

CT-120

JOHN W. HODGES HOUSE

Leitch's Wharf

1883, 1905, and 1930's

Private

John W. Hodges, a steamboat man, bought this property from the Leitches Wharf in 1883. He built the first of three sections of this L-shaped frame house. This part, facing the Patuxent River, stands a true  $1\frac{1}{2}$  stories high. Like the other two sections, it measures one room deep by three bays long. In 1905 Hodges built a two-story side-hall, single parlor addition to the south. At some time a separate summer kitchen was built. It is said that John Hodges died on an ice-bound steamer on his way home.

John's son William E. Hodges, a waterman and carpenter, inherited the house. In about 1940, he added a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  story section running east of the original building. During a snow-storm in the 1960's William insisted on returning home from his daughter's house in Prince Frederick. He was found dead in the snow on the river bank.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC ~~John W.~~ Hodges House, Leitchs Road  
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER (Leitchs Wharf Road)  
Leitchs Road, overlooking Patuxent River  
CITY, TOWN Prince Frederick  
STATE Maryland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
VICINITY OF  
COUNTY Calvert

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Charles and Ethel Cox Telephone #: 535-0280  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN STATE, zip code  
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN STATE

Liber #: Will Book GLH3/153  
Folio #: + JLB 106/340

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
VICINITY OF  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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**

According to Mrs. Ethel Hodges Cox, her father, William E. Hodges, was born here in 1885 SS5/500 shows that his father, John W. Hodges bought one acre on this spot on April 4, 1883. Equity Case #92 contains a map showing this location as "Hodges Lot" in 1886. Although there is no indication of the presence of a structure, Mrs. Cox's claim that her father was born here in 1885 suggests the existence of a house. Mrs. May Warfield, a relative who is around 85 years old, says that the Hodges built soon after buying the lot and that all of the children were born in the house.

The present structure has three distinct sections to it, each appearing to be somewhat older than the next. The wing containing the north parlor would appear to be the oldest portion of the house, the south parlor is the next oldest and the kitchen wing, according to Mrs. Cox, was built by her father in the Late 1930's or Early 1940's." The end result of these additions is a two story house with somewhat of an L-plan containing an entrance hall flanked by parlors.

Although all of the materials in the house are modern (Late 19th Century or later), there are differences enough in each section to lead one to think that the first house on the site was a 1½ story frame structure. It was most likely John W. Hodges' house. The plan provided for one room downstairs and one upstairs which may have been partitioned off into two little bedrooms. (See Attachment A.)

John Hodges had three children, all born in the Late 1880's, and a house this size was probably at one point not large enough. According to Mrs. Warfield, the hall and south parlor were added around 1905. This was a two story addition providing two more bedrooms.

After marrying and having his own family, William E. Hodges returned to this house in the 1930's, and it was then that the two story kitchen wing was added. William Hodges was a waterman and a carpenter who did his own work including the built-in kitchen cupboards. According to Mrs. Cox prior to this addition, there was a detached "summer" kitchen located a short distance off of the northeast corner of Part #1.

**Exterior:**

The 1½ story north wing has been covered with asbestos shingles which cover simple clapboard siding. The roof is gable-end. The north end is windowless and contains an interior flu chimney. The west side faces the river and is three bays wide. A central entrance is flanked by two 6/6 windows on either side. This same facade contains two 3/3 windows (Knee high) in the upper story. The south wing hides the south wall; the kitchen wing hides the east side.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input 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

This is an 1880's, 1½ story cottage with Early 20th Century additions. This was the riverside dwelling of a steamship worker and his son who was a fisherman.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/3 + 2/3 acres

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

Wayne L. Nield, II

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey  
 Entomies Island, Maryland 20615  
 536-2959

Winter 76-77  
 DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

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

Being a full two stories, the south wing is higher than Section #1. It is one bay in depth, three bays in width, and also has a gable end roof. In essence, it is a side-hall plan with a single parlor. It provided a second and more central entrance on the west side. It also has a clapboard exterior now covered with asbestos. The south end is windowless and contains an interior flu chimney. The east facade repeats the appearance of the west facade. Windows in both stories are 2/2.

The kitchen wing has the same siding as the other wings, gable end roof, and a windowless east facade containing an interior flu chimney. This wing, however, matches the smaller north wing in height and has one recessed dormer in the north and south sides. The first floor on these sides contains a central door flanked by windows; the north side has a small porch and pantry.

A distressing note concerning the exterior is that the west or front side of the house used to have a yard enclosed by a picket fence, two rows of large trees inbetween it, and the steep banks which lead down to the river. A driveway, in fact, was between the fence and bank edge. Erosion, however, has resulted in the loss of this yard, some 75 feet of land according to Mrs. Cox.

#### Interior:

The interior of both sections was finished with simple bulls-eye corner blocks and mouldings around doors and windows. Several of the doors either have glass door knobs, a few are fancier brass knobs of an oval shape decorated with beads etc. common to the Late Victorian Era. But-hinges with embossed floral patterns and pivots with pendants are on many of the doors.

The stairway in Part #2 is much more of a "grand" stairs, occupying much of the hall and possessing a bannister and newal. The stairs in Part #1 are boxed-in steps occupying the southeast corner. Cut nails were observed in these steps.

An additional bit of family history relevant to this site is that both John W. Hodges and his only son William E. derived their living from the river. John W. Hodges worked on the steamboats which used to stop at the many wharfs on the Patuxent River. The land on which he built his house was once owned by the Leitch's of Leitchs Wharf (SS5/500). It is said that John Hodges died on a steamer which was ice bound and unable to get him home in time.

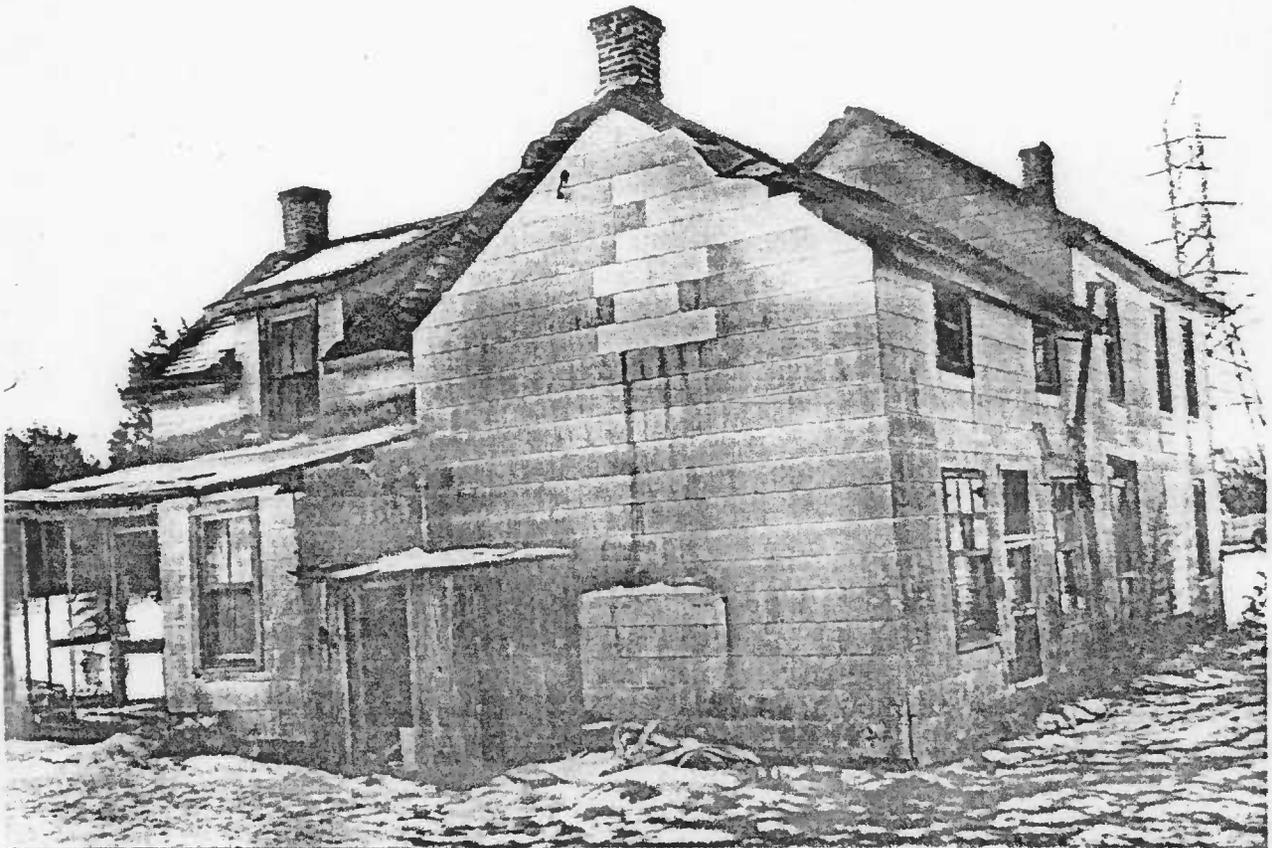
His son William was a fisherman who laid nets in the Patuxent. He was born in this house on the banks of that river, and in old age chose to live alone there rather than leave. During a snow storm in 196 , he was staying with his daughter in Prince Frederick. In spite of the snow, he became quite anxious and insisted on returning to his house. He did so, and ten days later was found dead of natural causes lying in the snow about half way down the steep river bank.

Both father and son lived, worked, and died on the river.

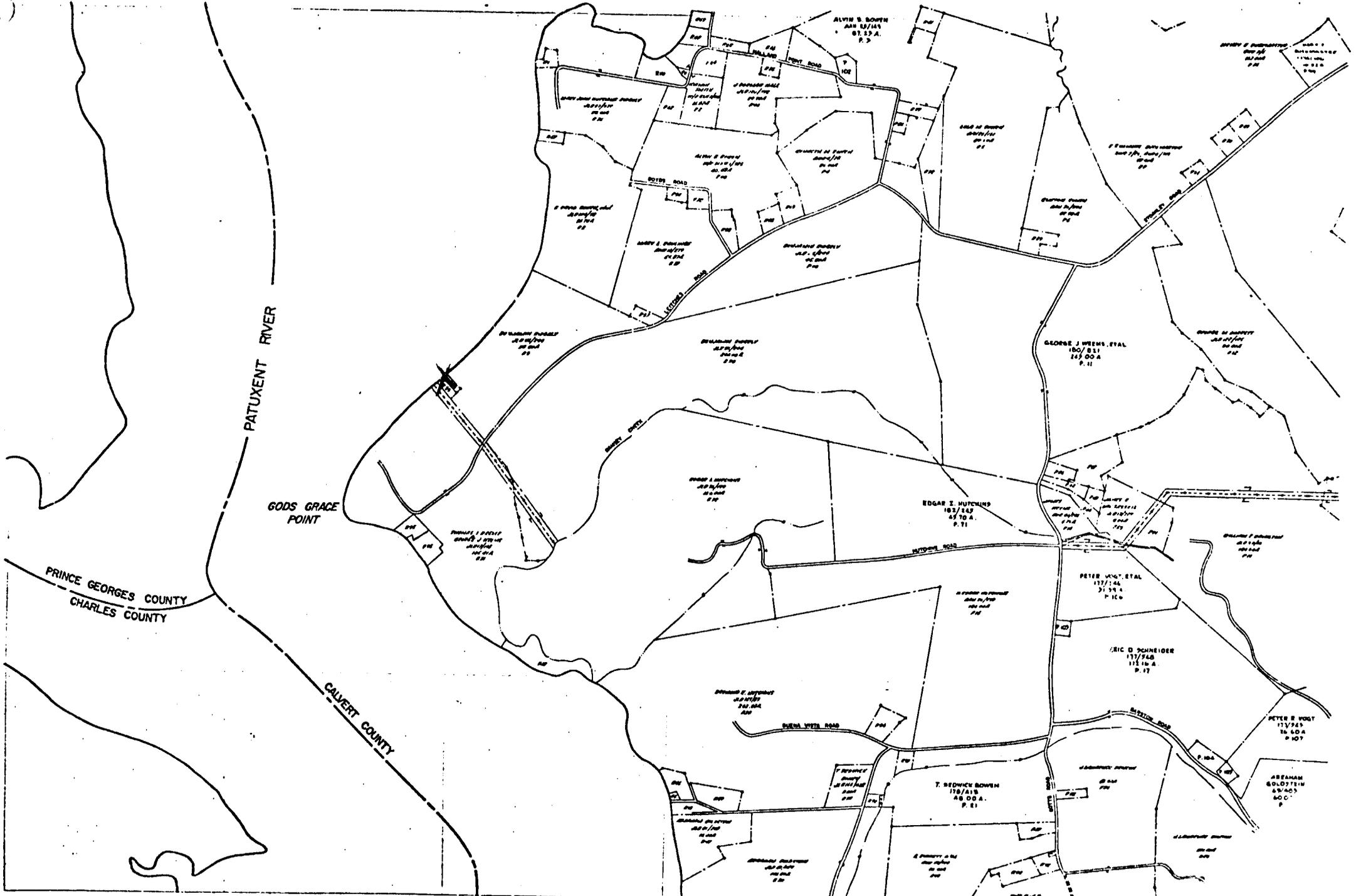
(Capsule)

John W. Hodges House, Leitchs Road

This is an 1880's, 1½ story cottage with Early 20th Century additions. This was the riverside dwelling of a steamship worker and his son who was a fisherman.



CT-120



264

261

258

255



PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY  
CHARLES COUNTY

PATUXENT RIVER

GODS GRACE POINT

CALVERT COUNTY

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NO. DEPT. OF ASSESS. & TAX

BASE MAP CONSTRUCTED  
FROM PL. 648  
PLANIMETER BY TO  
MAP SCALE 8 IN. TO 1

DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION  
TAX MAP DIVISION

PROPERTY LINE  
SUB DIVISION BARRIERS  
CONTAINING CORNER  
PLAT NO. 1000  
DATE 10-1-1947



890

893

89



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Historic Sites Survey  
Broomes Island, Maryland 20615  
586-2050



CT-120

Wayne L. Nield, II  
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~~CLVT 120~~

John W. Hodges House



CT-127

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Broomes Island, Maryland 20615  
586-2050

~~CLVT 120~~

John W. Hodges House