

Capsule Summary
SM-482
George E. Combs House
California vicinity
Private

1903

The George E. Combs House is significant as a virtually unaltered example of an early twentieth century St. Mary's County farmstead. Except for the addition of exterior aluminum siding, the house and its supporting outbuildings are little changed. The house continues to be the centerpiece of a working agricultural landscape.

Originally known as "Thirds with Addition," this tract was owned by the Armsworthy family between 1857 and 1900. In August of 1900, Lucy E. Combs purchased the 140 acre parcel "Third's Addition" at a tax sale. Three years later George Edward Combs and his wife Lucy funded construction of a dwelling here. The house was actually built on the site of a tobacco bed. Local carpenter Perry Cecil oversaw construction of the building.

George E. Combs was a farmer who raised tobacco, corn, and hay on this property. The oldest outbuilding on the site is the hay barn. The other fourteen structures were built over time as needed. Although tobacco is no longer planted in the fields that surround the Combs House, the barns are leased out for the use of tobacco farmers. The fields are generally planted with corn and soybeans.

SM-482, George E. Combs House
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Urban/Industrial Transition, 1870 -1930.

Historic Period Theme: Architecture
Agriculture

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 Thirds Additionand/or common George E. Combs House (pref)

2. Location

street & number Indian Bridge Road not for publicationcity, town Great Mills vicinity of congressional district 5state 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 John Stephen Bean & Mary Elizabeth Beanstreet & number 500 Indian Bridge Road telephone no.: (301) 475-8230city, town California state and zip code Maryland 20619

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber CBG 61street & number folio 238city, town Leonardtwn state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-482

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| 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: 16

The George E. Combs House is located at the end of an unpaved, tree-lined drive on the north side of Indian Bridge Road near California in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The house is surrounded by cultivated fields. A series of fourteen outbuildings are grouped together on the north side of the house. Two barns stand northwest of the dwelling. The house faces south with the roof on an east/west axis.

Built in 1903, the Combs House is a two-story, three-bay frame structure with a center hall, single pile plan. A one-story, gable-roofed kitchen wing is attached to the north side of the main block. The house is supported by a brick pier foundation. The exterior, originally sheathed with weatherboards, is now covered with aluminum siding. The house is capped by a seamed metal roof.

The south (main) elevation of the house consists of a central, partially glazed entrance door flanked on either side by a two-over-two sash window with narrow surrounds. A shed roof porch with an asphalt shingle roof extends across the full width of this elevation. Originally supported by turned posts, the porch is now enclosed. The second floor of the house is pierced by three two-over-two sash windows.

The east elevation of the main block is blind. An exterior cinderblock chimney stands against this east wall. A one-story, gable roof kitchen wing projects to the north of the house, attached to the main block by an enclosed hyphen. The kitchen is pierced by a three-light-over-three-panel entrance door and a one-over-one sash window.

The north elevation of the main block is pierced by one two-over-two sash window on the first floor and two on the second floor. The gable end of the kitchen is pierced by a small two-light window. To the west of the chimney extends a shed roof addition dating to about 1950 when the house was equipped with indoor plumbing. Both an interior brick chimney and interior cinderblock chimney project from the roof of the kitchen wing.

The east elevation of the kitchen shed roof is pierced by one one-over-one sash window and one two-over-two sash window. The main block is blind. An interior brick chimney pierces the roof ridgeline.

The interior of the house consists of a center hall with a plain open string stair that leads to the second floor. The hall is flanked by a parlor on either side. The second floor consists of three bedrooms. Wood stoves heat the house. A hyphen, enclosed around 1911, leads from the stair hall to the kitchen wing. The kitchen

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 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 1903 **Builder/Architect** Perry Cecil

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 George E. Combs House is significant as a virtually unaltered example of an early twentieth century St. Mary's County farmstead. Except for the addition of exterior aluminum siding, the house and its supporting outbuildings are little changed. The house continues to be the centerpiece of a working agricultural landscape.

Originally known as "Thirds with Addition," this tract was owned by the Armsworthy family between 1857 and 1900. In August of 1900, Lucy E. Combs purchased the 140 acre parcel "Third's Addition" at a tax sale. The property remains in possession of the Combs' daughter, Mary Elizabeth Bean, today.

George Edward Combs and his wife Lucy funded construction of a dwelling here in 1903. The house was actually built on the site of a tobacco bed. Local carpenter Perry Cecil oversaw construction of the building. An early photograph of the house shows that the front porch was added at a later date. The rear kitchen wing, built separate from the house, was originally accessible by means of a plank walk. Around 1911, this walkway was enclosed. Old photographs also show that the house was originally enclosed by a white picket fence.

George E. Combs was a farmer who raised tobacco, corn, and hay on this property. The oldest outbuilding on the property is the hay barn. The other structures were built on the site over time as needed. Although tobacco is no longer planted in the fields that surround the Combs House, the barns are leased out for the use of tobacco farmers. The fields are generally planted with corn and soybeans.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-482

Mary Elizabeth Bean. Personal Interview, February 1995

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 7 acres

Quadrangle name Hollywood

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

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 |

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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"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

Verbal boundary description and justification

Acreeage Including house and outbuildings

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County Planning & Zoning date January 1995

street & number 328 Washington Street telephone (301) 475-4662

city or town Leonardtwn 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
DHP/DKDD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
-514-7600

SM-482, George E. Combs House
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

consists of one large room. The shed addition that extends to the west is occupied by a bathroom and pantry.

Fifteen frame outbuildings stand on the property. Closest to the house is a meat house sheathed with board and batten siding and roofed with corrugated metal. The meathouse faces west with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis. A vertical panel door pierces the west elevation. Two shed roof chicken houses, a corn house, a cow shed, a wood shed, a tractor shed, three storage sheds, a hay barn, and a tobacco barn are located at the north edge of the house lot. Two tobacco barns stand west of the house.

SM-482, George E. Combs House
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: John Stephen Bean and Mary Elizabeth Bean

FROM: Lucy E. Combs, widow.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 61, folio 238.

DATE: January 25, 1956.

NOTES: Transfer of "Third's Addition" being the same land that formerly belonged to the late Thomas B. Armsworthy and 140 acres more or less.

TO: Lucy E. Combs

FROM: Joseph B. Armsworthy

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 5, folio 431.

DATE: October 5, 1900.

NOTES: Transfer of "Third's Addition" being the same as that sold to Lucy Combs at a tax sale made by John W. Jones on August 7, 1900.

TO: Heirs

FROM: Thomas B. Armsworthy

RECORD: St. Mary's County Testamentary Record, Liber JTMR 1, folio 200.

DATE: November 19, 1867.

NOTES: Devision of tract "Thirds Addition" being 140 acres "at this time rented to Henry Pilkerton" to his two sons, Joseph B. and Thomas P. Armsworthy.

TO: Thomas B. Armsworthy

FROM: Frances Spencer

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JTB 2, folio 406.

DATE: January 17, 1857.

NOTES: Transfer of "Thirds with Addition" being 140 acres. Price: \$1000

TO: Frances Spencer

FROM: George W. Floyd

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JTB 1, folio 598.

DATE: November 29, 1853.

NOTES: Transfer of "Thirds with Addition" being 150 acres consisting of two parcels, one from James Redman and one from William Wood. Price: \$800

TO: George W. Floyd

FROM: William Wood and Susan Wood

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JTB 1, folio 517.

DATE: November 25, 1853.

NOTES: Transfer of 150 acres being a 1/2 undivided interest in the tract "Thirds with

SM-482, George E. Combs House
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

Addition." Price: \$200

TO: George W. Floyd

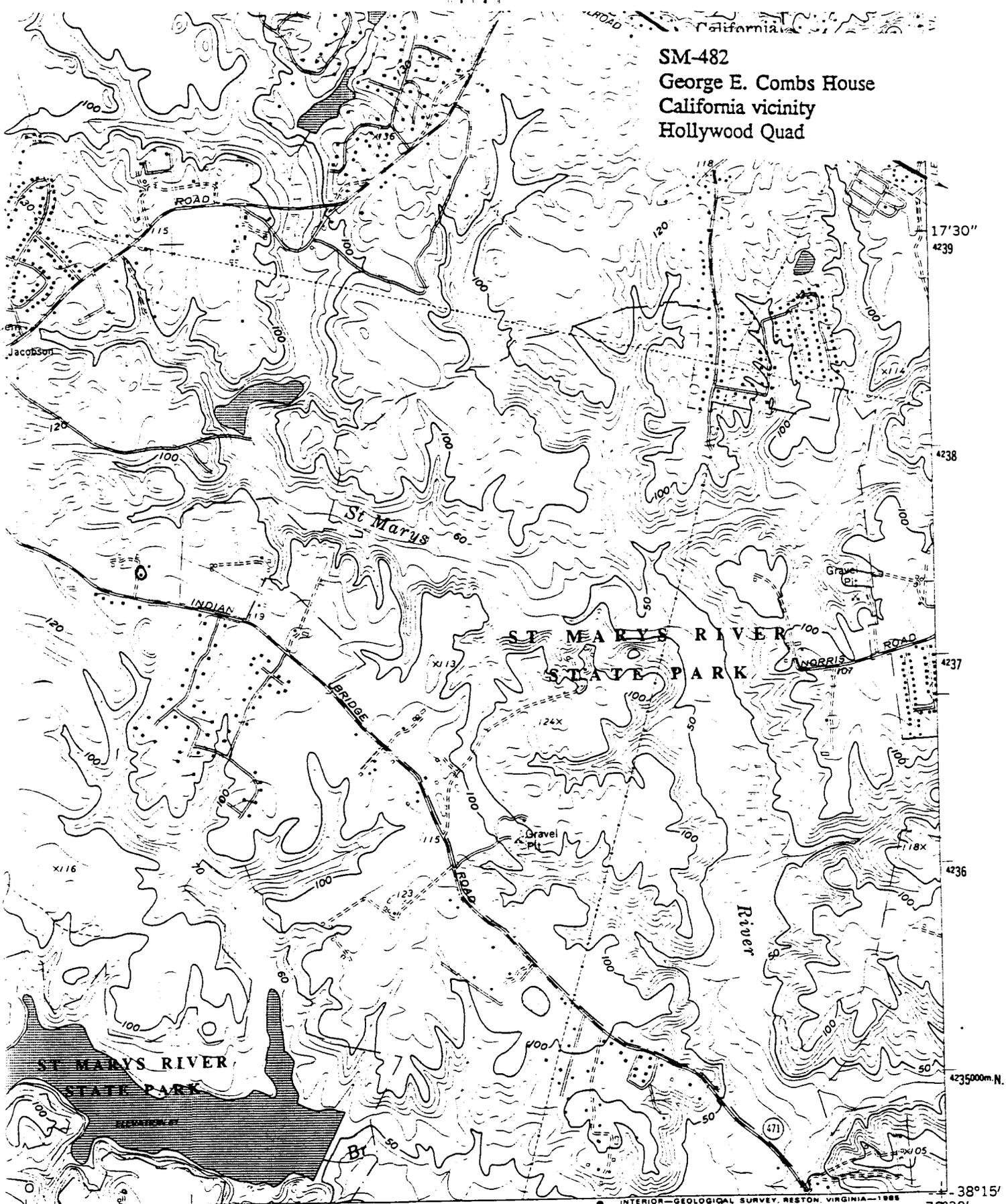
FROM: James B. Redman and Ellen E. Redman

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber WTM 2, folio 371.

DATE: February 12, 1851.

NOTES: Transfer of 150 acres being a 1/2 undivided interest in the tract "Thirds with
Addition." Price: \$200

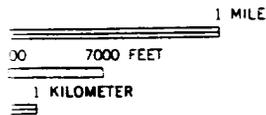
SM-482
 George E. Combs House
 California vicinity
 Hollywood Quad



INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1988

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

| | | | |
|-------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Heavy-duty | | Light-duty | |
| Medium-duty | | Unimproved dirt | |
| | | State Route | |



(ST. MARYS RIVER)



SM-482

George E Combs House

St Mary's County, MD

E. Hughes

February 1995

MD SHPO

1/4

US Elevation



SH-482

George E Combs House

St. Mary's County

E. Hughes

Feb. 1995

MD SHPO

2/4

NE Elevation



SM-482

George E. Combs House

St. Mary's County

E. Hughes

February 1995

MD SHPO

3/4

Meathouse



SM- 482

George E. Combs House

St. Mary's County

E. Hughes

February 1945

MD STPO

+ 1/4

Historic Photo. Source: Mary Elizabeth Egan