

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**CT-610**

**Alexander Dorsey House**

**3250 Hance Road**

**Port Republic, Calvert County**

**c1836**

**Private**

The Alexander Dorsey House at 3250 Hance Road was constructed in two major phases. The front portion of the house, originally one-and-a-half-stories high, was constructed circa 1836 for Alexander Dorsey, while the rear portion of the dwelling was built by Clemment (Clement) Dorsey (b. 1833) during the second half of the 19th century. The house has been recently restored. Documentary photographs reveal that prior to the restoration the dwelling had a three-bay piazza on the façade with square wood posts. Ghost lines from a one-story, side-gable addition that was likely a kitchen are visible at the west corner of the house and appears to have been accessed by a door near the chimney. The door was subsequently replaced during the renovation with a small window. As late as the 1970s, the landscape surrounding the dwelling was open fields. The existence of the late-19th-century tobacco barn and an early 20th century tobacco barn on the site is further representative of the past agricultural function of the property.

The double-pile dwelling stands two-and-one-half stories in height presenting an irregular saltbox form. Set on a parged stone foundation, the wood-frame dwelling, which faces southeast, features lapped weatherboard siding, a boxed wood cornice, a side-gable roof covered with pressed metal shingle, and paired exterior-end, shouldered, brick chimneys with corbeled caps at each gable end. Symmetrically fenestrated, the three-bay façade is dominated by three gabled dormers and a double-height, full-width, five-bay piazza under a shed roof. Supported by wood posts, the piazza features a scroll-sawn decorative balustrade. The primary elevation also features a central, single-leaf entry flanked by 6/6 replacement vinyl-sash windows on each story set into two-part molded wood surrounds. The central entrance features the original four-paneled wood door with a square-edged surround and three-light transom. Replacement 6/6 vinyl sash windows also pierce the dormers. Originally, the side elevations did not have any fenestration, but a modern 1/1 vinyl-sash window has been added to the southwest elevation. Associated with the dwelling are non-historic outhouse and storage sheds as well as two historic tobacco barns and a cemetery.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-610

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Alexander Dorsey House  
 other W. Allen Dorsey House

### 2. Location

street and number 3250 Hance Road not for publication  
 city, town Port Republic vicinity  
 county Calvert

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Dorsey Family Limited Partnership  
 street and number 5115 Adelina Road telephone Unknown  
 city, town Pr. Frederick state MD zip code 20678-4758

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 30:92  
 city, town Pr. Frederick liber ABE 916 folio 394

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- Other

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	3	2
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	1	
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic		
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education		
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	4	2
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
			1	

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. CT-610

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### Condition

- |                                          |                                       |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> altered      |
- 

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

**SETTING.** The property at 3250 Hance Road is located in a rural area of Calvert County on the south side of Hance Road just southwest of the small rural crossroads community of Mutual. The property consists of a slightly sloping lot with mature trees and shrubs, foundation plantings, and a dirt driveway. Set back from the road, the house sits on a grassy knoll surrounded by small open fields. A non-historic outhouse and storage shed, two historic tobacco barns, and a historic cemetery further improve the property.

**PRIMARY RESOURCE.** Dating to 1836, the double-pile dwelling stands two-and-one-half stories in height presenting an irregular saltbox form. Set on a parged stone foundation, the wood-frame dwelling, which faces southeast, features lapped weatherboard siding, a boxed wood cornice, a side gable roof covered with pressed metal shingles, and paired exterior-end, shouldered, brick chimneys with corbeled caps at each gable end. Symmetrically fenestrated, the three-bay façade is dominated by three gabled dormers and a double-height, full-width, five-bay piazza under a shed roof. Supported by wood posts, the piazza features a scroll-sawn decorative balustrade. The primary elevation also features a central single-leaf entry flanked by 6/6 vinyl-sash windows on each story with two-part molded wood surrounds. The central entrance features the original four-paneled wood door with a square-edged surround and three-light transom. Replacement 6/6 vinyl-sash windows pierce the dormers. Originally, the side elevations did not have any fenestration, but a modern 1/1 vinyl-sash window has been added to the southwest elevation. A shed-roof porch supported by wood posts projects from the irregularly fenestrated rear elevation. Added circa 1930, the porch is detailed with exposed rafters and shelters a single-leaf entry with transom.

**SECONDARY RESOURCES.** A non-historic outhouse and storage shed are located to the southwest of the dwelling. Constructed circa 1985, the one-story outhouse features a solid brick foundation, wood frame clad in vertical weatherboards, and a shed roof with asphalt shingles and exposed rafters. A circa 1985 storage shed stands one story in height and sits on a wood-post foundation. The wood-frame structure is clad in vertical board and features a shed roof with asphalt shingles and exposed rafters.

Northeast of the house is a late-19th-century tobacco barn. The wood-frame tobacco barn features vertical-board siding, a wood cornice, a front gable roof covered with corrugated metal sheeting, and vertical-board entries. A shed addition exists on the south elevation.

South of the house and across the private drive is the Dorsey family cemetery.

South of the dwelling is a large tobacco bank-barn, constructed circa 1860. The long main block features a concrete pier foundation supporting a wood frame structural system clad with vertical boards and a front gabled roof covered with corrugated metal. The main block has awning-type air doors held back by wood stays. Attached to the north elevation of the tobacco barn is a smaller wood-frame, gable-roof barn dating from the 1960s.(1) It is set on a concrete block foundation and features weatherboard cladding and two vertical board entries on the west elevation. Horses were kept in the lower level and hay stored in the upper level. Tier polls for hanging tobacco were added to the interior of the building in the 20th century. The concrete-block foundation dates to circa 1985.

### ENDNOTES

(1) Dorsey, Dr. William A. Telephone interview by Kirsti Uunila, March 2003.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CT-610

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**Specific dates** c1836 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** c1836

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Alexander Dorsey House at 3250 Hance Road was constructed in two major phases. The front portion of the house, originally one-and-a-half-stories high, was constructed circa 1836 for Alexander Dorsey, while the rear portion of the dwelling was built by Clement (Clement) Dorsey (b. 1833) during the second half of the 19th century. (1) The house has been recently restored. Documentary photographs reveal that prior to the restoration the dwelling had a three-bay piazza on the façade with square wood posts. (2) Ghost lines from a one-story, side-gable addition that was likely a kitchen are visible at the west corner of the house and appears to have been accessed by a door near the chimney. The door was subsequently replaced during the renovation with a small window. As late as the 1970s, the landscape surrounding the dwelling was open fields. (3) The existence of the late-19th-century tobacco barn and an early 20th century tobacco barn on the site is further representative of the past agricultural function of the property.

### ENDNOTES

(1) Dorsey, Dr. William A. Telephone interview by Kirsti Uunila, March 2003.

(2) Stinson, Merry. "W. Allen Dorsey House," CT-610. March 1980. Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

(3) Wilfong, James C. Photograph, c. 1970. In the Wilfong Collection at the Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, MD.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. CT-610

See continuation sheet.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 57.59 Acres

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Broomes Island

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The historic house is located at 3250 Hance Road in Port Republic, Maryland. It has been associated with Tax Map 30, Parcel 92 since its construction during the second quarter of the 19th century. The current deed to the property can be found in the land records of Calvert County in the Calvert County Courthouse in Prince Frederick: Deed Book ABE 916, Page 394.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Carrie E. Albee and Jennifer B. Hallock, Architectural Historians

organization EHT Traceries, Inc.

date 2/5/03

street and number 1121 5th Street, NW

telephone 202-393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-610

Name Alexander Dorsey House

Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

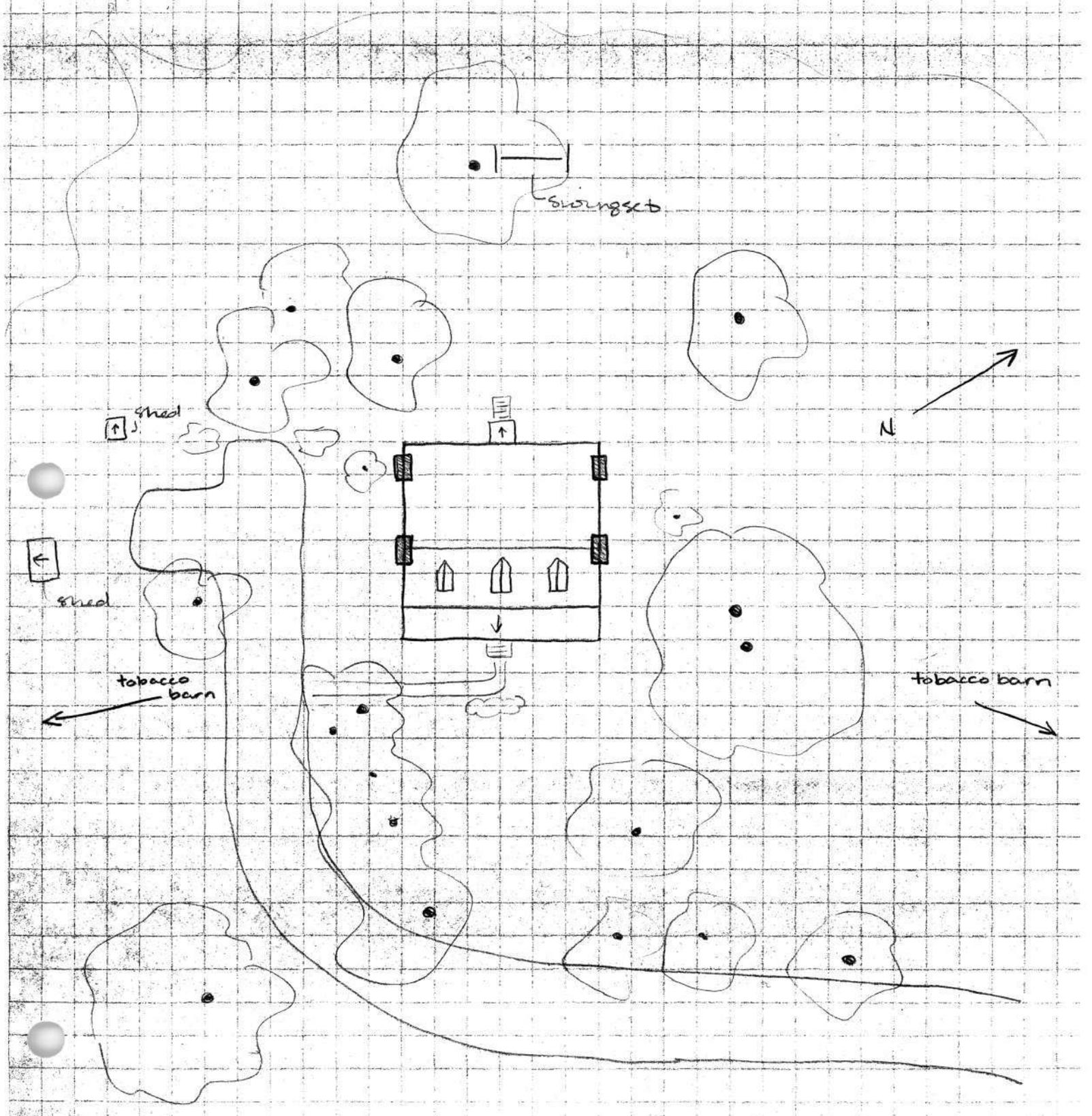
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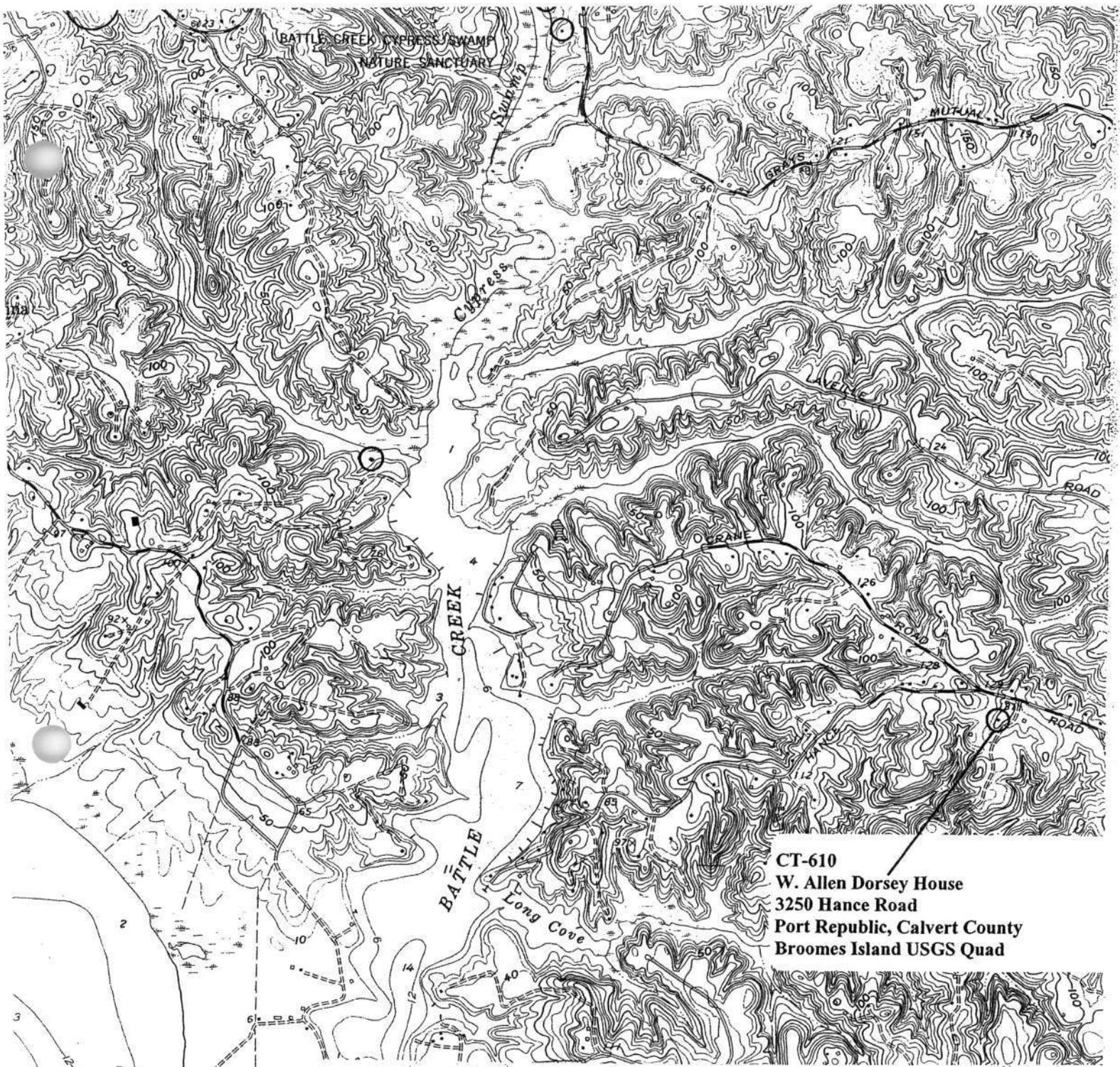
Dorsey, Dr. William A. Telephone interview by Kirsti Uunila, March 2003.

Stinson, Merry. "W. Allen Dorsey House," CT-610. March 1980. Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

Wilfong, James C. Photograph, c1970. In the Wilfong Collection at the Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, MD.

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP  
CT-610  
ALEXANDER PORSEY HOUSE  
FORT REPUBLIC  
CALVERT COUNTY



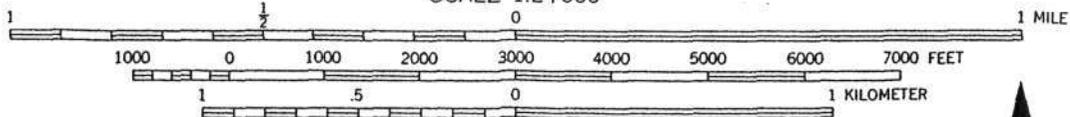


**BROOMES ISLAND, MD.**

NE/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE  
38076-D5-TF-024

1963  
PHOTOREVISED 1986  
DMA 5660 I NE-SERIES V833

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS 1.3 FEET





CT-610

ALEXANDER DORSEY HOUSE

3250 Hance Road

Calvert County, MD

Traceries

12/2002

MD SHPO

House, Northeast corner

1 of 6



CT-610

ALEXANDER DORSEY HOUSE

3250 Hanck Road

Calvert County, MD

Traceries

12/2002

MD SHPO

House, South corner

2 of 6



CT-610

ALEXANDER DORSEY HOUSE

3250 Hance Road

Calvert County, MD

Traceries

1212002

MD SHPO

House, southwest corner

30P6



CT-610

ALEXANDER DORSEY HOUSE

3250 Hance Road

Calvert County, MD

Traceries

12/2002

MD SHPO

House, north corner

4 of 6



CT-610

ALEXANDER DORSEY HOUSE

3250 Hance Road

Calvert County, MD

Traceries

12/2002

MD SHPO

Tobacco barn, view looking north

5 of 6



CT-610

ALEXANDER DORSEY HOUSE

3250 Hance Road

Calvert County, MD

Traceries

12/2007

MD SHPO

Tobacco barn, view looking Southwest

6 of 6