

## BOZMAN

In the fall of 1986, Historic St. Michaels-Bay Hundred asked a group of volunteers to undertake a survey of vernacular houses in the towns of Bay Hundred. Three of us, Ray and Jean Winch and Jean Snyder agreed to survey Bozman under the direction of William Bodenstein and Thomas Carter. Jean Snyder subsequently left the group to survey the town of Neavitt.

We started the project by looking for the oldest houses. Except for the old Caulk Plantation, houses were made of wood because it was plentiful. Fire often destroyed them. Sometimes they were built on one property and later moved to another. Often they were remodeled and the whereabouts of the "old" portion was unknown. Sometimes an older resident would tell us about an "old" portion no longer visible.

Later we enlarged the project to include samples of houses from different periods, and significant public buildings. Each time we talk to one of the "long time" residents we discover some other interesting place. It is hard to draw the project to a close. There are probably things we have missed and we regret this.

William Bodenstein was the photographer for the group and Jean Winch completed the written portion.

## BOZMAN, MARYLAND

Bozman is a small village in Talbot County, Maryland situated on the Bozman-Neavitt Road (Route 579). It is surrounded on the west by Harris Creek and on the east by Broad Creek and on the south by Ledenham Creek. The village was settled by farmers and watermen.<sup>1</sup> The land is flat and good for farming. Water transportation was easily available. Watermen found good harbors, a plentiful seafood harvest and water transportation to market was easy.

At the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Bozman was an area of small farms. "Farmers owned their own land. They had a little garden, a few pigs and some chickens. Milk was easy to get. If a farmer had five acres or so he'd have a cow or so too." according to Captain Otis Bridges.

The first Post Office in Bozman was opened in a small building on the property of William Harrison June 5, 1878. (p.209 Ball - 1989). The building is still on the property in 1989. The Post Office was in the Bozman Store (p.20 - Bridges) in 1987. In 1988 a brick facade was placed around the old "colored" school house (p.20 - Bridges) on Quaker Neck Road (p.220 ) to make a new Post Office.

An 1877 map shows about 50 houses, two schools ( one for whites and one for blacks) and two churches. The "white" school was on the southwest corner of Bozman Road and Quaker Neck Road. The "colored" school was at the southwest corner of Bozman Road and the lane to the old Caulk Plantation opposite Breezy Point Road.<sup>1</sup>

In the early part of this century there were three stores, two churches (Methodist and Holiness), a lodge for the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, blacksmith, a Post Office, several summer boarding houses for vacationers, and two schools (one for whites and one for blacks).<sup>2</sup> *Second mill, and a cannery*

In 1988, there are two church buildings, though only the Methodist has an active congregation. A general store, a Post Office, the lodge mentioned above that is now used as a Methodist Sunday School Building and a voting area, and a packing house for crabs and oysters, are the only public buildings. Children now go to school in St. Michaels.

There are still some small farms. Most raise corn or soybeans. Most watermen keep their boats in the Grace Creek harbor behind P.T. Hambleton's Packing House on Cooper Point Road.

The naming of Bozman remains a mystery, though there was a well known family by that name in Talbot County.

1. Moved to Quaker Neck Road, enclosed with brick and in 1988 became Bozman Post Office.
2. Also two saw mills and a cannery.

Bozman Post Office

" Villages like Mattewstown in Chapel District and BOZMAN on Broad Creek Neck were not only shopping centers, but rallying points for community pride. BOZMAN in particular showed its mettle, when in the midst of the horrendous blizzard of March 1888 more than 50 people gathered for a gala dinner to celebrate the inauguration of daily postal service from St. Michaels despite the fact that the mailman could not get there because of the snow. " \*

However, Bozman , had then had a post office for ten years. The first postmaster was William Harrison who opened the post office in a small building on his property on June 5, 1878. The post office was discontinued Dec 1, 1879 because of his death and was re-established Aug 21, 1882 with Reuben McQuay as Postmaster.

Listed below are the Postmasters that have served the Bozman post office.

William S. Harrison	June 5, 1878
Reuben McQuay	Aug.21, 1882
Gustavus F. Jones	Sept. 7,1885
Martin O. Camper	Dec. 6, 1889
Peter D. Hunt	Mar. 27,1891
Edwin S. Neavitt	Jul.25, 1893
James H. Sutton	Jun.26, 1897
W. H. Sutton (acting)	Apr. 2, 1932
Martha H. Sutton	Apr. 17,1932
William D, Cummings (acting)	Aug.22, 1944
Austin Bridges	
Elizabeth F. Watson (O.I.C.)	May 1970
Elizabeth F. Watson (postmistress)	Apr. 29,1972
Evelyn Matthews (Postmistress)	Aug. 1, 1987

\* Talbot County:A History - Dickinson Preston pp.245 Chapter-The Age of Steam.

- Churches - The Broad Creek Methodist Episcopal Church on the west side of Bozman Road below Ruby Harrison Road, was built in 1900, by a number of local residents whose last names were Gemeny and McQuay, according to Norman McQuay. There is a cemetery behind the church. A map of 1877 shows two churches in the area of Meeting House Cove across from Mayport Road. A Methodist Episcopal Church on ground between the road and the Cove, and a Colored Methodist Episcopal Church about a half mile south of that on ~~Harris~~ <sup>Swamp Rd.,</sup> ~~Creek~~ <sup>on North side of Mayport Rd.</sup> Church burned but cemetery is still there.
- Post Office - The first Post office building still stands, a small building built <sup>in 1878</sup> as a store and post office, on the property of William Harrison, first Postmaster. (The property on current tax maps listed as No.209.) Later the post office was in a building to the east of the current post office on Quaker Neck Road. Still later it was moved to the west side of Bozman Road in the General Store (Tax plat No.86). On June 6, 1988 it was moved back to Quaker Neck Road, Tax plat No.220)
- Schools - The Bozman school had two rooms and was on the corner of Bozman and Quaker Neck Road. It is shown on a 1877 map as School#6. When all children were sent to St. Michaels to school it was broken in two parts, moved to other parts of Bozman and made into houses. At that time it was discovered that the original blackboard was made of two 3 foot wide boards planed smooth and painted black. A Colored School - No.4 - is listed on the 1877 map at the west side of the Bozman Road a little above the head of Lead-  
enham Creek.
- Stores - Bozman has had a number of stores over the years. The earliest seems to be William Harrison's on the north end of Bozman, east side of the Bozman Road (Tax plat 209). In the 1920's and 30's there were 6 stores - R. McQuay's by the county dock on Grace Creek (Cooper Point Road), R. McQuay's on the north side of Quaker Neck Road, Sutton's, also north side of Quaker Neck, Jones, (tax plat No. 224 ) south east side of Bozman Road below Quaker Neck Rd., Lamer's , west side of Bozman Rd. north of entrance to Quaker Neck, Thomas Cooper's, West side Bozman Rd opposite Quaker Neck Rd. This store burned and the current cinder block store was built. Thomas Cooper's store was a dry goods store.
- Harbors - County dock at Grace Creek - Cooper Point Road, Cedar Cove - on Broad Creek, just north of Edgar Cove,
- Businesses - A tomato cannery on Grace creek, <sup>just below terminal</sup> oyster shucking houses on Grace ~~and on Harris Creeks~~, saw mills - Cooper point Rd and on Swamp Road and one on the Broad Creek side of Bozman Road across from Kirk Cove.
- Boarding Houses - Harrison's at the end of Ruby Harrison Road, Edmonds called "Safety Beach" ~~at~~ west side Bozman Road south of Meetinghouse Cove, and Bridge's "Breezy Point" ~~at~~ also on west or Harris Creek side of Bozman Road. These were vacation boarding houses for families from the western shore who came by ferry to Claiborne and were carried to the boarding houses by horse and carriage or by a school bus <sup>from Newitt.</sup>

Boarding Houses - In the 1920's a bed and 3 meals a day were \$15.00. On Saturday nights at Breezy Point there were dances on the waterside pavillion.

Oldest Houses - Small Red house on east side of Bozman Road (Tax plat 216), Guest house on John Montgomery property, Cooper Point Road, east side (579/759 P.6), and Willeen Shirley property, east side Cooper Point Road, (Tax Plat 593/551 P. 49). and Caulk farm, east side Bozman Road south of Quaker Neck Road, (Tax Plat 468/181/497 P.65)

Fraternal Orders - Junior Order of United American Mechanics, disbanded in early 1930's. Building on east side of Bozman Road south of Quaker Neck Road is now a Sunday School building for the Methodist Church and is voting headquarters at election time.

Cemeteries - Broad Creek Methodist Episcopal Church, <sup>p.128</sup> at the corner of the Bozman Road and Ruby Harrison Road has a cemetery behind it on Ruby Harrison Road. Another one is at the corner of the Bozman Road and Mayport Road. The remains of a burned-out church, labeled on an 1877 map as "Col'd (colored) Methodist Episcopal Church" is still visible in 1988, and behind it in winter can be seen the outline of graves, some sunken and some raised, and a single tombstone with the name Baily and a burial date of 1939.

There is a brick enclosed, underground grave and perhaps others with it beside the barn on the Russell Train property, a farm bounded in 1988 by Grace Creek, Broad Creek and Ledenham Creek.

Another cemetery sits in a field bordered by Bozman Road and Swan Point Road. The owner of the field does not own the cemetery. It is an old Harrison family graveyard. (p.288)

#### Boarding Houses -

Harrisons - the oldest, originally just a house. Cabins added later.

Ruby Harrisons - (wife of son of other Harrison - Cabins.

Elginfritz - (Bud and Virginia) -

Breezy Point - Bridges - Boarding house and cabins.

Safety Beach - Edmonds - boarding house.

Black Families - between 1900 and 1920 there were about 40 black families in Bozman. In 1989 there are none. Between 1900 and 1920 the black families had a church, a school and a hall.

My Dad had an old log canoe. It had sails. When the wind died you got out a long paddle and paddled out to the oyster bar. I can remember when he put an engine in it. First a Fisherman one cylinder, then a Palmer 2 cylinder and then another Palmer.

There have been several stores in Bozman. There was one on the far corner (plat 218) built by James H. Sutton that served as post office\* and general store. Another was built by Capt. Thomas Cooper (plat 86) in the 1800's. It burned. Mr Will Cummins rebuilt it. Later it had to be moved because the road was widened. A new store was built by Capt. Otis Bridges in 1965. There was another store (built on plat 224) built before 1900 by Will Jones. It burned in 1920 and was rebuilt the same year by Will Jones. It is now used as a house. Another store was on the enclosed porch of the Hambleton house on Grace Creek (plat ).

\* Perhaps this is the post office to which the daily mail service was to have been started in 1888.

" Villages like Matthewstown in Chapel District and Bozman on Broad Creek Neck were not only shopping centers, but rallying points for community pride. Bozman in particular showed its mettle, when in the midst of the horrendous blizzard of March 1888 more than 50 people gathered for a gala dinner to celebrate the inauguration of daily postal service from St. Michaels despite the fact that the mailman could not get there because of the snow. ....Leftovers from the dinner were sold to benefit the proposed library that Bozman soon hoped to have."

From Talbot County: A History - pp.245

Mrs. Thursby Cooper of Bozman tells me that Mr. Charles Hudson, Jr of Bozman and Mrs. Walter Harper of St. Michaels have both been recording the history of Bozman.

J.F. Winch

Captain Otis Bridges description of pre-World War I Bozman, Maryland.

We could go anywhere by water, St. Michaels, Tighlman, Nevitt, Claiborne Whitman. Roads weren't too good. Had some horse and buggies. Maybe two or three cars. Most travel was by water.

Saturday nights everybody went to St. Michaels. There was a movie house there. Had two shows. Both shows were filled. And people - the streets were just filled. You'd go to meet your friends. Everyone was there. Nowdays on a Saturday night you could shoot a gun down the street and not hit anybody. You went to shop too. Not groceries. Clothes.

Ruby Harrison Lane was called Lovers Lane in those days. You could take your girl down there. There was some big Oaks down there with some benches under them.

On Sunday everyone went to church. Preacher came to Bozman in the morning, went to Neavitt at noon and came back to Bozman at night. That was only every other week. On alternate weeks he went Neavitt. Always went to church on Sunday night. That's where the boys went to find a girl.....and where the girls went to find a boy, I guess.

Most folks in those days were either farmers or watermen. Oh, there was a painter or two, and a blacksmith, but most were farmers or watermen. Farmers owned their own land. They had a little garden, a few pigs and some chickens. And milk was easy to get. If a farmer had five acres or so he'd have a cow or so too.

There was a two room school house on the south east corner of Quaker Neck and the Bozman Road. Tore it down. Mr. Otto bought the property just to keep it looking neat. I got one half of the school house on by property. Made it into a house. Took me two winters. You know in those days they didn't have blackboards - just two great big wide boards one above the other painted black. I covered it up with sheet rock. My Daddy went to school in that school house <sup>and so did I</sup>. The other half of the school is down on Cooper Point Road on Corvelle Harrison farm that backs up to Caulks Cove. \* MET.

The old church is just before the first curve on Quaker neck Road. Been there as long as I can remember. Holiness Church.

First building on the left going down Quaker Neck Road was the school for colored children. Wasn't there then. It was down the Bozman Road about opposite Breezy Point Road or hollow.

The dirt lane opposite Breezy Point Road goes down to an large old brick house. I can remember when that had slave quarters attached to it. You know they attached a long low building to the side of the main house and that was the slave quarters. They're all gone now. Russel Train owns the house now, but he doesn't live in it.

Just beyond Tom Boggs house is where we had our baseball field.

There was some houses down here used to have boarders in the summer. Folks from Baltimore would send their wife and children down here for the summer. Sometimes they'd just come for a few days.

Boarding Houses - In the 1920's a bed and 3 meals a day were \$15.00. On Saturday nights at Breezy Point there were dances on the waterside pavillion.

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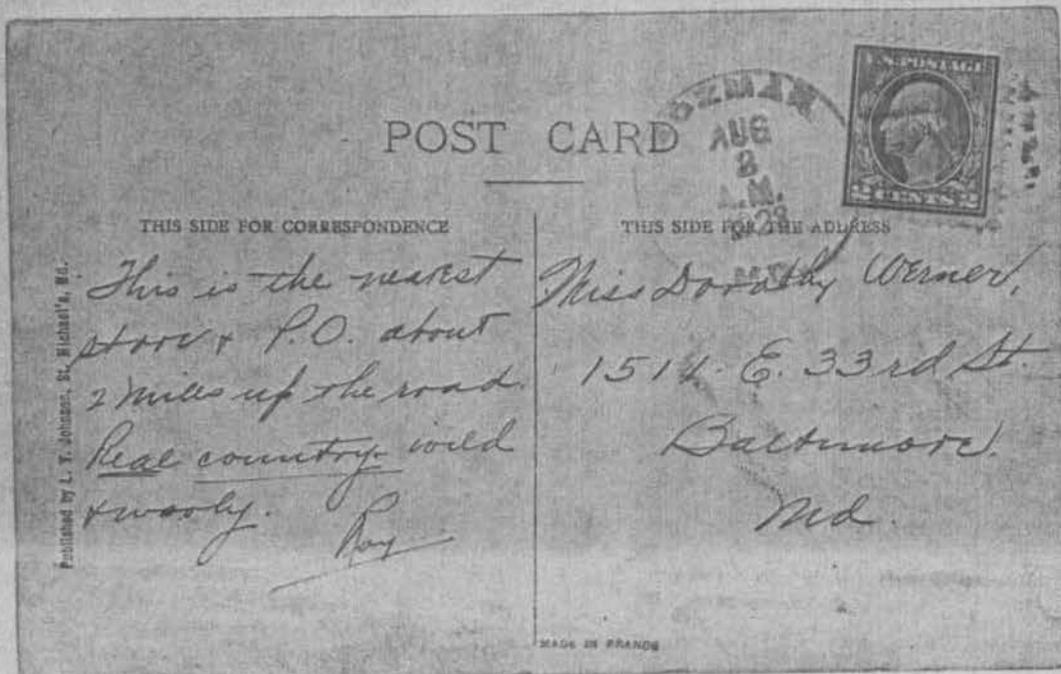
#### Boarding Houses -

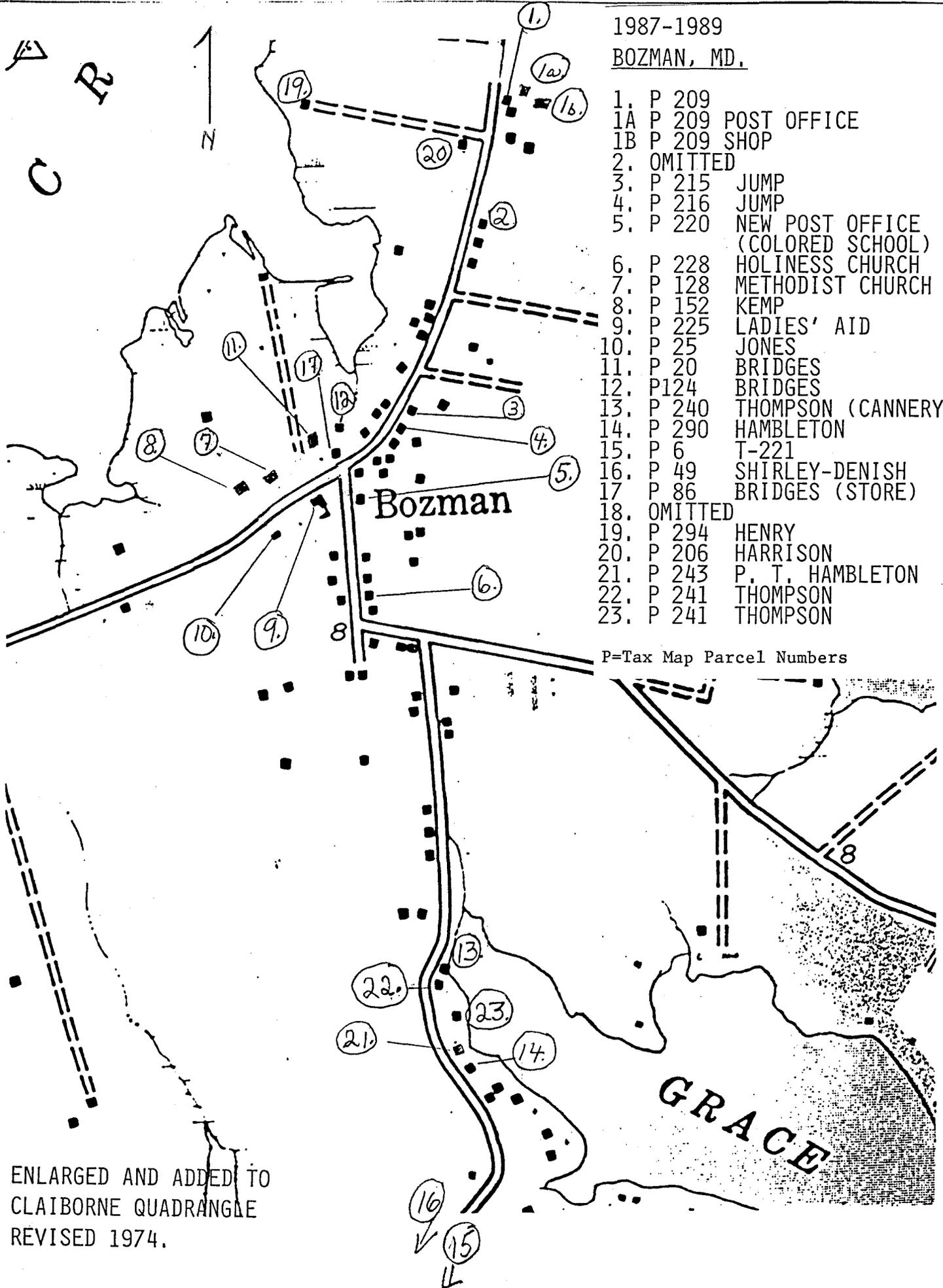
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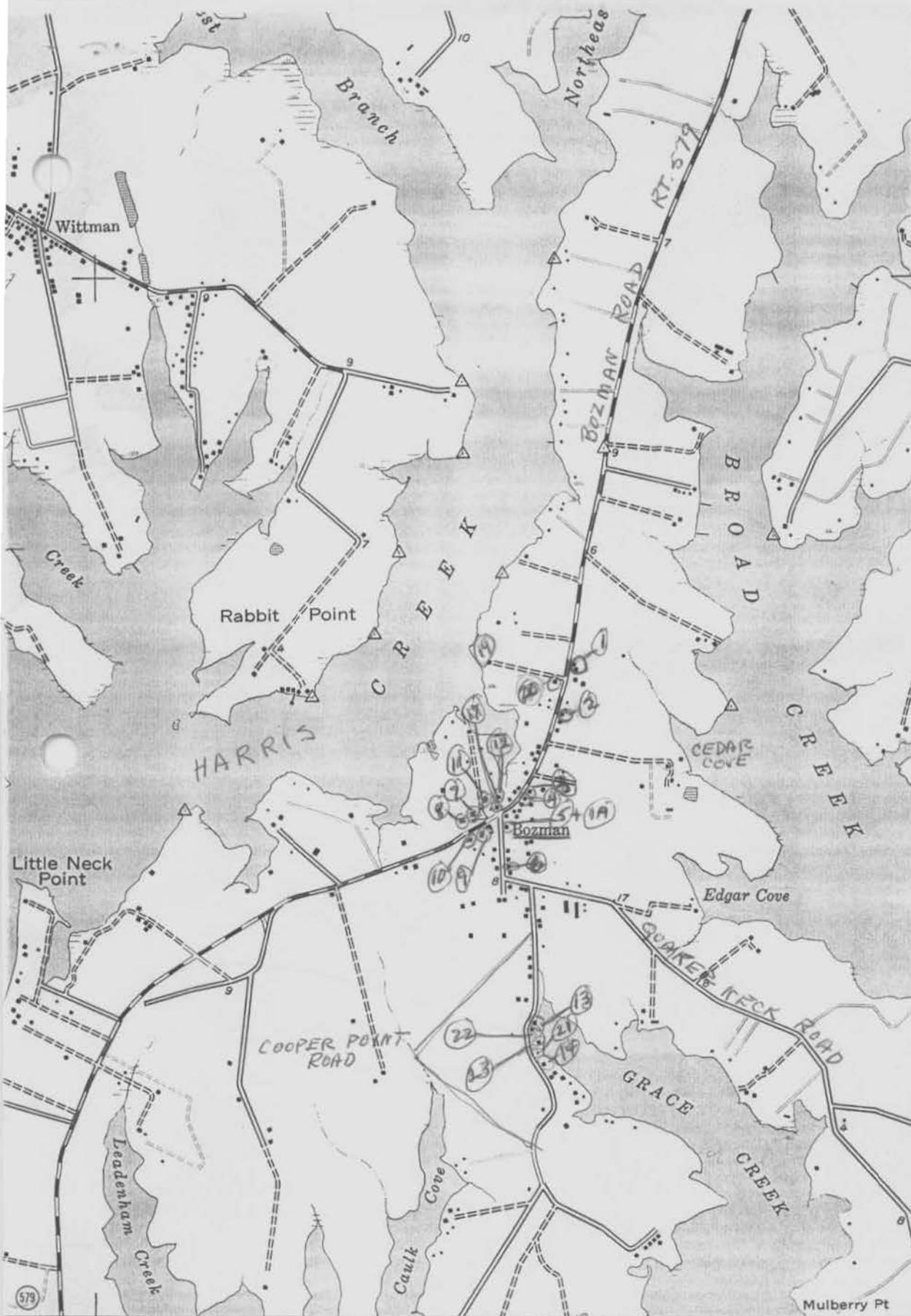


This store was eventually moved because of a change in the road. It became part of a house on p.20 placed at the Harris Creek waterfront. Store later bought by Otis Bridges and was called the Bozman Store.





1988-89  
BOZMAN, MD.



- 4295 (A) p. 209 Post Office
- 1 p. 209 Ball
- 2 p. 193 Ostrowski
- 3 p. 215 - JUMP
- 4 p. 216 - JUMP
- 5 p. 220 - Post Office
- 47'30" p. 220 Colored School
- 6 p. 228 Holiness Church
- 4294 7 p. 128 Methodist Church
- 8 p. 152 Kemp
- 9 p. 225 Ladies Aid
- 10 p. 25 Jones
- 11 p. 30 Bridges
- 12 p. 124 Bridges
- 13 p. 240 Thompson (Cannery)
- 4293 14 p. 240 Hambketon H
- 15 p. 6 Montgomery Cooper Point
- 16 p. 49 Shirley Benish Cooper Point
- 17 p. 86 Bridges (stone)
- 18 p. 294 Henry
- 4292 20 p. 206 Harrison
- 21 p. 243 Hambketon P.T.
- 22 p. 241 Thompson H
- 23 p. 241 Thompson H

1 MILE

**BOZMAN**  
\* MHT MAP  
VERMACULAR HOUSES STUDY

\* MARYLAND HISTORIC TRUST MAP

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	—————	Light-duty	—————
Medium-duty	- - - - -	Unimproved dirt	.....

○ State Route

INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1976

38°45' 76°15'

OXFORD 5761 N.W.

T-696





BOZMAN, TALBOT COUNTY  
 ENLARGED FROM LAKE, GRIFFING & STEVENSON 1877 ATLAS

T-696