

**QA-605
Coulter House
1800 Little Creek Road
Chester vicinity
Queen Anne's County**

**Constructed circa 1920
Private**

Located approximately two-and-one-half miles south of Chester on Crab Alley Neck, the Coulter House faces east towards Little Creek, and is situated on a level, grassy plot on the southwest corner of Little Creek Road and Crab Alley Road. The three-bay, two-and-one-half-story, four-square dwelling features a full-width, enclosed porch and a hipped-roof dormer on the north and south elevations.

The Coulter House is located at the end of Crab Alley Neck, in an area historically associated with the maritime trades as well as agriculture. Built circa 1920 by a ship captain and his wife, the house displays a typical four-square form that is found throughout Queen Anne's County.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-605

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other Coulter House (preferred)

2. Location

street and number 1800 Little Creek Road ___ not for publication

city, town Chester, MD 21619 vicinity

county Queen Anne's County

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

name Evelyn Stowers

street and number c/o Elnora Stowers, PO Box 48 telephone

city, town Chester state MD zip code 21619-0048

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne's County liber TSP 62 folio 573

city, town Centreville tax map 64 tax parcel 223 tax ID number 04-055624

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	
_____ district	_____ public	_____ agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	_____ landscape	1	0 buildings
_____ structure	_____ both	_____ commerce/trade	0	0 sites
_____ site		_____ defense	0	0 structures
_____ object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	0	0 objects
		_____ education	0	0 Total
		_____ funerary	1	
		_____ government		
		_____ health care		
		_____ industry		
		_____ recreation/culture		
		_____ religion		
		_____ social		
		_____ transportation		
		_____ work in progress		
		_____ unknown		
		_____ vacant/not in use		
		_____ other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
			0	

7. Description

Inventory No. QA-605

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Summary

Located approximately two-and-one-half miles south of Chester on Crab Alley Neck, the Coulter House faces east towards Little Creek, and is situated on a level, grassy plot on the southwest corner of Little Creek Road and Crab Alley Road. The three-bay, two-and-one-half-story, four-square dwelling features a full-width, enclosed porch and a hipped-roof dormer on the north and south elevations.

Primary Resource Exterior Description

Located approximately two-and-one-half miles south of Chester on Crab Alley Neck, the Coulter House stands on a 0.52-acre lot on the southwest corner of Little Creek Road and Crab Alley Road. Facing east towards Little Creek, the house is situated in the center of a level, grassy yard that is dotted with mature trees and shrubs. The southern boundary of the lot is lined by trees, while the western property line is defined by a tall chain link fence that encloses a late-twentieth-century boat yard and marina.

The Coulter House is a modestly sized, two-and-one-half-story, frame, four-square dwelling that rests upon a concrete-block foundation. The house is clad with asbestos shingles, but the original wood weatherboard is visible in some places. A three-bay, one-story, shed-roofed, enclosed porch runs the length of the façade; it contains a metal storm door in its southernmost bay, and a pair of windows in each of the other two bays. The house has a hipped roof clad with asphalt shingles, a single hipped-roof dormer on the north and south elevations, and an interior, concrete-block flue chimney located near the façade (east elevation). A boxed wood cornice demarcates the roofline. A projecting, one-story, gable-roofed portico occupies the westernmost bay of the north elevation. The portico is supported by square, wood posts, and shelters a side entry to the house. All of the house's original windows have been replaced; the window openings are occupied solely by one-over-one, double-hung, metal storm windows. A mixture of square-edged and mitred wood surrounds frame the windows. The façade's second story contains two window bays. Each of the other elevations comprises two bays on both the first and second stories.

The interior of the house was not accessible at the time of the survey.

8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-605

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates ca. 1920

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Statement of Significance

The Coulter House is located at the end of Crab Alley Neck, in an area historically associated with the maritime trades as well as agriculture. Built circa 1920 by a ship captain and his wife, the house displays a typical four-square form that is found throughout Queen Anne's County.

Narrative

In the nineteenth century, the land where the house now stands was part of Broad Creek Farm, which occupied Crab Alley Neck between Crab Alley Creek and Little Creek. In 1917, Elmer Golt, a Kent Island farmer, purchased a 102-acre parcel that originally was part of Broad Creek Farm.¹ In 1919, Golt subdivided his property and sold a one-and-three-quarter-acre parcel to Daisy R. Coulter.

Circa 1920, Daisy Coulter and her husband, Thomas H. Coulter, built their house on Little Creek Road in an area that was associated with the maritime trades as well as agriculture. As the captain of a sailing vessel, Thomas Coulter likely found the location convenient since it was on the "Narrows" between Little Creek and Crab Alley Creek, and adjoined the Elmer Golt Public Landing.² By 1930, the Coulters' son, Edgar, who lived with his parents, was a packer in an oyster packing house. Edgar may have worked in the Walter Crouch Oyster House, which was located near the public landing.³

The Coulter House displays a typical American four-square form, with its two-and-one-half stories; square, boxy shape; hipped roof; and full front porch. Typically, the interior plan of a four-square is composed of four rooms on each main floor. The four-square was popular nationally beginning in the 1890s, and continuing through the first decades of the twentieth century. Stylistically, four-squares often display some combination of modest Craftsman and Colonial Revival detailing, a characteristic they shared with another popular form of the era, the bungalow. Also like bungalows, four-square houses were often purchased from mail-order companies such as Sears, Roebuck and Company, which shipped a kit of construction materials to the local buyer. However, there is nothing to indicate that the Coulter House was a mail-order house as it does not conform to any known standardized plan. Like the earlier I-house form, the four-square was a commonly used house form for farmhouses and rural residences. In Queen Anne's County, however, the form seems to be most common in towns.

Golt farmed his property, occasionally selling other small parcels of the farm in the 1920s and 1930s. The subdivision of the Golt farm continued after Elmer Golt's death. His son, Roy, who bought the farm from the other heirs, continued to farm the land, and also

¹ For this and all subsequent deed references, see attached chain of title.

² 1920 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 4, Enumeration District 78, Sheet 6-A.

³ 1930 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 4, Enumeration District 18-8, Sheet 1-A. The reference to the Walter Crouch Oyster House is in the 1961 deed, but it is likely that an oyster house was in the same location in 1930, if not the one owned by Crouch.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. QA-605

- Advisory Committee on City Planning and Zoning of the U.S. Department of Commerce. *A Standard City Planning Enabling Act*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1928.
- Ames, David L. and Linda Flint McClelland. *National Register Bulletin: Historic Residential Suburbs: Guidelines for Evaluation and Documentation for the National Register of Historic Places*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, 2002.
- U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, 1920 and 1930.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of surveyed property .52 acres
Acree of historical setting unknown
Quadrangle name Kent Island Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000 (7.5 minute)

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property boundary is defined by the current parcel boundaries shown on tax map 64, grid 9, parcel 223 in Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Evelyn D. Causey, Ph.D., Senior Historian, and Gerald M. Maready, Jr., Architectural Historian		
organization	History Matters, LLC	date	December 21, 2007
street & number	1502 21 st Street, NW, 2 nd Floor	telephone	(202) 223-8845
city or town	Washington	state	DC

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
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-605

Name: Coulter House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

continued the piecemeal subdivision of the property.⁴ He sold individual house lots in 1946, 1952, 1958, and 1966. In 1955, he platted a larger subdivision of his land, creating 22 house lots along Crab Alley Creek.⁵ He extended the subdivision with four more house lots in 1965, and in 1968 he sold two larger parcels.⁶ Individual subdividers, like Elmer and Roy Golt, were the earliest type of suburban developer.⁷ The U.S. Department of Commerce's 1928 *A Standard City Planning Enabling Act* defined subdivision as "the division of a lot, tract, or parcel of land into two or more lots, plats, sites, or other divisions of land for the purpose, whether immediate or future, of sale or of building development."⁸ The process of land subdivision for the purpose of selling the parcels is the apparatus by which suburban development occurs.⁹ Individual subdividers acquired or inherited land, platted lots and roads, and sometimes included improvements of the site such as utilities, sidewalks, and storm-water drains. The subdivider's role ended with the sale of the lot to a buyer.¹⁰ The subdivision of the Roy Golt farm in the decades after World War II illustrates the nationwide postwar housing boom, the concurrent decrease in farmland, and the increase in suburban-style housing developments that occurred both in Queen Anne's County and nationwide after the war.

In 1960, the house was sold out of the Coulter family to John and Elizabeth Palmer. One year later, the Palmers subdivided the one-and-three-quarter-acre lot, and sold the house with approximately one-half acre to Evelyn Stowers and James Keene. Evelyn Stowers currently owns the house.

⁴ In the 1930 census, 33-year-old Roy Golt is described as a farm laborer, presumably assisting his father in running the farm. 1930 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, Fourth Election District, Kent Island, Enumeration District No. 18-8, Sheet No. 1A.

⁵ Queen Anne's County Land Record, Liber TSP 24, Folio 68 (16 September 1955).

⁶ Queen Anne's County Land Record, Liber CWC 16, Folio 600 (11 August 1965). Queen Anne's County Land Record, Liber CWC 39, Folio 191 (6 November 1968).

⁷ David L. Ames and Linda Flint McClelland, *National Register Bulletin: Historic Residential Suburbs: Guidelines for Evaluation and Documentation for the National Register of Historic Places* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, 2002), p. 26.

⁸ The *Standard City Planning Enabling Act* was a model legislation document prepared for the use of local jurisdictions. Advisory Committee on City Planning and Zoning of the U.S. Department of Commerce, *A Standard City Planning Enabling Act* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1928), p. 6.

⁹ Ames and McClelland, p. 26.

¹⁰ Ames and McClelland identify the different types of suburban developers as subdividers, home-builders, community builders, operative builders, and merchant builders, from earliest to most recent. Over the course of the twentieth century, the developer evolved from the individual subdivider, like Roy Golt, to home building corporations that developed entire neighborhoods or towns, like The Rouse Company, developer of Columbia, Md., in the late 1960s. Ames and McClelland, pp. 26-29.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-605

Name: Coulter House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

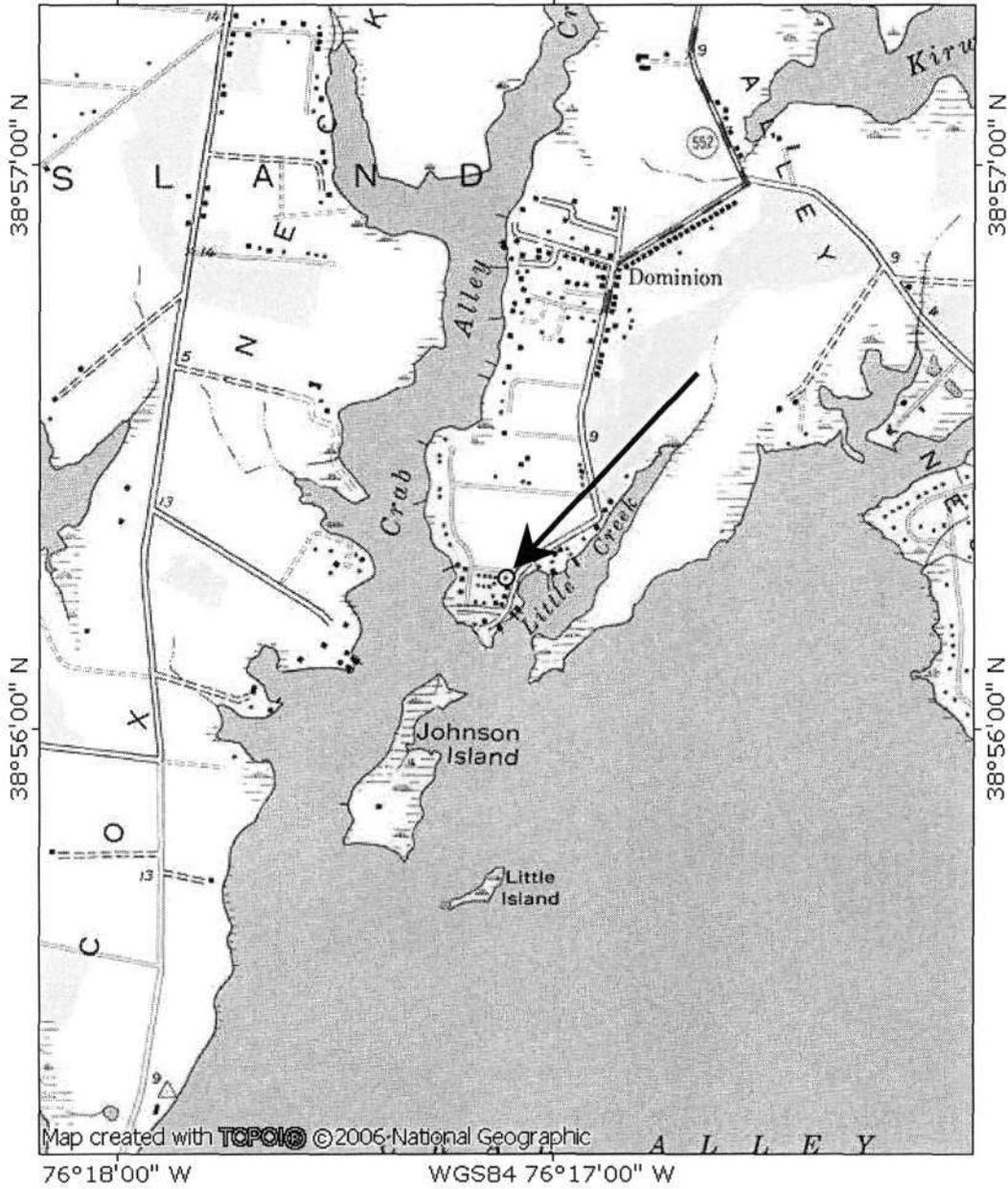
Chain of Title

4 October 1961	John Carroll Palmer and Elizabeth T. Palmer to Evelyn Stowers and James Keene Liber TSP 62, folio 573 Land bounded on the East by the old public road running through Dominion to the Walter Crouch Oyster House and the Little Creek Public Landing, bounded on the North by a new public road branching ...
9 November 1959	Roy Golt, Trustee, to John Carroll Palmer and Elizabeth T. Palmer Liber TSP 55, folio 281 Golt was trustee for "Daisy J. Coulter, Incompetent" Adjoining lands of or formerly of Elmer Golt's Public Landing...containing 1 ¼ acres
21 April 1919	Elmer Golt to Daisy R. Coulter Liber JFR 2, folio 194 1 ¼ acres adjoining lands of Elmer Golt Public Landing
8 January 1917	Mary E.C. McCready (Laurel, Del.) to Elmer Golt Liber WFW 10, folio 103 Farm originally a part of Broad Creek, 102 acres

USGS Kent Island Quadrangle Map, Maryland, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)

76°18'00" W

WGS84 76°17'00" W



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Chester vicinity
Queen Anne's County



QA-605

Coulter House

1800 Little Creek Road, Chester vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters

2/2007

MD SHPO

East + north elevations, looking SW

1 of 1