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Port Herman CE-1054

The small Elk River community of Port Herman was laid out along the shores of the river by Robert Thomas in 1849 on land he acquired from Martin and Anna Hilt (RCH2/5). The land was part of Augustine Herman's vast Bohemia Manor which was partially divided in the early 18th century. Robert Thomas, however, was not the first to realize the potential of this waterfront property. Local tradition documents the operation of a vinegar mill at first which was followed by a lumber mill and boatyard. These activities were located along the water's edge for access to ship transport.

Farming was an obvious addition to the livelihood of many area residents who undoubtedly used the nearby wharfs for shipment of crops. County roads were probably present in the early 19th century but not as convenient and accessible as the navigable waterways.

Whatever mill and agrarian community existed in the early 19th century was overshadowed by the recreation potential and eventual development of this coastal community in the mid to late 19th century and entire 20th century.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST MAGI # 0810545429

CE-1054

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

FILE 287

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Port Herman

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North coast of Town Point

CITY, TOWN

Port Herman ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

CEcil

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Owners Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

___ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #:

Folio #:

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clerk of the Circuit Court

STREET & NUMBER

Cecil Coiunty Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CE-1054

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	_UNALTERED	✓ ORIGINAL SITE
✓ GOOD	_RUINS	✓ ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
_FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A. Staats Cottages (four structures) two two story two bay by one room frame houses c. 1860. One was moved from Delaware City in the early 20th century. It is a two bay by two bay frame with a low sloping hip roof long narrow 4/4 sash windows with plain trim. Totally covered with aluminum siding enclosed shed porch on three sides facing water.

The other two story two bay by one room house has a rear 1½ kitchen ell. A shed addition extends off the north side. It rests on a fieldstone foundation and covered with weatherboard siding and a medium pitched composition tile roof. The house faces west and the water with the main gable running north/south. 6/6 sash windows light the first and second floors. A shed porch covers the first floor of the main facade.

Two other frame structures date from the early 20th century and are a 1½ story rectangular weatherboard frame cottages located amongst newer cottages. The gable end faces the water and serves as the main facade. A shed porch covers the front three openings; a central door and two adjacent windows.

B. Elk River House Hallier Johnson

The Elk River House was built in 1888 to accomodate visiting vacationers in Port Herman. The three story five bay center hall frame structure faces the Elk River and is located at the east end of front street.

The large frame rests on a fieldstone foundation and is covered with aluminum over weatherboard siding. The medium pitched roof is sheathed with composition tile shingles.

The north facade (main) faces the water. A central entrance is flanked by 2/2 sash windows and five identical sash illuminate the second and third floors. The entrance has sidelights and transom. Interior stove stacks have been removed and an exterior stack was attached to the east end. The eaves to the roof are extended and the soffits are sloped. A hip roof porch extends across the entire first floor and is supported by tuscan columns

The west end has three openings on both first, second and third floors and two 2/2 attic sash.

The south side is basically the same with a few additional windows on the first floor. A single bay porch covers the central entrance.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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The interior has been remodeled slightly since it was converted to a residence.

A new garage and two bay bath house are located east of the main house.

c. Hazel Property

The Hazel Property consists of two two story frame structures on the south side of front street at its east end. The two buildings represent the two primary building periods in Port Herman; the third and fourth quarter of the 19th century and the early 20 th century.

The third quarter of the 19th century structure us a two story two bay by one room weatherboard frame with ell kitchen to the south. The house rests on a fieldstone foundation and is covered by a medium slope asbestos tile roof. Clay chimney pots rise out of the east gable end and kitchen gable. One of the more distinctive features of this house are the decorative fascia boards. The window sash have been replaced as well as the eastern bay front door. A hip roofed porch with square support posts covers the first floor.

The kitchen wing is one bay by one room with shed additions off the east side and south end. Two attached outbuildings are found southeast of the main house. They appear similar to a dairy and meathouse.

The other Hazel House is a 2½ story three bay by one room centor hall frame with T kitchen wing. The house seems to date from the 1920's according to form and interior detail. The weatherboard frame rests on a rusticated block foundation and is covered with a composition shingle roof. The double single pane sash are arranged symmetrically around a central partially glazed entrance. A single 1/1 sash lights the central bay of the second floor. A tuscan column front porch covers all three bays and extends around to the east side of the house.

The east and west gable ends have two 1/1 sash on each floor and two pane attic lights. The eaves are extended with short returns are the base. The windows flank an interior brick stove stack.

The T kitchen has the same basic details with the addition of a set of multi-pane second floor lights on the west side.

The interior of the first floor is one large room with partial column dividers to designate the entrance from the rest of the house. An enclosed stair rises in the southwest corner.

D. Hadden Double Stone House c. 1850

The Hadden double stone house c. 1845 is a three story four bay by one room stuccoed fieldstone structure which consists of two separate dwellings with separate entrances and interior stairs. The house has been converted to a single family unit. The structure is on the south side of front street and faces north with the main gable running east/west.

The house rests on a partial fieldstone foundation and is covered with a medium sloped composition shingle roof.

The main (north) facade has two central entrances which have six panel doors with a high relief molding that outunes the panels. The windows have been replaced with single pane sash. Four identical sash light the second floor and four two pane lights illuminate the third floor. A small boxed cornice stretches across above. A shed porch covers the four first floor openings.

The east and west gable ends are approximately the same with two single pane sash on each floor. They flank the interior stuccoed stack. A plain bargeboard protects the end rafter.

Any old rear additions were removed when the present gabled kitchen wing was attached. It covers the full breadth of the back of the house.

The interior of the main block has been partially changed but the woodwork remains basically intact. Enclosed winder stairs with four raised panel doors are found in each section. A doorway has been cut through the middle partition of the two sections.

E. Biddle House

The Biddle House appears to have been constructed on the site of an earlier structure since a building is located on the spot in 1877. The present house was built around 1915 and is a 2½ story three bay by two room frame house with its gable end as the main facade. The house also faces front street with the main gable running north/south.

The main frame rests on a block foundation and is covered with asbestos shingle over wood shingle over weatherboard. The medium sloped roof is covered with an asbestos tile and a narrow brick stove stack rises out of the center of the main block. A shed kitchen is attached to the south end and a glassed-in porch covers the north and west sides.

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The main facade has three openings with a door in the easternmost bay. Single pane sash light the first and second floors and a single window illuminates the attic. A continuation of the boxed cornice continues around the north side and separates the second and third floors.

The east side has an irregular placement of single pane sash and undoubtedly does because the stair rises against the wall. The west sides primary differences are the first floor porch and a cross gable centered on the roof. Sash windows and general treatement remain the same.

The interior woodwork is typical of the early 20th century. The floor plan consists of two main rooms on the first floor, one behind each other and heated by the central stove stack. A shed kitchen addition adds another room to the first floor.

F. Port Herman Methodist Church

The Methodist Church in Port Herman c. 1916 is the second structure the congregation has held service since meetings were begun in the area. The first services were held on the second floor of the old fieldstone ware house that appears on the 1877 map and owned by Wm. Fears. The present structure was built on property donated by Robert Fears, Sr. in 1916.

This church is a 1½ story frame rectangular form with the short side and gable end serving as the main facade which faces west. The main gable correspondingly runs E/W. The main block is one room across by three bays deep and rests on a studdoed block foundation that is struck to imitate stone. The frame is covered with asbestos siding and the steeply pitched roof is covered with composition tile.

The main facade has a single story gabled front vestibule with a pointed arch entrance. Two single pane sash pointed arch lights are found on either side and illuminate the main block from the west. A pyramidal roofed louvered cupola is attached to the front of the main roof. A corner stone with the date 1916 is set in the northwest corner of the main facade.

The sides of the church are basically the same with three pairs of pointed arch sash windows. Six double pane basement lights illuminate the cellar.

The back of the church has a projecting central bay that allows more room for the altar. A brick stove stack rises against the end wall and probably serves the basement heating system.

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G. Mansion House

William Fears owned this house in 1877 and it undoubtedly looked much different than it does today. The present exterior appearance dates from the first quarter of the 20th century. The house must have undergone severe alterations since the entire hip roof and clipped gable dormers are typical of 1920's building design. The center three bay by one room block is probably the earlier structure with the frame additions and two story porches attached later. A number of single story frame cottages similar to the Staats Cottages are located along the beach and just north of the house.

H. Port Herman Store

The Port Herman Store c. 1865 is a 1½ story three bay by one room frame house on the northwest corner of Port Herman and Town Point Roads. The structure faces south with the main gable running east/west.

The frame rests on a fieldstone foundation and is sheathed with novelty siding and covered with a medium sloped gabled tin roof. A shed roofed section is attached to the east end.

The main facade (south) has an off center entrance that is closely flanked by two 6/6 sash windows with plain trim. A partially glazed front door has a single bay shed roof porch protection with turned support posts and saw tooth end boards. The end of the shed addition is pierced by a 2/2 sash window.

The west gable end has two 6/6 sash windows, while the north side has two 6/6 sash plus a closed up entrance.

The east end is primarily covered with the shed section but a 6/6 sash does light the attic. The eaves to the roof are extended and the soffits sloped. A single clay chimney pot does rise out of the main block.

The described properties above do not include all the standing structures in Port Herman today, but instead are a representation of the buildings found along the two streets. (see street scapes) A number of other early 20th century homes as well as mid 20th century structures are found in Port Herman. If time allowed each structure would be approached but due to time limitations this is not possible.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

CE-1054

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION	
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE	
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE	
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION	
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		__INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CE-1054

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Paul B. Touart

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Cecil County Committee	10/25/81
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
Cecil Coiunty Courthouse	398-0200
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Elkton	Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

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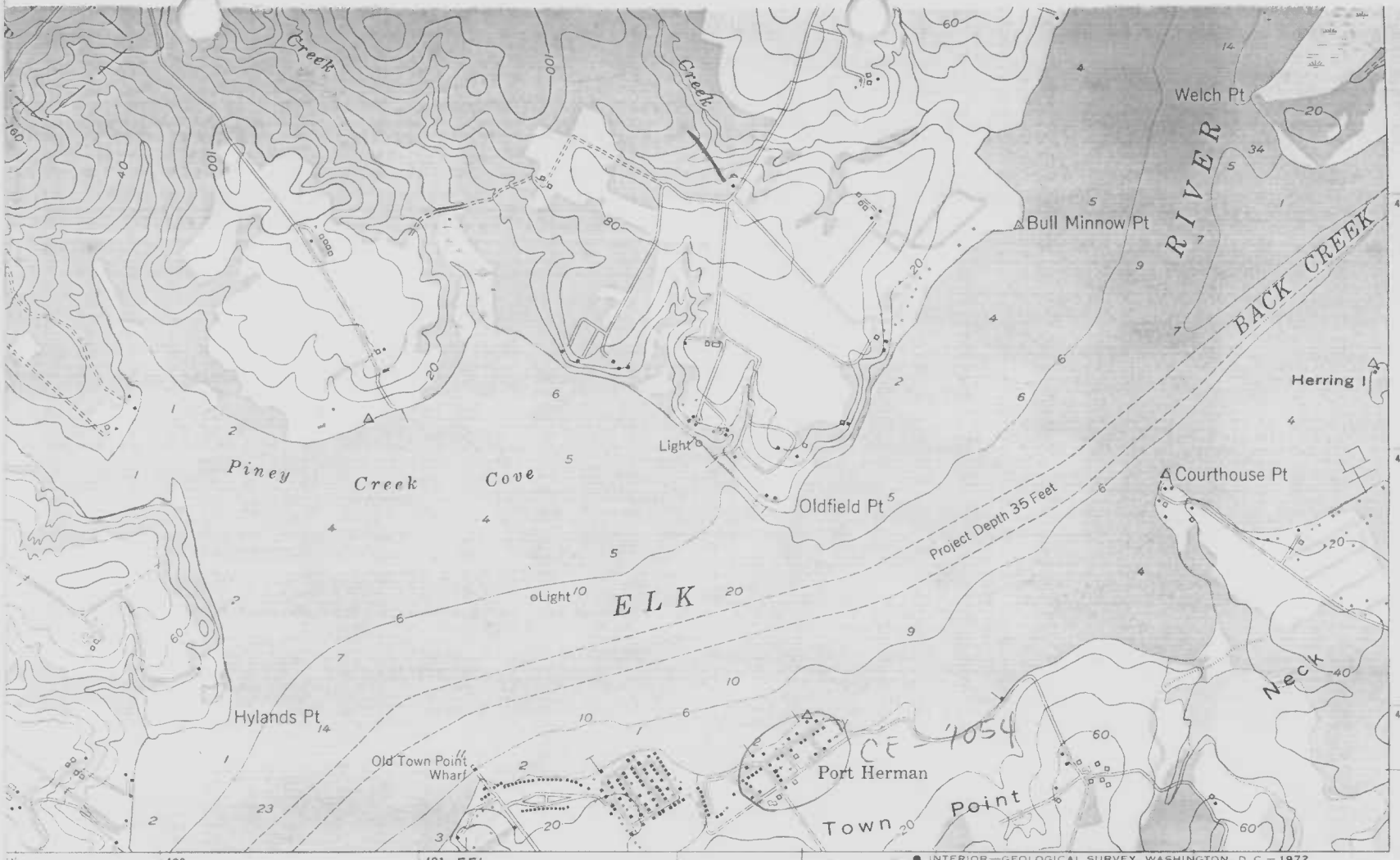
Port Herman	Wm. Fears 1877
WAS 363/211	Robert K. Fears
	To
1/5/1973	Leonard C. Dickerson
	14.335 Acres
WAS 103/553	Wm. Wilson Bratton
	To
4/11/1961	Anna G. & Robert K. Fears
	Anna G. Fears, Widow
	To
4/11/1961	Wm. Wilson Bratton
	Residue of Parcel No. - 1 and Parcel No. 2
	and all of Parcel No. 3
WEB 14/92	Wm. J Bratton
	To
7/28/1939	Robert Fears etc.
	1. 64 acres
	2. 20 acres WEB No /311 from Wilmer Stradley
	3. 1 acre
WEB 14/90	Robert K. Fears etc.
	To
7/28/1939	Wm. J. Bratton
	3. 1 acre it being land whereof a certain Wm. Fears, Grandfather of R. K. Fears died around Aug. 9, 1892
	HWL 8/547 CSP 1/322
WHR 7/534	George Earle trustee to Wm. Fears
4/17/1865	WHR 3/651 Circuit Court
	April 18, 1856
	George Earl vs.
	Gustanis A. Thompson
	$5,900.00 212 Acres
	Case No. 254 1/85 WHR 3/615
RCH 2/5	Martin Holt & Anna his Wife
	District of Spring Garden - Blacksmith
	To
12/12/1849	Robert Thomas
	Germantown
	$3,000
CSP 1/135	Port Herman laid out by Robert H. Thomas on the Elk River in Bohemia Manor on part of a tract of land which Martin Holt and Anna his Wife by Deed dated Dec. 12, 1849 RCH 2/5 Granted unto the said Robert H. Thomas in Fee.



INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON, D C—1972

1 24000

1 MILE

4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 KILOMETER

RVAL 20 FEET
N SEA LEVEL
FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
PROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
OF TIDE IS 2.6 FEET

NAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty
Medium-duty
Light-duty
Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route
State Route

(CECILTON)
5862 IV NE

NORTH EAST, MD.

SW/4 ELKTON 15' QUADRANGLE
N3930—W7552.5/7.5

1953
PHOTOREVISED 1970
AMS 5863 III SW-SERIES V833

CE-1054

VI/31

CE-1054

PORT HERMAN
ELK RIVER HOUSE
NORTH ELEVATION
10/79 PB NEG. MAT CELL
[illegible]

DEV. BY
Elizabeth E. Booth

12/1/79

SCHOOL-HOUSE, TOWN

PORT HERMAN SCHOOL HOUSE CE-1054

EAST ELEVATION

11/79 PIBT NEG. MHT CECIL

OLD PHOTO - TAKEN FROM POSTCARD

HARREL COLLECTION

CF-1054

PORT HERMAN c. 1900

OLD PHOTO - HAZEL COLLECTION

SOUTH ELEVATION - HOUSE NO LONGER REMAINS

10/74 PIST NEG. MAT.

CECIL

CE-1054

PORT HELMAN ROAD

TAKEN FROM OR NEAR SCHOOL HOUSE

LOOKING NORTH

10/75 PBT NEG. MHT

HAZEL COLLECTION

CE-1054

FORT HERMAN

FRONT STREET

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

10/79 PJT NEG. MHT CECIC

VI

34

HAZEL PROPERTY

EAST ELEVATION

PORT HERMAN, MD.

10/79 PBT NEG. MHT CECIL

CE-1054

DOCU. BY

12/1/79

Elizabeth E. Booth

CE-1054

HAZEL PROPERTY

NORTH ELEVATION

PORTA HERMAN MD.

10/79 PBT NEG./MHT CECIL

DEV. BY
Elizabeth E. Booth

10/15/79

M/36

CE- 1054

PONT HERRMAN

WEST ELEVATION

10/79 DIST NEG. NIT

CE-1054

PORT HERMAN

HAMDEN DOUBLE STONE HOUSE

NORTH ELEVATION

10/74 PBT NEG. MHT CECIL

CE - 1054

PORT HERMAN

NORTH ELEVATION

10/79 PIST NEG. MHT PENCIL

VL
35

HAZEL PROPERTY CE-1054

NORTH ELEVATION

PORT HERMAN, MD. CECIL

10/79 PBT NEG. MHT

DEV. BY
Elizabeth E. Booth

12/1/79

VI
33

CE-1054

HAZEL PROPERTY
NORTHWEST ELEVATION
PORT HERMAN, MD. CECIL
10/79 PBT NEG MHT

DEV. BY
Elizabeth E[illegible]
10/2/79

CE-1054

VI
30

STAATS COTTAGES
NORTH ELEVATION
PORT HERMAN, MD. CECIL
10/79 PBT NEG. MHT

DEV. BY
Elizabeth E. Booth

12/1/79

PORT HERMAN
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION
ELK RIVER HOUSE
10/79 PBT NEG. MHT CECIL

CE-1054

VII
32

12/1/79

PEN 134

CE-1054

MANSION HOUSE
SOUTH ELEVATION
PORT HUDSON

10/79 PBT NEG. MHT CECIL

VI
28

CE-1054

STAITS COTTAGES
NORTH ELEVATION
PORT HERMAN, MD.
10/79 PBT NEG. MIT CECIL

DEV. By
Elizabeth E. Booth

12/1179

CE-1054

PORT HERMAN

FRONT ST.

EAST ELEVATION

10/79 PIST NEG. MIKE CECIL

III
29

STAHIS COTTAGES CE-1054
NORTH ELEVATION
PORTE HERMAN, MD.
10/79 PBT NEG. MHT
MOVED FROM DELAWARE CITY IN
EARLY 20TH CENTURY.

DEV. BY
Elizabeth E. Booth
12/1/79

PORT HERMAN STORE CE-1054

SOUTH ELEVATION CECIL

10/79 PBT NEG. MHT

PORT HERMAN METHODIST CHURCH CE-1054

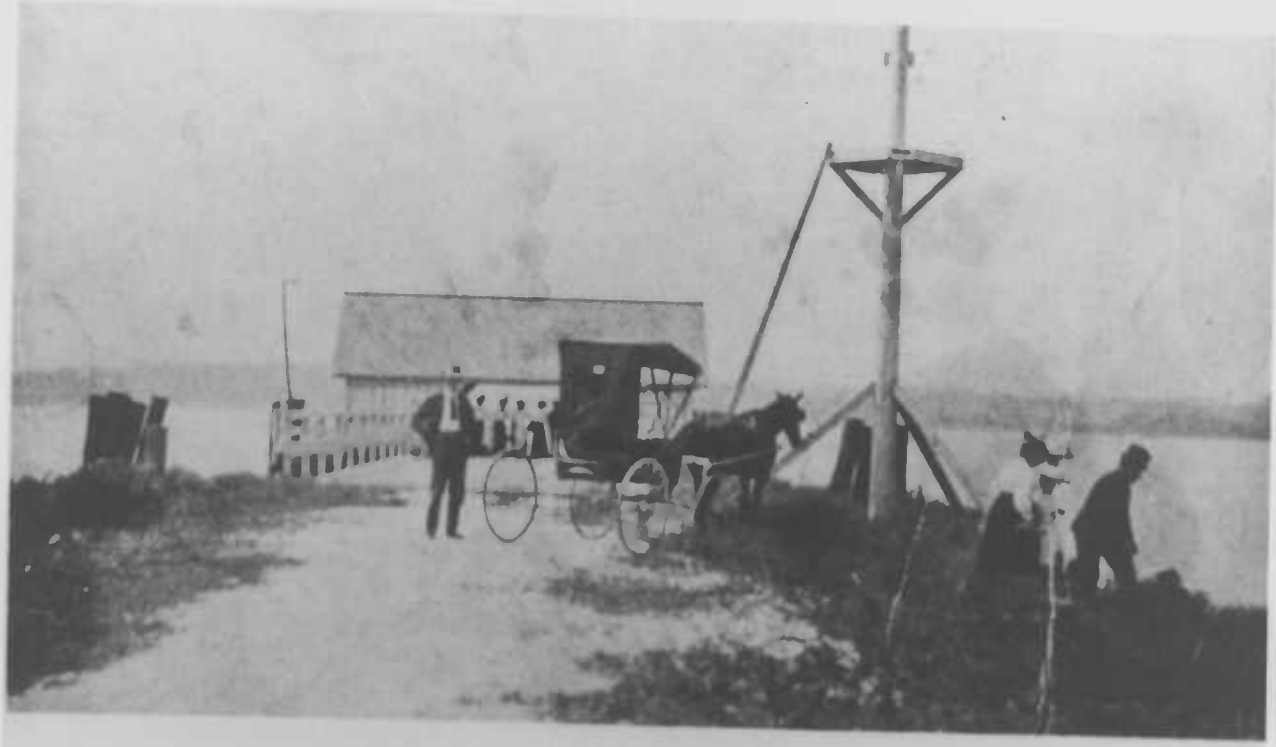
NORTH ELEVATION CECIL

10/74 PBT NEG MAT

PORT HERMAN METHODIST CHURCH CE-1054

WEST ELEVATION

10/79 PBT NEG. MIT



PORT HENRY WHARF CE-1054

FACING NORTH - HAZEL COLLECTION

10/79 PBT NEG. MITT

2

METHODIST CHURCH, PORT HERMAN, MO.

CE-1054

MILL - METHODIST CHURCH -

PORT HERMAN, MD.

10/79 PBT NEG. MHT CECIL

HAZEL COLLECTION

2

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