

Tsai House  
SM-695  
East side Three Notch Road (MD 235)  
Lexington Park vicinity  
Circa 1948  
Private

The Tsai House was most likely built *circa* 1948 following the establishment of the Patuxent Naval Air Station (NAS) earlier in the decade. Prior to the formation of NAS, the county's economy was primarily based upon agriculture (tobacco) and fishing, and very little modern development was evident in this portion of the state. In 1940, the population of the Bay district was 1,287; by 1950 it had increased nearly five-fold to 10,575. With this tremendous influx of workers in so short a period, residences were constructed near the base, and later spread to outlying areas along Three Notch Road (MD 235); intense modern commercial development has occurred within the past decade, further transforming the landscape.

This one-story gable-roof stucco-covered house is a common example of the type of dwelling that was constructed during the mid-twentieth century. Houses built during this time typically consisted of 1 or 1.5-story frame or brick dwellings in Cape Cod, bungalow and ranch styles. They commonly had gable roofs (both front and side facing), multi-pane double-hung sash and tripartite picture windows, and minimal decorative details such as brick window sills, shutters and sometimes simple moldings or pilasters at the main entry. Variations on the basic type included concrete block construction (sometimes stucco covered) and a hipped roof. These house types, which feature similar massing, shape and materials, were built in large numbers following World War II.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-695

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other **Tsai House**

### 2. Location

street & number **East side Three Notch Road (MD 235) south of Rue Purchase Rd.**  not for publication

city, town **Lexington Park**  vicinity

county **St. Mary's**

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

name **Chu-Fa Su-Chew Tsai**

street & number **2310 Alta Vista Road** telephone

city, town **Bethesda** state and zip code **MD 20814**

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. **St. Mary's County Courthouse** tax map and parcel **43/213**

city, town **Leonardtown** liber and folio **MRB215/205**

### 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			
			Contributing	Noncontributing		
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/ culture	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress			
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown			
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use			
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:			
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>		
				<u>0</u>		

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. SM-695

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### Condition

excellent     deteriorated  
 good         ruins  
 fair          altered

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

The vacant residence on the east side of Three Notch Road (MD 235) is located approximately 80 feet east of the road in a relatively undeveloped area of the corridor. The building is in very poor condition. Several mature trees and shrubs surround the house and a gravel drive is located on the south side of the building.

The 1-story stucco covered rectangular building is supported by a concrete foundation and has an asphalt shingle gable roof. Windows throughout the house consist primarily of eight-over-eight double-hung sash; many of the windows have broken or missing glass and two have been replaced.

The east elevation contains four bays: a door in the south end and three eight-over-eight windows. The north elevation includes a small one-over-one window flanked on either side an eight-over-eight window. The west elevation contains four bays: two eight-over-eight windows in the north end, a set of paired eight-over-eight windows, and a door in the south end. The south elevation contains two six-over-six windows; both of these window frames are larger than the current sash (one is filled in with glass block) and appeared to have contained larger windows at one time.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-695

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**Specific dates** Circa 1948 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

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 residence on the east side of Three Notch Road south of Rue Purchase Road was most likely built *circa* 1948 following the establishment of the Patuxent Naval Air Station (NAS) earlier in the decade. Prior to the formation of NAS, the county's economy was primarily based upon agriculture (tobacco) and fishing, and very little modern development was evident in this portion of the state. In 1940, the population of the Bay district was 1,287; by 1950 it had increased nearly five-fold to 10,575 (Hammett 1991:491). With this tremendous influx of workers in so short a period, residences were constructed near the base, and later spread to outlying areas along Three Notch Road (MD 235).

This house is a common example of the type of dwelling that was constructed during the mid-twentieth century. Houses built during this time typically consisted of 1 or 1.5-story frame or brick dwellings in Cape Cod, bungalow and ranch styles. They commonly had gable roofs (both front and side facing), multi-pane double-hung sash and tripartite picture windows, and minimal decorative details such as brick window sills, shutters and sometimes simple moldings or pilasters at the main entry. Variations on the basic type included concrete block construction (sometimes stucco covered) and a hipped roof. These house types, which feature similar massing, shape and materials, were built in large numbers following World War II.

It is unlikely that historic or prehistoric archeological resources are preserved on this property. The extensive disturbance typically associated with construction during the last 50 years is likely to have displaced any archeological resources that may have been on this property. Similarly, commercial and residential development in the vicinity make the survival of archeological resources on adjacent properties unlikely.

Historical documentation does not indicate that this resource is associated with Criterion A, broad patterns of history or a significant event or Criterion B, an important person who contributed to local or state history. The property does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction nor does it represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, Criterion C, architecture, does not apply. Lastly, the property is unlikely to yield information which contributes to our understanding of human history. As a result of recent modern development in the immediate area, the property lacks integrity of association, feeling and setting. The poor condition and removal of original fabric have compromised the dwelling's integrity of design, materials, workmanship and location.

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <input type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments:	
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services <i>[Signature]</i>	Date 11/21/98
Reviewer, NR program <i>[Signature]</i>	Date 11/21/98

*[Handwritten note]*

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name  
Continuation Sheet  
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## HISTORIC CONTEXT:

### **MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA**

Geographic Organization:                      Southern Maryland

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):    Modern Period A.D. 1930 - Present

Historic Period Theme(s):                    Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type:

    Category:                                    Building

    Historic Environment:                    Urban

    Historic Function(s) and Use(s):       Dwelling

    Known Design Source:                    None

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-695

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Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland, 1634-1990. Ridge, MD (privately published), 1991.  
Hughes, Elizabeth. Final Report - St. Mary's County Historic Sites Survey. Valley Lee, St. George Island, Bay and Patuxent Districts. St. Mary's County Department of Planning and Zoning, 1995.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of property 1.2 acres

Acreage surveyed 1.2 acres

Quadrangle name Solomon's Island, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel 213, Map 43, Grid 02

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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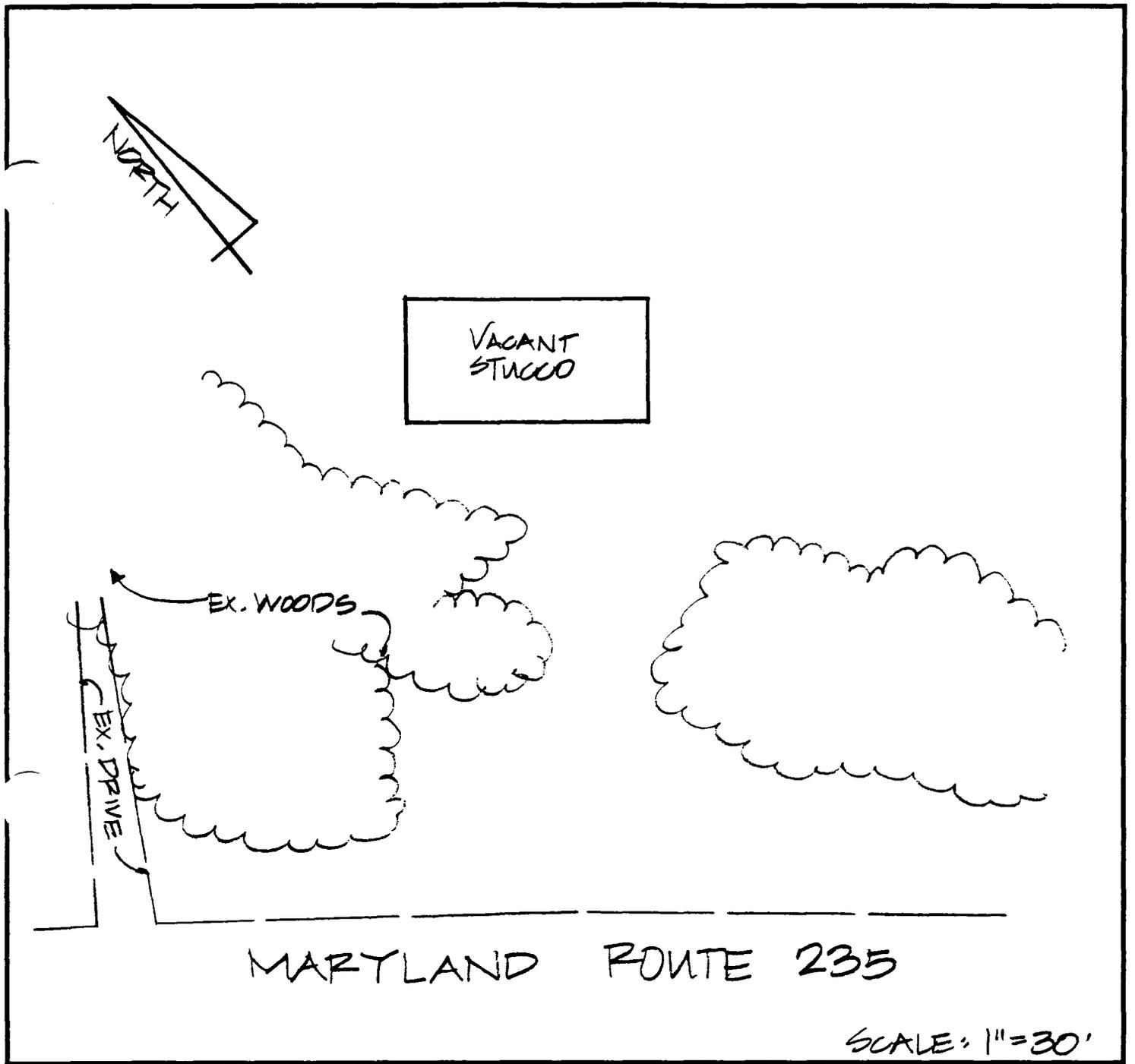
name/title	Margaret B. Parker		
organization	KCI Technologies, Inc.	date	7-21-98
street & number	10 North Park Drive	telephone	410-316-7857
city or town	Hunt Valley	state and zip code	MD 21030-1888

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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  
410-514-7646



**SM-695**  
 Tsai House, E. Side Three Notch Road  
 California Vicinity, St. Mary's Co.  
 Resource Sketch Map

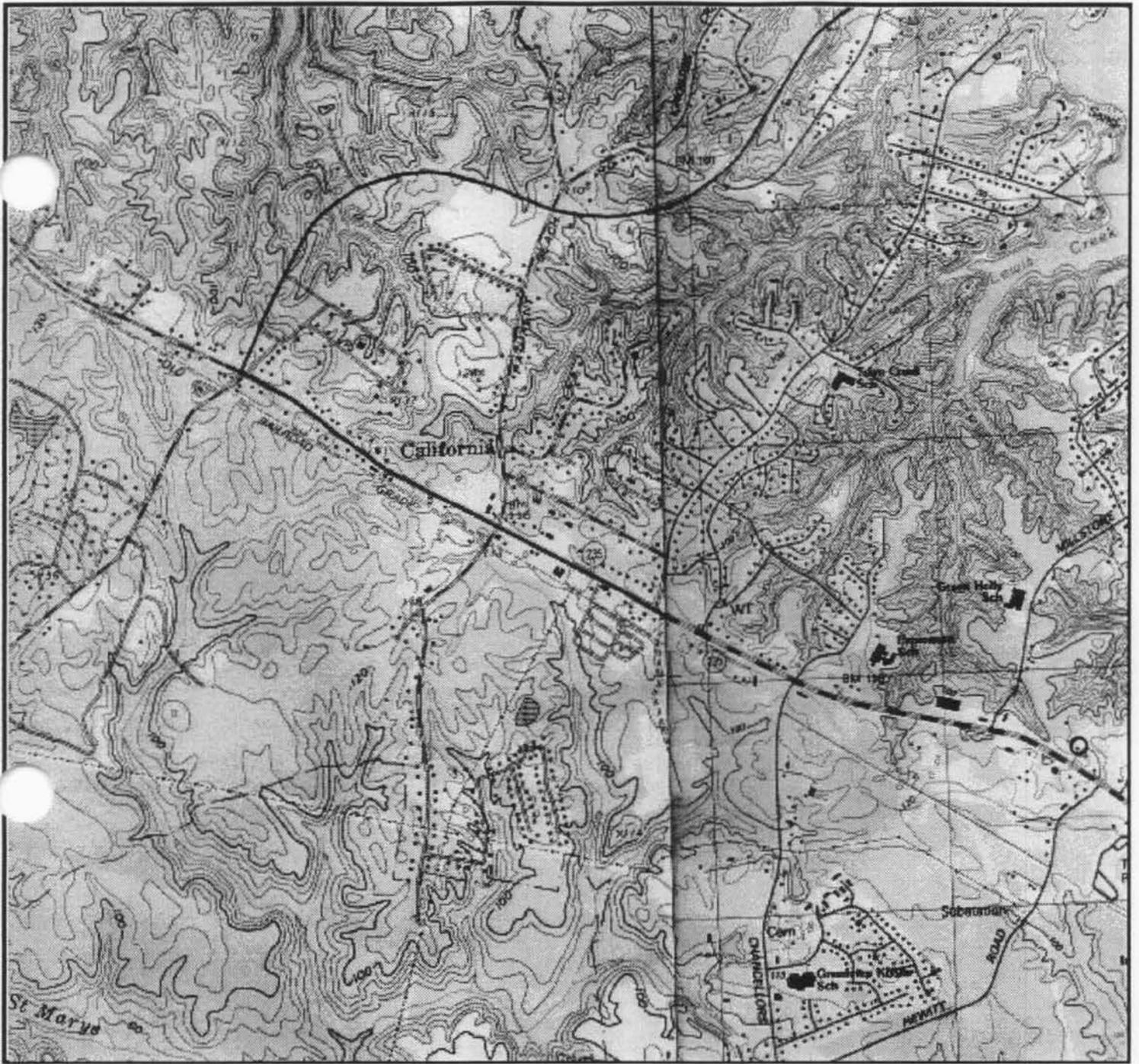


**MARYLAND STATE HIGHWAY  
 ADMINISTRATION**

10 NORTH PARK DRIVE  
 HUNT VALLEY, MD 21030  
 410-316-7800

**MD 235: MD 4 to MD 246  
 St. Mary's County, MD**

**BCS 95-17A**



**SM- 695**  
Tsai House, E.Side Three Notch Road  
California Vicinity, St. Mary's Co.  
Solomon's Island, MD USGS Quad  
1987



**MARYLAND STATE HIGHWAY  
ADMINISTRATION**

10 NORTH PARK DRIVE  
HUNT VALLEY, MD 21030  
410-316-7800

**MD 235: MD 4 to MD 246  
St. Mary's County, MD**

**BCS 95-17A**

Scale: 1"=2,000'



SM-695

St Marys Co.

Margaret Parker

7/29/99

MD. SHPO

N + W elev.

1 of 2



SM-695

St Marys Co.

Margaret Parker

7/29/93

MD SHPO

E + S elev.

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