

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Tidewater Inn

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 101 East Dover Street

not for publication: n/a

city/town: Easton

vicinity: n/a

state: Maryland code: county: Talbot code: zip code: 21601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Maryland Historic Trust

State or Federal agency or bureau

(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

see continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register

see continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register

see continuation sheet

removed from the National Register

see continuation sheet

other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Tidewater Inn
Name of Property

Talbot County, Maryland
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	___ buildings
___	___ sites
___	<u>1</u> structures
___	___ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: DOMESTIC/hotel
COMMERCE/restaurant

Current Functions: DOMESTIC/hotel
COMMERCE/restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
Late 19th and 20th century Revivals
Federal Revival Style

Materials:
foundation: concrete, concrete block
walls: brick, with marble and limestone trim
roof: slate
other:

Narrative Description

The Tidewater Inn is located on an irregularly shaped lot at the northeast corner of Harrison Street and East Dover Street in Easton, Maryland (see attached Site Plan).

Construction started in 1947 and was completed in 1949 on the original portion of the hotel. A significant addition was constructed in 1953 on the north end of the north wing. The ground floor shops in the west wing were significantly altered when they were converted to a restaurant in 1968 and the adjacent space converted into the Decoy Bar in 1972. A small brick pavilion located in the northeast corner of the garden was added at an unknown date.

The floor plan of the 1949 building is a flattened chevron shape (see attached Plans). The center pavilion is four stories plus attic and cellar levels, and is approximately 67 feet tall. The east and west wings are three stories plus a cellar. A portion of the building at the inside of the chevron on the northeast side, is one-story high with no basement and contains the Kitchen and Crystal Room. The 1953 addition is three stories plus basement and a penthouse. Floor-to-floor heights are approximately 10 feet, with the exception of the first floor to second floor that is 16 feet.

The site is improved with brick walks and a concrete driveway at the front of the building. The east side of the building contains a garden with a concrete swimming pool and brick paved patio. The garden is enclosed with a brick wall on the east and north sides. The north portion on the site is a service delivery and parking area paved with asphaltic concrete.

The Federal Revival style building has a 9-bay central corps de logis mass that includes a 3-bay, pedimented, projecting center-gable with arcaded base on the front, and lower symmetrical 8-bay wings extending east along Dover Street and North along Harrison Street. A one-story terrace on both sides of the center gable extends the arcade to a length of 125 feet.

The exterior has a pinkish face brick trimmed with White Cherokee Georgia marble window sills and a belt course at the second floor level. The rear window sills are limestone and the door sills are bluestone. A projecting brick belt course is located at the spring line of the arcade arches. The addition has brick spandrel panels below the first floor windows on the west facade. A wood cornice is located at the eaves.

(see continuation sheet)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1949-1964

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates:
Architect/Builder: Litchfield, Clarence B.
Bower, Jr., Frank W.

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Tidewater Inn is the most influential commercial building of the mid-20th century on Easton's development as the governmental, commercial, and social center for Talbot County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Opened in 1949, its modern systems and amenities combined with its feeling of manorial plantation hospitality, embodied competing post-war sentiments for progress and patriotism. The inn is significant as the preeminent hostelry and community gathering place on the Eastern Shore during the time when new automobile-oriented transportation routes opened the area to first-time visitors. The structure reflects the renewed sense of colonial heritage that prompted local decision-makers of the period to actively encourage Colonial Revival building design. In serving Civil Rights protesters in 1962, the Tidewater Inn led Talbot County eateries to accept changing values for public accommodation.

The Tidewater Inn meets National Register Criterion A both in the areas of regional and national Social History, especially related to the Civil Rights movement, and in local Community Planning and Development after World War II related to transportation, especially the national highway system and the shift from ferries to bridges. As a carefully conceived example of Colonial Revival architecture with Federal influences, the property meets Criterion C.

(see continuation sheet)

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9. Major Bibliographic References

(see continuation sheet)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: .981 +/-

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing

Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)):

Verbal Boundary Description

The Boundary of the Tidewater Inn is the property on the accompanying map entitled "Existing Survey" dated 5/30/2006.

Boundary Justification

This boundary is the original boundary of the Tidewater Inn.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ward Bucher, AIA

organization: Bucher/Borges Group PLLC date: October 25, 2006

street & number: 3408 Wisconsin Ave NW, Suite 200 telephone: (202) 364-8855

city or town: Washington state: DC zip code: 20016

Property Owner

name/title: Eastern Shore Concessions, LLC

street & number: 18330 Village Centre Drive telephone: 240-779-8000

city or town: Olney state: MD zip code: 20830

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The arcade has round arches with ground brick voussoirs. Wrought steel railings with decorative emblems, produced by local artisan Carroll Elder, are located at the three balconets at the second floor above the main entrance and along the terraces above the side arcades.

Typical windows are single-pane, 8-over-8, double-hung wood windows. Triple-hung 8-over-8-over-8, wood windows are located on the second floor of the corps de logis and along the east side of the Crystal Room facing the garden. The north façade of the Gold Room has 8-over-12 wood windows. Steel single-pane windows are located at the first floor level of the rear service areas. A segmental arch fanlight is located within the front pediment. Projecting, fixed-glass, single-pane, divided-light rectangular show windows are located at the first floor of the wings.

The main entrance door is a pair of 4-panel doors with sidelights and round-arch fanlight. The typical storefront door has a rectangular 3-light transom over a 9-light door with 4-panels below. The northern most and eastern most doors of the wings are 8-panel with sidelights and round fanlights. The front entrance to the addition is an 8-panel door with pediment and pilasters.

The 1949 foundations are concrete and the 1953 foundations are concrete masonry units. The typical exterior walls are face brick with concrete masonry backup with plastered interiors. The penthouse has vinyl siding. The superstructure is steel columns and beams with cast-in-place concrete floors and concrete plank roofs.

The 1949 building has hipped roofs with Pennsylvania Bango slate roofing, with the center pavilion having a 9-in-12 pitch and the wings having a 6-in-12 pitch. The one-story portion and the 1953 addition have flat roofs with built-up roofing. Flashing and built-in gutters, and a large center roof vent are copper. There are five brick chimneys – one on each side of the center gable, one adjacent to each side of the rear of the main mass, and one near the northeast corner of the east wing.

The cellar levels contain mechanical and service areas, the first floor contains the Lobby, meeting rooms, a restaurant and bar, and service areas, and the upper floors contain 139 guest rooms.

The central space of the first floor is the rectangular Lobby that is oriented approximately southeast-northwest, with a connected square entry space on the southwest and a stair hall on the northeast that is slightly larger than a semicircle. A reception desk is located in the north corner and a fireplace is located on the southeast side of the Lobby. The single traction elevator is located adjacent to the northwest corner of the Lobby and connects to all levels.

The Lobby flooring is Pennsylvania bluestone laid in a diagonal 24" x 24" grid in imitation of the Cloister at Sea Island. The wood trim is Federal style and includes a baseboard, chair rail, dentiled cornice, and arched double-architrave door casings with plinth block, spring block and keystones. The fireplace has a marble surround, shouldered architrave, and paired brackets supporting the mantel. A 4' wide circular stair with a 5'-6" inner radius connects the lobby to the second floor. The stair has turned balusters and newel posts, and a half-rail on the outside wall. Similar fine trim is located in the adjacent Crystal Room and the Rose Room on the east side of the Lobby plus shouldered architrave door surrounds, divided transom lights and paired 3-panel mahogany doors with brass box locks. Some of the original trim also remains in the former Grille Room adjacent to the north side of the Lobby.

The Gold Room and its Anteroom on the north end of the building have heavier-wood moldings with baseboard, chair rail, cornice, casings with plinth blocks around rectangular door and window openings, corner blocks and paneled jambs at the doorways, paired 3-panel doors with rectangular fanlights, and raised spandrel panels under the windows. The flooring is wall-to-wall carpet, walls are plaster, and ceilings are sprayed acoustical treatment. The large brass ball chandeliers are a replacement of the original iron and crystal fixtures.

The east wing of the building, formerly the Hunter's Tavern and Decoy Bar (photos 132.1 and 133.1 dated July 6, 2006), is currently being renovated into one large restaurant (photos 132.1 and 133.1 dated November 6, 2006). These two areas, which were not original to the building, had fake brick walls, rough hewn box beams, and recessed lighting in the painted drywall ceiling.

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The typical secondary room is carpeted and has simple wood base, chair rail and crown molding. The service areas typically have concrete floors, glazed or painted brick walls, and painted plaster ceilings.

Two stair towers with steel stairs and pipe railings are located at the rear junction of the center pavilion and the wings and connect all levels. A steel stair located in the addition where in joins the north wing connects the third floor corridor to the fourth floor penthouse in the addition. An exterior fire escape is located on the east wall of the addition. An exterior stair connects the rear service yard to the basement.

The upper levels have double-loaded corridors with a dead end on the east and a trapezoidal loop with two spurs on the north. The corridors have carpeted floors, vinyl wallpaper on plaster walls, and simple base, chair rail, and crown moldings adjacent to a small box soffit.

The 114 guest rooms are located as follows:

Second floor:	43 rooms
Third floor:	52 rooms
Fourth floor:	9 rooms

The typical guest room has a bedroom, closet, and bathroom. The bedrooms have carpeted floors, wood base and crown, and painted walls and ceiling. The typical guest bath has ceramic tile floor and wainscot, vinyl wallpaper, and porcelain fixtures.

Heating is via hot-water radiator supplied by an oil-fired boiler in the basement. Cooling is via central chilled water supplied to duct mounted fan coils. Plumbing stacks are cast iron. Water supply is via galvanized piping. There are two non-functioning 300 feet deep wells located at the front of the building.

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The Tidewater Inn was built to replace the Hotel Avon, a four-story frame hotel occupying the same footprint and orientation to the northeast corner of Dover and Harrison Streets in the heart of what is now the Easton Historic District. The 1891 Hotel Avon was the largest hotel in the county; on January 10th, 1944¹ it suffered its second major fire, leaving an inoperable hotel and an urgent need for meeting space and accommodations. Shortages of building materials due to the war precluded any activity beyond site--clearing for the next three years. The State Roads Commission, also affected by the war and several years of post-war labor and materials shortages put all area projects other than ferry repair at Claiborne on hold². Even with a priority approval, the Fire Department had to wait a year after the fire for a ladder truck³. The vacant lot at one of the town's most important downtown intersections stimulated an abiding community interest in planning and development.

Shortly after the fire, attendees at a Rotary luncheon were warned that without a major hotel, mid-shore business and tourism opportunities would be lost to Wilmington, Delaware.⁴ At the same time, alternate uses proposed for the valuable corner lot⁵ prompted community leaders to plan actively for a new state of the art hotel, one that would maintain the integrity of the site as a premier lodging facility. The Maryland Credit Finance Corporation, headed by Easton business leader Barclay H. Trippe, purchased the site to secure it until a suitable developer capable of building a fireproof hotel with a minimum of 50 rooms could be contracted to purchase the property. The terms of sale included a two-year period for project completion in consideration of war-related materials shortages. As of June, 1946 no qualified developer had emerged⁶.

A. Johnson Grymes, Jr.—a prominent local civic leader with shipbuilding interests in New York—agreed to develop the site and operate the hotel, provided that liquor ordinances and local blue laws prohibiting sales of mixed drinks be amended to exclude sizable hotels⁷.

1947 was a pivotal year in county history. Television arrived along with demand for Sunday movies. Daylight savings was adopted in Easton but rejected in the rural county highlighting a growing urban influence on the town⁸. Tomato canneries gave way to corn; nylon stockings replaced silk and consequently Easton lost a mill⁹. Planning started for an architecturally controversial addition to the Talbot County courthouse. The Federal era courthouse was one of the inspirations for the inn's design. Residential construction boomed and the local economy attracted the attention of the *New York Times*. Means and routes of transportation were changing forever.

Work began on the Easton Bypass (completed in 1948; now US Route 50), and on sections of the highway connecting Easton to Wye Mills and Cambridge¹⁰. The road work was to create "a north-south express highway equal to any built in Maryland since the war."¹¹ Planning for new routes into downtown began that resulted in Dover Street becoming one of the major connectors to Route 50.. State planning began for the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, which opened a floodgate of newcomers and beach travelers when completed in 1952. Airport service between Easton, Washington DC and Baltimore entered its second year under the post-war management of Cities Service Corporation.

Despite such regional progress, circumstances unique to the time and place affected hotel construction. In late 1946, there were several rounds of materials-related rejections (primarily involving restrictions on copper¹²) from the federal Civilian Production Agency

¹ Star-Democrat. (1944, January, 14). Fire destroys Hotel Avon on Monday last.

² Dill, 2003.

³ Mulliken, J.C. (1962).

⁴ "Charlie Crane, Chairman of Baltimore, Gas, and Electric arranged for the speaker, Mr. Peterson (?) from Baltimore, the head of the Merchandising Group for the state." Personal Recollection of Polly Shannahan, 06/09/06.

⁵ Star-Democrat. (1946, June 21). New hotel on its way.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Personal recollections of Polly Shannahan and Arlene Baybutt.

⁸ Preston. (1989). 311-325.

⁹ Brugger, R.J. (1988). 264.

¹⁰ Dill. (2003).

¹¹ Star-Democrat. (1947, January 24). State to speed

¹² CPA correspondence to Grymes. Tidewater Inn archive folder.

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(CPA)¹³. In its first editorial of 1947, the *Star-Democrat* called for the CPA to "heed citizen pleas" to recognize the urgency of building the hotel. The Easton Business Men's Association and other key civic leaders, lobbied for Senator Millard E. Tydings to advocate the required construction approval with CPA for. Tydings intervened in early January 1947 and succeeded in elevating the project from "borderline" to "priority."¹⁴

Easton's town-owned utility drilled two wells in order to supply the hotel with the 250 gallon-per-minute demand needed for central air conditioning¹⁵. Easton Utilities—which produces its own power and gas—installed a customized underground electrical delivery system. Ground was broken for "Hotel Talbot"¹⁶ on January 27, 1947¹⁷. No other Maryland town was in a position to build a hotel of equal magnitude in 1947; the motivated business community and the town-owned utility were both necessary to the project.

Anticipating a need to control accelerated growth in the wake of the hotel project, Easton enacted a Subdivision Regulation and Planning and Zoning ordinance the following month—the first Eastern Shore community to take such action and the first municipality in Maryland to impose extraterritorial zoning control of land within a mile of its incorporated perimeter. The ordinance called for a master plan to control suburban development. Easton laid plans for controlled growth, which its Town Engineer Bill Corchran called "the wall of quality." Talbot County did not adopt zoning regulations until May, 1953¹⁸.

The 95-room Tidewater Inn opened on September 9, 1949, preceded by an open house drawing more than 4,000 persons¹⁹. Each room featured the latest amenities: television, piped in radio, central air conditioning, and private baths. A subscription dinner on September 30th listed a who's who of prominent leaders, including Cities Service Corporation President, W. Alton Jones whose philanthropic foundation would finance many later projects in Easton in the Colonial Revival style, including the YMCA and St. Mark's Village²⁰.

Eulogizing Grymes in 1963, local news editor Harrington noted his "immeasurable" contribution to the community welfare, affirming the same paper's 1949 editorial: "For years to come, the Tidewater Inn cannot fail to provide adrenaline to the heart of Easton and cause it to flourish in keeping with the high standards set by this structure."²¹

The completion of the Delaware Memorial Bridge on August 16, 1951²² opened the region to Philadelphia and to winter travelers and salespersons on the New York to Florida routes. The Chesapeake Bay Bridge opened on July 30, 1952. By May, 1953 the Tidewater had served more than 100,000 overnight guests and was often at capacity. An addition to the northeastern wing completed May 22, 1953 added 28 rooms and conference space for 300 in the Gold Room. By 1955 the *New York Times* recommended Easton as the "picturesque little city with excellent accommodation for a two or three-day stay."²³ Dedication of local leaders in the context of planning and development ensured the inn's success as commemorated by a 1955 bronze compass embedded in the sidewalk in tribute to the Rotarians²⁴.

The building's Federal Revival design was no accident. Architect Clarence B. Litchfield²⁵ and site architect Frank W. Bower, Jr. carefully instructed Grymes and local Garden Club members on the Federal character of Easton's historic buildings. The firm

¹³ *Star-Democrat*. (1947, January 3). Hotel permit still pending in Washington.

¹⁴ *Ibid*.

¹⁵ *Star-Democrat*. (1947, January 3). Hotel permit still pending in Washington.

¹⁶ Renamed The Tidewater Inn before opening.

¹⁷ *Star-Democrat*. (1947, January 31). Ground Broken for new hotel.

¹⁸ Preston. (1989). 311-325

¹⁹ Compared to 1950 Easton population of 4,494 <http://www.town-eastonmd.com/Plan%20Background.htm>

²⁰ Harrington, N. (1986). 263-265

²¹ *Star-Democrat*. (1963, April). Editorial: Arthur Johnson Grymes, Jr.

²² <http://www.phillyroads.com/crossings/delaware-memorial/>

²³ NYT, 01/02/1955

²⁴ Harrington, N. (1986). Op. cit. 260.

²⁵ Principal of Alfred Hopkins and Associates, 415 Lexington Ave. New York

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possessed expertise for designing in the Federal Revival style, notably including Bowditch Hall and 20 additional buildings of the New London Connecticut Naval Undersea Warfare Center.²⁶ The local community was captivated by ongoing restoration of Old Wye Church²⁷ and was heavily influenced by Williamsburg and the College of William and Mary²⁸. Early examples of the Colonial Revival influence in Easton are the reconfiguration of the late 19th century Music Hall to a column-fronted library and a similar reconfiguration of the courthouse entrance in the early 20th century²⁹. The Dover Street Post Office, completed in 1936, which faces the Tidewater Inn from the south side of the street (and to the east) is built in the Colonial Revival style.

Careful community planning for the look and feel of this hostelry ensured the broader category of Colonial Revival as the predominant local building style for the second half of the 20th century and furthered the community's zeal for "colonialization" as a source of civic pride and economic development in the 1950's and early 1960's³⁰. The building retains a high level of period design integrity, offering insight into the architecture and social history of the region as well as the community planning and development of the town after World War II. The SunTrust Bank building at Goldsborough and Harrison Streets, the Synagogue on Adkins Avenue, the YMCA, St. Mark's Church, the Elk's Club, The C & P Telephone building, the Health Department, and William Hill Manor are public facilities demonstrating the architectural influence of the Tidewater Inn on the town of Easton. In a massive trend, between 1949 and 1964, 57 commercial structures and 499 residential structures swelled Easton's built environment by 29 percent, mostly in the Colonial Revival Style. The Tidewater Inn's local builder—Howard Eley—went on to build many of these structures³¹.

By the time of the 1954 addition, the Tidewater was billing itself as "the pride of the Eastern Shore" in the heart of "the colonial capital of the Eastern Shore." Architectural historian Henry Chandlee Foreman published his widely-reproduced sketch of Easton's courthouse square as it might have appeared in 1800. Prominent business leaders under the direction of chairman John W. Noble (a Grymes friend and associate) formed "A Citizen's Committee for the Colonial Restoration of Easton" in October, 1954. Easton National bank offered preferred interest rates to businesses willing to incorporate "colonialism" in their storefronts in keeping with Dr. Forman's rendering. The town engineer saw that colonial projects received fast approval and that modern projects returned to the drawing board for revisions³².

Talbottown, opened in 1957, was the Eastern Shore's first shopping center; developer James W. Rouse insisted that the glass and steel complex anchor the north end of Harrison Street just two blocks from the arcade shops at the Tidewater Inn. He felt that a highway location on the Route 50 bypass would devitalize downtown business. After presenting his architect's modern design for Talbottown in 1954 he was escorted to a meeting at the Tidewater Inn by a group of Garden Club members and business leaders. They indoctrinated him to the town's design aesthetic. Following a tour of true colonial era properties, he revised the plans for Talbottown to brick with a shake roof overhang inspired by Crooked Intention, circa 1720.³³ Rouse, an Easton native, was shaken by the intensity Easton citizens' response and by their commitment to the colonial motif. After Talbottown, he insisted on "humanness" in design that put clients' interest ahead of architectural vision³⁴.

The significant influence of the Tidewater Inn on the colonialization trend in Easton owes much to the strongly held associations of locals and visitors to the inn as the iconic core of the town. Because of local liquor laws and weak television reception, the inn instantly claimed its place as the center of Mid-Shore social life. Robert Mitchum frequented the bar. Big band dances were held

²⁶ New London Development Corporation. (2004). Fort Trumbull Progress. Retrieved July 1st, 2005 from [http://www.nlde.org/aboutus/documents/092004.PDF#search=bowditch%20hall%20and%20hopkins'](http://www.nlde.org/aboutus/documents/092004.PDF#search=bowditch%20hall%20and%20hopkins)

²⁷ Maryland Inventory, T-55.

²⁸ Personal recollections of Polly Shannahan of conversations with A. J. Grymes are that the arcade at the Tidewater entrance draws from both the College of William and Mary and the Williamsburg Inn.

²⁹ Easton Survey Projects, Pricilla Morris, 06/30/2006

³⁰ Preston, D. (1989). Op. cit. ; Harrington, N. (2006). 230; Olson, J. (2003). 72.

³¹ An entire neighborhood of single family dwellings west of Route 50, north of Goldsborough Street and east of the Railroad tracks is locally known as "Eleyville."

³² Preston, Harrington; Olson. Op. Cit.

³³ Maryland Inventory T-48 Recollection of Polly Shannahan present at Tidewater Inn meeting and Preston, p.327.

³⁴ Olson, J. (2003). 71-73

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every weekend and important wedding receptions created lasting emotional ties to the facility. The world premier party for "Hit the Deck" starring Jane Powell, Debbie Reynolds and Tony Martin was held at the Tidewater in 1955 benefiting the local Mental Health Association, followed by the first screening across the intersection at the Avalon Theatre. Such associations from the period's social history created enduring emotional connections to the building, connections which are still conveyed by the buildings appointments and facilities.

Business and government leaders convening at the inn also established strong associations to the Tidewater as a modern facility with a relaxing plantation feel and old fashioned southern hospitality. As post-war bridge and highway development opened the long-isolated Delmarva Peninsula, the Tidewater Inn was the primary destination for urban travelers and conventioners. It was the largest bayside hotel on the Eastern Shore and it featured a world-class restaurant specializing in local game and seafood. As such, it attracted visitors from Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia, New York, and beyond.

For example, the National Academy of Sciences held an international conference there in 1958 attended by 80 scientists from nine countries including nine from the Soviet Union³⁵. Then U.S. Senator John F. Kennedy campaigned from the Gold Room³⁶ on May 14, 1960 and opted to make an unplanned overnight stay at the Tidewater Inn. Because of a Maryland Truckers Convention and tourists "visiting the county's colonial garden spots" for the House and Garden Pilgrimage, the inn was full. The Republican hotel executive extended Kennedy the use of his personal quarters; five days later Kennedy claimed 72% of Talbot's Democratic primary vote³⁷.

The feel of the inn was inspired by the Williamsburg Inn (hence the change of name from Hotel Talbot to the Tidewater Inn) combining a high-style plantation aesthetic with the more relaxed rural hospitality of local estates such as Wye House, which was notably on the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage in 1949 and many times again during the following years. Guests could expect solicitous service but could also board their hunting dogs in hotel kennels (or keep them in their rooms). The hotel still reflects this dialectical tension between modern and traditional aesthetics, urban and rural pacing, and the southern and northern views of a border state.

The geographic isolation of the Eastern Shore prior to World War II from nearby urban centers of the Mid-Atlantic held old social values intact. Even though religious diversity characterized its period of early settlement, the agricultural economy reliant on the slaveholding system caused a strong Confederate sentiment that lingered into the civil rights era during the Tidewater Inn's period of significance³⁸. Tensions resultant from opening of the shore to "outsiders" were acutely felt in the context of civil rights. The completion of Route 50, wholly dualized through Talbot County by 1962 and connected to Cambridge via the Emerson C. Harrington Bridge over the Choptank River, put Cambridge (formerly a half day trip) within a twenty minute drive of Easton and only two hours from Washington DC.

The area's entrenched reliance on Jim Crow segregation and newly created accessibility from the major Mid-Atlantic cities left it ripe for Freedom Riders wishing to bring equal access complaints to the forefront near the nation's capital. The provincialism of the Eastern Shore provided an arena for protests in the backyard of the nation's capital—a strategic advantage over the deep south for activists seeking federal intervention on civil rights issues.

A hate crime in September, 1957 involved the headwaiter at the Tidewater Inn, Mr. Sessions Boyd. Boyd and his family narrowly escaped injury as they prepared for school; ten sticks of dynamite planted ten feet from the house failed to detonate due to a fusing error. Army and FBI investigators reported that the bomb was strong enough to destroy three or four of the adjoining frame duplexes, but the fuses were old. The bomb was attributed to the recent integration of his sons, aged 6 and 7 into the Hanson Street Primary

³⁵ New York Times. (1958, February 25). Sea ice held strong as fresh water ice.

³⁶ The location of the 1960 photograph of JFK is identifiable today from the Gold Room's wall sconce.

³⁷ Star-Democrat. (1960, May 20). Kennedy finds Easton hotel space scarce. Star-Democrat. (1960, May 20). Editorial.

³⁸ Preston, Harrington & Levy.

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School³⁹; the targeting of Boyd over other African-American parents was attributed to his prominence at the Tidewater Inn.⁴⁰ A week after the thwarted bombing, Mr. Boyd received a scrawled postcard addressed to the hotel threatening more violence. The Rotary Club met at the Tidewater in the Gold Room and raised a cash reward to assist the Easton Police and the FBI to develop leads in the investigation.⁴¹

The Tidewater Inn's role in civil rights history was locally significant, although mixed in nature, from the time it was built in 1949 until the adoption of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Nationally the inn was significant for its response to the public accommodations protests during the Kennedy administration which helped distinguish Talbot County from Cambridge, then under martial law. Talbot County never experienced the violence that broke out in Cambridge between 1962 and 1964 when the Freedom Riders arrived, in no small part because of the stature and leadership of the Tidewater Inn.

While the Tidewater catered to a cosmopolitan clientele, it also depended on a plantation ethos for its hospitality standard. The southern colonial era standard of service inspired by the success of Williamsburg was part of the product being marketed to northern guests as an early example of the experience-based economy. This translated to a planned reliance on African-American staffing for service level positions. In 1946, when architectural plans were developed for the Tidewater, a "Colored Help Dining Area" was included at the basement level, reflecting a business plan that racially segregated employees along economic lines. There was no need for segregated service staff dining areas because *only* African-Americans were hired for service-level positions. European-American employees occupying desk level and professional jobs dined in the public restaurant facilities⁴².

In 1956, the Sidney Hollander Foundation awarded the Tidewater Inn "an Honorable Mention for its 'demonstration of hospitality extended without discrimination.'⁴³ Despite these early steps, integrated service for patrons was not the norm at the site until the Maryland Public Accommodations Act of 1963. In a nationally covered protest on January 6, 1962 the AP wire reported, "About fifty Negro and White demonstrators protesting racial segregation in Maryland restaurants were served today at the fashionable Tidewater Inn in this historic seat of Talbot County."⁴⁴ Similar tests in February and again in July 1962 produced consistent service.

The Tidewater Inn's response to public accommodations tests was significant for several reasons. First, the inn not only served high-profile protesters; it also served three local African-American patrons in its restaurant later in the day on January 6th, 1962⁴⁵. Second, the February 1962 protests included members of Civic Interest Group (CIG) and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) from Baltimore who were purposely testing the Eastern Shore after incidents embarrassing to the Kennedy administration on Route 40 where African dignitaries were refused service en route from New York to Washington⁴⁶. Third, owner-operator Grymes took a proactive stance at a meeting of the Easton Restaurant Association where a decision was made that each restaurant would react to the protests as they chose.

As the leading area restaurateur, Grymes was asked what he would do if the Tidewater was protested. His unhesitating response—that the Tidewater would serve anyone seeking a meal—created a climate where all but one drug-store counter in Talbottown provided public accommodations. St. Michaels' establishments also served patrons equally⁴⁷, although Mills, a CIG activist at the time, characterized the Tidewater's stance a "curious exception" to the status quo⁴⁸. Easton's mayor Sherwood Hubbard and several prominent citizens responded to these events by attempting to form a state-level bi-racial committee, although it took another year to

³⁹ AP. (1957, September 14). Bomb fuse fizzles out at Maryland negro's home. New York Times. September 15, 1957.

⁴⁰ Personal recollection of Polly Shannahan, July 9th, 2006.

⁴¹ Star-Democrat. (1957, October 4). Boyd gets postcard threat of further bomb.; Star-Democrat. (1957, October 11). \$500.00 reward is being offered in Easton bomb case.

⁴² Personal recollection of Joann Asparagus, Easton lawyer, long-standing board of education member, and Tidewater Inn wait-person at the time.

⁴³ Mills, B. (2002).

⁴⁴ New York Times. (1962, January 7). Negroes served at inn.

⁴⁵ Truver thesis. p.48

⁴⁶ Levy, P.B. (2003).

⁴⁷ Personal recollection of Polly Shannahan 06/09/06; New York Times, (1962, January 7).

⁴⁸ Mills, B.(2002). p. 156

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Section number 8

Tidewater Inn

Page 6

establish⁴⁹. Easton lawyer William H. Adkins II joined the federal bi-racial commission and worked toward voluntary adoption of open public accommodations.⁵⁰

While the Tidewater's race relations in both employment policy and public accommodations were motivated by public relations, the profit motive attached to its actions facilitated a peaceful transition countywide to the terms of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, in stark contrast to Cambridge. Just over the Choptank River, Cambridge endured many incidents of violence and remained under martial law for a full year, involving U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy directly⁵¹ in a 1963 negotiated solution that only held after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Today the Tidewater Inn still evokes the high style of a plantation era inn essential to its social and architectural contexts. Its Colonial Revival structure retains the form and orientation to its setting of its period of significance. It continues to anchor the downtown business district from the primary gateways into Easton from U.S. Route 50: Dover Street and Goldsborough Street by way of Harrison Street. The "reach the beach" traffic on Route 50 has intensified from a second Chesapeake Bay Bridge span, sustaining a continual stream of visitors to Easton's landmark hotel and the Avalon theatre on its opposing intersection.

Both the Tidewater Inn and its historic setting have a high degree of integrity in appearance and feel of the built environment from the period of significance. The exterior of the hotel has only minor changes since it was constructed. The interiors of the shop spaces facing the street have all been altered, some significantly, but the main public spaces have only decorative changes (paint, wallpaper, and, in some areas, carpet). The downtown is little changed from the date of construction and in the adjoining blocks the Post Office, Bullitt House and Avalon Theater all have no major exterior changes since the hotel was constructed.

⁴⁹ Levy, P.B. (2003). Op.cit.

⁵⁰ Truver, (1994). P 49. Also personal collection of Philip Carey Foster whose father served on the Mayor's bi-racial committee.

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Section number 9

Tidewater Inn

Page 1

Bibliography

Alfred Hopkins & Associates, Architects, Clarence B. Litchfield, Architect, "Hotel and Store Building for Hotel Talbot Corp". Maryland Room at Easton Public Library, Easton, MD.

Date	Number	Title
4/14/47	A-1	Plot Plan
4/14/47	A-2	Cellar Plan
4/14/47	A-3	First Floor Plan
4/14/47	A-4	Second Floor Plan
4/14/47	A-5	Third Floor Plan
4/14/47	A-6	Fourth Floor Plan
4/14/47	A-7	Attic Floor Plan
4/14/47	A-8	Front, Rear Elevations
4/14/47	A-9	End Elevations
4/14/47	A-10	Exterior Elevations
4/14/47	A-11	Window Details
4/14/47	A-12	Door Details & Bucks
4/14/47	A-13	Stair Details
4/14/47	A-14	Sections and Misc. Det.'s
4/14/47	A-15	Interior Misc. Details
4/14/47	A-16	First Floor Plan 1/4"
4/3/47	A-216	F. S. Detail - Ground Brick Arches
1/26/48	A-227	Detail Circular Stair
2/3/48	A-230	Detail of Folding Partition & Dining Room 122
2/9/48	A-233	Room Details & Full Sizes
8/26/47	PHE-1	Basement Composite Plan
Undated		Window Trim Schedule

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Date	Number	Title
9/19/52	A-1	Cellar Plan
Undated	A-2	First Floor Plan
9/19/52	A-3	Second & Third Floor Plans
9/19/52	A-4	Roof & Penthouse Plan
9/19/52	A-5	Elevations & Details
9/19/52	A-6	Window Details & Misc Details
9/19/52	A-7	Wall Sections & Details
9/19/52	S-1	Foundation Plan

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Date	Number	Title
7/17/68	2	Northern Half, Floor Plan w/ Elevations & Showing C'lg. Beams
8/27/68	4	Elevations for Floor Plan on Dwg 3
7/16/68	6	Wood Door Jambs & Trim
7/22/68	7	Ply Paneling for Office

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5/26/47	2	Untitled

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

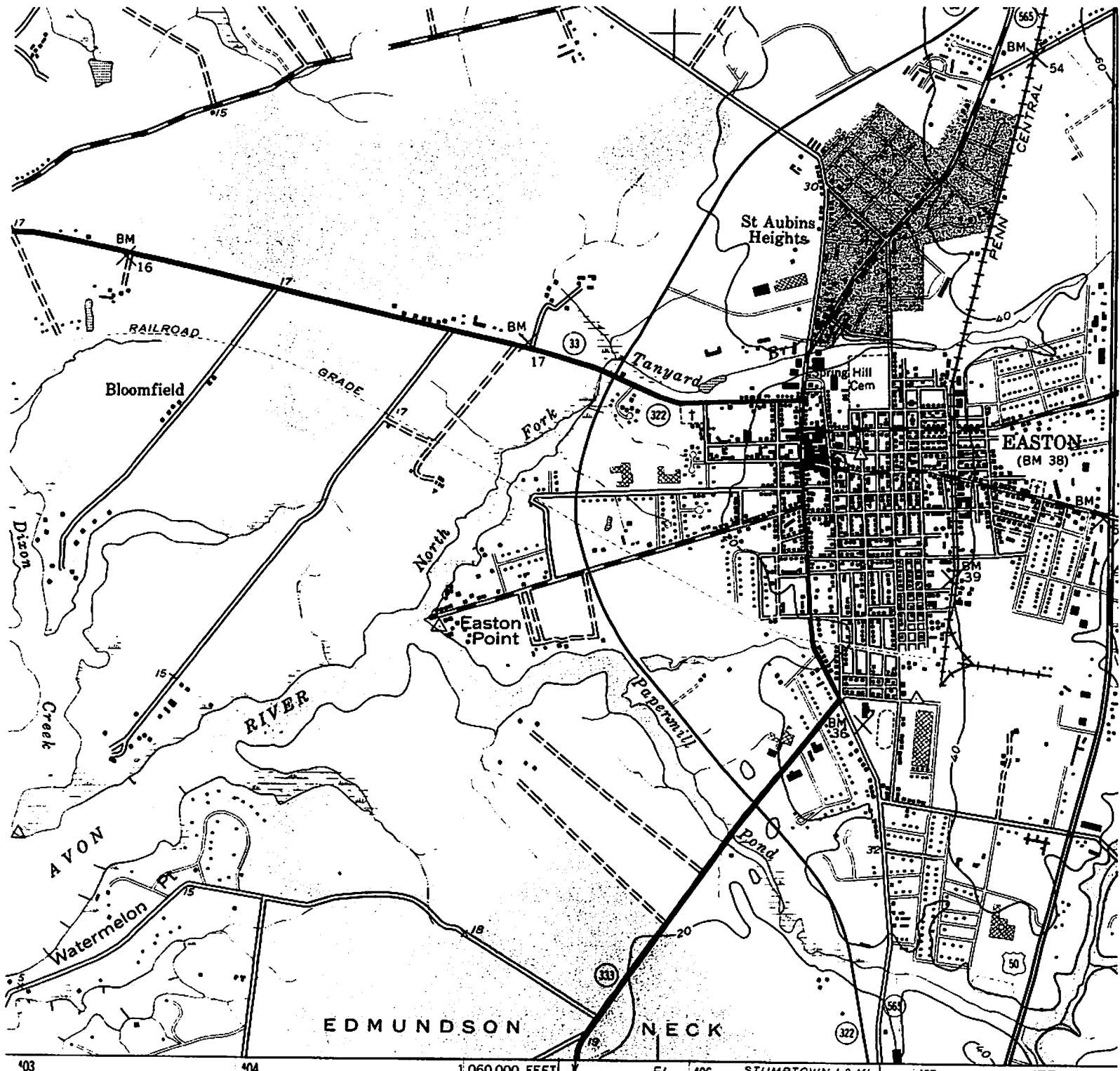
Tidewater Inn

Page 1

Photographs

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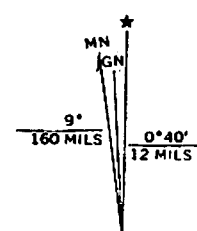
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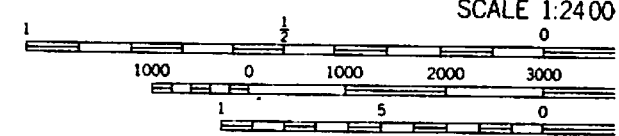
Map Service
by the Geological Survey

Photographs by photogrammetric methods
1942. Aerial photographs taken 1942
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in Maryland coordinate system
transverse Mercator grid ticks.

Map compiled by the Geological Survey from
1974. This information not field checked
extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESOURCES
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SERVICES

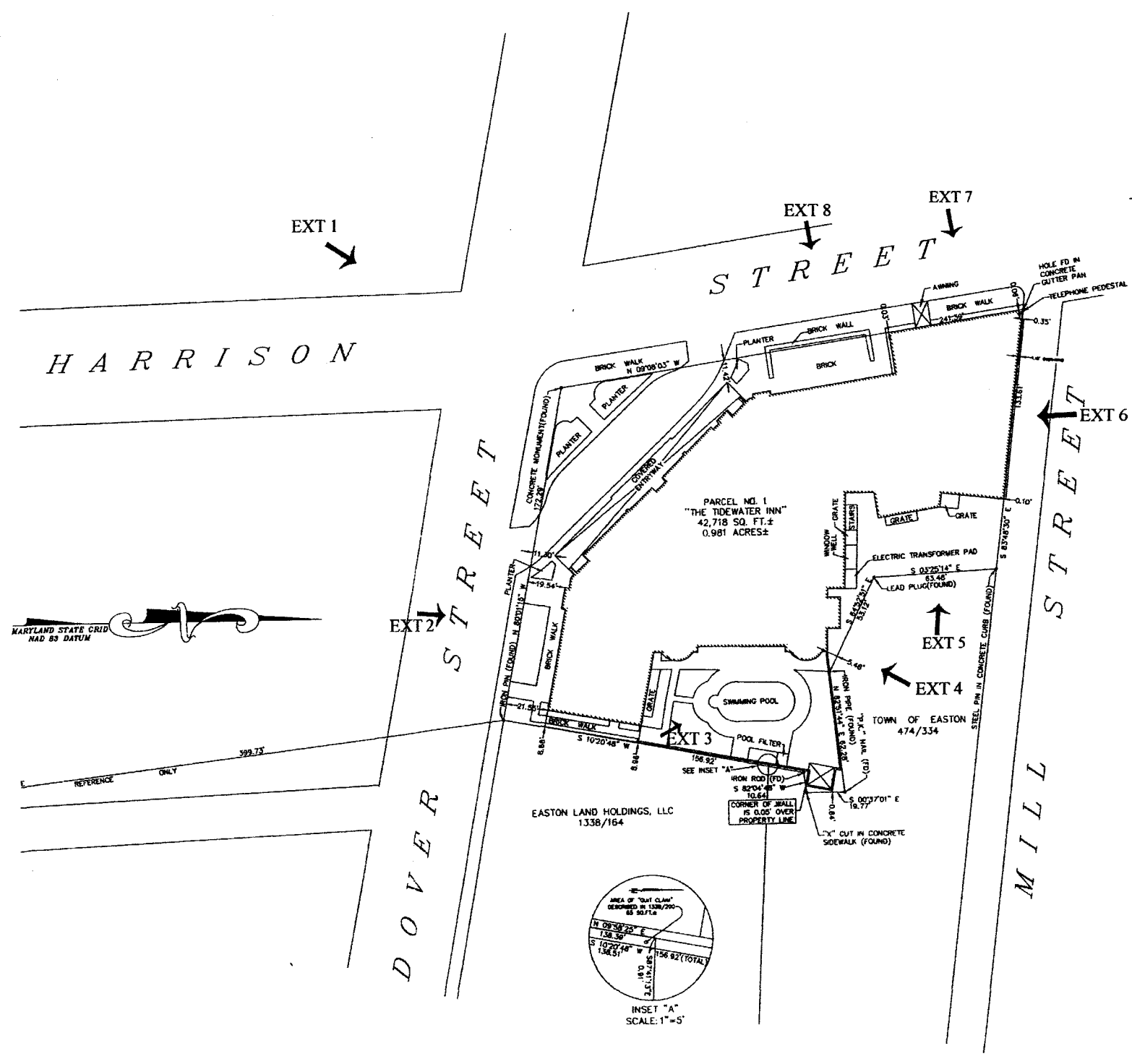
TIDEWATER INN
Property Name

101 East Dover Street, Easton, MD 21601
Property Address

THE IMPROVEMENTS SHOWN HEREON REFLECT ON-SITE CONDITIONS OBSERVED 12-01-05
THE LAND SHOWN HEREON LIES WITHIN FLOOD ZONE "C" (AREA OF MINIMAL FLOODING), AS SHOWN ON F.E.M.A. COMMUNITY-PANEL MAP NO. 240087 0002 B.
THIS ALTA/ACSM LAND TITLE SURVEY HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE LICENSEE EITHER PERSONALLY OR UNDER THEIR DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION AND COMPLIES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS AS SET FORTH IN REGULATION 12 OF THE MARYLAND MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR SURVEYORS.

TO: EASTERN SHORE CONCESSIONS, LLC, COMMONWEALTH LAND TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY AND TALBOT LAND TITLE COMPANY. THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THIS MAP OR PLAN AND THE SURVEY ON WHICH IT IS BASED WERE MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH MINIMUM STANDARD DETAIL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALTA/ACSM LAND TITLE SURVEYS, JOINTLY ESTABLISHED AND ADOPTED BY ALTA, ACSM AND NPS IN 1999, AND INCLUDES ITEMS 1 THROUGH 4, 6 THROUGH 10, 13 AND 14 OF TABLE A THEREOF, PURSUANT TO THE ACCURACY STANDARDS AS ADOPTED BY ALTA, NPS AND ACSM AND IN EFFECT ON THE DATE OF THIS CERTIFICATION. UNDERSIGNED FURTHER CERTIFIES THAT THE SURVEY MEASUREMENTS WERE MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MINIMUM ANGLE, DISTANCE AND CLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR SURVEY MEASUREMENTS WHICH CONTROL LAND BOUNDARIES FOR ALTA/ACSM LAND TITLE SURVEYS.

THOMAS D. LANE
LANE ENGINEERING, INC.
PROPERTY LINE SURVEYOR NO. 340



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Civil Engineers - Land Planning - Land Surveyors

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118 West Main St. Centerville, MD 21031 (410) 758-2085 FAX (410) 758-4422

ALTA/ACSM LAND TITLE SURVEY

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T.I. PROPERTIES, LLC
IN THE TOWN OF EASTON
TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

TAX MAP 104 GRID EA PARCELS 1195 & 1536

SHEET No.
1 OF 1

FILE No. 6935

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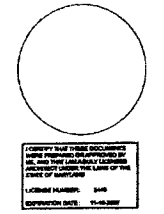
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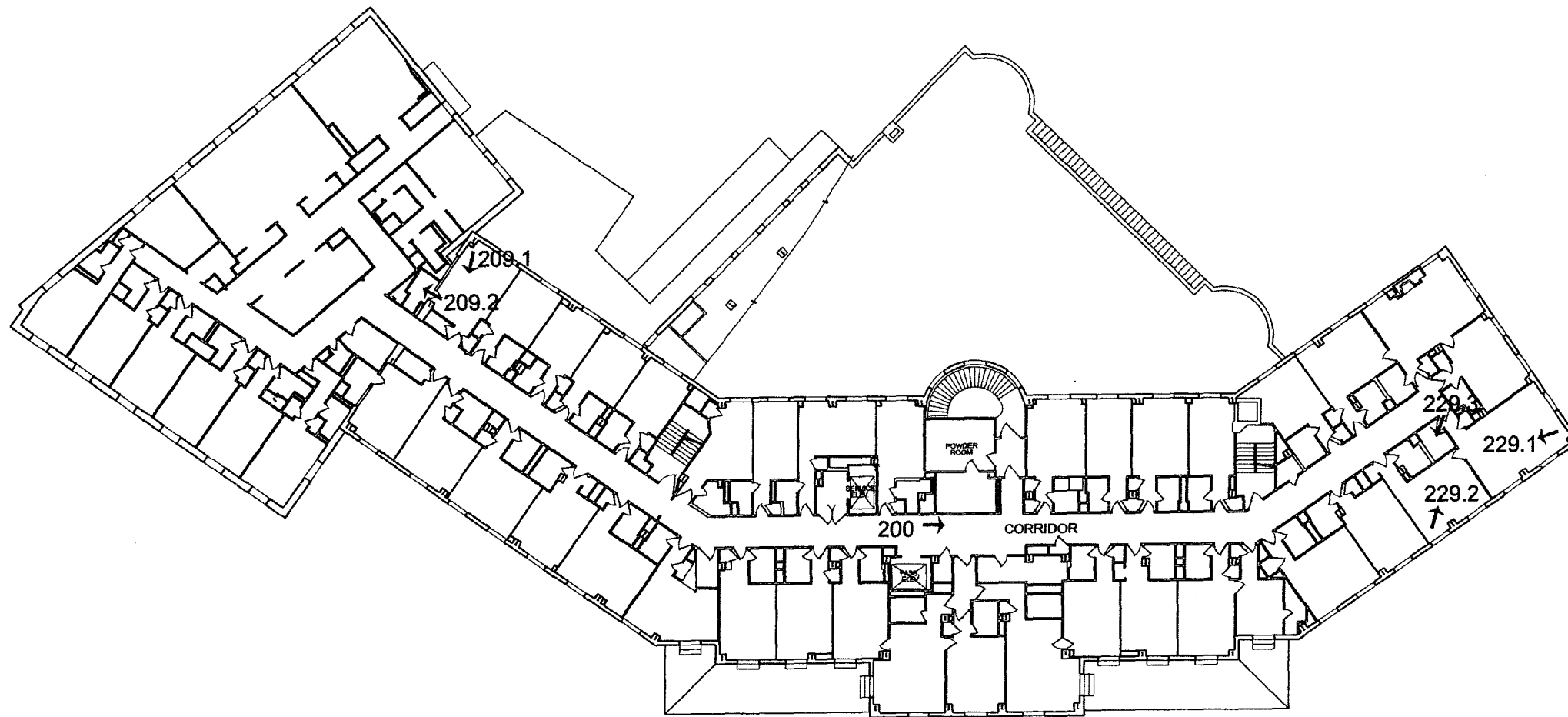
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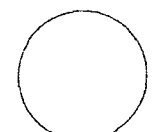
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AND
RENOVATION

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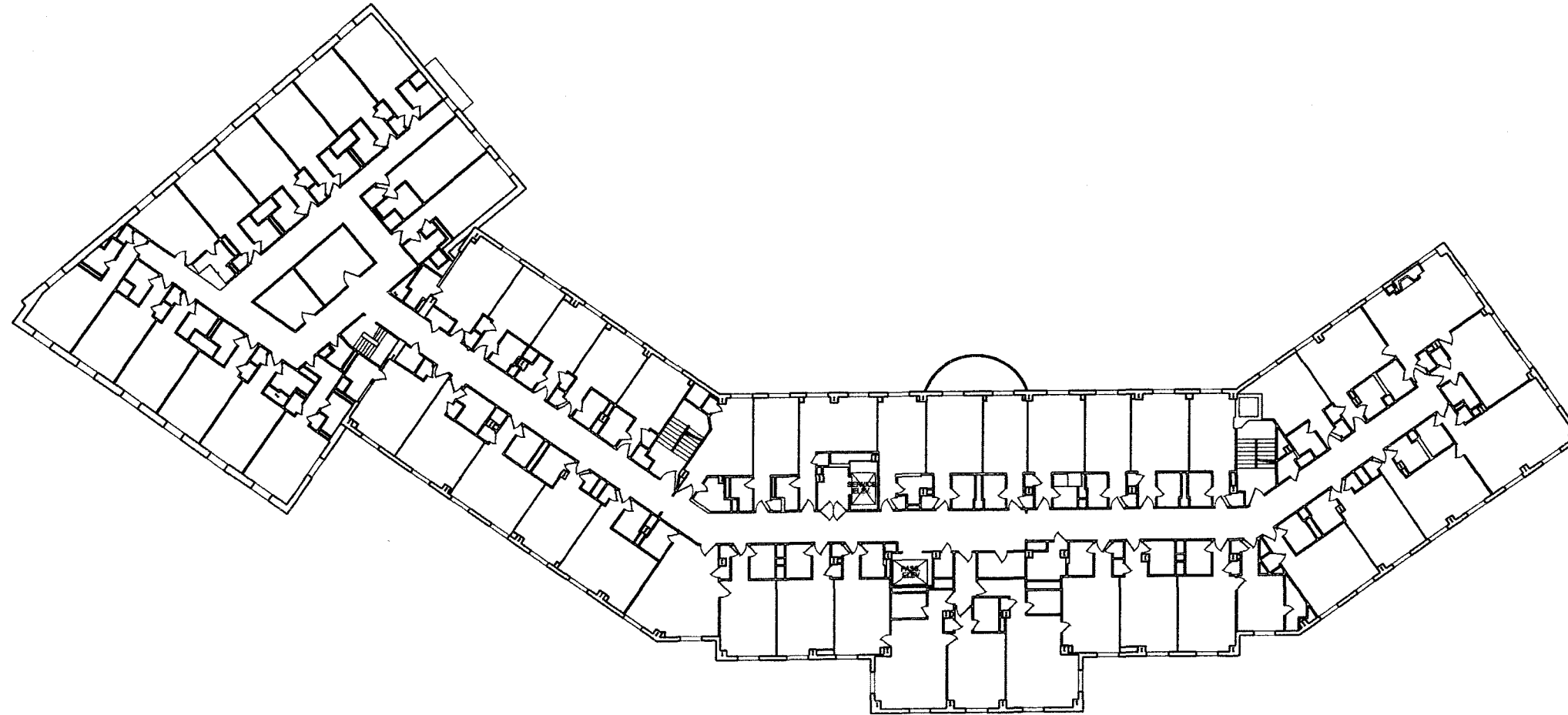
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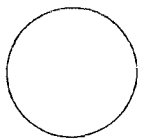
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DATE: [Date]

**TIDEWATER
INN
EXPANSION
AND
RENOVATION**

101 EAST DOVER ST.
EASTON, MD 21601

**EXISTING THIRD
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AX103



T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2000

CD-R AT MD SHPD OFFICE

FRONT (SOUTHWEST) FAÇADE OF MAIN
PAVILION

EXT 1

T-1160

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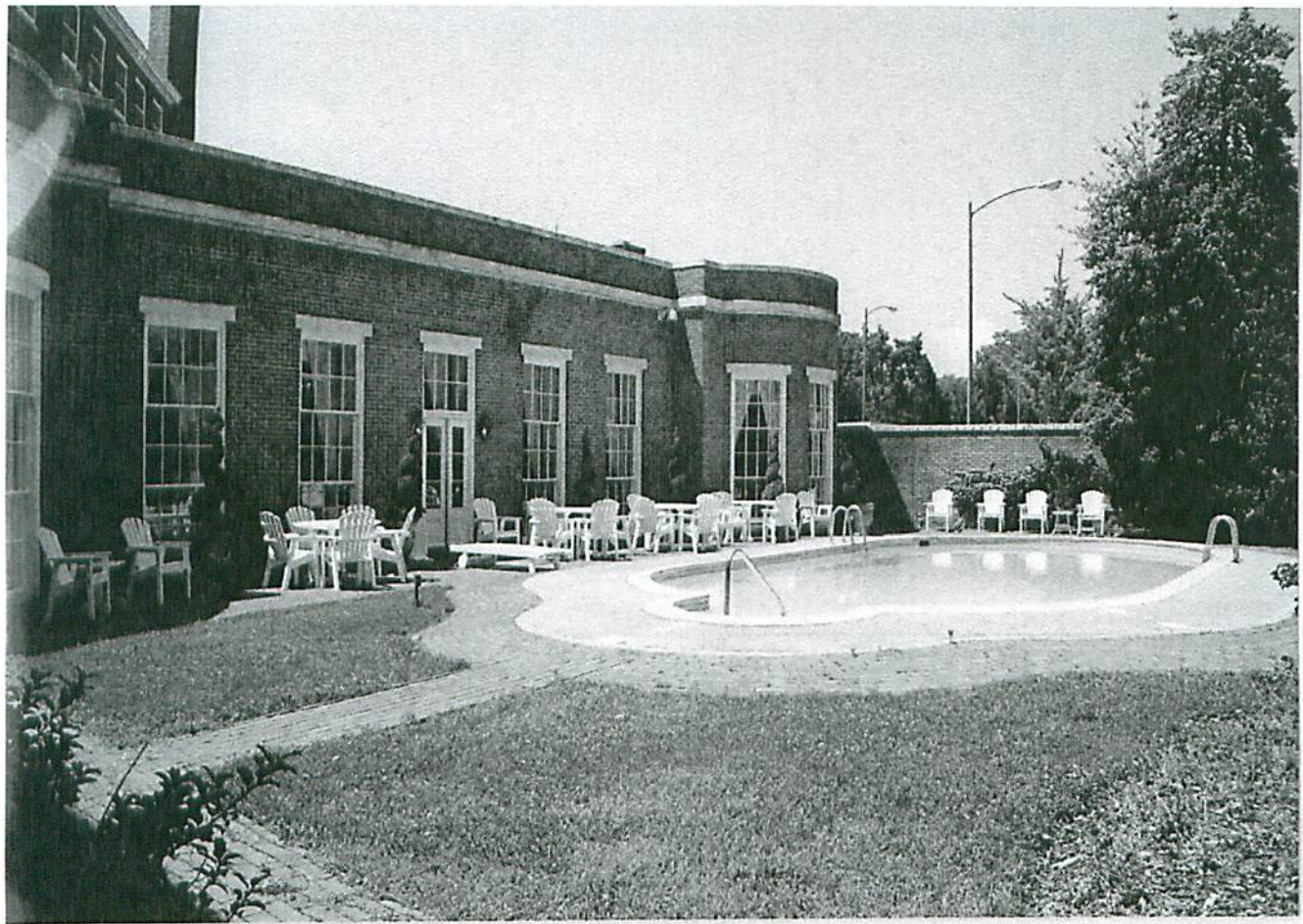
EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2000

CD-R AT MD SHPD OFFICE

SOUTH FAÇADE OF EAST WING
EXT 2



T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2000

CD-R AT MD SHPO OFFICE

EAST FAÇADE OF CRYSTAL ROOM

EXT 3

T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2000

CD-R AT MD SHPO OFFICE

NORTHEAST FAÇADE OF MAIN PAVILION

EXT 4



T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2000

CD-R AT MD SHPO OFFICE

EAST FAÇADE OF 1953 ADDITION

EXT 5

T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2000

CD-R AT MD SHPO OFFICE

NORTH FAÇADE OF 1953 ADDITION

EXT 6



T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2006

CD-R AT MD SHPD OFFICE

WEST FACADE OF 1953 ADDITION

EXT 7

T-1160

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EASTON, MD

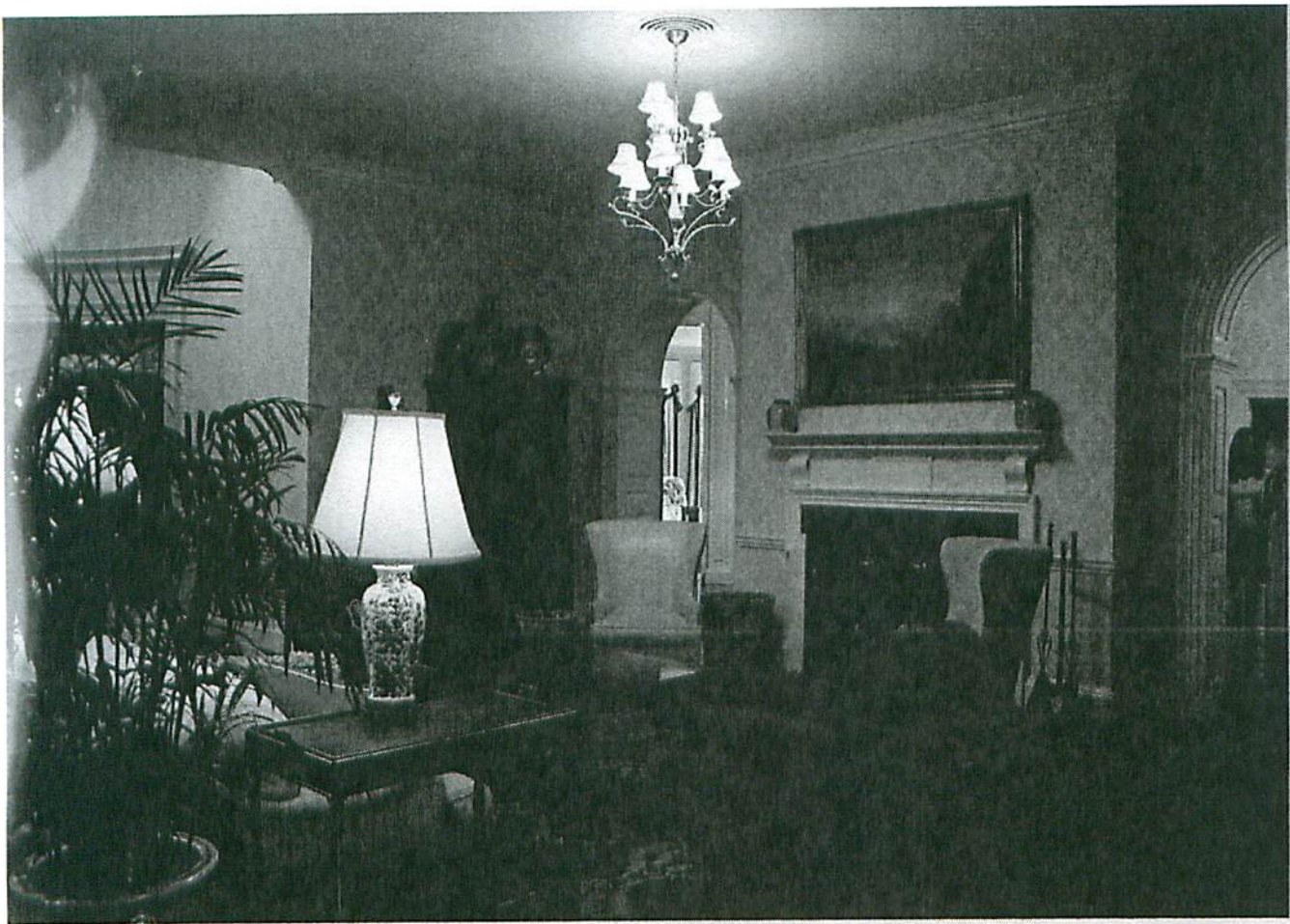
WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2006

CD-R AT MD SHPD OFFICE

WEST FACADE OF WEST WING

EXT 3



T-1160

TIDEWATER 1160

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2006

CO-R AT MD SHPO OFFICE

LOBBY VIEW LOOKING EAST

100.1

T-1160

TIDEWATER 1160

EASTON, MD

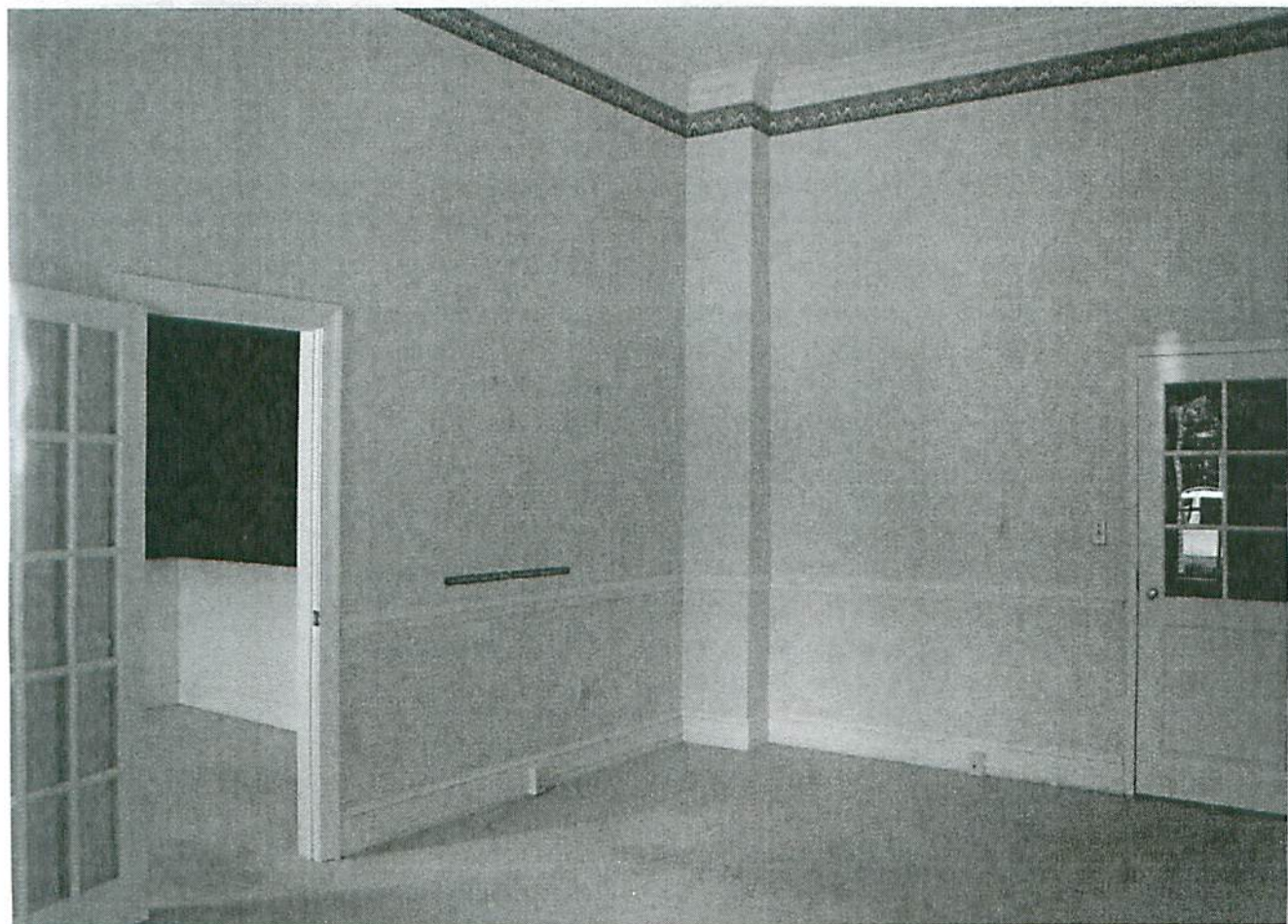
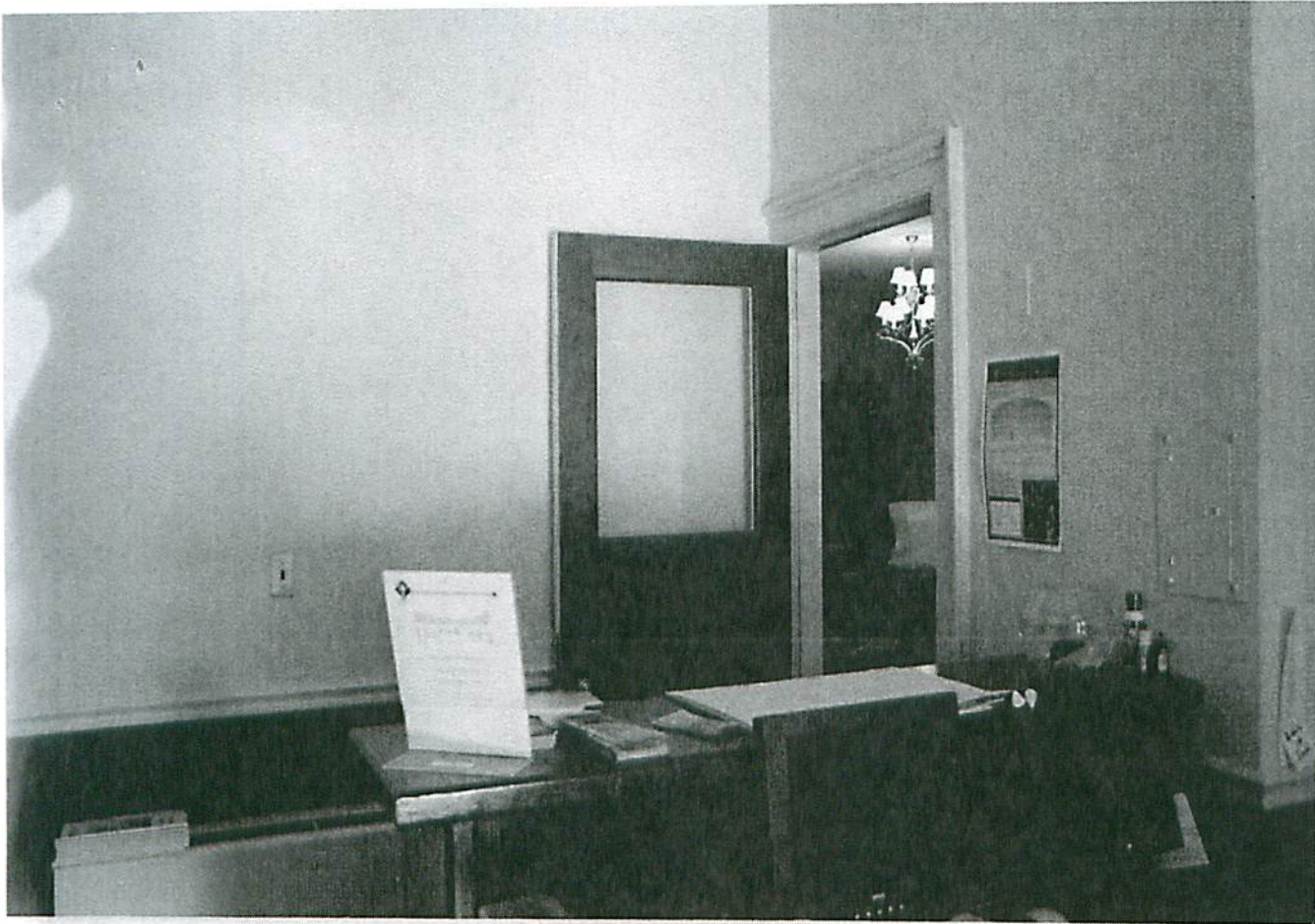
WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2006

CO-R AT MD SHPO OFFICE

LOBBY VIEW LOOKING WEST

100.2



T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 41 2006

CP-R AT MD SHPD OFFICE

ANALOG OFFICE LOOKING EAST

107.1

T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

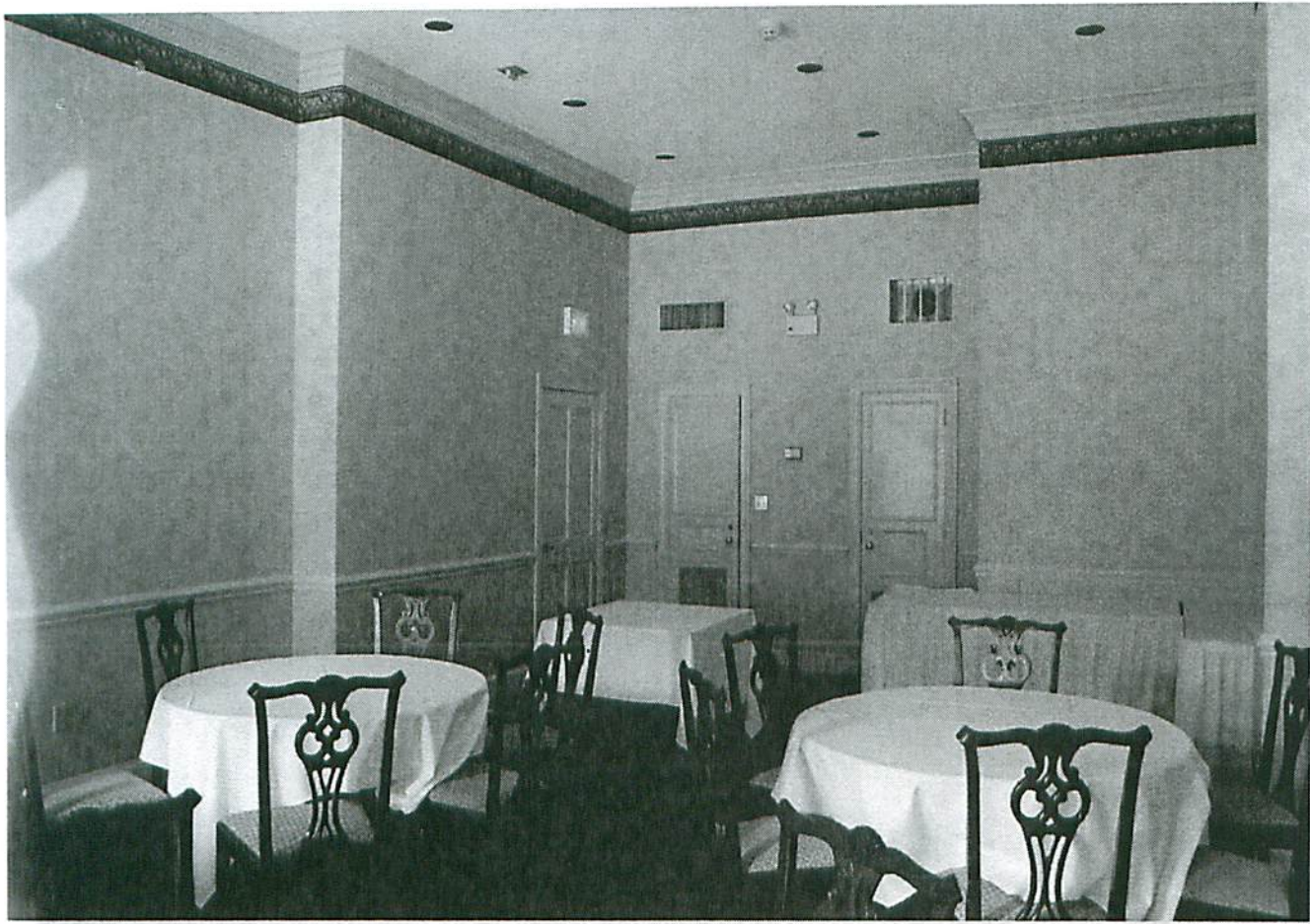
WARD BUCHER

JULY 41 2006

CP-R AT MD SHPD OFFICE

VACANT SPACE LOOKING NORTH

109.1



T-1160

TIDE WATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2000

CD-R AT MD SHPD OFFICE

OXFORD ROOM LOOKING NORTH

110.1

T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2000

CD-R AT MD SHPD OFFICE

GARDEN ROOM LOOKING EAST

115.1



T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

MIRO BUCHER

JULY 01 2000

CO-R AT MD SHPD OFFICE

PENTAGONAL HALL LOOKING NORTHEAST

119.1

T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

MIRO BUCHER

JULY 01 2000

CO-R AT MD SHPD OFFICE

BLUE ROOM LOOKING EAST.

120.1



T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 01 2000

EO-R AT MD SHPD OFFICE

CRYSTAL ROOM DOOR LOOKING SOUTHWEST

1212

T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 01 2000

EO-R AT MD SHPD OFFICE

CRYSTAL ROOM LOOKING NORTHEAST

1211



T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2000

CD-R AT MD SHPD OFFICE

KITCHEN LOOKING NORTH EAST

124.1

T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

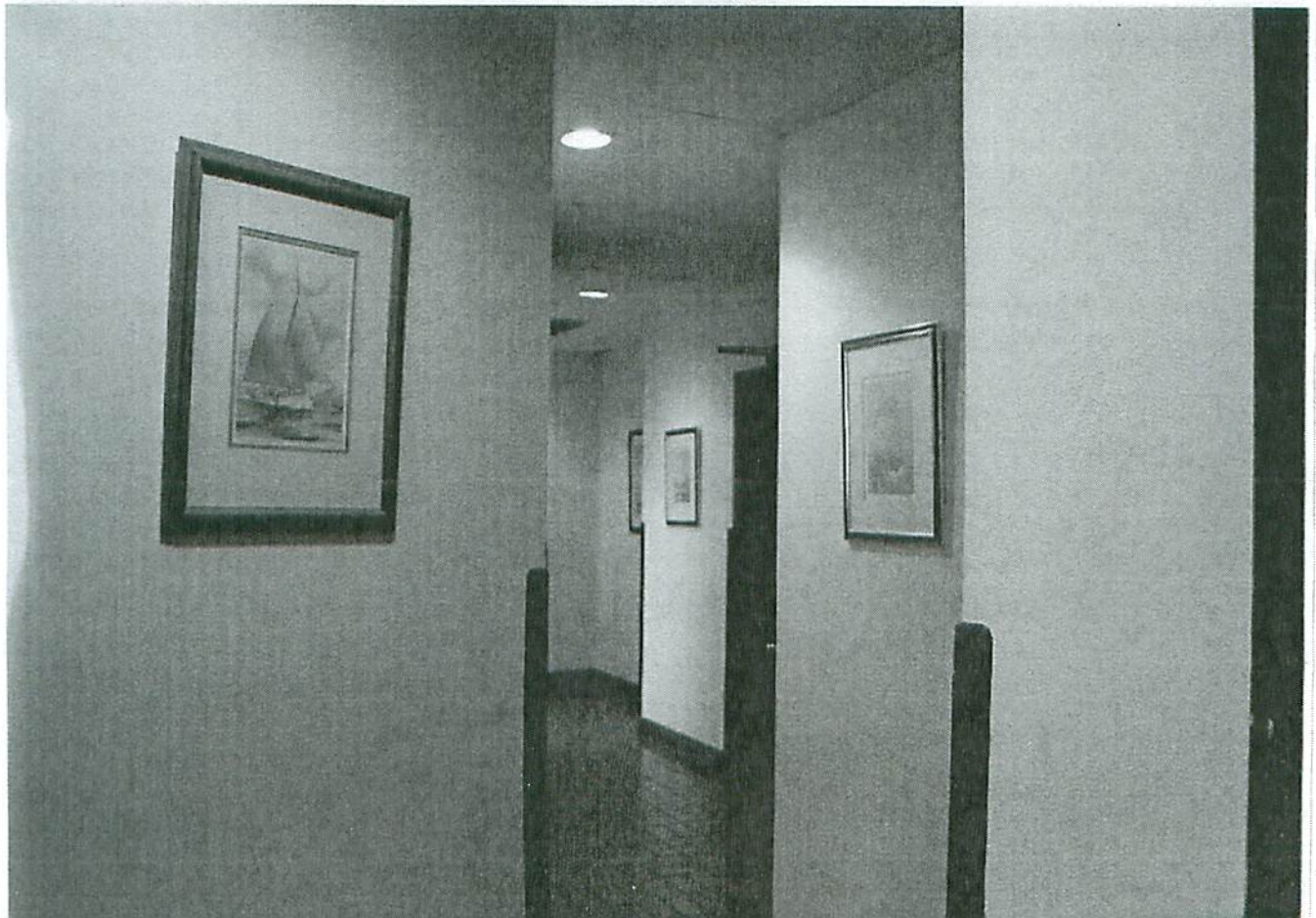
WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2000

CD-R AT MD SHPD OFFICE

SERVING PANTRY LOOKING NORTH

125.1



T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 01 2000

ED-R AT MD SHPO OFFICE

KITCHEN HALL LOOKING NORTH

1281

T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 01 2000

ED-R AT MD SHPO OFFICE

RESTAURANT HALLWAY LOOKING NORTH

1281



T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2000

EO-R AT MD SHPO OFFICE

RESTAURANT WOMEN'S TOILET LOOKING SOUTH

130.1

T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2000

EO-R AT MD SHPO OFFICE

GRILL ROOM LOOKING SOUTH
131.1



T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2000

CO-R AT MD SHPD OFFICE

GRILLE ROOM LOOKING NORTH

131.2

T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2000

CO-R AT MD SHPD OFFICE

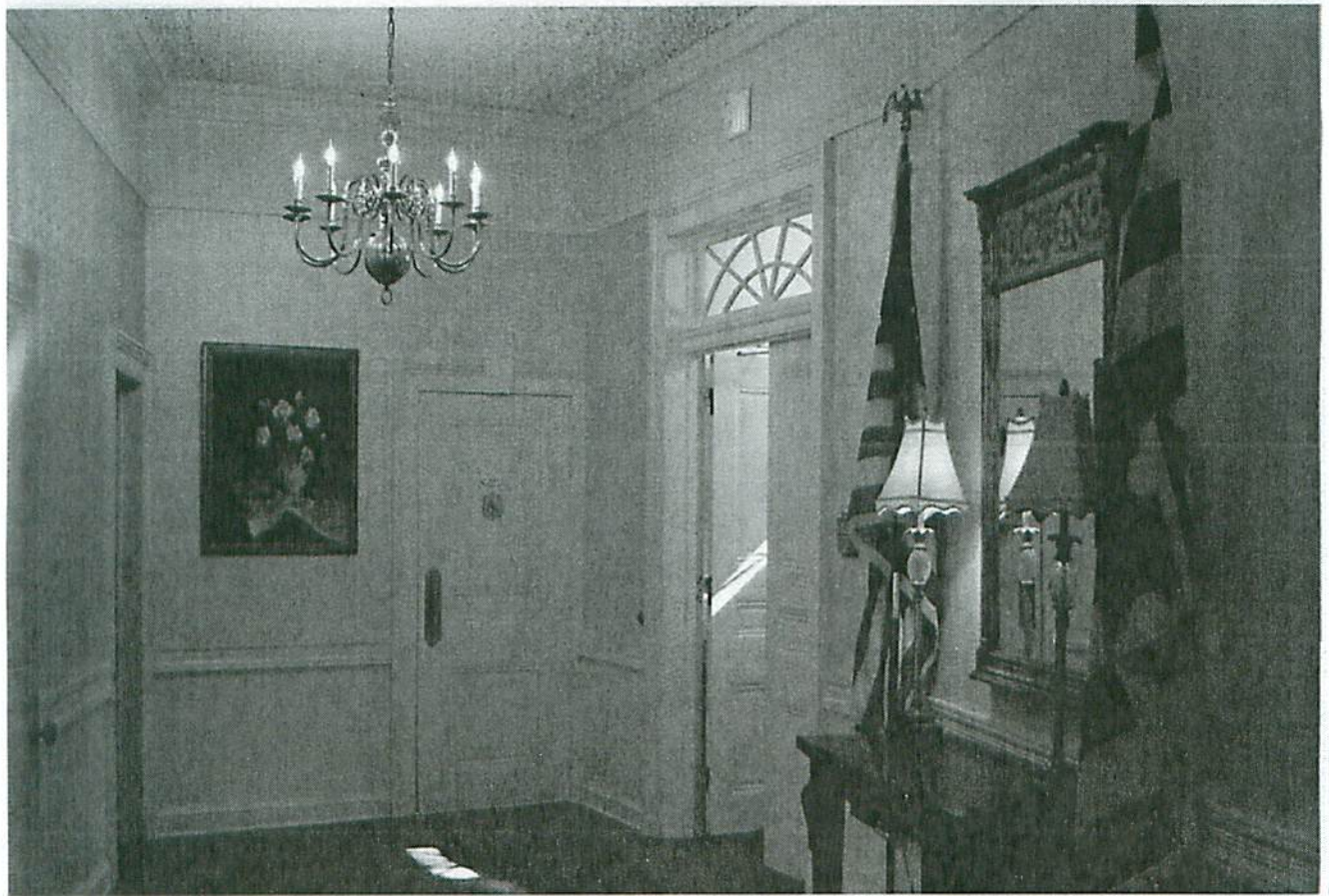
HUNTERS LOUNGE LOOKING SOUTHEAST

132.1



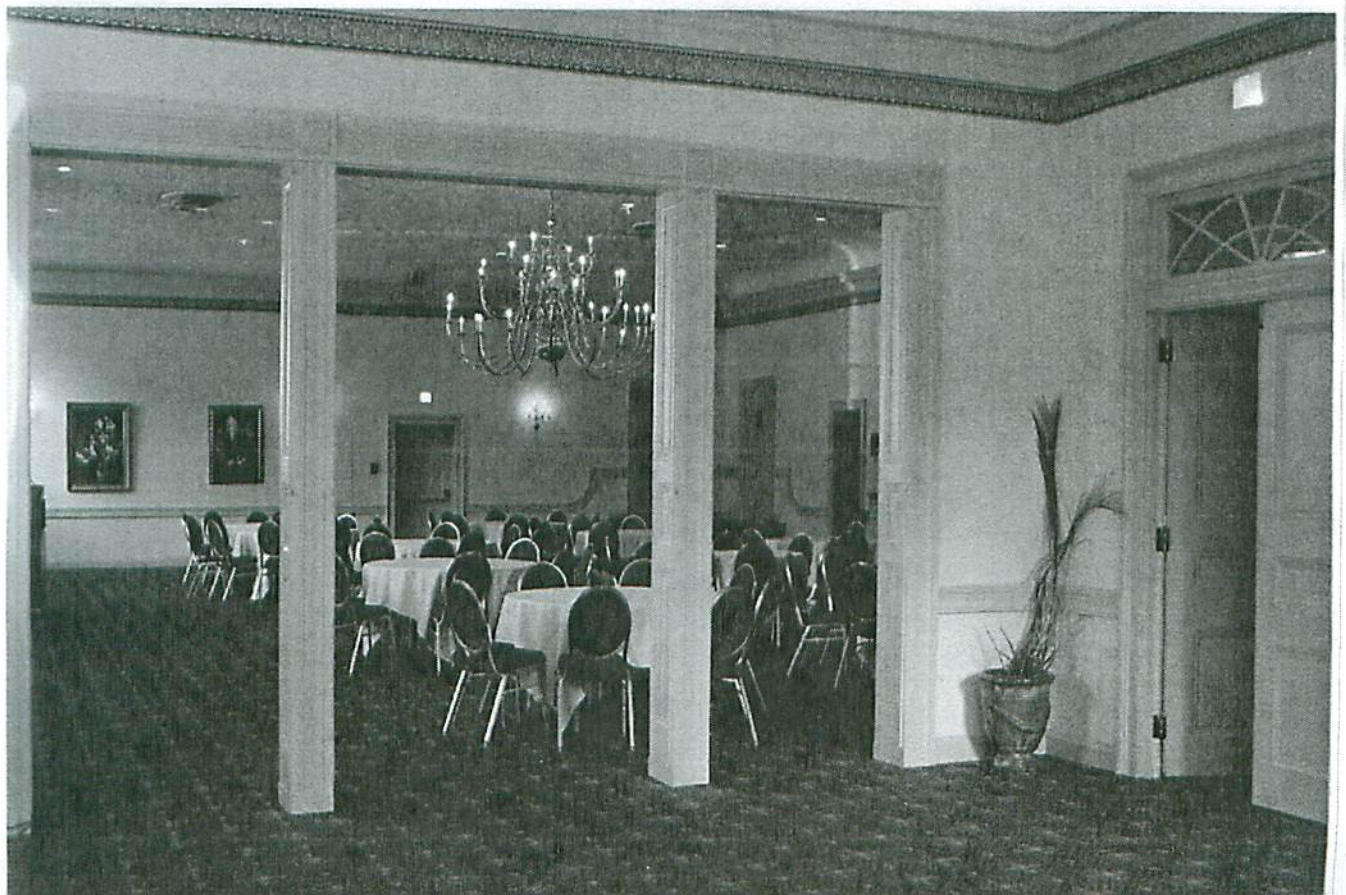
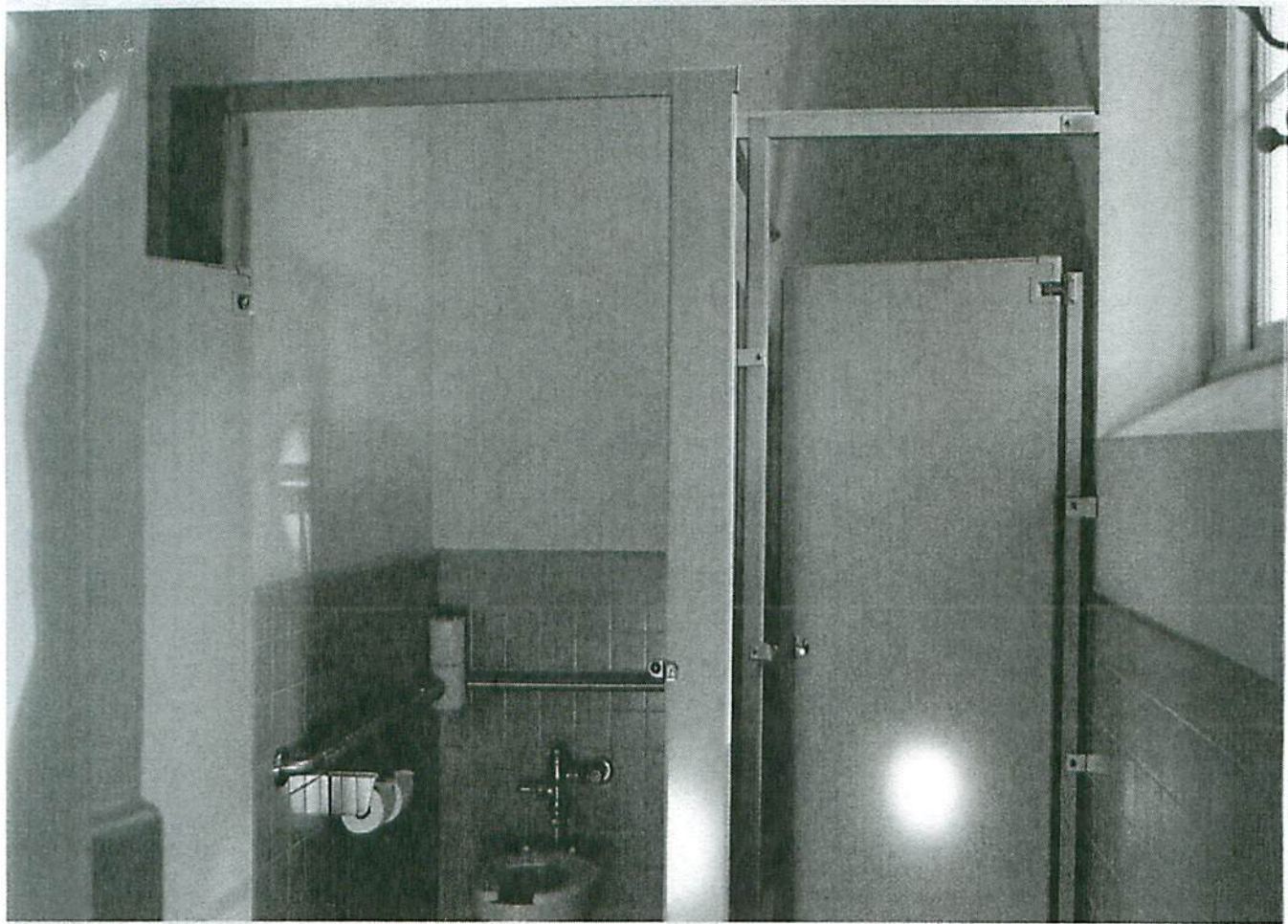
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TIDEWATER INN
EASTON, MD
WARD BUCHER
NOVEMBER 8, 2000
CDR AT MD SHPO OFFICE
HUNTER'S LOUNGE LOOKING SOUTHERN
132.1

T-1160
TIDEWATER INN
EASTON, MD
WARD BUCHER
JULY 6, 2000
CDR AT MD SHPO OFFICE
DECOY LOUNGE LOOKING NORTHEAST
133.1



T-1100
TIDEWATER INN
EASTON, MD
WARD BUCHER
NOVEMBER 8, 2000
CD-R AT MD SHPD OFFICE
DELOIT LOUNGE LOOKING NORTHEAST
1331

T-1100
TIDEWATER INN
EASTON, MD
WARD BUCHER
JULY 01, 2000
CD-R AT MD SHPD OFFICE
GOLD ROOM LOBBY LOOKING SOUTH
1341



T-1100

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 01, 2000

CD-R AT MD SHPO OFFICE

BOOD ROOM WOMEN'S TOILET LOOKING

SOUTH

135.1

T-1100

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 01, 2000

CD-R AT MD SHPO OFFICE

ANTE ROOM LOOKING EAST

136.1



T-1160

TIDE WATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 01 2000

CO-R AT MD SHPO OFFICE

GOLD ROOM LOOKING WEST

137.1

T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

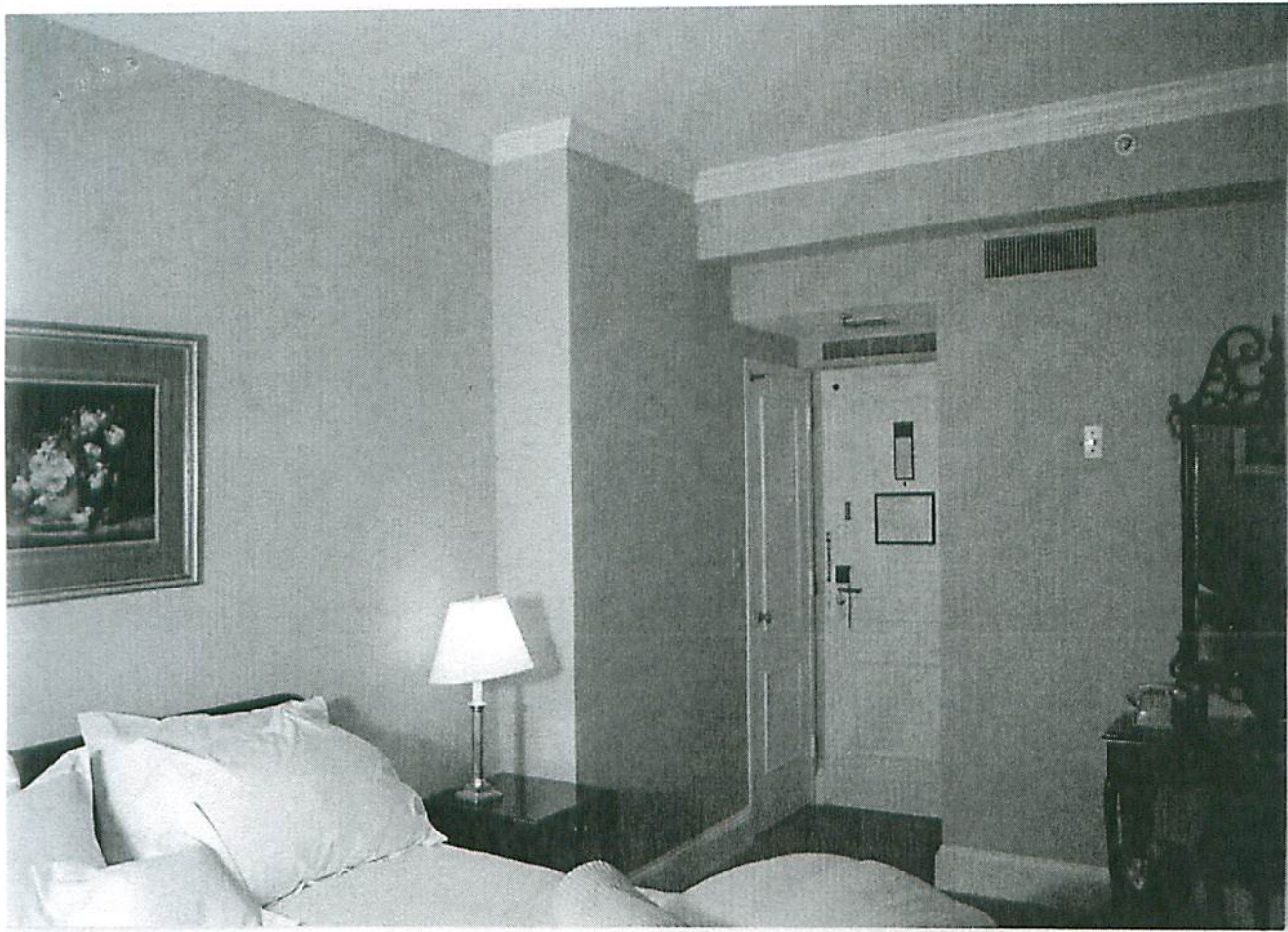
WARD BUCHER

JULY 01 2000

CO-R AT MD SHPO OFFICE

SECOND FLOOR CORRIDOR LOOKING EAST

200.1



F-1160

TIOE WATER INN

EASTON, MO

WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2006

CD-R AT MO SHPD OFFICE

BATH OF SUITE 209 LOOKING NORTH

209.a

T-1160

TIOE WATER INN

EASTON, MO

WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2006

CD-R AT MO SHPD OFFICE

SUITE 209 LOOKING NORTH

209.1



T-1100

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2000

CO-R AT MD SHPO OFFICE

PARLOR OF SUITE 229 LOOKING WORTHWEST

229.1

T-1100

TIDEWATER INN

EASTON, MD

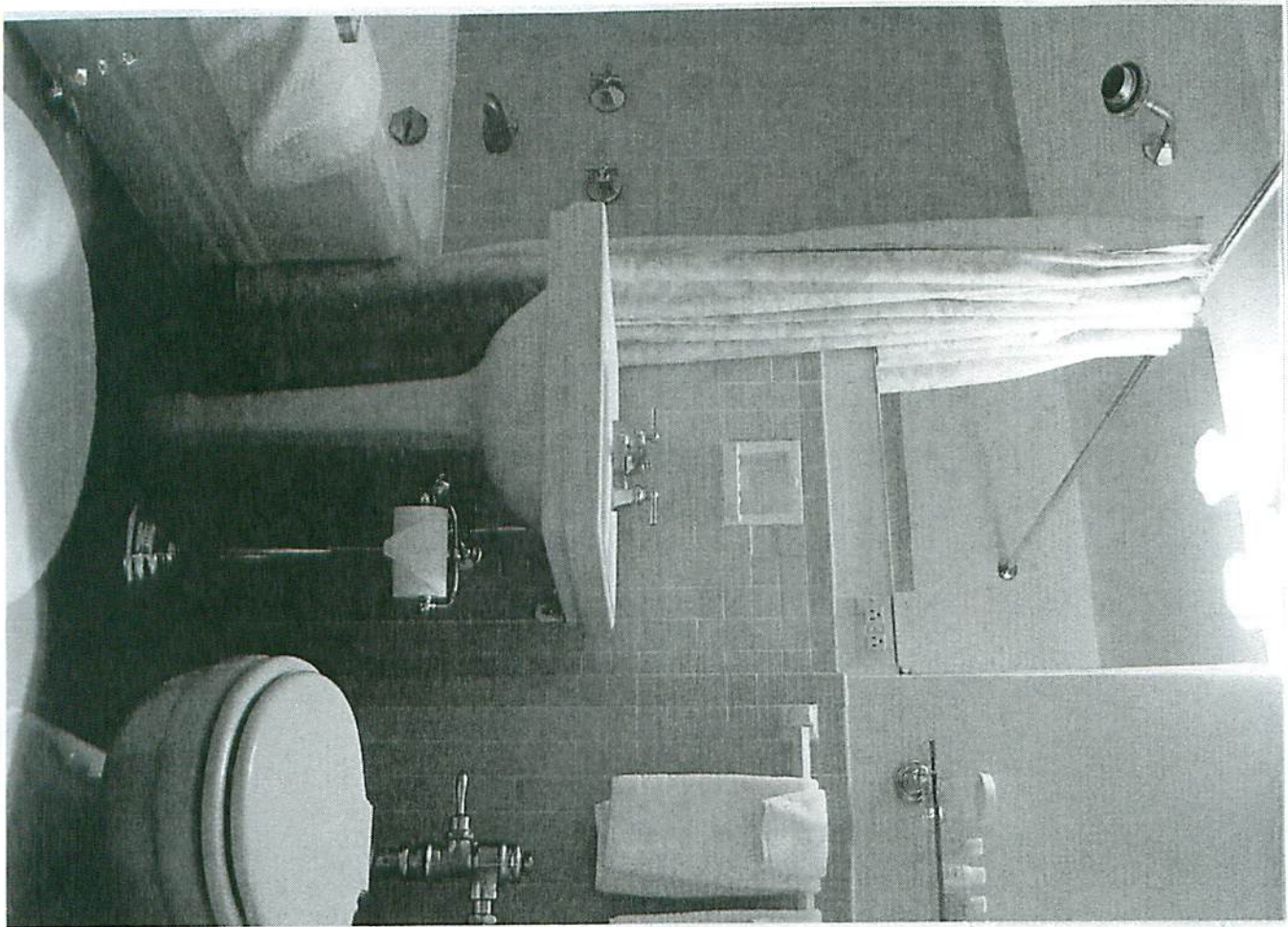
WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2000

CO-R AT MD SHPO OFFICE

BEDROOM OF SUITE 229 LOOKING EAST

229.2



T-1100

TIDEWATER INN

ZASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2006

CO-R AT MD SHPO OFFICE

FOURTH FLOOR CORRIDOR LOOKING WEST

400.1

T-1100

TIDEWATER INN

ZASTON, MD

WARD BUCHER

JULY 6, 2006

CO-R AT MD SHPO OFFICE

FOURTH FLOOR CORRIDOR LOOKING EAST

400.1