

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes X
no

Property Name: Indian Head Naval Proving Ground Historic District Inventory Number: CH-492
Address: _____ City: Indian Head Zip Code: _____
County: Charles USGS Topographic Map: Indian Head
Owner: U.S. Navy Is the property being evaluated a district? X yes
Tax Parcel Number: n/a Tax Map Number: n/a Tax Account ID Number: n/a
Project: _____ Agency: U.S. Navy
Site visit by MHT staff: X no yes Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property is located within a historic district? yes no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: _____
NR-listed district yes Eligible district yes Name of District: _____
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource yes no Non-contributing but eligible in another context yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible X yes no

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

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:
Indian Head Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Historic and Archeological Resource Protection Plan CH 94

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*
The Naval Proving Ground Historic District consists of approximately 23 acres flanking Torrense Road in the northern section of the installation, along the Potomac River. The district contains 11 contributing resources 3 non-contributing resources and contains magazines and storehouses.

The Naval Proving Ground is significant under Criterion A, as the original location of the proof work for the Washington Navy Yard in the late nineteenth century and for its later role in testing smokeless powder manufactured at the nearby Single Base line. The Proving Ground meets the requirements of Criterion C as an intact and distinctive plan. The proving ground was designed specifically for testing weaponry. The earliest buildings were crude bunkers for sheltering personnel. The landscape of the district also was important to the proofing activities. A dock was built along the Potomac where barges from the Washington gun factory could unload weapons for testing. The terrain of the valley was important to early gun testing; guns generally were mounted on the south side of the valley and fired at a steel plate on the opposite side of the valley.

The period of significance for the Naval Proving Ground Historic District is 1890 to 1921. This period extends from the establishment of the proving ground in 1890 to 1921, when proofing activities were transferred to Dahlgren, Virginia.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	Eligibility not recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
MHT Comments	
Documentation reviewed by Lauren Bowlin-eligibility determination concurrence by Trust. Trust has not received MIHP form.	
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
<u>J. Rodney Little</u>	<u>June 23, 1997</u>
Reviewer, NR Program	Date

Indian Head Naval Proving Ground Histori

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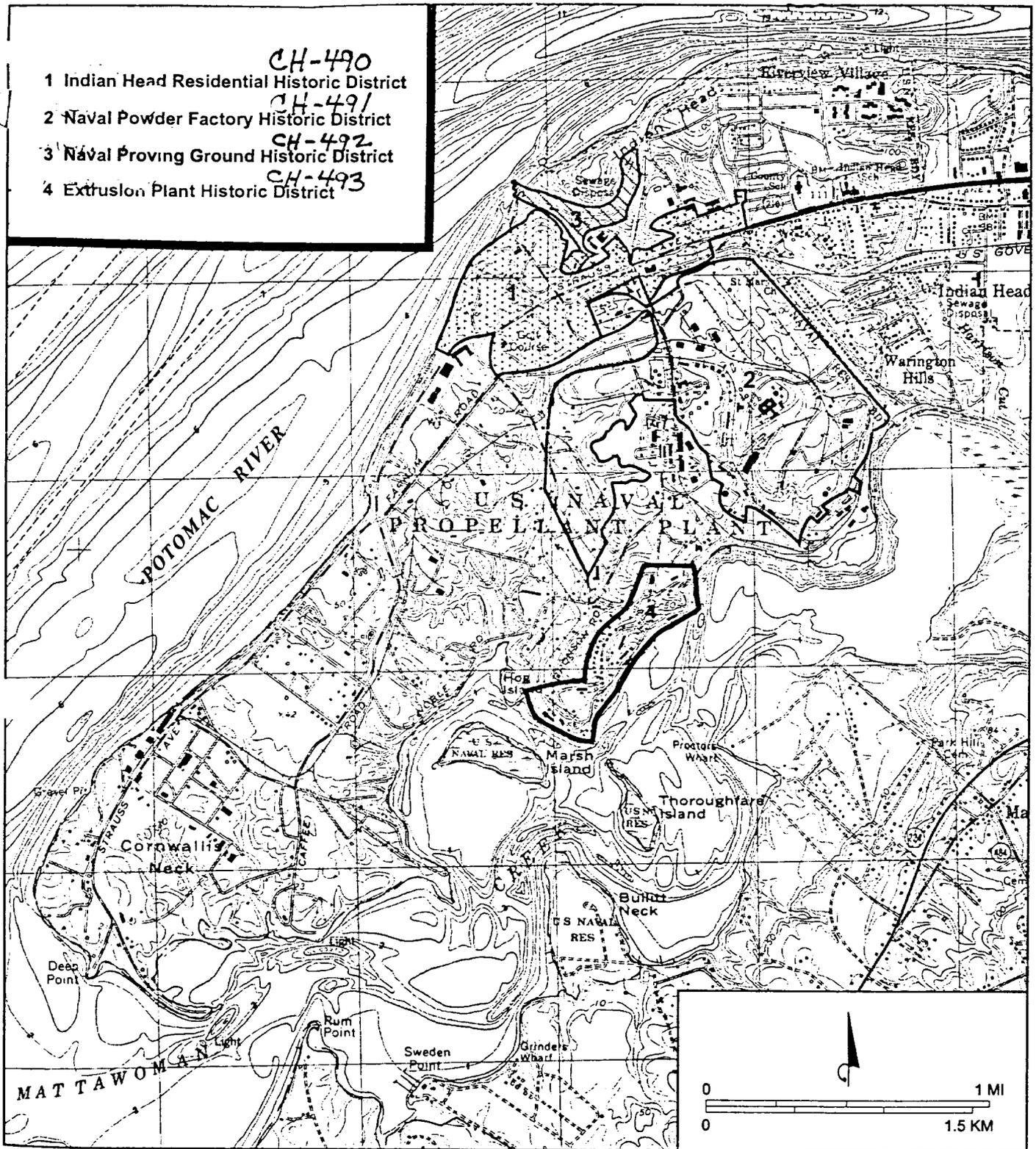
Prepared by: L. Campbell & T. Davis/R.C.Goodwin Date Prepared: 05/01/1998

CH-492

NATIONAL REGISTER STATUS OF BUILDINGS WITHIN INDIAN HEAD NAVAL
PROVING GROUND HISTORIC DISTRICT

BUILDING NUMBER	TITLE	NR ELIGIBILI TY
44	MAGAZINE/MARINA STORAGE	C
47	COMBINED WITH 48	C
48	STOREHOUSE/PAPER SHREDDER BUILDING 48 47-48a	C
54	STOREHOUSE GENERAL	C
65	WAREHOUSE GENERAL	C
67	WAREHOUSE GENERAL	C
70	STOREHOUSE	C
71	STOREHOUSE	C
83	STOREHOUSE WEIGHT TEST	C
185	STOREHOUSE RIGGERS	C
635	RIGGERS	C
45-A	MARINA SAFETY/INFO CENTER BLDG	NC
494	MAGAZINE	NC
523	MAGAZINE	NC

- CH-490
 1 Indian Head Residential Historic District
 CH-491
 2 Naval Powder Factory Historic District
 CH-492
 3 Naval Proving Ground Historic District
 CH-493
 4 Extrusion Plant Historic District



EXCERPT FROM THE 1966 (PHOTOREVISED 1978) INDIAN HEAD, MARYLAND/VIRGINIA 7.5' USGS QUADRANGLE SHOWING THE APPROXIMATE HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.