

Capsule Summary  
SM-812  
Back Road Inn  
Compton vicinity  
Private

circa 1890

Like many rural stores constructed in the late-nineteenth century, the Back Road Inn portrays how these commercial establishments were strategically positioned at crossroads to make the most of passing traffic. Situated in the community of Compton, Maryland the Inn is a circa 1890, two story, two bay, frame building that has been dramatically altered since it was first constructed. A number of shed additions extend off the building and feature a number of different sheathing materials. The east shed, however, is the most distinctive as it exhibits a fishscale pattern of wood shingles. Further research should include a search for photographs of how the Inn originally looked.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-812

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

historic Back Road Inn

other \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street and number 22094 Newtowne Neck Road     not for publication

city, town Compton   x   vicinity

county St. Mary's

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

name James K. Cryer

street and number PO Box 82 telephone N/a

city, town Leonardtown state Md zip code 20650-0082

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse tax map and parcel TM-39, P-125

city, town Leonardtown liber EWA 1331 folio 363

## 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	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>  1  </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>          </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u>          </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>          </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>  1  </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input 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-812

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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 Back Road Inn is situated on the south side of Newtowne Neck Road at its intersection with Bay Side Road in the rural crossroads community of Compton, Maryland. Oriented on a north/south axis, the Inn lies on a .70 acre tract that features a parking lot, horse shoe pits, and a sheltered picnic area. The topography of the lot is flat. The property is bounded to the east and west by residential lots and a wooded lot to south.

The Back Road Inn, constructed circa 1890, is a highly modified two story, two bay frame building with a gable roof and a host of one story shed additions that encircle the building. The exterior of the inn is sheathed with a combination of different materials including vertical boards, wood weatherboard, and fishscale shingles. The wide overhanging eave is enclosed and the roof is covered with raised seam metal. A single, interior end brick chimney flue rises on the east side.

The primary or north elevation is dominated by at least three different periods of shed additions. On the first floor, immediately in front of the main block, is an enclosed shed addition sheathed with vertical boards and pierced by a door and small square window. To the west of the door is another addition fenestrated by a paired set of windows and sheathed with wood weatherboard. To the east of the main block is another unfenestrated addition clad with weatherboard. Immediately to the south of this section is a shed addition that extends from the east gable end of the main block. Interestingly, it is sheathed with wood shingles arranged in a pattern often referred to as fish scales. The second floor of the main block is pierced by two shuttered windows. The sash were not visible at the time of the visit.

No other elevations were investigated.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-812

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input 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 checked="" 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**

**Architect/Builder**

**Construction dates**

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Like many rural stores constructed in the late-nineteenth century, the Back Road Inn portrays how these commercial establishments were strategically positioned at crossroads to make the most of passing traffic. Situated in the community of Compton, Maryland, the Inn is a circa 1890, two story, two bay, frame building that has been dramatically altered since it was first constructed. A number of shed additions extend off the building and feature a number of different sheathing materials. The east shed, however, is the most distinctive as it exhibits a fishscale pattern of wood shingles. Further research should include a search for photographs of how the Inn originally looked.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. SM-812

Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property .7 acres  
Acreage of historical setting .7 acres  
Quadrangle name Leonardtown Quadrangle scale: 1:24 000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded to the east and west by residential lots and a wooded lot to south. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber 1331, Folio 363.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Maryland

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.

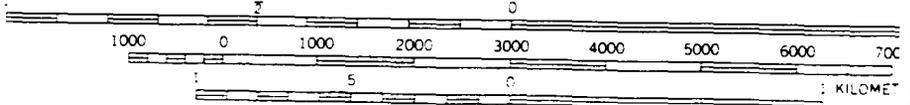
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



21'30" ROAD ENDS 1 MI (ST. CLEMENT'S ISLAND) 53 54 40' 55

SCALE 1:24 000



SM-812  
 Back Road Inn  
 Compton  
 St. Mary's County  
 Leonardtown Quad

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
 DASHED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
 BATHYMETRIC CONTOUR INTERVAL 1 METER WITH SUPPLEMENTARY  
 0.5 METER CONTOURS—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER

100-10-10-10000

7527



Open  
RACE SHOP  
100

**Budweiser**  
BREWERY OF AMERICA

Checkered sign with text including 'RACE SHOP' and 'OPEN'.

Handwritten sign on the door.

**WELCOME  
RACE FANS**

SM-812  
Back Road Inn  
St Mary's County  
P.O. Box 144

md SHAO  
Looking S

left