

Capsule Summary

SM-450

U. S. Navy Torpedo Test Range, Officers' Quarters

Piney Point

Private

circa 1940

The Officers' Quarters of the U. S. Navy Torpedo Test Range at Piney Point comprise five dwellings located on the shore of the Potomac River. Built in the 1940s, this complex of dwellings is significant because it represents the wide ranging effect of World War II on the growth and development of St. Mary's County. The Captain's Quarter is further significant as a well-preserved and conservative example of the Colonial Revival style of architecture.

The Piney Point Officers' Quarters are located in a uniform row on the shore of the Potomac River. The Captain's Quarter is flanked on the north by the house of the Executive Officer and by the house of the Doctor. Two additional Officers Quarters are located to the south. The Captain's Quarter, built to house the highest ranking officer at the Piney Point facility, stands out from the other uniformly sized and styled quarters because of its height and northern and southern wings.

To the uninformed eye, nothing remains of the U.S. Navy Torpedo Test Range at Piney Point. Many of the old buildings have been demolished or converted for use by the Lundeberg School. Only the quarters, built for both officers and married enlisted men, appear to survive intact.

SM-450, U.S. Navy Torpedo Test Range, Officers' Quarters
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Modern Period, 1930 -

Historic Period Theme: Military

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function and Use: Residence

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common U.S. Navy Torpedo Test Range, Officers Quarters

2. Location

street & number #64 Stark Drive not for publicationcity, town Piney Point vicinity of congressional district 5state Maryland county Saint Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Rita S. Porterfieldstreet & number P.O. Box 65 telephone no.: (301) 994-2072city, town Piney Point state and zip code Maryland 20674

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber MRB 358street & number folio 158city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

repository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM 450

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

Contributing Resource Count: 2

The Captain's Quarter is located on the west side of Stark Drive in Piney Point, St. Mary's County, Maryland. The house has a shallow rear yard screened from the road by a line of cedar trees and a chain link fence overgrown with ivy. One outbuilding stands in this rear yard. The generous front yard is bordered by the Potomac River. A pier extends into the river. The two-story, three-bay house faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1940, the Captain's Quarter has a concrete foundation. The exterior, originally sheathed with weatherboard, is now covered with vinyl siding. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The west elevation of the main block is pierced by a central door flanked on either side by a six-over-six sash window with louvered shutters. The door has a Colonial Revival surround consisting of fluted pilasters surmounted by a plain frieze and a pediment. The entrance is sheltered by a metal awning. Three six-over-six sash windows with louvered shutters light the second floor. A one-story screened porch wing extends to the south of the main block. The flat roof of this wing is outlined by a decorative square post baluster. A one-story, gable roof wing which originally served as the maid's quarters extends to the north of the main block. It is pierced by two six-over-six sash windows with louvered shutters.

The north elevation of the main block is a flush gable end pierced by one six-over-six sash window with louvered shutters on the first and second floor. The eave is pierced by two small six-over-six sash windows. An exterior brick chimney is centered against this gable end. The north elevation of the maid's quarters is also a flush gable end pierced by one six-over-six sash window with louvered shutters.

The east elevation of the main block is pierced by a central door flanked by one six-over-six sash window to the north and two to the south. The door is sheltered by a flat roof portico with decorative sawn supports. The second floor is pierced by two six-over-six and one one-over-one sash window. The maid's quarters wing is pierced by one six-over-six sash window.

The south elevation of the main block is pierced by a six-over-six sash window and a door which provides access to the house from the southern screened porch wing. The second floor and eave are pierced by two six-over-six sash windows. An exterior brick chimney rises against the exterior of this flush gable end.

The interior plan of the house consists of a central stair hall flanked by the parlor

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 type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates *Unknown* Builder/Architect *Unknown*

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Officers' Quarters of the U. S. Navy Torpedo Test Range at Piney Point comprise five dwellings located on the shore of the Potomac River. Built in the 1940s, this complex of dwellings is significant because it represents the wide ranging effect of World War II on the growth and development of St. Mary's County. The Captain's Quarter is further significant as a well-preserved and conservative example of the Colonial Revival style of architecture.

The U. S. Navy Torpedo Test Range at Piney Point was established in 1940. The purpose of the Piney Point facility was to test whether torpedoes could hold a straight course. Torpedoes produced by the Alexandria Torpedo Factory were transported to Piney Point where they were fixed with dummy heads, fired from boats or planes, and then retrieved by men on tenders. This testing was conducted twenty-four hours a day. Occasionally, torpedoes would run ashore on Tolson's beach or hit one of the tenders. Some of the them are said to have sunk to the bottom of the Potomac where they now rest in the mud.

The Piney Point Officers' Quarters are located in a uniform row on the shore of the Potomac River. The Captain's Quarter is flanked on the north by the house of the Executive Officer and by the house of the Doctor. Two additional Officers Quarters are located to the south. The Captain's Quarter, built to house the highest ranking officer at the Piney Point facility, stands out from the other uniformly sized and styled quarters because of its height and northern and southern wings.

The Torpedo Facility closed in 1954. Both the houses occupied by officers and enlisted men stationed at Piney Point were subsequently sold to the public. In 1960, the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship purchased a substantial portion of the former Torpedo Test Facility where they established a training program for merchant marines.

While the buildings which comprise the Piney Point Officers' Quarters have not changed significantly over time, the beach front on the south side of the property has

SM-450, U. S. Navy Torpedo Test Range, Officers' Quarters
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

on the south and the dining room on the north. The south parlor is finished with a Colonial Revival style mantel. The kitchen is located in the northeast corner of the house. The maid's quarters, located in the one-story north wing, consists of a bedroom, closet, and bath. This wing is accessible from the kitchen. On the second floor, the stairwell is partitioned from the hall by a Chinese Chippendale style baluster. Three bedrooms and two baths are located on the second floor behind six-panel doors. An enclosed stair provides access to the finished attic. Hardwood flooring is located throughout the house.

The one outbuilding on the property is located in the northeast corner of the rear yard. This small one-story structure has a gable roof oriented on a north/south axis. It is sheathed with weatherboard siding and is roofed with asphalt shingles. A door pierces both the north and west elevations. A window, now boarded up, once pierced the east elevation.

Flanking the Captain's Quarter on both the north and south sides are two additional Officers' Quarters. These four identical houses differ from the Captain's Quarter in size and form. The least altered of these smaller Officers' Quarters is the Executive Officer's Quarter located to the north of the Captain's Quarter. A cement walk extends from the east side of the house to the main entrance on the west side of the house. One outbuilding is located in the east yard of the property which is enclosed by a chain link fence. The two-story, frame structure faces west with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

The Executive Officer's Quarter is supported by a concrete foundation and is sheathed with vinyl siding. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The house is fitted with copper drain pipes.

The west elevation is pierced by a central four-light-over-four-panel entrance door flanked on either side by a bank of three four-over-four sash windows. The central entrance bay projects slightly from the house and is fitted with a door surround that consists of pilasters surmounted by a frame lintel. The second floor is pierced by two eight-over-eight sash windows with louvered shutters.

The south elevation is a flush gable end pierced on the first floor by a multi-light entrance door and one six-over-six sash window with louvered shutters. A one-story, gable roof, screened porch wing with a cement pad floor extends to the south of the main block. The second floor of the house is pierced by one six-over-six sash window with louvered shutters. An exterior brick chimney stands against this elevation.

The east elevation is pierced by a four-light-over-two-panel entrance door with a flat roof portico, one six-over-six sash window, and a bank of three four-over-four

SM-450, U. S. Navy Torpedo Test Range, Officers' Quarters
St. Mary's County
7.2 Description

sash windows. An exterior brick chimney stands against this wall of the house. The second floor is pierced by two six-over-six sash windows with louvered shutters.

The north elevation is pierced by two six-over-six sash windows with louvered shutters and a smaller six-over-six sash window with shutters. The second floor is pierced by two shuttered six-over-six sash windows.

One outbuilding stands on the property. Located on the northeast corner of the house lot, the one-story structure is sheathed with vinyl siding and roofed with asphalt shingles. The west elevation of the house is pierced by one six-over-six sash window with wide surrounds and louvered shutters. A slightly shorter wing pierced by a door extends to the south of small structure's main block. The north elevation is pierced by a garage door. The east elevation is pierced by one six-over-six sash window with louvered shutters on the main block and one one-over-one sash window with shutters on the shorter wing. The south end of the smaller wing is pierced by one shuttered one-over-one sash window.

SM-450, U.S. Navy Torpedo Test Range, Officers' Quarters
St. Mary's County
8.3 Significance

changed dramatically. Unlike many other areas along the Potomac River, the beach in front of these dwellings has extended by about 100 feet. At the same time, the thick grass which once covered the river's shallow shore line has completely disappeared.

To the uninformed eye, nothing remains of the U.S. Navy Torpedo Test Range at Piney Point. Many of the old buildings have been demolished or converted for use by the Lundeberg School. Only the quarters, built for both officers and married enlisted men, appear to survive intact.

SM-450, U.S. Navy Torpedo Test Range, Officers' Quarters
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title for the Captain's Quarters

TO: Rita S. Porterfield
FROM: Rita S. Porterfield, personal rep. of estate of Scott T. Porterfield.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 358, folio 158.
DATE: June 15, 1987.
NOTES: Transfer of Lot No. 64 of Piney Point Homes. See Estate No. 4800.

TO: Scott T. and Martha D. Porterfield
FROM: Margaret W. Nolley, widow.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber DBK 256, folio 272.
DATE: August 5, 1976.
NOTES: Transfer of Lot No. 64 of Piney Point Homes, being 27,770 square feet.

TO: Leonard B. Nolley and Margaret W. Nolley
FROM: Mayjack Inc.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber DBK 181, folio 496.
DATE: September 18, 1972.
NOTES: Transfer of Lot No. 64 of Piney Point Homes.

TO: May-Jack, Inc.
FROM: Piney Point Inc.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 113, folio 129.
DATE: April 15, 1964.
NOTES: Transfer of Lot No. 64 of Piney Point Homes, being part of CBG 89/161.

TO: Piney Point Inc.
FROM: United States of America via the Administrator of General Services.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber CBG 89, folio 161.
DATE: July 14, 1960.
NOTES: Transfer of 3 parcels.

TO: United States of America
FROM: C. Leo DeOrsey, ancillary administrator C.T.A. of Washington, D.C.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber CBG 14, folio 118.
DATE: November 2, 1942.
NOTES: Transfer of part of Courts Subdivision. No acreage given. Price: \$2700.

TO: United States of America
FROM: C. Leo DeOrsey, ancillary administrator C.T.A. of Washington, D.C.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 14, folio 117.
DATE: November 2, 1942.

SM-450, U.S. Navy Torpedo Test Range, Officers' Quarters
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

NOTES: Julia Ann Court died intestate in 1942. Her husband, Emil E. Court, had predeceased her. Transfer of four parcels, each being about one acre and including Lot No. 3 in Courts Subdivision. Price: \$6000

TO: United States of America

FROM: Frederick and Vera G. Court

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber CBG 13, folio 448.

DATE: July 17, 1942.

NOTES: Transfer of parcel being part of that conveyed to the grantor in EBA 19/142.

TO: Fred Court

FROM: Emil E. and Julia A. Court

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 19, folio 142.

DATE: May 28, 1920.

NOTES: Transfer of a portion of "Part Pridgett's Land" or "Part Piney Point" being the same as EBA 18/136.

TO: Emil E. Court and Julia A. Court of Washington, D.C.

FROM: Nellie J. Medley and Philip J. Medley

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 18, folio 136.

DATE: June 4, 1919.

NOTES: Transfer of two lots of land constituting one entire tract known as "Part of Pridgett's Land" being 37 1/10 acres. Parcel one being 33.5 acres and the same as JYG 4/97. Parcel two being 4.5 acres and the same as EBA 3/433. Price: \$10,000

SM-450, U.S. Navy Torpedo Test Range, Officers' Quarters
St. Mary's County
8.4 Significance

Source: "Torpedo Range Slated on River," St. Mary's Beacon 9 August 1940: 1.

Torpedo Range Slated On River

(Times-Herald)

A torpedo testing range is to go into operation on the Potomac River between Piney Point and Point Lookout sometime in September, the War Department announced Saturday - but fisherman need not be alarmed, the torpedoes will be non-explosive.

The "line-of-fire" will be from a floating barge located about a mile and a quarter due south of Piney Point, halfway out in the channel, and will parallel the coast line up to Point Lookout. From Piney Point to Lookout more than half of the channel will be unaffected at every point.

Boats are cautioned to keep out of the direct line of fire, however, as the torpedoes, even though "duds," weigh a good deal more than 2,000 pounds apiece.

The torpedoes will be manufactured at the Alexandria factory.

The official regulations, set up by the War Department and issued by the Navy Hydrographic Office, forbid all shipping in the range area (which means the area, from the line-of-fire to the Maryland shore), between 7 A.M. and 4 P.M. every day except Sundays and holidays; all anchoring in the range area, and the passage of vessels past the firing barge at a speed greater than 10 knots.

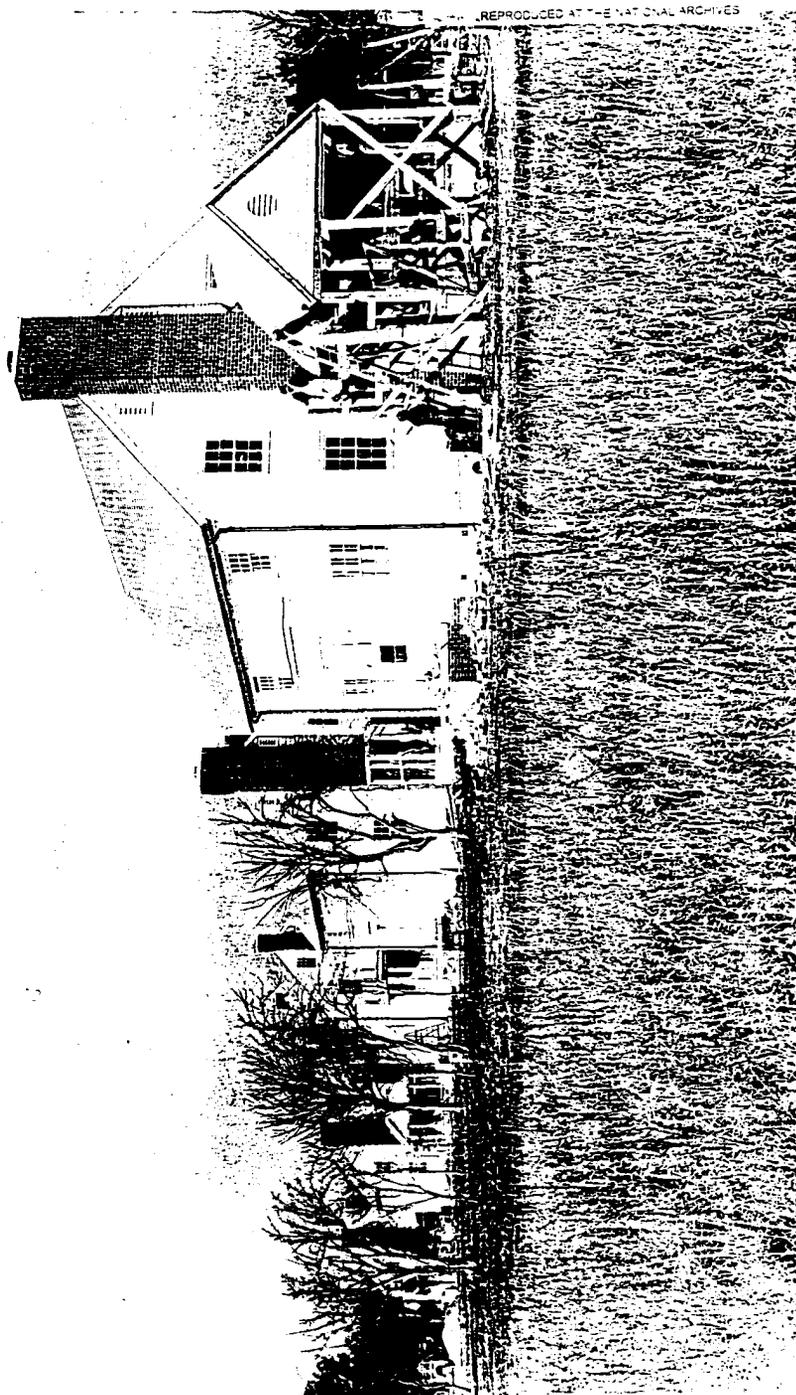
The rules do not forbid the use of danger area waters for fish traps or passage of boats to the traps, providing permits have been obtained from the War Department.

When testing operations are in progress the firing barge will fly "international B" at a yard arm. Government boats or planes patrolling the zone will fly a red flag.

SM-450, U. S. Navy Torpedo Test Range, Officers' Quarters
St. Mary's County
8.5 Significance

Photo showing construction of Officers Quarters.

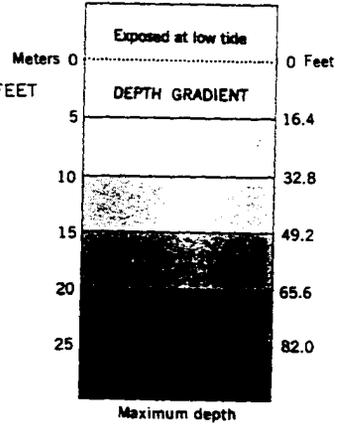
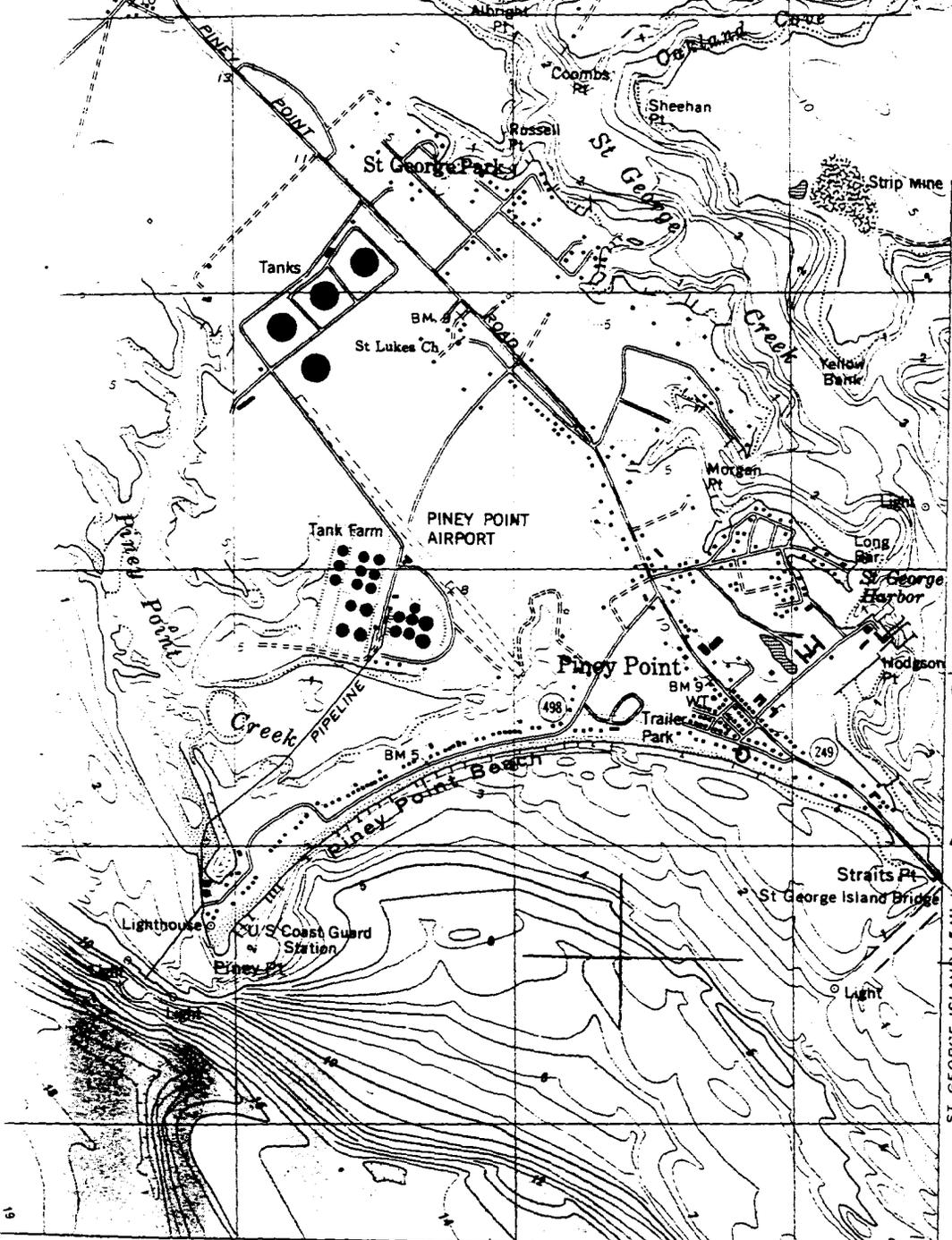
Source: National Archives, Still Pictures Branch; RG - 71 Yards and Docks;
Photographs of Construction Projects 1879 - 1943; E-CA; Box 406; "Piney Point, MD,"
Officers Quarters, NND 760215.



Naval Torpedo Range, Piney Point, Md. Construction of five officers quarters,
Contract N0Y-4489. Wm. P. Lipscomb Co., Inc., contractor. View of officers
quarters looking north. Taken 1/21/42. PW, #168.

SM-450
 U.S. Navy Torpedo Test Range,
 Officers' Quarters
 Piney Point
 Piney Point Quad

To convert meters to feet
 multiply by 3.2808



INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1988
 2 570 000 FEET (VA.)

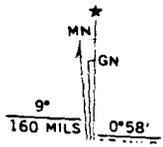
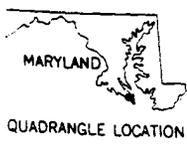
ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Secondary highway, all weather, Light-duty road, all weather,
 hard surface improved surface
 Unimproved road, fair or dry
 weather

○ State Route

PINEY POINT, MD.—VA.

38076-B5-TF-024

1968
 PHOTOREVISED 1980
 BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982
 DMA 5660 II NE—SERIES V833



(ST. GEORGE ISLAND)
 5760 III SW





SM-450

U.S. Navy Torpedo Test Range, Officers' Quarters

St. Mary's County, MD

E. Hughes

10/94

MD SHPD

SW elevation - Executive officer's Quarter

2/7



SN-450

U.S. Navy Torpedo Test Range, Officers Quarters

St. Mary's County, MD

E Hughes

12/74

MD SHPO

NE elevation - Executive Officer's Quarters

2/7



SM- 450

U.S. Navy Torpedo Test Range, Officers' Quarters

St. Mary's County, MD

E. Hughes

10/94

MD SHPO

Outbdy of the Executive Officer's Quarter - NW elev

4/7





10/9/74

10/9/74

10/9/74

10/9/74

10/9/74

10/9/74

MD 3472

AERIAL VIEW, C. 154

6/7



SM 450

VIS. NAVY - 10/10/1960 TEST PHOTO. 10/10/1960

10/10/1960

10/10/1960

10/10/1960

10/10/1960

10/10/1960

AERIAL VIEW FROM THE WEST, c. 1960

7/7