

S-81  
Makepeace  
Crisfield vicinity  
private

c. 1725-1750

Perhaps the best known of the early dwellings of Somerset County, "Makepeace" belongs to the generation of plantation architecture dating to the first half of the eighteenth century. Several outstanding features contribute to the architectural and historical interest of this Flemish bond brick dwelling. The west gable end displays an elaborate glazed header diaper pattern, one of four examples in the county. A sawtooth beltcourse visually divides the first and second floors. This architectural feature is also found on the Beauchamp house (S-62) and Sudler's Conclusion (S-56). The principal (south) elevation is a symmetrical four-bay facade highlighted by a checkerboard pattern of glazed bricks. Centered on the south elevation are two doors topped by segmental arches. The eastern door opens into a stair passage, whereas the western door opens into the principal living space formerly known as the "hall." The house was initially finished with nicely molded floor joists, and large six-foot hearths heated the two principal rooms. Alterations to the woodwork were accomplished during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Attached to the east gable end of the house is a single-story colonnade and a story-and-a-half kitchen. Both frame structures probably date to the nineteenth century.

Although former attempts to estimate the age of "Makepeace" placed the structure within the seventeenth century, recent architectural and historical research has convincingly dated the brick house to the second quarter of the eighteenth century. Charles Roach, a third generation planter to occupy part of the Johnson's Creek land grant, is credited with constructing the house after he inherited his grandfather's plantation in 1727. (EB 9/111) To Charles, John Roach,

Jr. bequeathed, "...the plantation whereon my father dwelt being 200 acres, 150 called Makepeace and fifty of Exchange." To his other son, William, John, Jr. left, "...my now dwelling plantation." John Roach, Sr. patented "Makepeace" in 1663. Charles Roach occupied his grandfather's patent until 1747, when his estate was probated and assessed for L 651..9..1. (Inventory Records, 35/425) In addition, he owned seven slaves. The early eighteenth-century architectural features combined with Charles Roach's substantial estate at the time of his death in 1747, convincingly support the proposed date of construction.

"Makepeace" passed to Charles Roach's son, William, who was assessed for the plantation in 1783. Included in the assessment were 297 acres on which stood, "a brick wall dwelling house, two rooms below, kitchen and barn in midling repair..." William occupied the creek plantation four years longer, when the property passed to his son, William in 1787. (EB 1/273) William Roach was assessed for "Makepeace," in addition to tracts known as "Force Putt" and "Half Quarter." The Roach house was described once more as,

1 Dwelling house built of brick 30 feet by 20 feet one story high, 4 windows 5 feet by 2 1/2 feet, 4 dorment windows 3 feet by 2 feet; 1 kitchen 18 by 14 feet framed, 1 milk house 8 feet square, 1 negro house 16 feet by 14 feet sawed logs, 1 stable 16 feet by 14 feet sawed logs, 1 carriage house 16 feet by 8 feet framed.

After the deaths of William Roach and his second wife, Nancy Milburn Roach, in 1837 and 1839, respectively, plantation ownership entered a confusing period. The house was evidently occupied by Roach descendents, and later Sterlings, however, the exact date Elijah Sterling acquired the property has not been determined. In the 1870 estate division of Elijah Sterling's lands, Lot No. 1 with five acres was allotted to his son, Luther. (LW 12/300) Luther died in 1890, and his wife, Mary married William H. Chelton in 1904. Mary E. Sterling Chelton

remained on the property until her death in 1936. Half interests in "Makepeace" passed to Mary E. Chelton's two sons, Elijah and Edmund William Sterling, and Elijah sold his half interest to his brother in November of 1937 (JMT 113/356). William Edmund Sterling retained ownership of "Makepeace" until 1978, and the following year the property passed to the current owners (315/691).

Easement

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S-81 6

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Make peace

AND/OR COMMON  
Makepeace

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Left side of Johnson's Creek Road,  
approximately 1.5 miles southeast  
of Crisfield

CITY, TOWN

Crisfield

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

CODE  
24

COUNTY  
Somerset

CODE  
039

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME William Edmond Sterling

STREET & NUMBER Makepeace, Johnson's Creek Road

CITY, TOWN

Crisfield

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Maryland

21817

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Somerset County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Princess Anne

STATE  
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE 1969

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE  
D.C.

# DESCRIPTION

S-81

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Makepeace, a 1-1/2 story brick house of the early eighteenth century, stands on the left side of Johnson's Creek Road, approximately 1.5 miles southeast of Crisfield.

The four-bay front (south) and rear (north) facades are laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. The south facade, similar to Genesar in Worcester County (1733; National Register property) has a door in each of the two center bays. The two end bays each contain a nine-over-six sash window. The north facade has a single door in the second bay from the east end. The western half of the north side has two sash windows. The doors on the south side have segmented arches; the rubbed brick segmented arch over the north door has been rebuilt.

The two-bay wide gable ends of the house are laid in decorative patterns, known as diapering, created by the use of glazed headers. The west end has an overall diamond pattern. The east end has a chevron pattern above the level of the cornice and a diamond design below. The latter is partly obscured by a later addition. A characteristic feature of lower Eastern Shore architecture is the "dogtooth" belt course which extends across each gable at the cornice level.

A two-inch, stepped water table extends around the building. It is constructed of standard rather than molded brick. The brick below the water table is laid in English bond.

Enclosed chimneys stand at each end of Makepeace. The east one is T-shaped to accommodate the flue for the second floor fireplace. Both of the chimneys are constructed so that they slope back from the face of the wall rather than rising straight up from the peak of the gable. The chimney tops are decorated with four stepped courses of brick.

The diagonal false plate and joist ends were originally exposed beneath the roof as they were in most Tidewater houses of the eighteenth century. They have since been boxed in to form a simple cornice.

The roof is presently covered with black asphalt. Two samples of wood round-butt shingles applied with cut nails remain from an

see continuation sheet #1

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Makepeace  
Somerset County  
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Description, continued

earlier roof. Three dormers with six-over-six sashes on each slope stylistically appear to be eighteenth century, but the framing indicates that they were added after the initial construction of the house.

No eighteenth century sills, sashes, or shutters remain on the building, having been replaced in the early part of the nineteenth century. The window placement in the gable ends was also changed. Originally there were two small windows to light closets on the first floor of the west end and two small windows in the gable of the east end which are now bricked up. Of the two original windows in the east end, one is still extant and the other has been made into a door into the addition.

The entire interior of Makepeace was altered in the early nineteenth century, and the woodwork in the house today is all very plain work dating from that period. The windows have narrow frames and reveals of plain board with simple moldings like those on the door frames. The doors have four horizontal panels with carpenter locks. The floors are of yellow pine and the baseboards of plain beaded board.

Makepeace's first and second floor plans consist of a center hall flanked by two rooms. An open-string staircase, not the original, stands in the first floor center hall. The exterior doors on the north and south facades open into this hall and the west room.

The fireplaces on the first floor were made smaller in the early nineteenth century by filling them in about a foot on each side. Applied molding consisting of paneled pieces flanked by plain pilasters frames these openings.

The plaster of the walls has been furred out from the original plaster walls. The original ceiling on the second floor was not plastered, but left the collar beams and flooring above exposed.

The roof structure consists of a common rafter system with pegged mortice and tenon joints at the ridge and a diagonal false plate pegged into each joist.

A kitchen connected to the house by a small hyphen appears to date from the late nineteenth century, although a separate kitchen is also listed with the house in the Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798

see continuation sheet #2

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

From the exterior, Makepeace is a fine example of the type of house built by the planters of Maryland's Eastern Shore during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The brickwork, highly visible because of its good condition, is typical of the elaborate glazed brick patterns built into as many as half of Maryland's early Tidewater buildings. The diamond pattern of the west gable end and east end wall was the most common design in use during the seventeenth century.<sup>1</sup>

The paired entrance doors on the south facade are an unusual feature. Genesar, a National Register property in Worcester County, Maryland, has a first floor plan similar to that of Makepeace but with a single entrance door on the principal facade.

In November 1678, John Roach and his wife Sarah, were granted a patent for 150 acres in Somerset County. This land, surveyed for them in 1663, was to be known as "Make peace." Roach was one of the first settlers in the Annemessex area, which was itself the first area to be settled in Somerset County.<sup>2</sup> Like many other early inhabitants of Maryland, he apparently came to the colony as an indentured servant. After serving five to six years to pay for their ocean passage and their upkeep during those years, these men were granted land, "an ox, a gun, two hoes, and a modest outfit of clothing." The women received clothing and three barrels of Indian corn. These or similar terms were continued until 1683.<sup>3</sup> That Roach probably received his land through such an arrangement is suggested by the statement in his patent that 100 acres was due him for "his time of service performed in our said province and 50 acres more by assignment . . . for transporting Sara his wife into our said province to inhabite [sic] . . . ." <sup>4</sup>

1. Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture from the First Colonial Settlements to the National Period (New York: Oxford University Press, 1952), p. 158.
2. Woodrow T. Wilson, History of Crisfield . . . (Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc., 1974), p.1.
3. Paul Wilstach, Tidewater Maryland (New York: Blue Ribbon Books, Inc., 1931), pp. 44-46.
4. Somerset County Deed 15/491, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.



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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Makepeace  
Somerset County  
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8,9 PAGE 3

Significance, continued

John Roach, Jr. died just nine years after his father, in 1727. He had established his own plantation before Makepeace was left to him and therefore very probably did not build a house on this property. In his will, he wrote: "I bequeath . . . my now dwelling plantation . . . to my son William Roach" and "I give unto my son Charles Roach the plantation whereon my father dwelt being 200 acres, 150 called Makepeace and fifty of Exchange."<sup>8</sup>

An inventory of Charles Roach's estate taken in 1747 valued his property for £651,9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>1</sub>. He owned seven slaves. Although possession of this amount of property does not classify Roach among the wealthy, it is an amount sufficient to make it plausible for him to have built Makepeace.<sup>9</sup>

Makepeace remained in the Roach family until the first half of the nineteenth century. During those fifty years, it was sold rather frequently and at one time quite extensive repairs were made to the interior. Today Makepeace is situated close to Johnson's Creek Road, a good and highly visible example of Maryland's early Tidewater architecture.

8. Somerset County Will 12/208, Hall of Records.
9. Somerset County Inventory 35/425, Hall of Records.

Major Bibliographical References, continued

Probate Records of Somerset County  
Tax Records of Somerset County, 1783 and 1798

Secondary Sources

- Forman, H. Chandlee. Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland. Easton, Maryland: By the Author, 1934.
- Forman, H. Chandlee. Maryland Architecture, A Short History from 1634 through the Civil War. Cambridge, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1968.

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S-81

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Makepeace  
Somerset County  
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 4

Major Bibliographical References, continued

Forman, H. Chandlee. Old Buildings, Gardens, and Furniture in Tidewater Maryland. Cambridge, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1967.

Morrison, Hugh. Early American Architecture from the First Colonial Settlements to the National Period. New York: Oxford University Press, 1952.

Wilson, Woodrow T. Thirty-Four Families of Old Somerset County, Maryland. Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc., 1974.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

BOURNE, Michael, & others. Historic Buildings Information Sheet on Makepeace, Somerset County. St. Mary's City Commission, St. Mary's City, Maryland

Primary Sources, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland  
Land Records of Somerset County

see continuation sheet #3

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	4 27 8, 90	42 0, 31, 1, 0	B	1, 8	4 28 0, 40	42 0, 30, 6, 0
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C	1, 8	4 28 0, 00	42 0, 29, 1, 0	D	1, 8	4 27 8, 60	42 0, 29, 5, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Pamela James, Assistant Historian

SWO

ORGANIZATION The Maryland Historical Trust

DATE July 10, 1975

STREET & NUMBER 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE (301) 267-1438

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis

STATE Maryland 21401

## STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL      STATE      LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



W. SW  
P. 31 N  
SAND POINT

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

75°52'30"  
38°00'

424000m E.

2 760 000 FEET (VA.)

425

426

50'

12 MI. TO U.S. 13

421

S-81

Makepeace

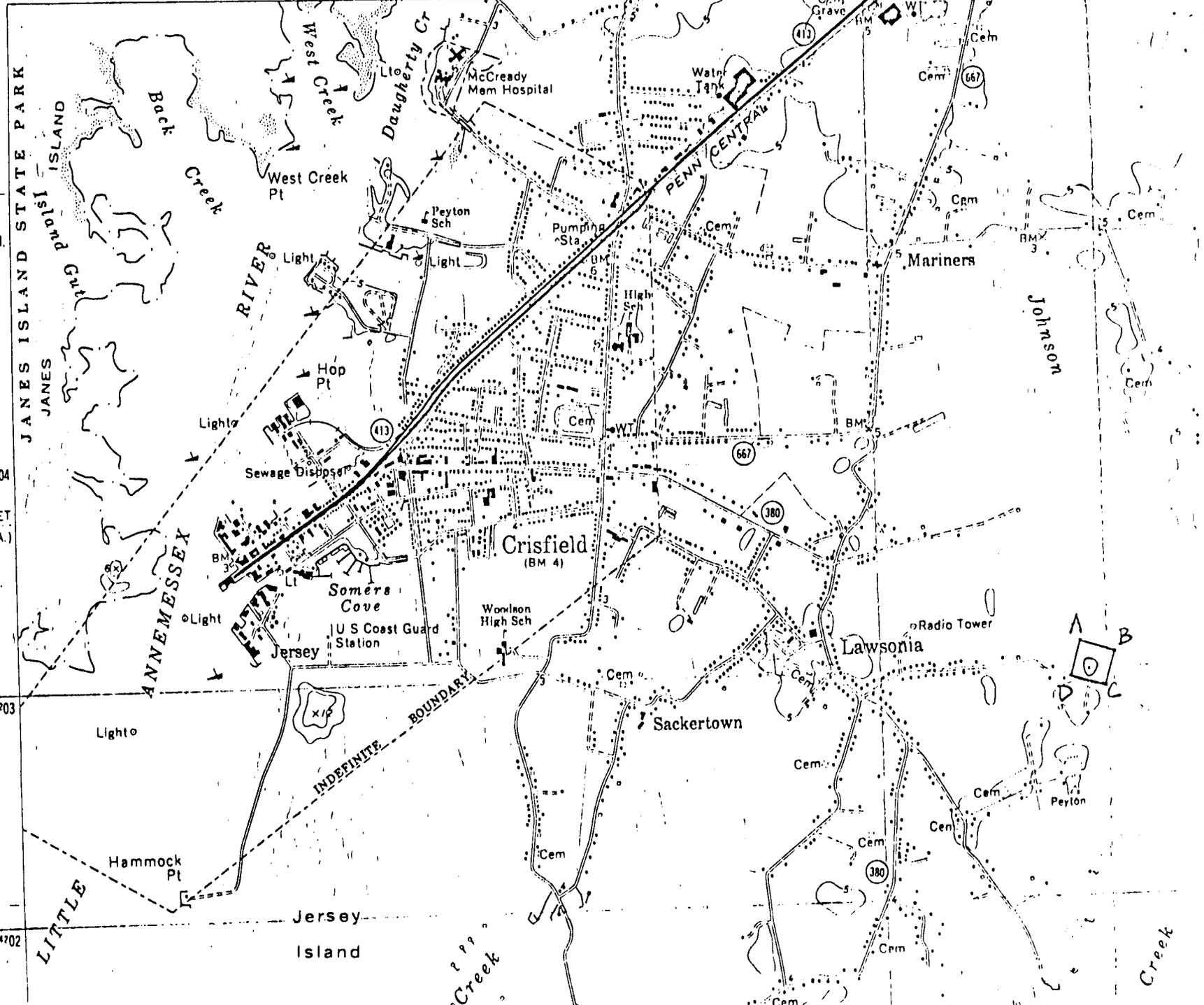
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(VA.)

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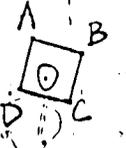
4203

4202



UTM References

- A 181427890/4203110
- B 181428040/4203060
- C 181428000/4202910
- D 181427860/4202950





Makepeace

S-81

Crisfield vic. Somerset Co. Md

Southwest elevation

7/87 Paul Touart photographehr

Negative/Md Historical Trust



Make peace

S-81

617

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Maryland Historical Trust  
2525 Riva Road  
Annapolis, MD. 21401

DAVID A. GIBBS

1967



Makepeace S-81  
Crisfield vic. Somerset Co., Md  
West elevation  
7/87 Paul Touart photographer  
Negative/Md Historical Trust



Makepeace

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M. Kepeace

S-81



MaKepeace

S-81



MaKepeace

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MaKepeace

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