

Capsule Summary
SM-466
Thomas L. Crowder House
St. George Island
Private

Circa 1865

The Thomas L. Crowder House is significant as one of the oldest structures on St. George Island. According to local tradition, this dwelling originally housed shepherders who lived here during the Jesuit ownership of the Island. Based on the size and form of the house, it is plausible that the dwelling housed tenants and that it dates to the 1850s or 1860s. However, it is difficult to substantiate a building date for the house since the roof construction is completely sheathed with modern materials and the underside of the house is not accessible.

It seems likely that in its earliest form, the house consisted of the southern section alone. The house would have had one room on the first floor and one room in the upper half story. Access to the upper half story would have been possible by means of a hole in the ceiling of the first floor room. A ladder, rather than a stair, probably provided access to the original sleeping loft. The northern ell was probably added at a later date.

The chain of title for this lot shows that Thomas L. Crowder purchased 16 1/10 acres of the Island from Ennals Roszell in 1865. While the 1865 deed does not mention a house on the property, a house is mentioned in the transfer from Crowder to James H. Moore in 1884. Paul Davis, an oysterman, purchased the house in 1902. The Davis family occupied the house until 1953.

SM-466, Thomas L. Crowder House
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870.

Historic Period Theme: Architecture

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Residence

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES Magi No. DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Thomas L. Crowder House

2. Location

street & number Thomas Road _____ not for publication

city, town St. George Island _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 5

state Maryland _____ county St. 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 Frances Vitiello

street & number P.O. Box 214 _____ telephone no.: (301) 994 2372

city, 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 DBK 157

street & number _____ folio 446

city, town Leonardtown _____ state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title _____

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

pository 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 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: 1

The Thomas L. Crowder House is located at the end of an unpaved road on the east side of Thomas Road on St. George Island in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The house stands on the western shore of Island Creek. A wood pier extends from the house lot out into the Creek. One modern outbuilding stands on the property. The original entrance to the house was located on the south elevation. The south side of the house faces the mouth of Island Creek. A plat dating to the 1930s shows two spruce trees flanking this entrance. Because of the small size of the original house, a series of additions were constructed in the mid-twentieth century to create more livable space. The principal gable of the modest structure is oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1865, the Crowder House is a one-and-a-half story, ell-shaped frame building supported by concrete piers. The original foundation probably consisted of wood piers which deteriorated over time. The original weatherboard exterior has been sheathed with vinyl siding. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The south (main) elevation has an enclosed shed roof porch that extends across the first floor. The enclosure, added in the 1960s, is pierced by a series of one-over-one sash windows. The original exterior wall of this first floor was pierced by a single entrance door. The roofline of the upper half story is broken by a cross gable pierced by one one-over-one sash window with louvered shutters.

The east elevation has an enclosed shed roof porch that extends across the first floor. Added in the 1960s, the enclosure is pierced by a series of one-over-one sash windows and one single light window. The upper half story consists of a gable end as the southern bay and the longitudinal elevation of a one-and-a-half story wing as the northern bay. The southern bay is pierced by one one-over-one sash window with louvered shutters. The roofline of the northern ell is pierced by a cross gable and lighted by a one-over-one sash window. Both windows have louvered shutters. To the north of the main block is a one-story addition, constructed in the late 1970s. The addition is pierced by two banks of three one-over-one sash windows.

The north elevation of the shed roof porch enclosure is pierced by one one-over-one sash window. The gable end of the one-story wing is pierced by three one-over-one sash windows. The flush gable end of the ell is blind. A one-story utility room, built in the late 1970s, extends to the west. The shed roof addition is pierced by a door and one one-over-one sash window.

The west elevation of the northern one-story addition is pierced by four one-

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

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 Thomas L. Crowder House is significant as one of the oldest structures on St. George Island. According to local tradition, this dwelling originally housed shepherders who lived here during the Jesuit ownership of the Island. Based on the size and form of the house, it is plausible that the dwelling housed tenants and that it dates to the 1850s or 1860s. However, it is difficult to substantiate a building date for the house since the roof construction is completely sheathed with modern materials and the underside of the house is not accessible.

It seems likely that in its earliest form, the house consisted of the southern section alone. The house would have had one room on the first floor and one room in the upper half story. Access to the upper half story would have been possible by means of a hole in the ceiling of the first floor room. A ladder, rather than a stair, probably provided access to the original sleeping loft. The northern ell was probably added at a later date. The ell, of the same size and form as the southern block, may even have been a separate house that was moved to this site to enlarge the dwelling.

St. George Island was owned by the Jesuits until 1852. Throughout the 1850s and 1860s attorney Charles C. Lancaster sold off portions of the former Jesuit estate. Most of the buyers were watermen from the Eastern shore of Maryland and Virginia. A U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey map of 1859 shows about 30 structures standing on the island by that time. Two of these buildings are located in the vicinity of the Crowder House.

The chain of title for this lot shows that Thomas L. Crowder purchased 16 1/10 acres of the Island from Ennals Roszell in 1865. While the 1865 deed does not mention a house on the property, a house is mentioned in the transfer from Crowder to James H. Moore in 1884. Paul Davis, an oysterman, purchased the house in 1902. The Davis family occupied the house until 1953.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM 466

"The Davis Family of St. George's Island Maryland" (no author or date, copy in possession of the current owner.)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .514 acres

Quadrangle name St. George Island

Quadrangle scale 1: 24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Plat

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County Planning & Zoning

date December 1994

street & number 328 Washington Street

telephone (301) 475 4662

city or town Leonardtown

state Maryland

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
 Shaw House
 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
 DHCP/DHCD
 100 COMMUNITY PLACE
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
 514-7600

SM-466, Thomas L. Crowder House
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

over-one sash windows and a three-light-over-two-panel door. The utility room addition is pierced by one one-over-one sash window with louvered shutters. Above the utility room, the roofline of the ell is broken by a cross gable lighted by a one-over-one sash window with louvered shutters. The southern gable end of the main block is pierced by one one-over-one sash window on both the first floor and the upper half story. The enclosed porch that extends to the south is pierced by an entrance door and a one-over-one sash window.

The interior of the original section of the house consists of two rooms on the first floor. A narrow, enclosed stair built in the 1960s provides access from the first floor of the ell to two bedrooms in the upper half story. Originally, access to the upper half story was provided by a retractable stair in the southwest corner of the south room. In addition to two bedrooms in the upper half story, a storage space is located at the head of the stair. A louvered door hung on a "Bommer Spring Hinge" hides the storage area from view.

One outbuilding stands on the property. Built by the current owners, the gable roof structure is sheathed with artificial siding and roofed with asphalt shingles.

SM-466, Thomas L. Crowder House
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Frederick L. Vitiello and Frances D. Vitiello
FROM: John Paul Stoddard and Mary Roberta Stoddard
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber DBK 157, folio 446.
DATE: March 10, 1970.
NOTES: Transfer of two parcels. One of these consisting of one acre more or less being the same as CBG 112/194 except for CBG 121/169.

TO: John P. Stoddard and Mary R. Stoddard
FROM: Frank H. White and Mabel H. White
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 112, folio 194.
DATE: August 30, 1963.
NOTES: Transfer of 1 acre being the same as CBG 103/471.

TO: Frank H. White and Mabel H. White
FROM: Emil Wendt and Marie A. Wendt
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 103, folio 471.
DATE: September 18, 1962.
NOTES: Transfer of 1 acre.

TO: Emil Wendt
FROM: Alfred D. Brashear and Erma Brashear
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 103, folio 469.
DATE: September 18, 1962.
NOTES: Transfer of 1 acre.

TO: Alfred D. Brashear and Erma Brashear
FROM: Emil Wendt
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 77, folio 320.
DATE: October 4, 1958.
NOTES: Transfer of 1 acre.

TO: Emil Wendt
FROM: Edna C. James and Ford M. James
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 71, folio 199.
DATE: September 12, 1957.
NOTES: Transfer of 1 acre.

TO: Edna C. James
FROM: Ford M. James
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 64, folio 438.

SM-466, Thomas L. Crowder House
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

DATE: August 15, 1956.
NOTES: Transfer of 1 acre.

TO: Ford M. James
FROM: Leon Basile Button and Catherine M. Button
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 56, folio 81.
DATE: March 31, 1955.
NOTES: Transfer of 1 acre.

TO: Leon Basile Button
FROM: Paul T. Davis and Susie R. Davis
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 47, folio 419.
DATE: October 30, 1953.
NOTES: Transfer of 1 acre.

TO: Paul T. Davis and Susie R. Davis of Prince George's County, MD.
FROM: Paul Davis, widower.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 10, folio 298.
DATE: July 15, 1937.
NOTES: Transfer of 1 acre.

TO: Paul Davis
FROM: James H. Moore and Sarah E. Moore
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 2, folio 370.
DATE: February 6, 1902.
NOTES: Transfer of a house and lot on St. George's Island being one acre more or less. Price: \$300

TO: James H. Moore
FROM: Thomas L. Crowder and Ellen L. Crowder
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 7, folio 275.
DATE: April 11, 1884.
NOTES: Transfer of one house and lot on St. George's Island.

TO: Thomas L. Crowder
FROM: Ennals Roszell and Margaret Roszell of Washington, D.C.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JAC 1, folio 246.
DATE: March 18, 1865.
NOTES: Transfer of 16 1/10 acres "situated on Saint George's Island...commencing at the Island Creek and running with Thomas L. Crowder's line to Henry Stephen's line, then northerly till said line strikes the Island Creek, thence running with said Creek to the place of beginning." Price: \$402.50

SM-466, Thomas L. Crowder House
St. Mary's County
8.3 Significance

Map of St. George Island as it appeared in 1859, showing structures located on the western shore of Island Creek in the vicinity of the Crowder House.

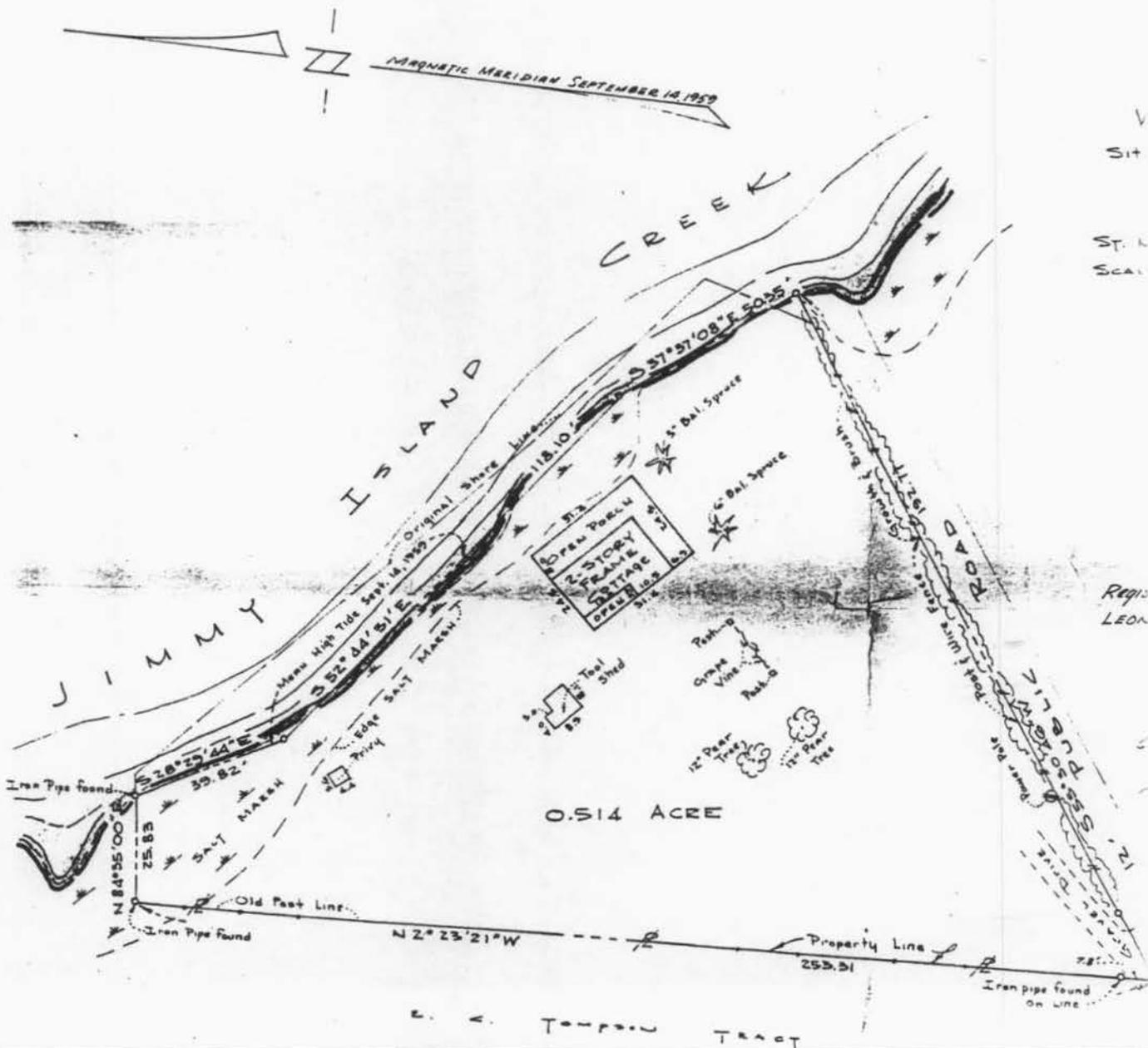
Source: United States. Coast and Geodetic Survey. St. George's Island, 1859.



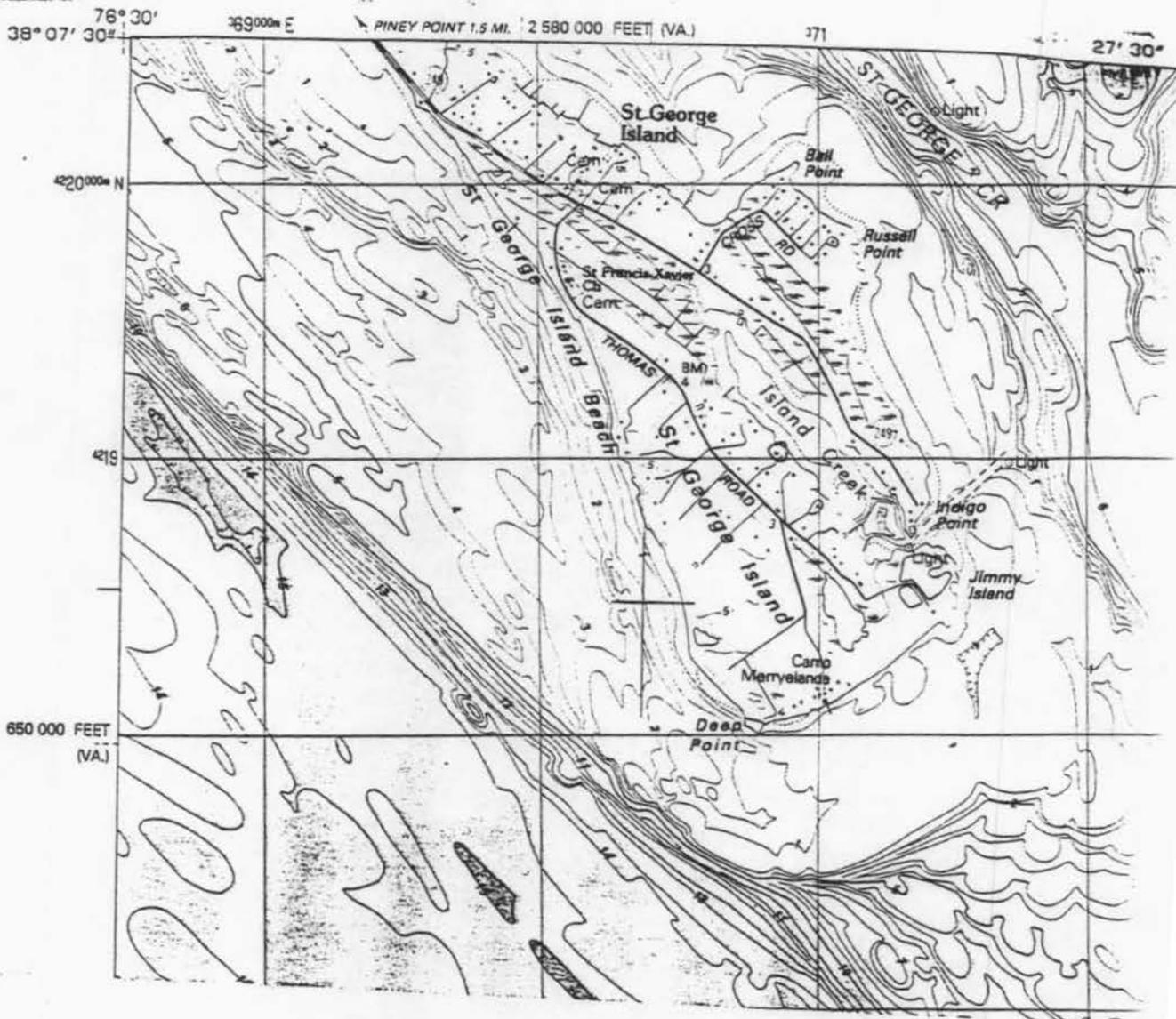
SM-466, Thomas L. Crowder House
 St. Mary's County
 10.1 Geographical Data

Boundary Survey of Wendt and Brashear Tract by J. R. McCrone Jr., Inc., dated September 14, 1959.

Source: Frances D. Vitiello



SM-466
Thomas L. Crowder House
St. George Island
St. George Island Quad



ST. GEORGE ISLAND, MD.-VA.

38076-A4-TB-024

1987

DMA 5760 III SW-SERIES V833



SM-466

Thomas L. Crayton House

St. Mary's County

E. Wright

12/24

MD SHPD
SW Elevation

1/2



SM-466

Thomas L. Crowder House

St. Mary's County

E. Hughes

12/94

MD SHD

NE Elevation

2/2