

Capsule Summary  
SM-472  
Camp Merryelande  
St. George Island  
Private

1938 and later

Camp Merryelande is one of a series of summer camps for boys and girls that were once located along the Potomac River. Founded by the Sisters of the Holy Cross, this camp is unique because of its connection with a religious order. Although most of the original buildings have been significantly altered, Camp Merryelande remains the only St. Mary's County property that continues to serve as a campground.

During the 1920s, the property that comprises the camp was purchased as two separate parcels by Mr. and Mrs. Carlton George VanEmon. Mr. VanEmon, a resident of Washington D.C., established a hunting lodge here and improved the property with a three-room cottage, a garage, and various outbuildings. In 1937 the VanEmon family deeded the nearly 25 acre tract to St. Mary's Academy, a Washington D.C. school operated by the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

Camp Merryelande opened as a summer camp for girls in 1938 and remained active until 1963. Local carpenters Ed and Ben Brown and David McKenny built most of the structures on the campground. The original camp buildings included an Administration building, a dining room and kitchen, the Chapel and Recreation Hall, four sleeping cabins, a pump house, a shower building, and a tool shed.

SM-472, Camp Merryelande  
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: Religion

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Summer Camp for Girls

Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC RESOURCES Magi No. DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Camp Merryelande

## 2. Location

street & number Camp Merryelande Road \_\_\_ not for publication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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 Michael F. and Teresa Evans

street & number P.O. Box 193 telephone no.: (301) 994 1648

city, town Piney Point state and zip code Maryland 20674

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. marys County Courthouse liber MRB 189

street & number folio 398

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

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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: 11

Camp Merryelande is located at the end of an unpaved lane off of Camp Merryelande Road on St. George Island in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The camp is shaded by a stand of loblolly pine trees. It is bordered on the south by the Potomac River. A pier extends into the river from the beach along the Potomac shoreline. To the west is "Deep Point," formerly owned by the Navy and used in conjunction with the Piney Point Torpedo Test Range. Marsh, woodland, and a pond are located to the east. The camp consists of five cottages, the Bunk House, the Rec Hall, the Office, a Shower House, and two small structures used for storage. Most of these structures were built around 1938. All of the cottages have been winterized and equipped with kitchenettes. The tent campground is located in the woods to the east of the camp buildings. There are two unoccupied buildings located at the western border of the property.

The two-story Office is the centerpiece of the campground. It is the largest structure located here and houses both the campground office and the caretaker's residence. The Office faces north with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis. The Office is supported by a cement pier foundation and sheathed with cement and german siding. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the roofline is finished with exposed rafter feet.

The north (main) elevation of the Office consists of a central, gable roof vestibule that projects from the main block of the building. The vestibule is pierced by a one-light-over-three-panel door flanked by a single light window on either side. The main block of the Office is pierced by two pairs of shuttered three-light casement windows and one two-over-two sash window with shutters. The second floor is pierced by four pairs of shuttered casement windows. A one-story, shed roof addition extends to the west of the main block.

The west elevation of the shed roof addition is pierced by a one-light window. The second floor of the main block gable end is pierced by a pair of shuttered three-light casement windows.

The south elevation of the Office is completely obscured by a two-story, screened porch. The first floor is pierced by a series of windows and a central door. An exterior stair provides access between the first and second floors of the porch. The second floor is pierced by three shuttered windows and a door.

The east elevation is pierced by two pairs of three-light casement windows on the second floor.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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** Ed & Ben Brown and David McKenny

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.

Camp Merryelande is one of a series of summer camps for boys and girls that were once located along the Potomac River. Founded by the Sisters of the Holy Cross, this camp is unique because of its connection with a religious order. Although most of the original buildings have been significantly altered, Camp Merryelande remains the only property that continues to serve as a camp.

During the 1920s, the property that comprises the camp was purchased as two separate parcels by Mr. and Mrs. Carlton George VanEmon. Mr. VanEmon, a resident of Washington D.C., established a duck lodge here and improved the property with a three-room cottage, a garage, and various outbuildings. In 1937 the VanEmon family deeded the nearly 25 acre tract to St. Mary's Academy. The Academy, located in Washington D.C., was a school operated by the Sisters of the Holy Cross. The boarding school provided elementary, secondary, and college-level education to its students. The Academy property is now the site of the Howard University Law School.

Camp Merryelande opened in 1938. Local carpenters Ed and Ben Brown and David McKenny built most of the structures on the campground. The original camp buildings included an Administration building, a Dining room and kitchen, the Chapel and Recreation Hall, four sleeping cabins, a pump house, a shower building, and a tool shed.

The girls who attended Camp Merryelande tended to range in age between 10 and 14 years. While at camp, their activities included swimming and fishing and arts and crafts courses. The camp accomodated about 55 girls. Staff consisted of 8 or 9 Sisters, 4 lay counselors, a cook, janitor, and yard man. The lay counselors were usually older students from the Academy, many of whom were studying to be teachers.

The camp closed in 1963. Between 1963 and 1981 the camp was used as a retreat by the Sisters of the Holy Cross. In 1981 the property was sold to Elmer and Nancy Wells. Michael and Teresa Evans purchased the property in 1984 and maintain it as a year round campground.



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St. Mary's County  
7.1 Description

Cottage #4 is located east of the Office. This one-story, frame structure is sheathed with weatherboard siding and roofed with tar paper. Divided into two units, the cottage has been reworked with the addition of modern doors and windows. An exterior wood deck has been built for each unit.

Cottages #1, #7, #8, and #9 are all one-story structures sheathed with board and batten siding and roofed with asphalt shingles. These structures face north with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis. They are fitted with modern doors and windows.

The Rec Hall is a large one-story building sheathed with weatherboard siding and roofed with asphalt shingles. It stands south of the row of cottages, located close to the water. The Rec Hall faces south, with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

The south (main) elevation of the Rec Hall is covered by a screened porch that extends across the first floor of the building. This elevation is pierced by a central door and six window openings fitted with screens and shutters.

The east elevation is pierced by two shuttered window openings. A louvered vent is located in the eave of this gable end.

The north elevation is pierced by a door as the eastern most bay and by six shuttered windows.

The west elevation is identical to the east side of the building.

The interior of the Rec Hall consists of one large room, five bays in width, on the west end of the building and a smaller room, two bays in width, on the east end. Originally, the larger room was used for Sunday mass. It is still used by guests of the campground for lectures, church services, and meetings. The smaller room is currently occupied by ping pong tables.

The Bunk House is located north of the cottages. This one-story, frame structure faces east with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis. It is sheathed with board and batten siding and roofed with asphalt shingles.

The east elevation of the Bunk House is obscured by a screened porch that extends across the first floor. The first floor is pierced by a central door and four shuttered window openings. A louvered vent pierces the eave.

The north and south elevations are pierced by a door and a series of windows.

SM-472, Camp Merryelande  
St. Mary's County  
7.2 Description

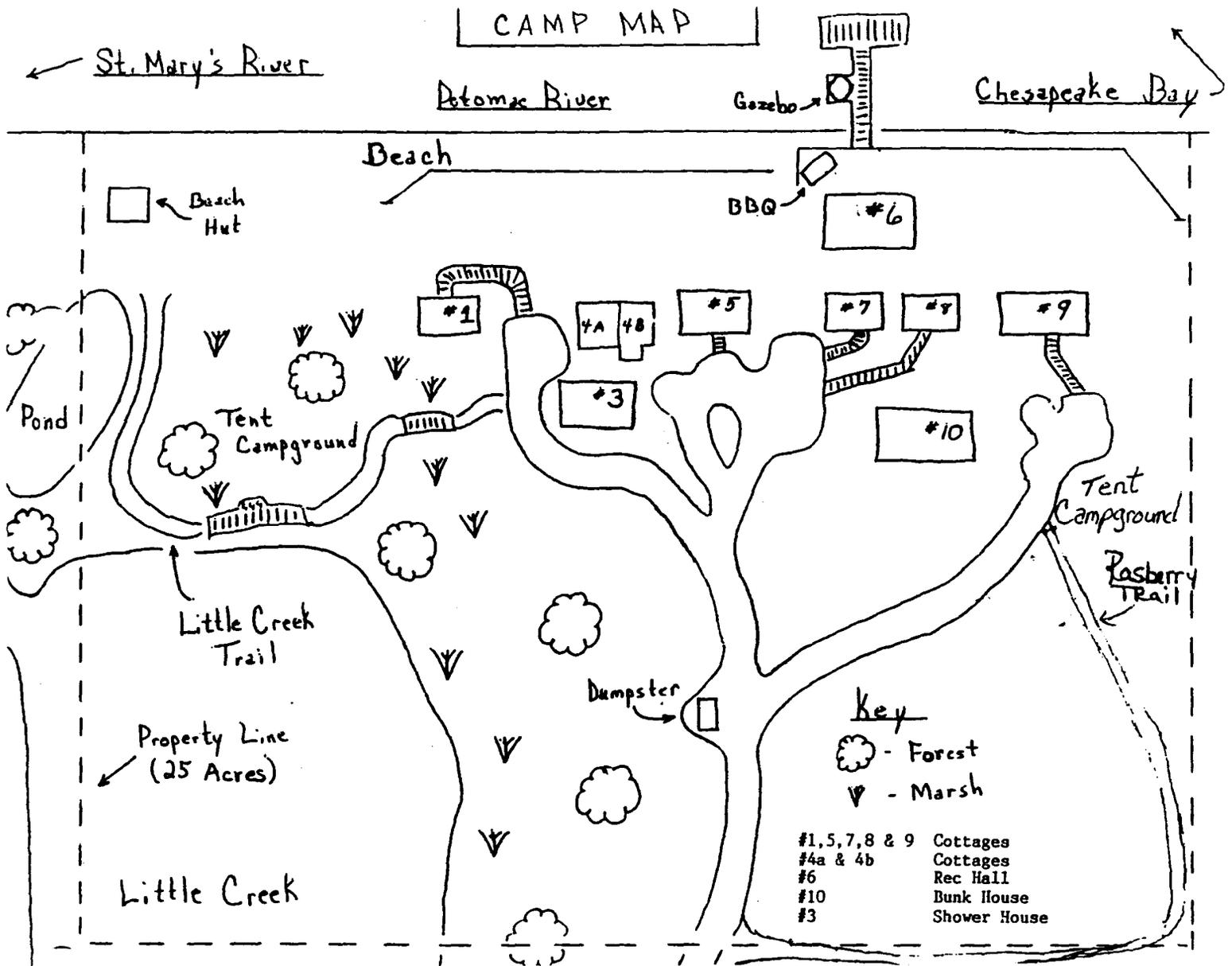
The west elevation is identical to the east side of the structure.

The interior of the Bunk House consists of two separate units. Each unit consists of one large room with bunk beds, a table, a stove, sink, and refrigerator, and a bathroom.

The Bath House is sheathed with weatherboard siding and roofed with asphalt shingles. Divided into male and female sections, the Bath House is used by tent campers.

SM-472, Camp Merryelnde  
 St. Mary's County  
 7.3 Description

This map shows the camp as it looks today.



SM-472, Camp Merryelande  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Michael F. and Teresa Evans  
FROM: Joseph A. Lynott Jr. and Thomas L. Craven, Trustees  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 189, folio 398.  
DATE: August 22, 1984.  
NOTES: Transfer of two parcels, 1.) being 15 16/50 acres of St. Georges Island and 2.) being 8.9 acres of St. Georges Island.

TO: Sisters of the Holy Cross, Inc.  
FROM: St. Mary's Academy  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 56, folio 68.  
DATE: March 30, 1955.  
NOTES: Transfer of two parcels.

TO: St. Mary's Academy, Notre Dame, Indiana  
FROM: Carlton G. VanEmon and Antoinette VanEmon  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber 10, folio 426.  
DATE: October 15, 1937.  
NOTES: Transfer of two parcels for the use of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

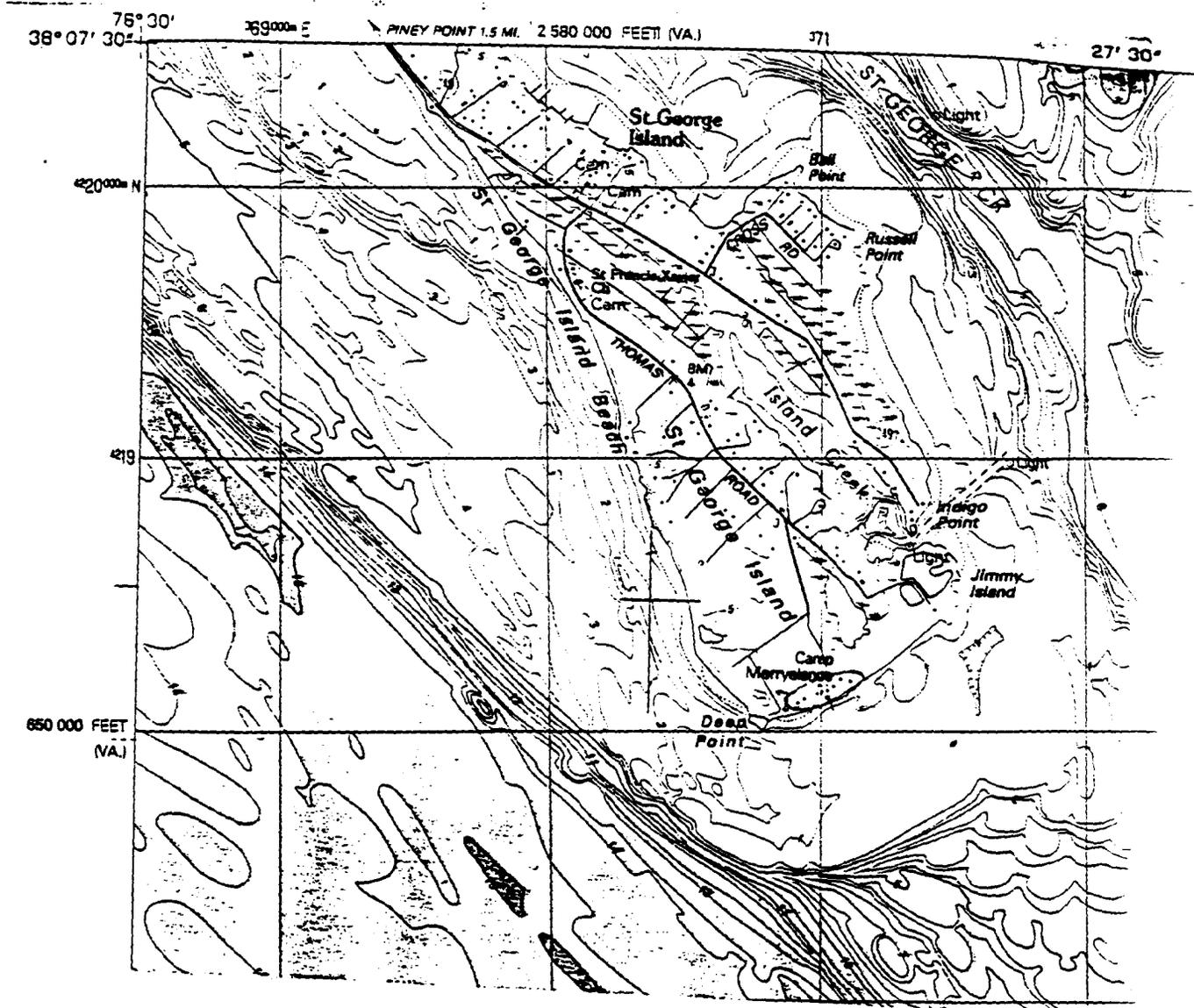
Parcel 1

TO: Carlton George VanEmon and Antoinette VanEmon  
FROM: Eugenia M. Poe and Charles F. Poe  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 20, folio 211.  
DATE: September 17, 1921.  
NOTES: Transfer of 15 16/50 acres on St. George's Island comprising three tracts of land, being the same as 1.) JFF 10/510; 2.) EBA 9/462; 3.) EBA 15/19.

Parcel 2

TO: Carlton George VanEmon and Antoinette C. VanEmon  
FROM: Emma J. Robrecht, widow, Charles L. Robrecht and Mary E. Robrecht, H. Leonard Robrecht and Florence Poe Robrecht, W. Hamilton Robrecht and James Donovan Poe.  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 2, folio 158.  
DATE: December 24, 1923.  
NOTES: Transfer of "Part of St. George's Island" consisting of 8 9/10 acres, being part of EBA 14/374 and being the same land of which Francis L. Robrecht died possessed.

SM-472  
Camp Merryelnde  
St. George Island  
St. George Island Quad



ST. GEORGE ISLAND, MD.-VA.

38076-A4-TB-024

1987

DMA 5760 III SW-SERIES V833



SM-472

CAMP MERRYLAND, office

St. Mary's County

E. Hughes

1/94

MD. MID.

SE elevation

1/4



SM-472

Camp Menominee, Fire Hall

St. Mary's County

27th Street

1794

MD SHPO

SE Elevation

2/4



SM-472

Camp Mangrove. Bunk House

St. Mary's County

E. Hughes

12/94

MD HPS

SE Elevation

3/4



SM-472

Camp Merrylelands, Cottage 4

St. Mary's County

E. Hughes

12/94

MD STPO

SW Elevation

4/4