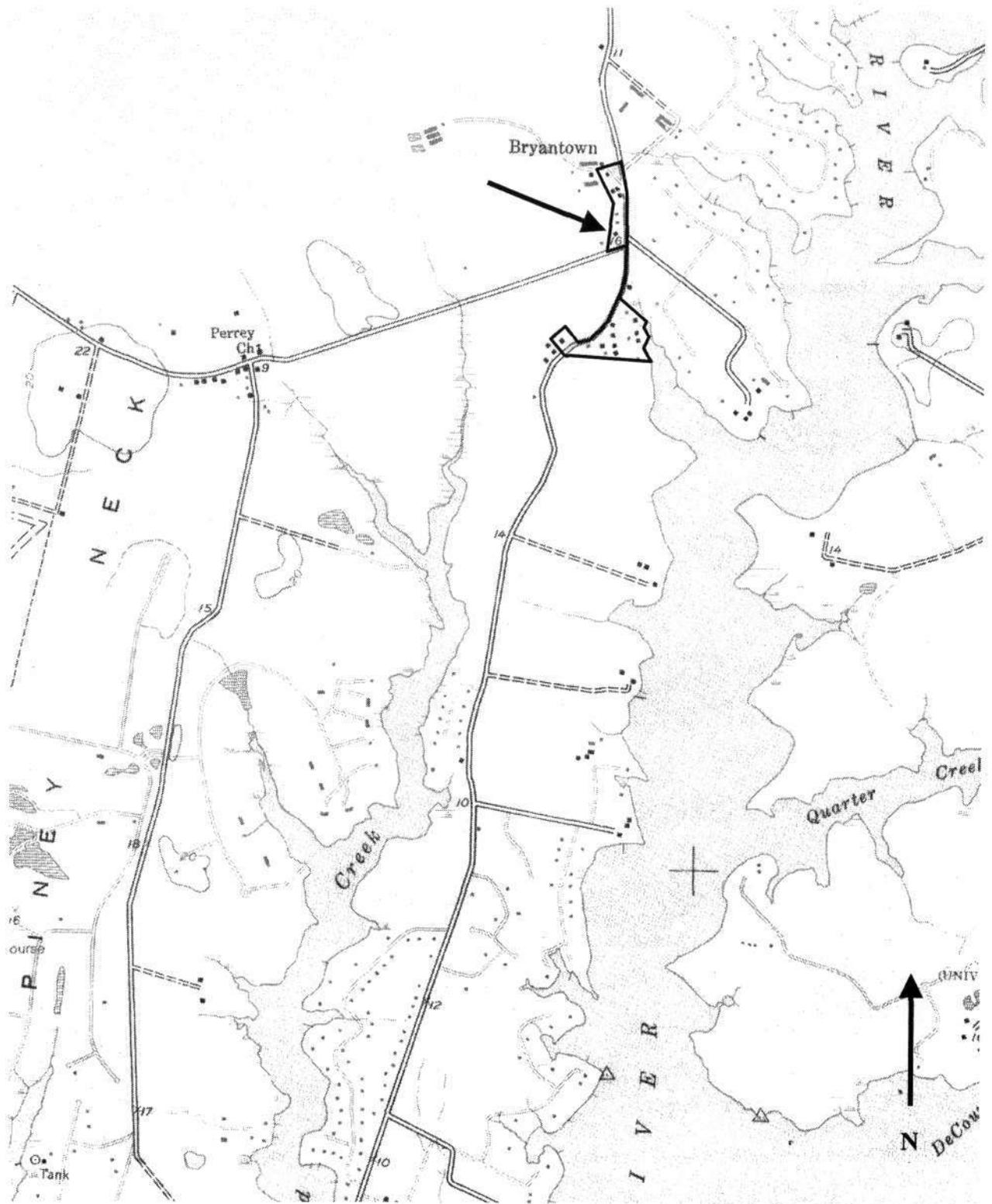
Maryland Geological Survey. *Queen Anne's County Atlas*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1951.

Maryland Geological Survey. *Queen Anne's County Atlas*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1960.

Strong, J. G. *Map of Queen Anne's County, Maryland*. Baltimore, J. G. Strong, 1866.



**Contributing buildings in Bryantown
 QA-559
 Queenstown Vicinity, Queen Anne's County, Maryland**



QA-559

Bryantown

Queenstown vicinity, Queen Anne's County, Maryland
Queenstown, Maryland Quadrangle (1:24,000)



QA-559

Bryantown

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

July 2005

ME 2470

Late 19th century house at 208 Old Bryantown Road

1 of 14

>028 31 <03 HCNHN - 5749 >



QA-559

Bryantown

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julia Darcie for Betty Bird & Associates

July 2005

MD SHPO

1014 Bennett Point Road, constructed in 1955

2 of 14

< 022 31 +05 NBNNN -- 5749 >



QA-559

Bryar town

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

July 2005

MD SHPO

Late 19th century house at 1018 Bennett Point Road.

3 of 14

6425 - NNNNN 98 > 12 428 < >



QA-559

Bryantown

Queen Annes County, Maryland

Julie Darsic for Betty Bird & Associates

July 2005

MD SHPO

1112 Bennett Point Road, constructed in 1939. Boat house
in background

4 of 14

< 026 31 404 NCHNN - 5749 >



QA-559

Bryantown

Queen Annes County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

July 2005

MD SHPO

1118 Bennett Point Rd, constructed in 1938.

5 of 14

6425 - 111111 20+ 12 0206 >



QA-559

Bryantown

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

July 2005

IND SHPO

1751 Perry's Corner Road, constructed ca. 1900.

6 of 14



BENNETT POINT GENERAL STORE

ICE
I
C

SALE
\$17.89

QA-559

Bryantown

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

July 2005

MD SHPO

Bennett Point General Store at 1241 Bennett Point Road,
constructed in 1894.

7 of 14

044 31 04 BENNIN - 5249



QA-559

Bryantown

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Dorsie for Betty Bird & Associates

July 2005

MD SHPO

201 Bryantown Landing Road, constructed in 1942

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QA-559

Bryantown

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

July 2005

MD SHPO

205 Bryantown Landing Road, constructed in 1945.

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QA-559

Bryantown

Queen Annes County, Maryland

Julie Darse for Betty Bird & Associates

July 2005

MD SHPO

209 Bryantown Landing Road, constructed in 1957.
10 of 14

> 034 31 < 05 NCHN - 5749



QA-559

Bryantown

Queen Annes County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

July 2005

MD SHPO

19th century house at 219 Bryantown Landing Road.

11 of 14

< 032 31 405 HENNH-5749



QA-559

Bryantown

Queen Annes County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

July 2005

MD SHPO

Late 19th century house at 1301 Bennett Point Road.

12 of 14

< 047 31 +04 NCHNH-- 5749



QA-559

Bryantown

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Dorsie for Betty Bird & Associates

July 2005

MD 2140

1305 Bennett Point Road, constructed in 1945.

13 of 14



QA-559

Bryantown

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

July 2005

MD SHPO

Late 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ century house at 1320 Bennett Point Road.

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< 053 31 +05 NCHNN - 5749