Capsule Summary
SM-435
Captain William T. West House
Chingville
Private 1908

The Captain William T. West House is significant as a little altered example of early twentieth century domestic architecture in St. Mary's County. Built for use as a farmhouse, the two-story, ell-shaped dwelling retains both its original form and finishes. In addition to the main house, the property is occupied by a series of supporting outbuildings.

The West House stands on property owned by Thomas R. Ridgel (also spelled Ridgell) between 1851 and 1885. The three tracts that made up Ridgel's home farm were known as "Delight," "Fish Pond," and "Part Mulberry Fields." D. Ellen Redmond purchased Ridgel's home farm in 1901. Following the death of her husband, Redmond married William T. West, an Eastern shore skipjack captain. The dwelling currently located on the property was constructed in 1908.

SM-435, Captain William T. West House
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870 - 1930.
Historic Period Theme:	Architecture

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function and Use:	Residence
Known Design Source:	None

Survey No. Sm 435

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Captain William T. West House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Route 5 ___ not for publication

city, town Chingville ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	X unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	X other: Storage

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

name Edward Pussler, Catherine P. Weakley, Malcolm V. Morris

street & number P.O. Box 16 telephone no.: (301) 994 9615

city, town Callaway state and zip code Maryland 20620

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber EWA 837

street & number folio 263

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM 435

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
X fair	___ unexposed		

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

Contributing Resource Count: 11

The Captain William T. West House is located on the north side of Route 5 near Chingville in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The house is set back from the road and is partially surrounded by a fence and a small grove of trees. An unpaved road located to the east of the house extends from Route 5 to the rear of the property where the Thomas Ridgel House once stood. The West House is bordered on all sides by cultivated fields. A series of frame outbuildings are lined up along the east side of the unpaved road close to the dwelling house. The house faces south with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1908, the West House is a two-story, ell-shaped, frame dwelling with a center hall, single pile plan. It is supported by a brick pier foundation. The exterior, originally sheathed with weatherboard siding, is now covered with asphalt shingles. The roof, once covered with wood shingles, is covered with asphalt shingles.

The south (main) elevation is pierced by a central four-panel entrance door with a three-light transom and three-light sidelights. The door is flanked by two two-over-two sash windows on either side. A porch with turned post supports and sawn brackets extends across the first floor of this elevation. The second floor is pierced by five two-over-two sash windows. A center cross gable pierced by a small two-over-two sash window with an arched head breaks the roofline. Interior brick chimneys pierce the roof ridgeline at both the north and south ends of the house.

The east elevation of the main block is blind. The ell which extends to the north is pierced on the first floor by a four-light-over-three-panel door that opens into the kitchen. The door is sheltered by a small screened porch with a shed roof. One two-over-two sash window lights both the first and second floor of the ell.

The north elevation of the main block is pierced by a central four-panel entrance door flanked on the west by two two-over-two sash windows. A shed roof porch, added in the 1930s, extends across most of the first floor of the main block. The second floor is pierced by two two-over-two sash windows. The gable end of the eastern ell is blind.

The west elevation of the ell is pierced by one two-over-two sash window and a four-panel door on the first floor. The second floor is pierced by one two-over-two sash window. The gable end of the main block is blind.

The interior of the house consists of a central hall with an open string stair. The stair has turned balusters and a turned newell post. The west parlor, currently used fc

8. Significance

Survey No. SM 435

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
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1908 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B x C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state x local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Captain William T. West House is significant as a little altered example of early twentieth century domestic architecture in St. Mary's County. Built for use as a farmhouse, the two-story, ell-shaped dwelling retains both its original form and finishes. In addition to the main house, the property is occupied by a series of supporting outbuildings.

The West House stands on property owned by Thomas R. Ridgel (also spelled Ridgell) between 1851 and 1885. The three tracts that made up Ridgel's home farm were known as "Delight," "Fish Pond," and "Part Mulberry Fields." The Ridgel House, a one-and-a-half story building, was located north of the West House until its demolition in 1929. Two slave quarters located on the Ridgel house lot were then moved, joined together, and converted for use as a tobacco barn. This barn is no longer standing.

The home farm of Thomas Ridgel was purchased by D. Ellen Redmond in 1901. Following the death of her husband, Redmond married William T. West, an Eastern shore skipjack captain. The dwelling currently located on the property was constructed in 1908. In 1929, following the death of D. Ellen Redmond West, the property was sold to Wilmer Pussler. The house remains in the possession of the Pussler family.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM 435

Pussler, Edward Personal Interview, August 1994

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 Acres

Quadrangle name Piney Point

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Two acres surrounding house and including outbuildings.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County Planning & Zoning date August 1994

street & number 328 Washington Street telephone (301) 475 4662

city or town Leonardtown state 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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

PS-2746

storage, was not seen. The east parlor fireplace is surrounded by pilasters and surmounted by a mantel shelf supported by sawn brackets. The kitchen is finished with a plain baseboard and plain window surrounds. The wood floor is covered with linoleum. A "Home Comfort" stove, manufactured in St. Louis, Missouri is located in the kitchen. The house has neither indoor plumbing nor electricity. Three bedrooms are located on the second floor.

Eight outbuildings are located to the east of the house. The closest to the house is a frame meathouse sheathed with circular sawn vertical siding and roofed with wood shingles. A door on the south side of the building hangs on machine made metal hinges. A well and a pear tree are located near the meathouse. Across the unpaved road from the house stand two shed roof buildings sheathed with vertical siding and roofed with tar paper. These structures are used for storage. North of the storage sheds stands the granary. The granary, sheathed with board and batten siding, was moved to its current location from the Martin Farm. The Martin Farm was once located in the woods east of the West House. North of the granary stands the tractor shed. The tractor shed is comprised of a central gable roof structure, once a granary, supported by log piers. Shed roof wings extend north and south of the main block. The shed is sheathed with both vertical and weatherboard siding. North of the tractor shed is a shed roof garage roofed with tar paper and sheathed with vertical siding. Attached to the north side of the garage is a whetstone, still used by the current owner, purchased from Sears and Roebuck for fifty cents in 1912. A privy with a corrugated metal roof stands next to the garage. Three tobacco barns are located north of these outbuildings.

In addition to those outbuildings located east of the house are three buildings situated immediately north of the house. A modern trailer, the residence of the current owner, stands here flanked by two shed roof, frame outbuildings. One of these structures serves as a workshop. The second building, located north of the trailer, once served as a chicken house and later as a tobacco stripping shed. The door sill of the shed was salvaged from the slave quarter that once stood on the Ridgell propety. Also on the north side of the house is a dinner bell, purchased from Sears and Roebuck in 1926, which has been mounted on a post.

SM-435, Captain William T. West House
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Edward Pussler, Catherine P. Weakley, Malcolm V. Morris
FROM: Edward Pussler and Catherine P. Weakley
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EWA 837, folio 263.
DATE: November 23, 1993.
NOTES: Transfer of part of EWA 825/479, part of EWA 817/439, being 168.58 acres.

TO: Catherine P. Weakly
FROM: Wilhelmina Morris VanDyke
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EWA 825, folio 479.
DATE: October 19, 1993.
NOTES: Transfer of 204.73 acres being the remainder of JMM 6/389. Same as EWA 817/439.

TO: Edward Pussler
FROM: Rosalie P. Weakley, personal rep. of Wilmer Pussler, deceased.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EWA 817, folio 439.
DATE: September 27, 1993.
NOTES: William Pussler died on September 28, 1992, see Estate No. 7422. Life estate granted to Edward Pussler and upon his death to go to Catherine P. Weakley, Malcolm V. Morris, and Wilhelmina Morris VanDyke in 204.73 acres, the remainder of JMM 6/389.

TO: Wilmer Pussler
FROM: William T. West Jr. and John C. West
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JMM 6, folio 389.
DATE: June 20, 1929
NOTES: Transfer of "Delight Fish Pond" and "Part Mulberry Fields" being 130 acres more or less "which lies on the east side of the road leading from the Western Branch Schoolhouse, there being reserved from the said original tract all that portion of same which lies on the west side of the road leading to the said schoolhouse upon which is now or formerly was located a storehouse and other improvements, containing about 60 acres more or less." The original farm was 190 acres in the aggregate. That which is hereby conveyed is the same as EBA 2/318 except for 2 acres in EBA 2/421. Also same as JMM 3/13.

TO: William T. West Jr. and John C. West
FROM: William T. West, widower
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JMM 3, folio 13.
DATE: February 5, 1925

SM-435, Captain William T. West House
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

NOTES: Transfer of part of the home farm of the late Thomas R. Ridgell known as "Delight Fish Pond" and "Part Mulberry Fields," being 130 acres, same as EBA 2/318 except EBA 2/421.

TO: William T. West
FROM: Blanche Combs and William P. Combs, Blanche being the heir of D. Ellen West.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JMM 3, folio 12.
DATE: February 4, 1925.
NOTES: Transfer of interest in 130 acres.

TO: William T. West
FROM: James O. Redmond and Edna Redmond, James being the heir of D. Ellen West.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JMM 3, folio 11.
DATE: February 4, 1925.
NOTES: Transfer of interest in 130 acres.

TO: Heirs
FROM: D. Ellen Redmond West
RECORD: St. Mary's County Testamentary Records, Estate No. 568.
DATE: 1924
NOTES: D. Ellen Redmond West died intestate.

TO: D. Ellen Redmond
FROM: Frank T. Price and Walter I. Dawkins of Baltimore County
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 2, folio 318.
DATE: December 14, 1901.
NOTES: Transfer of all that part of the Home Farm of the late Thomas R. Ridgell called and known as "Delight Fish Pond" and "Part Mulberry Fields" being 130 acres. Being a portion of JJG 5/306.

TO: Frank T. Price
FROM: Walter I. Dawkins of Baltimore
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JJG 5, folio 306.
DATE: June 28, 1898
NOTES: Transfer of "Delight Fish Pond" and "Part Mulberry Fields" being 190 acres, and others.

TO: Walter I. Dawkins
FROM: Joseph F. Neal and Mattie M. Neal
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JJG 4, folio 403.

SM-435, Captain William T. West House
St. Mary's County
8.3 Significance

DATE: August 5, 1897.
NOTES: Transfer of "Delight," "Fish Pond," and "Part Mulberry Fields," being 190 acres, and others.

TO: Joseph F. Neal
FROM: Walter I. Dawkins, mortgagee
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JJG 4, folio 402.
DATE: July 28, 1897.
NOTES: Sale of property result of default on mortgage from Davis to Dawkins on 4-28-1896, JJG 3/434. Transfer of "Delight," "Fish Pond," and "Part Mulberry Fields," being 190 acres, and others.

TO: Julia A. O. Davis and Joseph B. Davis
FROM: Walter I. Dawkins, of Baltimore
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JJG 3, folio 433.
DATE: April 14, 1896.
NOTES: Transfer of "Delight," "Fish Pond," and "Part Mulberry Fields," being 190 acres, and others.

TO: Walter I. Dawkins
FROM: J. Frank Ford, Trustee
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 10, folio 521.
DATE: September 29, 1888
NOTES: A mortgage from E. Sothoron Ridgell to J. Walter Carpenter dated 9-16-1885, JFF 8/427 was assigned to Dawkins on 12-6-1887. Following default (see Circuit Court case No. 673, Decree Record JFF 6/113) the property was sold. Property was the same as JFF 8/66 and others.

TO: Ewell Sothoron Ridgell
FROM: Thomas R. Ridgell
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 8, folio 66.
DATE: February 7, 1885.
NOTES: Transfer of "Delight," "Fish Pond," and "Part Mulberry Fields," being 190 acres and known as the "Home Farm" being the same land on which I now reside. Same as JFF 2/327.

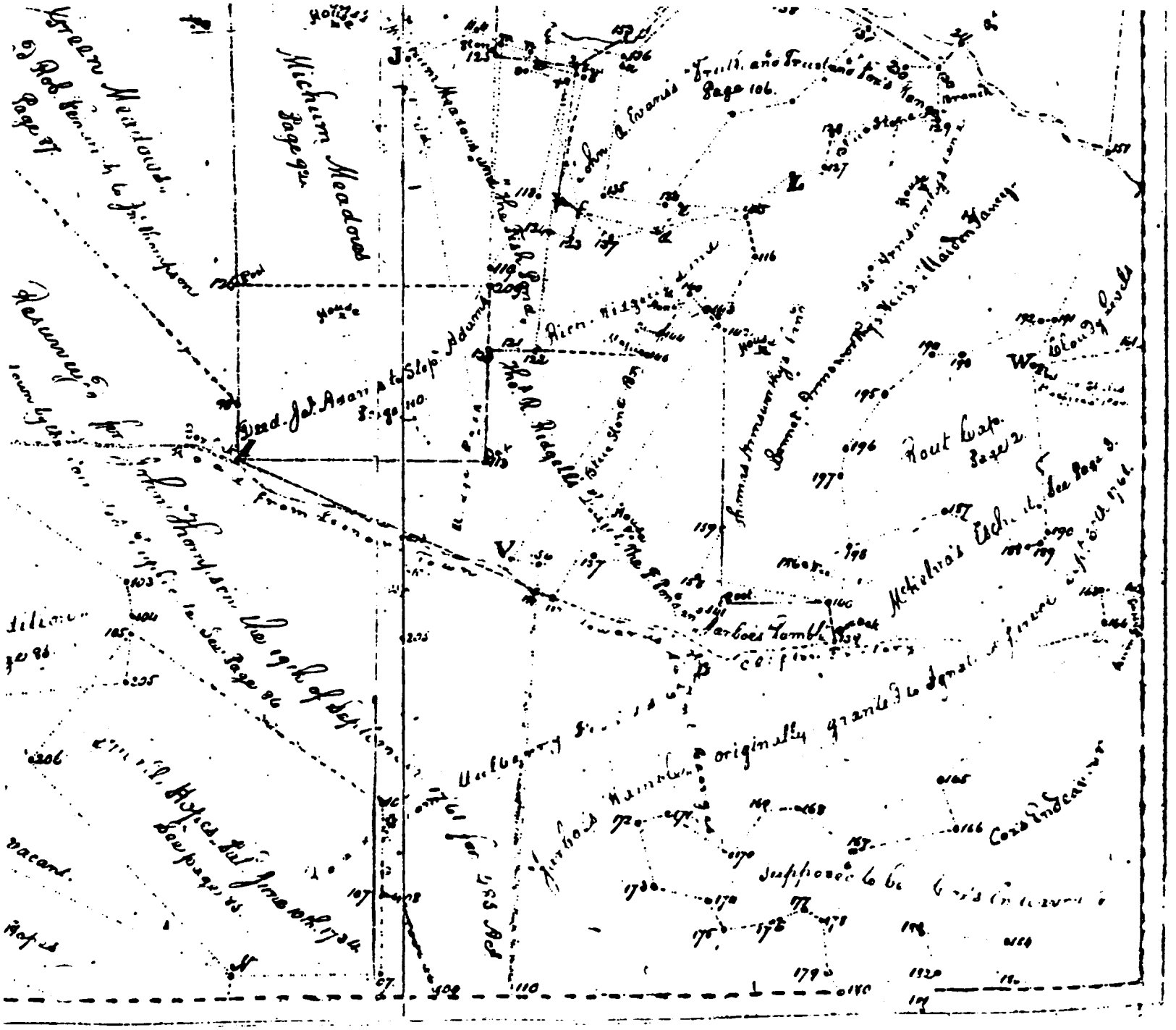
TO: Thomas R. Ridgel
FROM: William H. Ridgel and Elizabeth Ridgel
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber WTM 2, folio 354.
DATE: February 25, 1851.
NOTES: Transfer of "Delight" being 67 acres, "Fish Pond" being 55 acres, and "Part

Mulberry Fields" being 24 acres, total is 146 acres. Same as the land of which Jonathan Ridgel died possessed. (There is no record of Jonathan Ridgel's land holdings in the Testamentary Records.) Price: $150

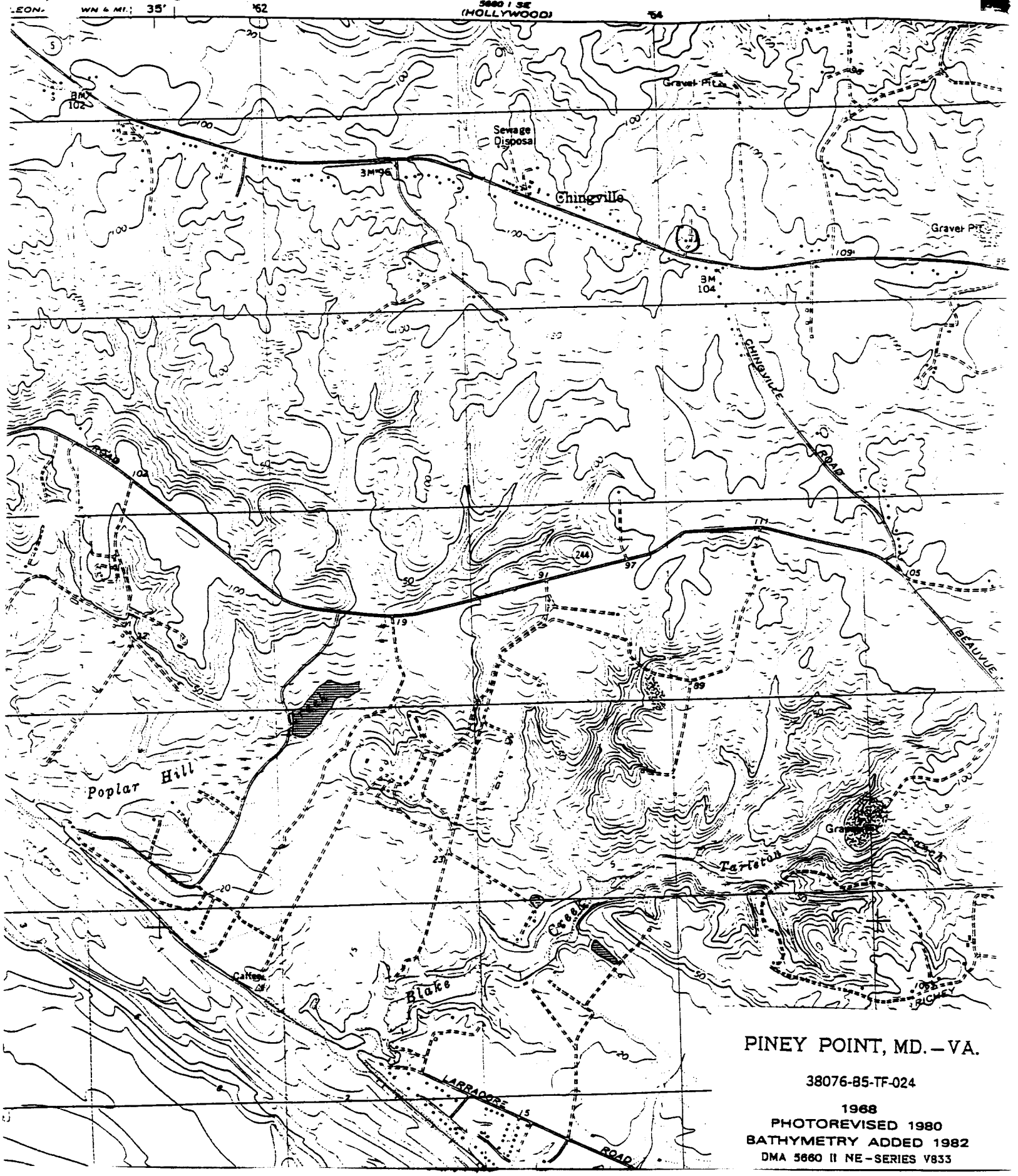
TO: Jonathan Ridgel
FROM: Griffith Evans of Philadelphia
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JH 9, folio 316.
DATE: June 2, 1832.
NOTES: Transfer of part of tract "Mulberry Fields," belonging formerly to William C. Somerville adn lying north of the Clay Hill Road, being 24 acres. Price: $75

SM-435, Captain William T. West House
St. Mary's County
8.5 Significance

This plat from Benjamin Tippett's Surveyor Log Books shows the location of the Thomas Ridgell house site.



SM-435
Captain William T. West House
Chingville
Piney Point Quad



PINEY POINT, MD.–VA.

38076-B5-TF-024

1968
PHOTOREVISED 1980
BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982
DMA 5660 II NE–SERIES V833

SM-435

CAPTAIN [illegible]

[illegible] MARGS [illegible] MD

E HUGHES

[illegible]

[illegible] APO

Yo

514-435