

Capsule Summary  
SM-889  
Combs Creek Store  
Compton  
Private

circa 1920

The Combs Creek Store represents one of the rarest property types found in St. Mary's County. For much of the late-nineteenth and early twentieth century watermen, boatbuilders, and others who worked the waters relied on waterfront general stores for critical supplies such as food, clothing, and other items. The Combs Creek Store represents one of the only remaining buildings that recall this critical function. Erected circa 1920, the building commands a distinctive presence on Combs Creek as it is constructed on piers lying only a foot or so above high tide. The one-and-a-half story, frame building represents an important resource that deserves further recordation in the form of oral history and documentary research.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-889

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

historic Combs Creek Store

other

### 2. Location

street and number near SM-887, on W bank of Combs Creek \_\_\_ not for publication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 Louise Eppard c/o Philip Eppard

street and number 5130 Armand Avenue telephone N/a

city, town Suitland state Md zip code 20746

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse tax map and parcel TM-39, P-8

city, town Leonardtown liber JMM 7 folio 272

### 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 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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 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-889

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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.

Located on the banks of Combs Creek is the Combs Creek Store near the rural community of Compton, Maryland. Oriented on a south/north axis, the building is approached via a short drive that extends to the east of Joe Hazel Road that leads to the Eppard House (SM-887). Located on a larger 20.29 acre parcel, only about six acres on the east side of Joe Hazel Road were surveyed. The immediate property is bounded by the Combs Creek Marina to the north, Joe Hazel Road to the west, a residential subdivision to the south, and Combs Creek to the east.

The Combs Creek Store is a one-and-a-half story frame dwelling with a gable roof. Resting on a foundation of wooden blocks and piers, the exterior walls of the building are sheathed with asbestos shingles and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles although portions of the porch roofs are covered with raised-seam metal. An exterior end chimney constructed of all stretcher bond brick climbs the west gable end of the building. A cupola with weathervane tops the roof peak.

The first floor of the primary or south elevation consists of a central door flanked on either side by a set of paired six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. All of these bays are shaded by a porch supported by three posts. A portion of the east porch has been enclosed and is pierced by two six pane windows. The attic story is illuminated by two gable dormers each pierced by a six-over-six window.

The west elevation is unfenestrated on the first floor, but a large exterior end brick chimney is present. An exterior stair on this side of the house provides access to the attic story. A door, sheltered by a gable awning, is situated at the head of the stairs. A small window is also visible just to the north of the chimney.

The north elevation is pierced on the first floor by three six-over-six windows. Two gable dormers with six-over-six windows illuminate the attic story.

The first floor fenestration of the east elevation is largely obscured by a screened-in porch. The gable end, however, is pierced by a single six-over-six window.

The interior was not investigated.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-889

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 checked="" 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.)

The Combs Creek Store represents one of the rarest property types found in St. Mary's County. For much of the late-nineteenth and early twentieth century watermen, boatbuilders, and others who worked the waters relied on waterfront general stores for critical supplies such as food, clothing, and other items. The Combs Creek Store represents one of the only remaining buildings that recall this critical function. Erected circa 1920, the building commands a distinctive presence on Combs Creek as it is constructed on piers lying only a foot or so above high tide. The one-and-a-half story, frame building represents an important resource that deserves further recordation in the form of oral history and documentary research.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-889

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

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 6 acres  
Acreage of historical setting 20.29 acres  
Quadrangle name Leonardtown

Quadrangle scale: 1:24 000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The immediate property is bounded by the Combs Creek Marina to the north, Joe Hazel Road to the west, a residential subdivision to the south, and Combs Creek to the east. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber JMM 7, Folio 272.

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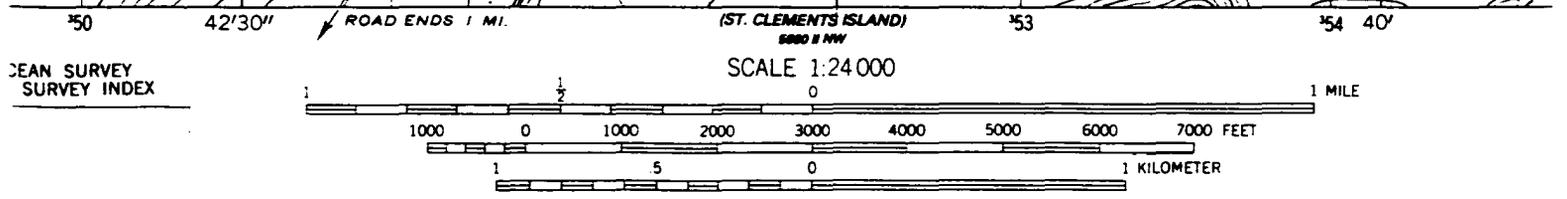
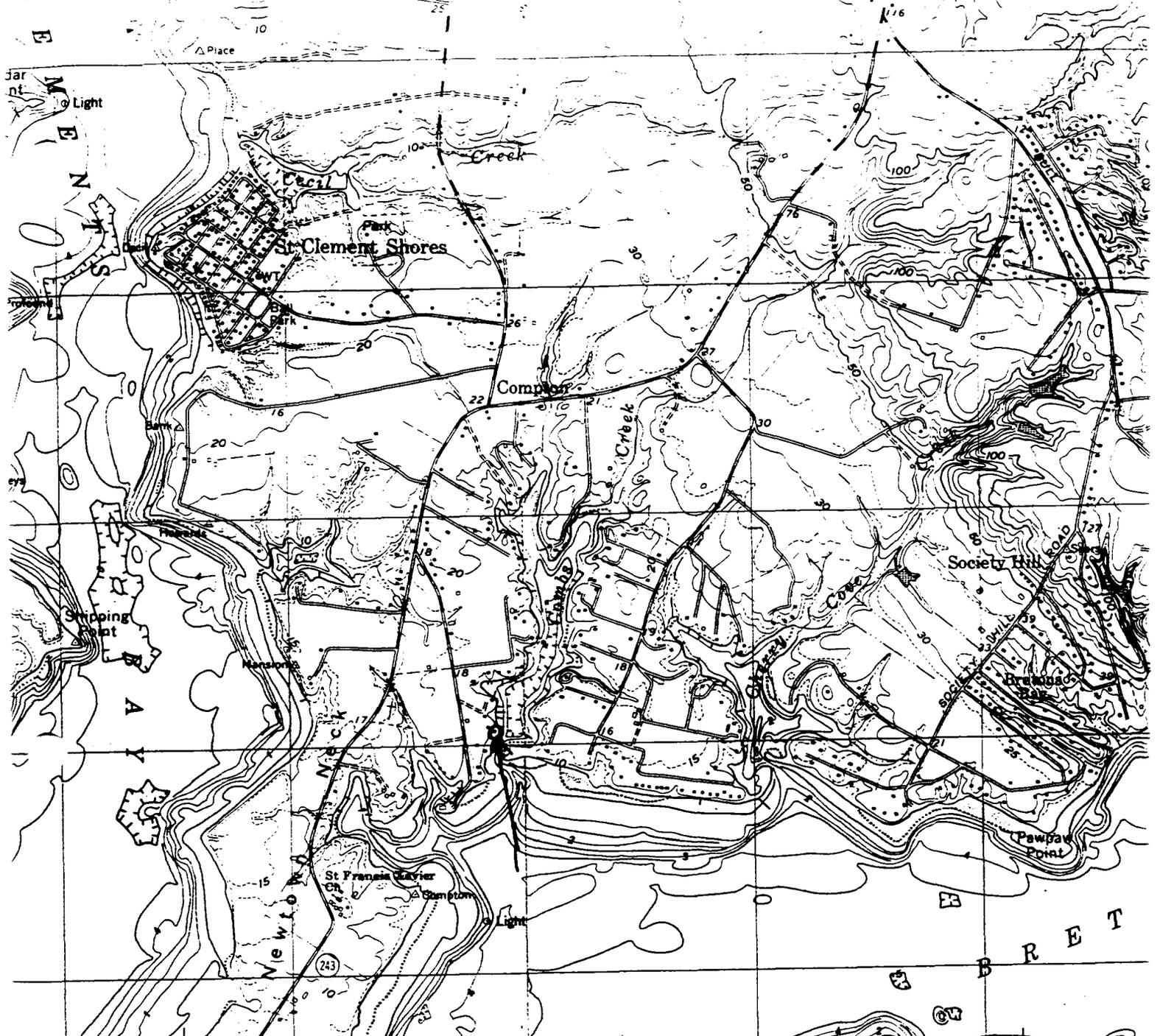
## 11. Form Prepared by

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



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  
 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE  
 THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 1.7 METERS

SM-889  
 Combs Creek Store  
 Compton  
 St. Mary's County  
 Leonardtown Quad

BASE MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 BATHYMETRIC SURVEY DATA COMPLIES WITH INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC  
 ORGANIZATION (IHO) SPECIAL PUBLICATION 44 ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 AND/OR STANDARDS USED AT THE DATE OF THE SURVEY



SM-889

Combs Creek Store

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Sept/00

Md SHPO

2/00

Looking E

1 of 2



SM-889

Combs Creek Store  
St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranze Itz

sept/00

Md SHPO

Looking S

2 of 2