

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes
no

Property Name: High Winds Gun Club Inventory Number: WO-0274

Address: Assateague Island, Maryland City: _____ Zip Code: 21811

County: Worcester USGS Topographic Map: Tingles Island, MD

Owner: United States of America Is the property being evaluated a district? yes

Tax Parcel Number: _____ Tax Map Number: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____

Project: Hunting Lodge & Retention Properties Agency: National Park Service
US Department of the Interior,

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name: _____ Date: _____

Is the property located within a historic district? yes no

<i>If the property is within a district</i>		District Inventory Number: _____
NR-listed district <input type="checkbox"/> yes	Eligible district <input type="checkbox"/> yes	District Name: _____
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Non-contributing but eligible in another context <input type="checkbox"/>		

<i>If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)</i>	
Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Historic Context Study of Waterfowl Hunting Camps and Related Properties within Assateague Island National Seashore, MD & VA. Eschelman, R.E. and P.A. Russell. 2004

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Physical Description of Structures: The High Winds Gun Club is believed to have been built between 1922 and 1924. The irregularly shaped seventeen room lodge was created by joining together several former hunting shanty boats. Attached to the main structure by a narrow enclosed walkway is an octagonal living room with fireplace. The sides of the lodge are covered with asbestos shingles over weatherboard siding; the roof of the structure is asphalt and tar paper. The structures rest on a foundation of concrete block piers.

Other structures on the property include two wood frame outbuildings to the southwest, and a dock/pier to the north with remnants of a small storage shed.

Prepared by: Carl S. Zimmerman

Date Prepared: 11/28/2011

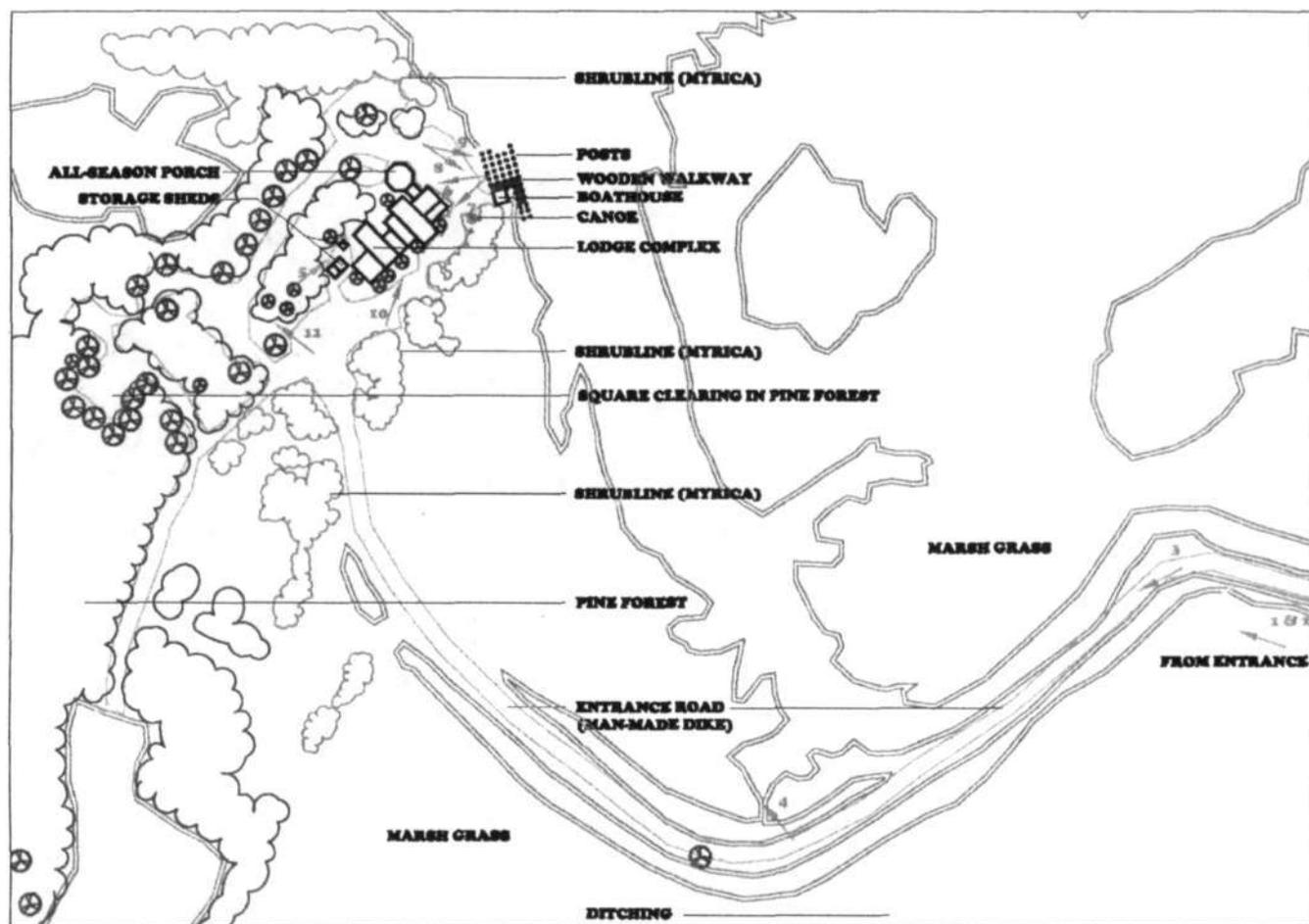
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended <input type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: <u>Integrity has been compromised by deterioration</u>	
<u>Jonathan Sager</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>6/8/12</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, NR Program	<u>6/9/12</u> Date

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 1

Existing Conditions Map



SOURCES:
1997 Aerial photography
Field observation

	SHRUB/TREE LINE		EVERGREEN		BUILDING
	SHORELINE		POST OR POLE		PHOTOGRAPH DIRECTION & NUMBER

North
0 30
Relative Scale

**HIGH WINDS LODGE
EXISTING CONDITIONS MAP**
Hunting Lodge Properties Study-Assateague Island National Seashore
National Park Service-Philadelphia Support Office
August 2000

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 2

Brief History

High Winds Gun Club (also called Riddle Club, Riddle's Place, Bounds Place, and High Winds Ducking and Goosing Club) (1922-4) (Worcester County Historic Site WO-274)

From at least 1920 until 1993 this property has been used as a "gunning club." A deed dated 1968 states that the grantors "reserve the right of use and occupancy for non-commercial residential purposes and hunting purposes." Appraisal Supplement for tract 2-360 dated 1968 states, "retention of 22.03 acres for hunting purposes." Appraisal Supplement for tract 2-365 dated 1968 states that, "This property is an ideal hunting club holding. . .plus. . .dozens of shooting sites." A hunting trip in 1991 was described as follows, "Most of the waterfowl hunting is on offshore islands in brush blinds erected on pilings. The principal waterfowl species are Canada geese, brant, and black ducks. We hunted in three blinds with a spread of about 75 decoys each. . .we usually manage to collect our limit of two geese, two brant, and one black duck."

High Winds Gun Club was originally named Riddle Club, after Samuel D. Riddle, but later was changed to High Winds "because we had hoped forever that it would have high winds" -- which is good for duck hunting. The property on which the High Winds Gun Club now sits was patented by Lewis C. Dilworth. The exact date is unknown due to a fire in the Worcester County Courthouse in the 1870s. Dilworth sold the land to Benjamin F. Vosburgh and Charles P. Tucker in 1887. Vosburgh sold the land to Samuel D. Riddle in 1920. Riddle was owner of nearby Riddle Farms and world famous race horse Man-O-War. He supposedly hunted from a horse and buggy in the shallow waters around his property. The deed of sale mentions buildings but their location and use is unknown. Between 1922 and 1924, Riddle acquired additional land both by patent and purchase, mostly small islands purchased from Vosburgh. It was during this period that Riddle is believed to have built a "Gunning Club." Upon Riddle's death in 1942 the club was purchased by Thomas B. McCabe, who later became President and then Chairman of the Board of Scott Paper Company. McCabe was active in Republican politics and served on the Federal Reserve Board. Richard Nixon, a friend of McCabe, visited McCabe's second property on several occasions at the north end of Assateague Island. McCabe sold the High Winds Gun Club to E. Raymond Bounds in 1948. Bounds sold the property in 1952 to Francis S. Townsend, William H. Scott, Harry Aydelotte Jarvis, Mitchell D. Clogg, Walter T. Savage, and Daniel Trimper III. Clogg, his wife, two small children, and two other guests tragically drowned in a boating accident on their return from High Winds Gun Club in 1955. Clogg's share was bought by the remaining five partners. The property was acquired by the US Government in 1968 with a 25-year retention of hunting rights.

The single-story waterfowl hunting club was built between 1922-4 using at least two 40-foot shantyboats which were joined together to form a hunting club consisting of a dining room, kitchen, mud room and several bedrooms totaling seventeen rooms. About the same time an octagonal living room was built on the west side of the northernmost shantyboat. The slightly arched roof construction of the shantyboats can still be discerned on the exterior. Inside the beaded tongue-and-groove ceilings and walls of the shantyboat rooms are still intact. The club was described in 1968 as, "very irregular in shape, and containing a total area of 2,320 square feet. This lodge contains nine (9) bedrooms, a living room, dining room, kitchen, pantry, . . .two storage rooms, plus an octagon-shaped clubroom. . .The interior walls and ceiling are of tongue and groove wainscot [sic]." This wainscot is believed to be original fabric to the shantyboat period. The club used a battery for electricity and an in ground cistern to store water.

Jackson Bunting and his two sons-in-law were guides. Maxwell "Mac" O. Simpson served as cook and guide at High Winds. One member of the club was Harry Aydelotte Jarvis, president and CEO of the oil producing section of Esso (now Exxon) in Venezuela. He spent six to eight weeks at the club each season. He brought along Father Gill, his African-American servant, who he would summon from a buzzer in the dining room. On at least one occasion High Winds took in over bookings from Green Run Lodge. One blind located south of the club and easily reached by walking through the marsh, not requiring a boat, was called "Social Security" blind because it was so easy to get to.

When the 25-year retention rights expired in 1993 there was a flurry of activity to try to preserve High Winds Gun Club. Several newspaper articles appeared questioning the future of the club. Former members of the club such as Ricks and Diane Savage wrote letters to politicians. Private citizens from around the nation also wrote letters; one even to then Vice President Al Gore. Historic preservation and educational groups such as Preservation Maryland, The Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, and Salisbury University endorsed letters of support for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. A nomination was written and recommended by the Governor's Consulting Committee - Maryland's State Review Board in 1995. Over the

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NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 3

objection of the National Park Service the property was determined eligible by the Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer in June 1996, but the Keeper of the National Register in September 1996 overruled this recommendation and determined the property not eligible.

The reviewer of the National Register documentation determined that,

High Winds is a hunting lodge constructed ca. 1920 when two (or three) floating hunting shanties were removed from the water and combined to form this seventeen room building. The documentation submitted with this DOE establishes the importance of early 20th century floating hunting shanties. There is no evidence that removing them from the water and combining them on land into hunting lodges was an important practice in the culture of the area. In essence, removing them from the water and combining them into one building has destroyed the integrity of the shanties which can no longer convey their importance as described in the draft nomination form.

While this opinion may have been an appropriate response at the time, research since then has brought to light additional information on this subject. At least five gunning lodges on Assateague Island either began as and/or incorporated shantyboats into their construction. At Bob-O-Del Gun Club and High Winds Gun Club two shantyboats were brought up on dry land, expanded, and used as lodging for waterfowl gunning parties. Bunting's Gunning Lodge started as a shantyboat in the 1930s but was replaced by a non-shantyboat structure circa 1942. Green Run Lodge and Egging Beach Gunning Club started by using floating shantyboats before land based club houses were built. At Green Run Lodge a floating shantyboat was also incorporated into the first land lodge. Furthermore, boats are frequently moved and there are many examples of historic boats now moved and stored on land which are listed on the National Register.

Excerpted from:

Eschelman, R.E. and P.A. Russell. 2004. Historic Context Study of Waterfowl Hunting Camps and Related Properties within Assateague Island National Seashore, Maryland and Virginia. National Park Service, Berlin, MD.

Eligibility Recommendation

The High Winds Gun Club was a private membership club where recreational waterfowl hunting was conducted on a recurring basis and, as such, the property is associated with the historic context of commercial and recreational hunting on Assateague Island. The property is one of the oldest hunting properties on Assateague Island and has a rich history and connections to a number of individuals of regional and national notoriety. It does not, however, appear that any had a significant association with the Lodge except, perhaps, Samuel Riddle and Thomas McCabe, the first two owners of High Winds. The Club House is located in a characteristic setting, overlooking the bay waters behind Assateague Island and a vast expanse of salt marsh. Then as now, the area around High Winds is an ideal location for waterfowl hunting. In addition to the main structure, the built landscape contained many of the typical features of Assateague hunting camps such as a pier and boat dock, a shed for decoy and equipment storage, and a generator shed. The Club House was constructed from at least two former hunting shanty boats hauled ashore and connected together, and includes an octagonal living room addition that affords a 360° view of the adjacent bay side habitats. In all respects, the High Winds Gun Club is entirely representative of the genre of hunting camps which popularized Assateague Island and Chincoteague Bay during the mid 20th century.

Possibly owing to the fact that their use and occupancy lease was to expire, High Winds was, unfortunately, poorly maintained prior to passing to the control of the National Park Service (NPS) in 1993. The property was inspected by an NPS historical architect in 1994 and found to be suffering from widespread deterioration. The following are excerpts from a letter to the Maryland Historical Trust's Administrator of Evaluation and Registration from the NPS dated February 13, 1995:

"We inspected the property in detail and have serious concerns as to the structural and material integrity."

"The entire structure has suffered a large amount of deterioration and we believe this may have severely diminished, or even destroyed, the building's integrity."

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NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 4

"The deterioration is evident on the exterior, where the windows, doors, and trim have severe rot. The roof and deteriorated soffit are allowing water to enter the building, resulting in decay to the structural framing. The asbestos shingles, although appearing to be in fair condition, actually cover wood materials that are rotted. On the interior, the beadboard finishes are beginning to pull away from the substrate, exposing areas of decay beneath. In some places, the wood has practically turned to powder."

"With the amount of deterioration that is evident, any preservation work that would need to be done to salvage the building and then make it safe for any new use would result in an almost complete loss of historic fabric, including structural members as well as windows, doors, and interior finishes."

In the 15 years since that inspection, the structure has continued to markedly deteriorate. The building's exterior envelope has been breached in numerous locations, and virtually every component of the structure is suffering from advanced rot, weathering, and/or insect damage. Preservation work to salvage the structure and make it safe for some future use would require wholesale replacement of both structural and nonstructural elements. Because of the degree of damage and resultant loss of historic fabric, the integrity of the club house and other built features has been severely compromised, and possibly lost in entirety. As such, the High Winds Gun Club is considered **ineligible** for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 5

Bibliography

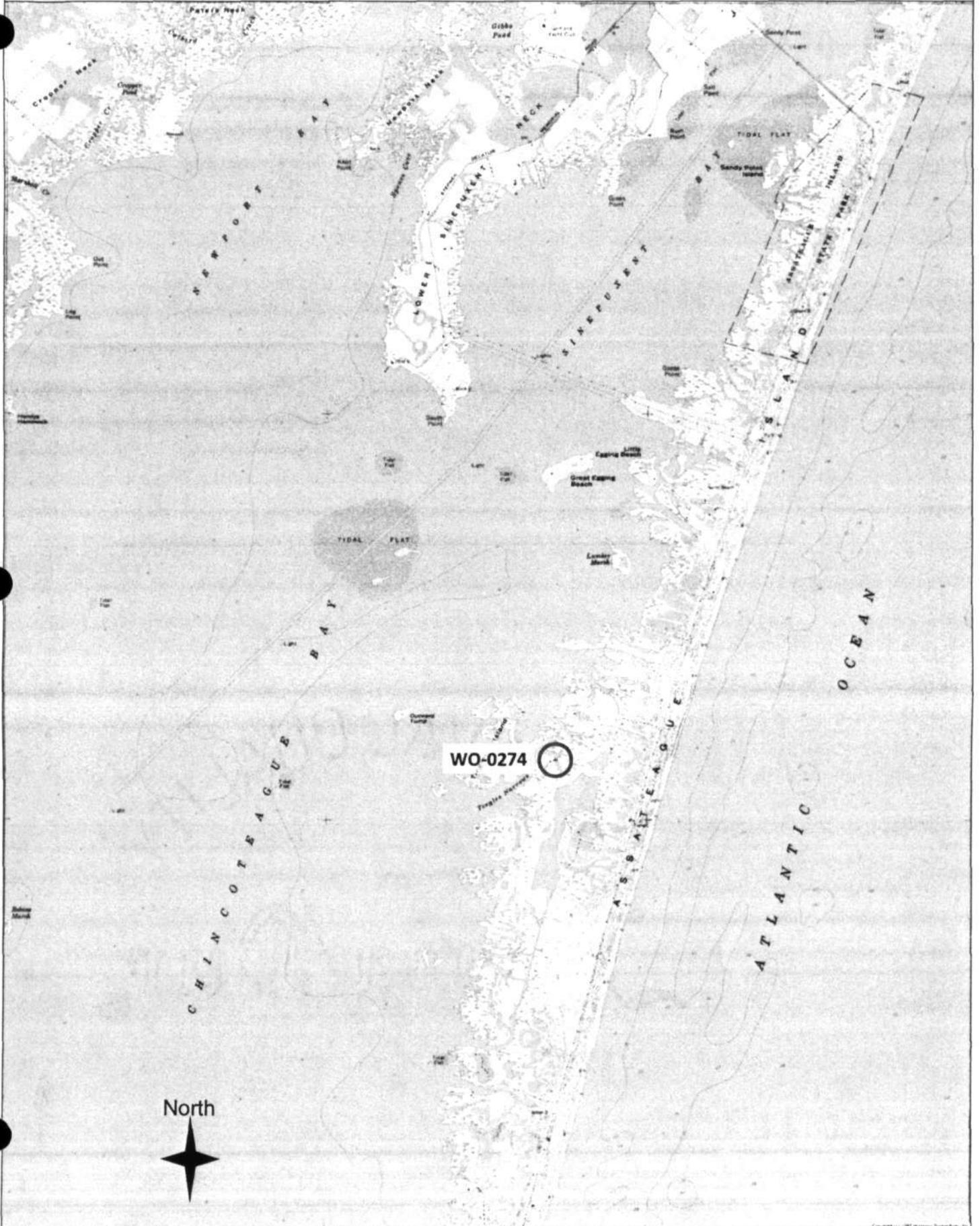
Eschelmann, R.E. and P.A. Russell. 2004. Historic Context Study of Waterfowl Hunting Camps and Related Properties within Assateague Island National Seashore, MD & VA. National Park Service. Berlin, MD. 103 pages.

National Park Service. 2000. Cultural Landscape Field Survey, Hunting Lodge Properties Determination of Eligibility Study, Assateague Island National Seashore. Berlin, MD. 38 pages.

National Park Service. 2012. Deed and Land Record Files, Assateague Island National Seashore. Berlin, MD

WO-0274 High Winds Gun Club
Assateague Island, Worcester County, Maryland

USGS Topographic Quadrangle - Tingles Island



WO-0274 High Winds Gun Club

Photograph Log

Image File Name	Image Description
WO-0274_2007-6-18_01.tif	Entrance road to High Winds Lodge looking west across former culvert
WO-0274_2007-6-18_02.tif	Northeast corner of Lodge showing porch and main entrance
WO-0274_2007-6-18_03.tif	Porch and main entrance to Lodge
WO-0274_2007-6-18_04.tif	North end of Lodge with view of octagonal living room
WO-0274_2007-6-18_05.tif	View of octagonal living room from the southwest
WO-0274_2007-6-18_06.tif	West side of Lodge
WO-0274_2007-6-18_07.tif	Southwest corner of Lodge looking northeast
WO-0274_2007-6-18_08.tif	Western extension of Lodge and generator shed
WO-0274_2007-6-18_09.tif	Southwest side of storage shed
WO-0274_2007-6-18_10.tif	View of enclosed storage area in Shed
WO-0274_2007-6-18_11.tif	View of open storage area in shed
WO-0274_2007-6-18_12.tif	View of former boat dock and storage shed

Notes:

All photographic prints created using Epson Claria ink and Epson Ultra Premium Photo Paper Glossy
Digital image files saved on Delkin Devices Archival Gold[®] CD-R (Phthalocyanine dye)



WO-0274 High Winds Gun Club 1 of 12

Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

ENTRANCE ROAD to High Winds looking west
ACROSS former culvert

WO-0274_2007-6-18_01.TIF



WO-0274 High Winds Gun Club

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Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

Northeast corner of Lodge showing porch
and MAIN ENTRANCE

WO-0274_2007-6-18_02.TIF



WO-0274 High Winds Gun Club

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Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

Porch and main entrance to lodge

WO-0274_2007-6-18_03.TIF



WO-0274 High Winds Gun Club

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Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

North END of Lodge with view of octagonal
Living Room

WO-0274_2007-6-18_04.TIF



WO-0274 High Winds Gun Club 5 of 12

Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6-18-2007

View of OCTAGONAL Living Room From the
Southeast

WO-0274_2007-6-18_05.TIF



WO-0274 High Winds Gun Club 6 of 12

Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

West side of Lodge

WO-0274_2007-6-18_06.TIF



WO-0274 High Winds Gun Club

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Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

South west corner of Lodge looking
north east

WO-0274_2007-6-18_07.TIF



WO-0274 High Winds Gun Club 8 of 12

Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

Western extension of lodge and generator
shed

WO-0274_2007-6-18_08.TIF



WO-0274 High Winds Gun Club

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Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

Southwest side of storage shed

WO-0274_2007-6-18_09.TIF



WO-0274 High Winds Gun Club

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Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

View of enclosed storage AREA in shed

WO-274_2007-6-18_10.TIF



WO-0274 High Winds Gun Club

11 of 12

Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

View of open storage area in shed

WO-0274_2007-6-18_11.TIF



WO-0274 High Winds Gun Club

12 of 12

Worcester County, MA

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

View of former boat dock and storage shed

WO-0274_2007-6-18_12.TIF