

SM-16, U.S.S. Tulip Monument
St. Mary's County
Capsule Summary

The U.S.S. Tulip Monument marks a small cemetery on St. Inigoes Creek accessed by a grassy lane off Cross Manor Road just outside the gate of Cross Manor in St. Inigoes. The light gray granite stele type monument stands approximately 7' high on a concrete pad. The front of the monument is embellished with an incised design of a stylized eagle. An interpretive bronze shield mounted on a low concrete plinth is set into a gravel-paved area on the ground in front of the monument.

The U.S.S. Tulip Monument is associated with the fourth rate gunboat assigned to the Potomac Flotilla Base at Cross Manor on St. Inigoes Creek during the Civil War, and commemorates the crew who lost their lives in the explosion of the starboard boiler and sinking of the vessel, eight of whom were buried on the Flotilla Base grounds. Tulip is more significant for its role in the changing technology of American warships than for its engagements, marking the period when steam engines overtook sail power, and specifically the development of screw steam vessels. The burial site was purchased by the U.S. government in 1939 and the monument was erected on June 15, 1940 per act of Congress of June 15, 1937.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-16

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic U.S.S. Tulip Monument

other

2. Location

street and number Cross Manor Road _ not for publication

city, town St. Inigoes _ vicinity

county St. Mary's County

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

name Naval Air Station (Point of Contact: Doug Lister)

street and number 22268 Cedar Point Road telephone 301-342-3670

city, town Patuxent River state MD zip code 20670

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse tax map and parcel Map 63, Grid 20, Parcel 4

city, town Leonardtown liber folio

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 type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	_____	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____	_____ structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	2	_____ objects
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	_____	_____ 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	

7. Description

Inventory No. SM-16

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.

The U.S.S. Tulip Monument marks a small cemetery on St. Inigoes Creek accessed by a grassy lane off Cross Manor Road just outside the gate of Cross Manor in St. Inigoes. The light gray granite stele type monument stands approximately 7' high on a concrete pad. The front of the monument is embellished with an incised design of a stylized eagle. An interpretive bronze shield mounted on a low concrete plinth is set into a gravel-paved area on the ground in front of the monument.

The stele monument is inscribed below the eagle:

IN MEMORY OF
THOSE WHO PERISHED
IN THE EXPLOSION
OF THE U.S.S. TULIP
NOVEMBER 11, 1864

The reverse of the monument is inscribed:

A SACRIFICE
OF LIVES IN
DISCHARGE OF
DUTY AND IN
THE INTEREST
OF ACHIEVING
PEACE AND
SCIENTIFIC
ADVANCE

ERECTED: JUNE 15, 1940—UNDER
AN ACT OF THE CONGRESS OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
JUNE 15, 1937

The title on the bronze shield, "THE TULIP DISASTER," is composed of raised letters on a semi-circular raised flat panel. The shield carries a raised star at the center top and bottom. Below the title is an anchor design in relief, centered over the inscription:

ON NOVEMBER 11, 1864, U.S.S. TULIP,
CONVERTED LIGHTHOUSE TENDER GUNBOAT,
ACTING MASTER WILLIAM H. SMITH U.S. NAVY
COMMANDING, DEPARTED THIS AREA FOR
WASHINGTON FOR BOILER REPAIR WHEN
OFF PINEY POINT SHE BLEW UP AND SANK
PRESUMABLY DUE TO THE DEFECTIVE BOILER.
OF HER TOTAL COMPANY OF FIFTY SEVEN
OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN ONLY TEN
WERE SAVED AND TWO OF THOSE DIED LATER.
EIGHT WHOSE REMAINS WERE AMONG
THOSE RECOVERED BUT COULD NOT BE
IDENTIFIED WERE BURIED ON THIS SITE.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-16

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 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/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Significance dates 1940

Architect

Specific dates

Builder

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 reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The U.S.S. Tulip Monument is associated with the fourth rate gunboat assigned to the Potomac Flotilla Base at Cross Manor on St. Inigoes Creek during the Civil War, and commemorates the crew who lost their lives in the explosion and sinking of the vessel, eight of whom were buried on the Flotilla Base grounds. (The U.S.S. Tulip shipwreck is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as an early example of its type, the only extant mid-nineteenth century vessel with diagonal iron strapping over its framed hull and the only known extant example of a horizontal direct-acting two cylinder engine, the culmination of thirty years of changes in technology which led to the dominance of the U.S. Navy by the twentieth century).

The strategy of the Union navy during the Civil War was to blockade Confederate supply lines and maintain control of strategic river systems. The U.S.S. Tulip, a wooden, screw steam (propeller) warship, was a converted lighthouse tender gunboat assigned to the Potomac Flotilla, based at Cross Manor on St. Inigoes Creek from March 31, 1864 to July 31, 1865. The U.S.S. Tulip served in the Potomac Flotilla from August 1863 until it was lost on November 11, 1864. Tulip is more significant for its role in the changing technology of American warships than for its engagements, marking the period when steam engines overtook sail power, and specifically the development of screw steam vessels.¹

The U.S.S. Tulip had not had its boilers cleaned as required when it left the Flotilla Base for the Washington Navy yard at 1400 hours on November 11, 1864. The starboard boiler was considered unfit and Captain William H. Smith was advised by the Flotilla Base's engineer to use only the port boiler. Smith instead ordered both boilers fired and at 1820 hours the starboard boiler blew and the vessel sank in the Potomac River off Piney Point. Eight of the fifty-seven crew survived. Eight recovered unidentified bodies were buried in the lower bank of St. Inigoes Creek at Cross Manor. In 1929 Captain J.M. Ellicott, grandson of the owner of Cross Manor while it was the Potomac Flotilla Base, Dr. C.M. Jones, requested a monument from the Secretary of the Navy.² The burial site was purchased by the U.S. government in 1939 and the monument was erected on June 15, 1940 per act of Congress of June 15, 1937.³

¹ Bruce F. Thompson, "The Terrible Calamity on the Lower Potomac, an Historical and Archaeological Assessment of the Shipwreck *U.S.S. Tulip* (18ST644), Potomac River, St. Mary's County, Maryland" (A report presented to the United States Naval Historical Center in completion of a Department of Defense Legacy Grant, Anacostia, Washington, DC, 1998), 25-26, 37-39.

² *Ibid.*, 42,46.

³ "NESEA Responsible for Upkeep of Country's Smallest National Monument," *The Enterprise*, Lexington Park, Maryland, 14 February 1992, B-4.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-16

Name U.S.S. Tulip Monument
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Modern Period

Historic Period Theme(s): Military; Social/Education/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: Object

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): RECREATION AND CULTURE/monument

Known Design Source: none

9. Major Bibliographical References

Thompson, Bruce F., 1998, "The Terrible Calamity on the Lower Potomac, an Historical and Archaeological Assessment of the Shipwreck *U.S.S. Tulip* (18ST644), Potomac River, St. Mary's County, Maryland." A report presented to the United States Naval Historical Center in completion of a Department of Defense Legacy Grant, Anacostia, Washington, D.C.

"NESEA Responsible for Upkeep of Country's Smallest National Monument," The Enterprise, Lexington Park, Maryland, 14 February 1992, B-4.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area .53 acres
 Acreage surveyed _____
 Quadrangle name USGS St. Mary's City MD Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the property is found on St. Mary's County Tax Map 63, Grid 20, Parcel 4; this parcel encompasses the property currently associated with the resource.

11. Form Prepared by

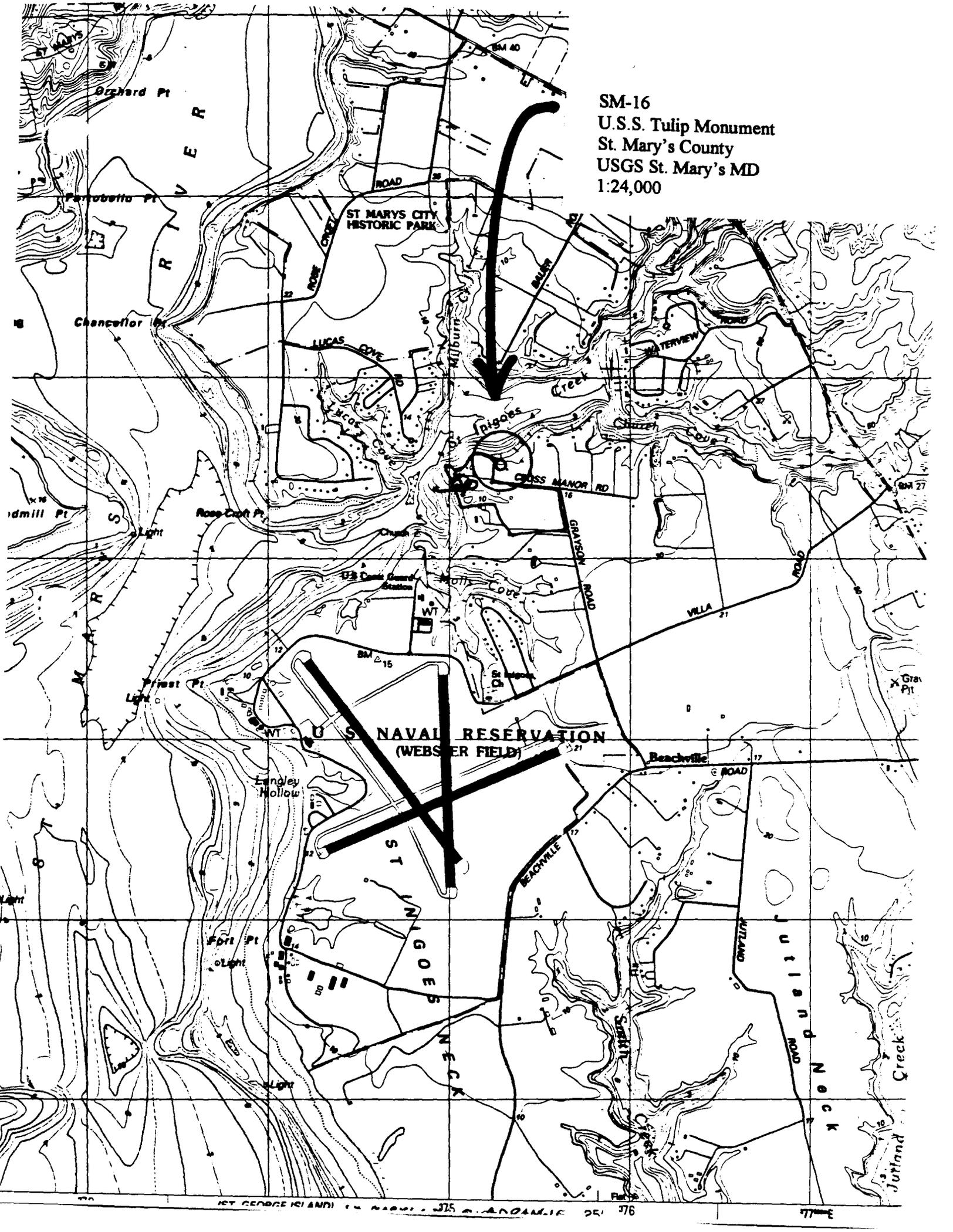
name/title	Nancy Kurtz, Monuments Survey Administrator	date:	12/01/99
organization	Maryland Historical Trust		
street & number	100 Community Place		
city or town	Crownsville, MD 21032		

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
 410-514-7600

SM-16
U.S.S. Tulip Monument
St. Mary's County
USGS St. Mary's MD
1:24,000



S M -16
U.S.S. TULIP MONUMENT
St. Inigoes

June 15, 1940

This marker was erected in memory of those killed
and then buried here when the U.S.S. Tulip, a converted
lighthouse-tender gunboat, blew up off Piney Point ~~due~~ *because*
of ~~to~~ a faulty boiler on November 11, 1864.

1900163834

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: T. J. J.

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: COUNTY:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>monument</u>
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed (Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site (Check One)
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
- 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Historic <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Invention <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> Science <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> Theater <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ |
|---|---|--|--|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
 This property is significant for its association with the military history of the United States, specifically the role of the military in the development of the region. The property is a well-preserved example of a military installation from the late 19th century, and it is one of the few remaining structures of its kind in the area. The property is also significant for its architectural value, as it is a fine example of the architectural style of the period. The property is located in a prominent location and is surrounded by other significant structures. The property is a valuable resource for the study of military history and architecture, and it is an important part of the cultural heritage of the region.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for Major Bibliographical References.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Blank area for Acreage Justification.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER:

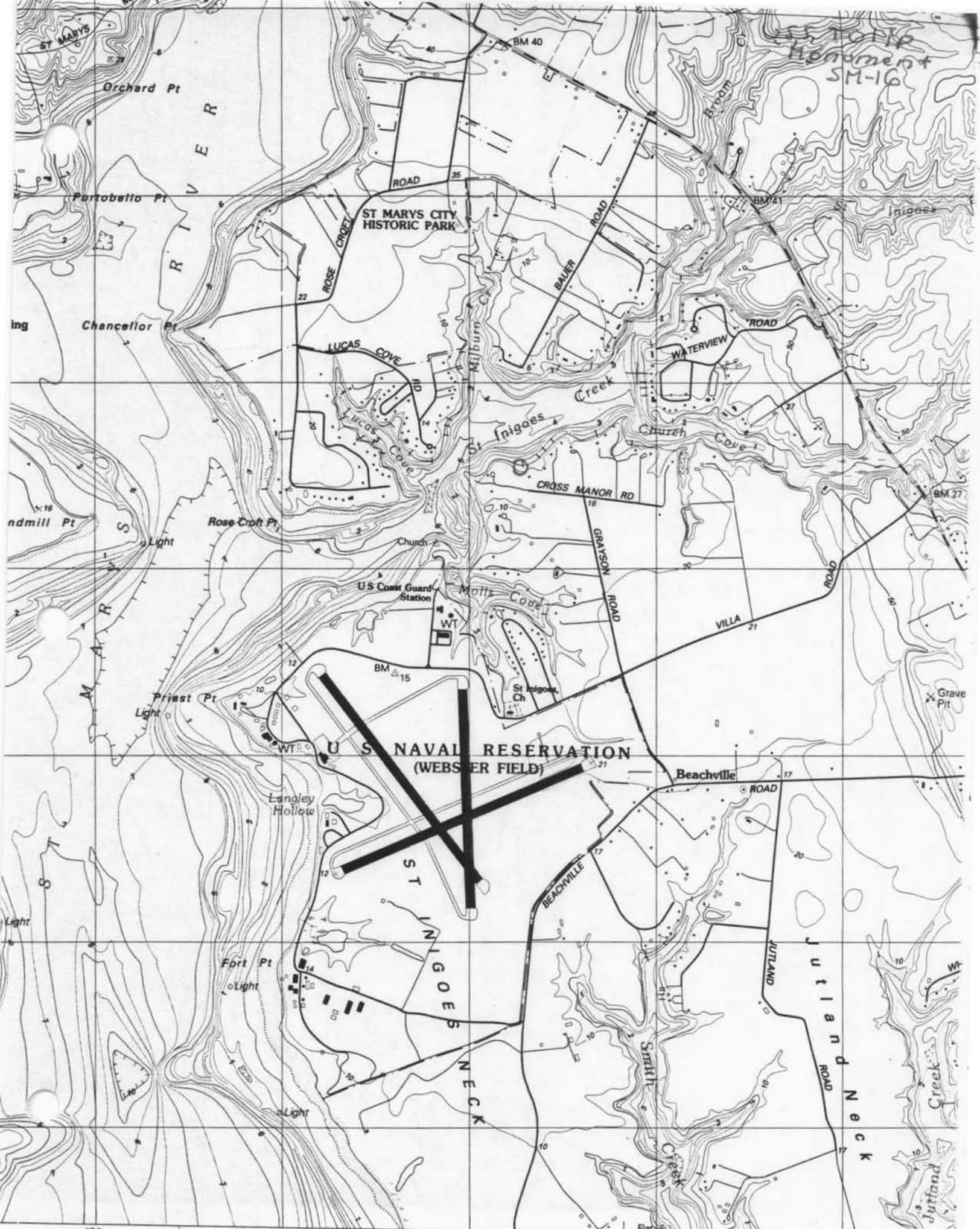
CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____

12 State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National State Local

Signature _____



ST MARYS Monument SM-16

ST MARYS CITY HISTORIC PARK

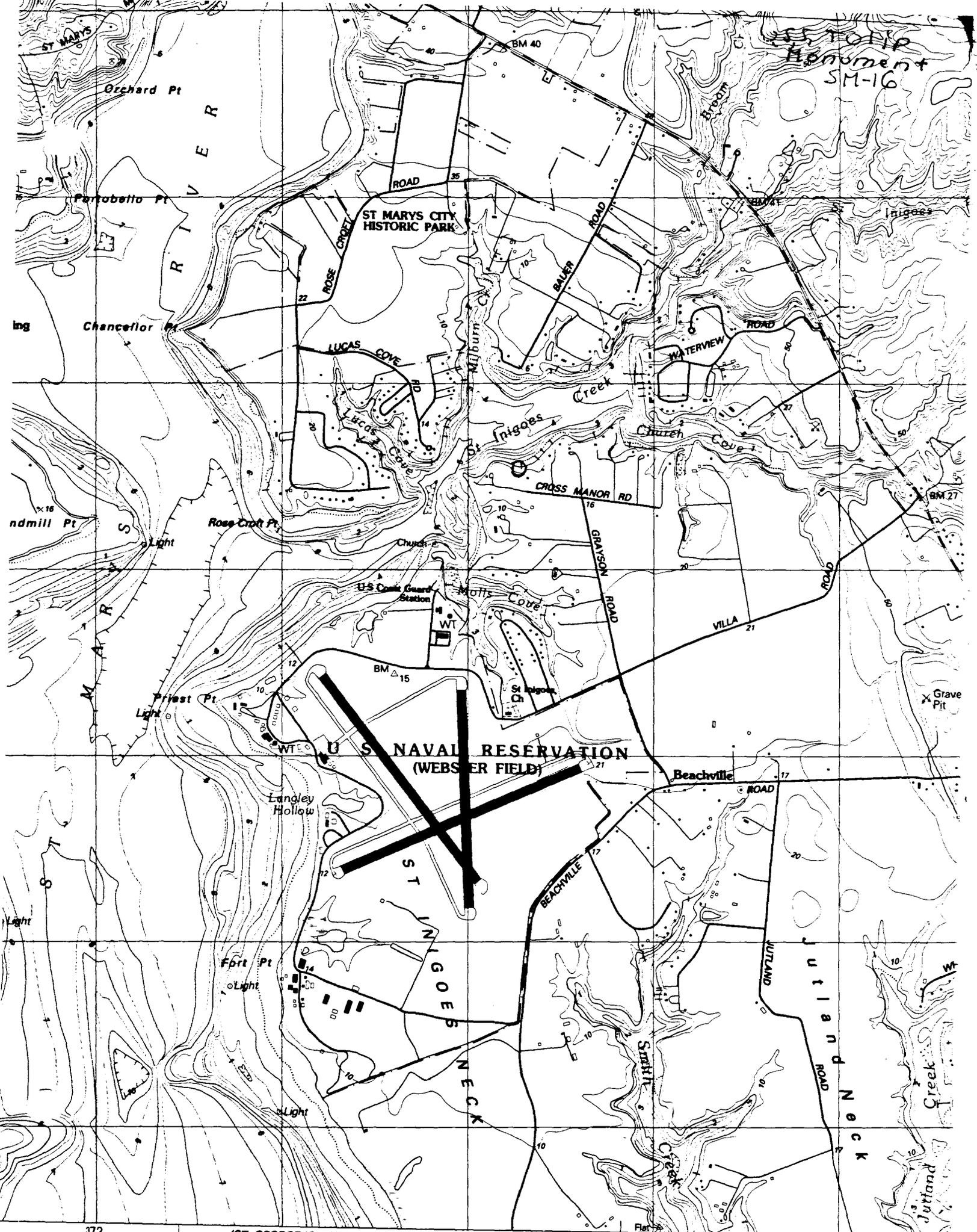
U S NAVAL RESERVATION (WEBSTER FIELD)

ST INIGOES NECK

R I V E R

M A R R

J U T L A N D N E C K



ST. GEORGE ISLAND
Monument
SM-16

ST MARYS CITY
HISTORIC PARK

U.S. NAVAL RESERVATION
(WEBER FIELD)

ST INIGOES
NECK



IN MEMORY OF
THOSE WHO PERISHED
IN THE EXPLOSION
OF THE USS T-37P
MAY 1968

8

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD



SM-16

USS Tulip Monument

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

Nov 1999

Md SHPO

Looking E

1 of 2



IN MEMORY OF
THOSE WHO PERISHED
IN THE EXPLOSION
OF THE USS T-37P
MAY 1968

8

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD



LM-16
USS Tulip Monument
St. Mary's County, Md
Kirk Ranzetta
Nov 1999
cmd SHPO

Looking SW
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