

Capsule Summary  
SM-439  
Locust Grove  
Drayden vicinity  
Private

1898

Locust Grove is significant as an example of rural Victorian architecture in St. Mary's County. The two-story, frame house was erected in 1898 by Arthur C. Combs, county commissioner between 1893 and 1899. Combs built the house on the site of an eighteenth century dwelling, inhabited by Joseph Coad during the second half of the nineteenth century. Two plats identify the location of the old Coad house and some photographs of the one-story dwelling survive.

As built in 1898, Locust Grove consisted of an ell-shaped main block. A one-and-a-half story kitchen addition, attached to the west gable end of the house in later years, may have originally served as a detached kitchen. Over time the house has been enlarged by a series of modern additions. None of the early outbuildings survive on the property.

SM-439, Locust Grove  
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: Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Residence

Known Design Source: none

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. Sm 439

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Locust Grove

**2. Location**

street & number Cherryfield Road \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Drayden \_\_\_\_\_  vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland \_\_\_\_\_ county St. Mary's

**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 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 checked="" 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"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Victor E. Bieber Jr. & Elizabeth; Richard C. Lewis & Deborah B.

street & number Box 5 59A Cherryfield Road telephone no. (301) 994 2434

city, town Drayden state and zip code Maryland 20630

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber MRB 219

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ folio 345

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

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

Contributing Resource Count: 1

Locust Grove is located at the end of an unpaved road off of Cherryfield Road on a 17.86 acre lot that borders on St. George's Creek in St. Mary's County, Maryland. Marshland extends to the east of the house. The ruins of a concrete spring house are located there. A garage, a barn, a tenant house, and a fenced horse pasture are located to the north. To the west of the house stands a second barn and more pasture land. To the south, the land slopes gently towards the Creek shore. During the first half of the twentieth century a picket fence surrounded the house. A portion of this fence survives to the east. Two concrete pillars, which marked the fence gate, are located on axis with the northern entrance door. A concrete walk extends from the driveway to this entrance. A parallel brick walk provides access to a secondary entrance on the north side of the house. The house faces north with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1898, the main block of Locust Grove is a two-story, ell-shaped structure consisting of three eastern bays and a projecting two-bay gable end wing on the west end. A two-story addition and a one-story addition dating to about 1969 extend to the west of the main block. The oldest section of the house is supported by a brick and concrete pier foundation. The modern wings are supported by concrete and cinderblocks. The exterior of the house is sheathed with artificial siding. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The north (main) elevation consists of a two-story, three bay block sheltered by a porch that was added in 1953. The porch has a cement pad floor and a shed roof supported by a series of square posts that extend two stories in height. This porch does not replace an earlier porch, but extends beyond the original footprint of the house. Prior to the construction of the 1953 structure, a first floor entrance porch extended across two bays of the north elevation. The area above the porch was enclosed and used as a bedroom. Later, the first floor porch and the second floor enclosure were extended to include the third bay of the block. The first floor porch was then enclosed. On the first floor, the exterior wall that originally separated the interior space of the house from the porch was removed, fully integrating the porch with the main block of the house. The first floor of the three bay block is pierced by an entrance door consisting of four-panels surmounted by an arched light. The Colonial Revival surround consists of fluted pilasters capped by a molded entablature. Two two-over-two sash windows with plain surrounds and louvered shutters extend to the east of the door. The second floor is pierced by three two-over-two sash windows with louvered shutters. An interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap pierces the roof ridge line of this section of the house. To the east of this block is a slightly projecting two-story, two-bay gable end wing. The wing is pierced on the first and second floors by two two-over-

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1898 Builder/Architect Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

Locust Grove is significant as an example of late nineteenth century architecture in St. Mary's County. The two-story, frame house was erected in 1898 by Arthur C. Combs, county commissioner between 1893 and 1899. Combs built the house on the site of an eighteenth century structure. Over time the house has been enlarged by a series of modern additions. None of the early outbuildings survive on the property.

A letter in the possession of the current owner describes the history of the property. The letter states, "This house was erected by Arthur C. Combs, son of L. C. Combs, in the year of our Lord 1898. It was built on the site of a house supposed to have been two hundred years old, which was pulled down to make room for the new building. A. C. Combs' maternal great grandfather Joseph Coad lived here in the latter part of the eighteenth century and since that time the property has been in possession of the family, before that it was owned by a family of McKays who moved to Kentucky early in the present century. At this date, August 1898, this farm known as Locust Grove is owned by the children of L. C. Combs and his wife Mary Coad. Their names are A. C. Combs, Philip F. Combs, Margaret M. Combs, William C. Combs, Emma E. Combs, Fanny S. Combs, Robert Combs, and Virginia Combs Bond. Only three of the children, Arthur C. Combs, Maggie M. Combs, and Fanny S. Combs with their father live on the place. Of the others, Philip F., William C., and Robert live in the state of Texas. Emma is a Religious of the Sacred Heart stationed at Cincinnati, Ohio and Virginia Combs Bond lives in Roland Park, Baltimore, Maryland. L. C. Combs celebrates his eightieth birthday on August 25, 1898. Besides those mentioned above their aunt, Mrs. Cecelia Coad Roberts is also a member of the household. The family of Combses who now own this property formerly owned and lived near the head of St. Mary's River on a farm now owned by L. David Hammett's Heirs known as Glenmary, moved here in 1876."

A photo of the old Coad dwelling mentioned in the passage above is in the possession of Mary J. Magee. A notation on the photo states that it was taken in the summer of 1898 by Father Frisby and the Scholastics. The dwelling is shown to be a one-story, five bay frame structure with gable end chimneys and dormer windows. A



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two sash windows with louvered shutters. An interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap pierces the roof ridgeline of the wing. To the east stands a modern two-story wing with a shallow-pitched gable roof. Built around 1969, it is pierced on the first and second floors by a small two-over-two sash window. A modern one-story addition extends to the east. This addition is pierced by a three-bay window with multiple lights and louvered shutters. A porch with a cement pad floor is located on the east end of the addition.

The west gable end elevation of the one-story addition is pierced by a small two-over-two sash window and a louvered eave vent. An exterior brick chimney is located on the west side of the wing. The second floor of the 1969 addition is pierced by one one-over-one sash window and a louvered eave vent.

The south elevation of the one-story addition is pierced by a bank of three multi-light windows with louvered shutters. The modern two-story wing is pierced by multi-light windows on the first floor and by one two-over-two sash window with louvered shutters on the second floor. A screened, cement pad porch, added in 1953, extends across the first floor of the gable end wing. The second floor is pierced by two two-over-two sash windows with louvered shutters. The eastern three bay block was originally sheltered by both a screened first floor porch and a second floor sleeping porch. These porches were enclosed in the 1950s. Both are pierced by modern window openings.

The east elevation consists of a two-story, three-sided bay pierced on each side by a two-over-two sash window with wide, plain surrounds.

Although the interior of the main block was remodeled in 1953, the plan has changed little over the years. To the west of the central hall is a small parlor now used as an office. The dining room is also located west of the hall. It was fitted with paneling and shelving crafted by Captain Ben Brown during the remodeling of 1953. A large parlor is located on the east side of the house. The two-over-two sash windows which originally pierced the south wall of the parlor have been decreased in size and fitted with six-over-six sash windows. The open string stair to the second floor of the house is located in the hall. The stair is decorated with scroll sawn brackets and has an unusual reeded newell post. The second floor consists of two bedrooms to the west of the hall and one large bedroom to the east. A large five-panel door with a metal box lock opens into the east bedroom. The door surround consists of an interior bead with a cyma curve molding. The door soffitt is reeded. The closets in this bedroom were added in the 1950s. The small bedroom originally located on the north end of the house above the entrance porch now serves as a bath and dressing room.

No early outbuildings survive on the grounds of the property. A small pump

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7.2 Description

house, built in the 1940s, is located on the east side of the house. A three car garage dating to 1980 is located on the north side of the house. North of the garage is a barn sheathed with weatherboard siding and roofed with seamed metal. The barn is supported by concrete piers. A second barn located to the west of the house is sheathed with vertical boards and roofed with seamed metal. Both barns were built in the 1940s. The tenant house, located north of the house, was also built in the 1940s.

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8.5 Significance

one-story kitchen is attached to the house. The location of this building appears to have been on the same site as that of Locust Grove. Two nineteenth century plats, one drawn by Benjamin Tippet and one by John Chunn, identify the location of the old Coad house. Still, Mrs. Magee has noted that when workmen were burying an oil tank on the property they unearthed old bricks. These bricks may have been associated with the dwelling or with a supporting outbuilding.

As built in 1898, Locust Grove consisted of an ell-shaped main block. A one-and-a-half story kitchen addition, attached to the west gable end of the house in later years, may have originally served as a detached kitchen. A winder stair provided access from the kitchen to a sleeping loft above. An African-American by the name of Emmanuel, known as "Lemen," worked at Locust Grove and lived in the loft during the 1930s. At that time Locust Grove was occupied by the Philip Ford Combs Jr. family. Combs, who had been working for the Hearst newspaper in the Baltimore area, returned to St. Mary's County because of the Depression. During Combs' ownership, chickens, pigs, cows, and sheep were raised on the farm. In addition to barns and chicken houses, outbuildings on the property included a corn crib and a carriage house.

In 1941, the Magee family moved to Locust Grove from Washington D. C. They equipped the house with electricity and indoor plumbing. In 1953, the Magees renovated the interior, hiring Captain Ben Brown to build closets and craft some of the new interior woodwork. The one-story kitchen wing was demolished in the 1960s. Modern two-story and one-story additions were added to the west end of the house around 1969.

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Chain of Title

TO: Victor E. Bieber, Jr., Elizabeth D. Bieber, Richard C. Lewis, and Deborah B. Lewis  
FROM: William R. Pittman and Natalie P. Pittman  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 219, folio 345.  
DATE: June 5, 1985.  
NOTES: Transfer of 17.86 acres being the same as DBK 148/388.

TO: William R. Pittman and Natalie P. Pittman  
FROM: Henry Thomas Waring and Joseph D. Weiner  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber DBK 148, folio 388.  
DATE: February 8, 1969.  
NOTES: Transfer of 17.86 acres being the same as MRF 136/163.

TO: Henry Thomas Waring and Joseph D. Weiner  
FROM: Robert A. Magee and Mary J. Magee  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRF 136, folio 163.  
DATE: September 6, 1967.  
NOTES: Transfer of 17.86 acres.

TO: Robert Aler Magee and Jessie McK. Magee, widow.  
FROM: J. Allan Coad and Clara C. Coad  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 12, folio 498.  
DATE: May 19, 1941.  
NOTES: Transfer of "Part of Locust Grove" being 206 acres being part of land designated as "Lot No. 3" as per equity case 434.

TO: J. Allan Coad  
FROM: Philip Ford Combs Jr. and Mary B. Combs  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 12, folio 374.  
DATE: December 14, 1940.  
NOTES: Transfer of "Part of Locust Grove" being 206 acres.

TO: Philip Ford Combs Jr.  
FROM: Robert C. Combs and Catharine L. Combs, Maggie H. Combs, Fannie C. Gough, William Grason Bond Jr., Margaret H. Bond, Cornelius C. Bond and Pauline S. Bond, Laurel Bond Hopkins and Marion B. Hopkins, Cecile Bond Cherbonnier and Andre V. Cherbonnier, and Virginia C. Bond.  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 12, folio 82.  
DATE: January 11, 1940  
NOTES: Transfer of "Part of Locust Grove" being 256 acres.

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TO: Philip Ford Combs Jr.

FROM: Robert C. Combs and Catharine L. Combs, Fannie C. Gough, William Grason Bond Jr. and Margaret H. Bond, Cornelius C. Bond and Pauline S. Bond, Laurel Bond Hopkins and Marion B. Hopkins, Cecile Bond Cherbonnier and Andre V. Cherbonnier, being heirs of William Coad, deceased.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 8, folio 473.

DATE: February 15, 1934.

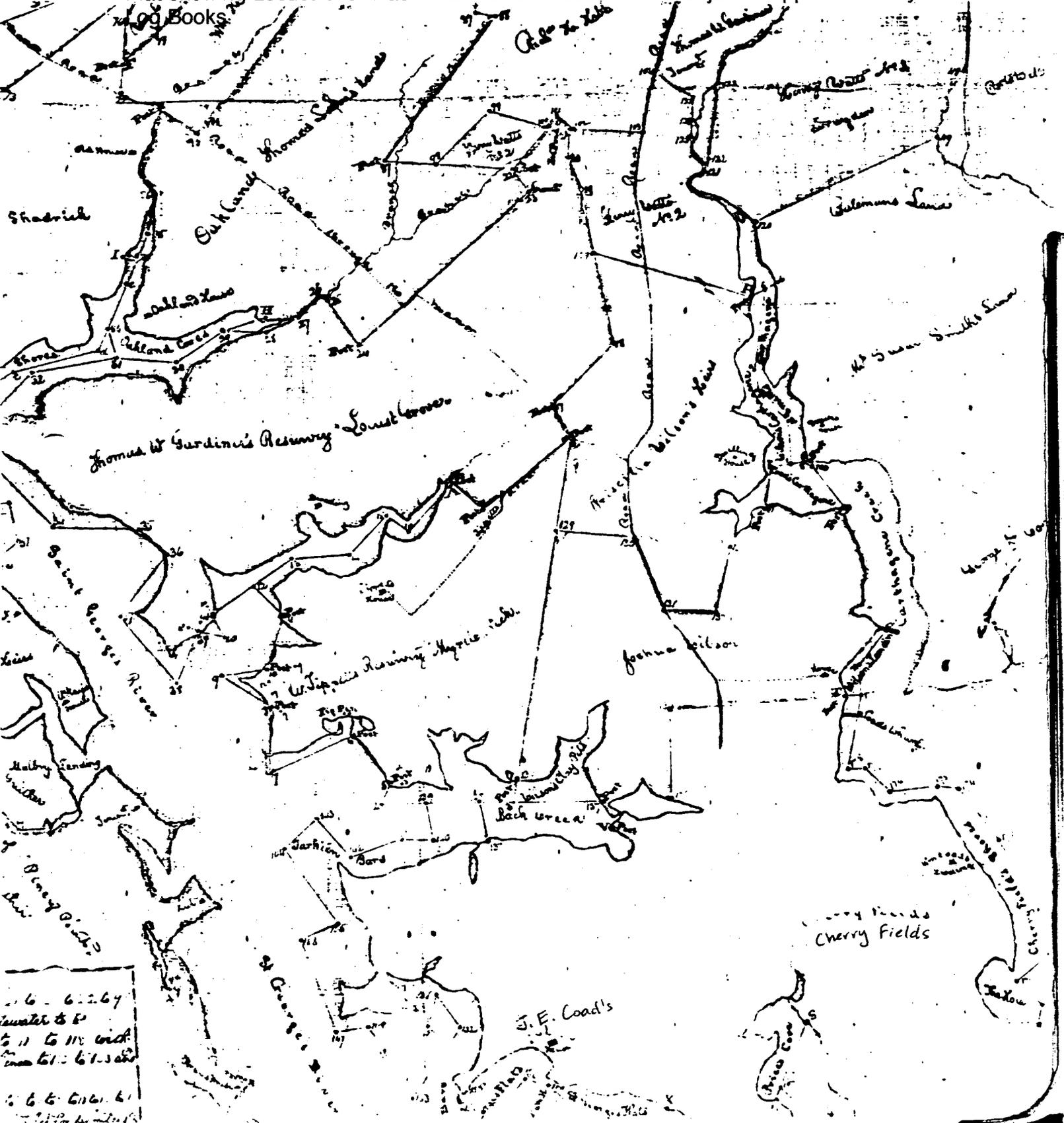
NOTES: Transfer of "Part of Locust Grove" being 256 acres.

William Coad died intestate. Equity case No. 434 settled the Coad estate, dividing his property into a series of lots that were then assigned to his heirs. Decree Record JFF 2/63 describes Lot No. 3 which includes Locust Grove. Lot No. 3 was assigned to Philip Combs, Arthur Combs, Margaret Combs, William Combs, Emma Combs, Fannie Combs, Robert Combs, and Ellen Combs, children of Mary Elizabeth Combs. Lot No. 3 was surveyed by John H. Chunn on September 9, 1876. The bounds of the property are described as "Beginning for Lot No. 3 at H., a chestnut post, now driven on the shore of the St. George's River, and running thence with Lot No. 2 up and with the Locust Grove Road North 44 deg. East 173 1/2 perches, thence North 12 1/2 deg. East 59 1/3 perches thence North 33 1/4 deg. East 56 1/4 perches thence North 1/4 deg. East 36 perches thence North 4 deg. West 19 3/4 perches to Joshua Wilson's gate thence with Wilson's land South 88 1/2 deg. West 37 9/10 perches thence South 5 deg. West 32 1/2 perches thence South 8 deg. West 17 6/10 perches thence South 14 1/2 West 20 1/2 perches thence 23 1/2 deg. West 15 6/10 perches to the head of Old Harry thence with the head of Old Harry to its head thence down the head of Old Harry to the St. George's River thence down said River to the beginning post containing 256 96/100 acres." See the accompanying plat.



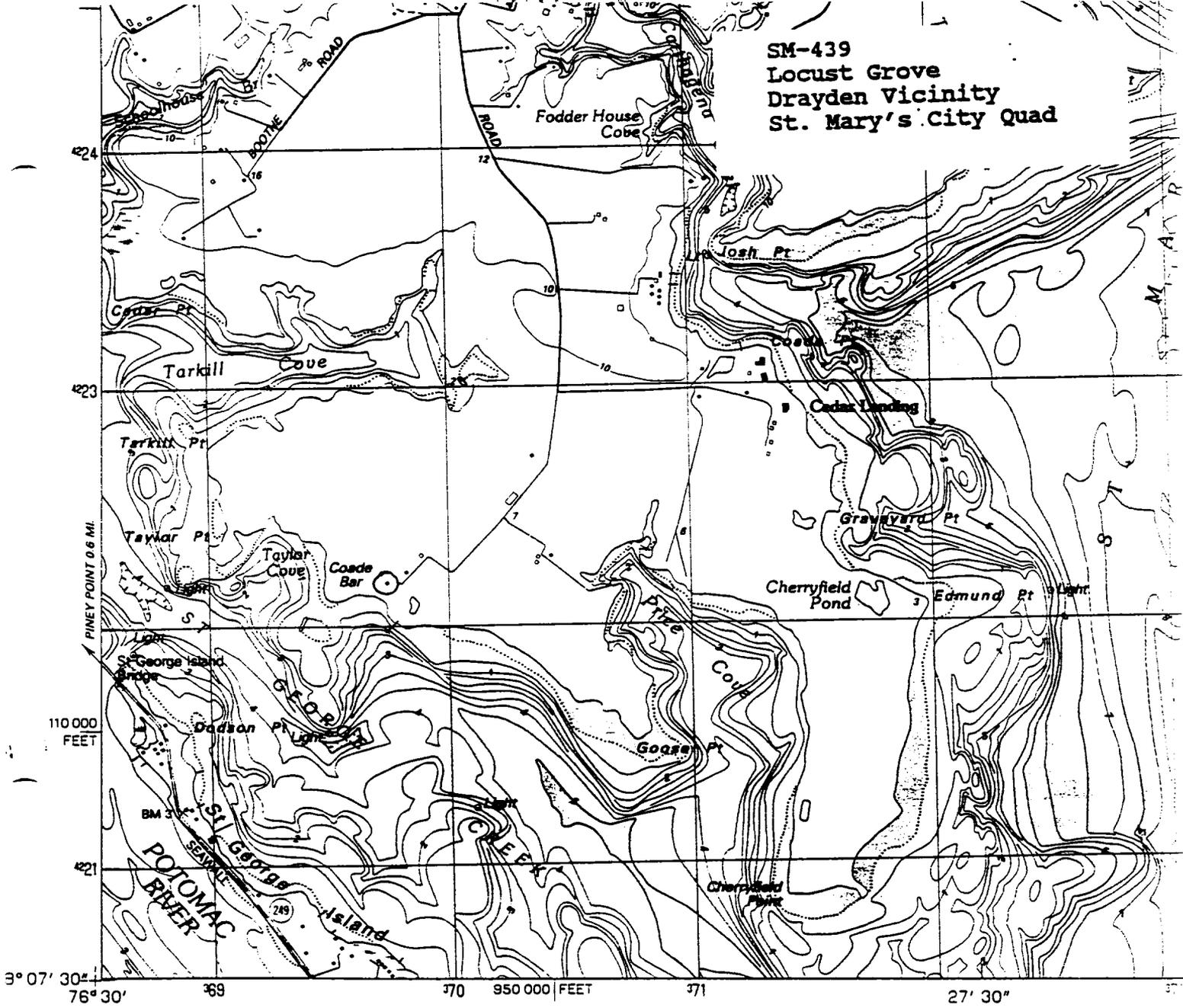
SM-439, Locust Grove  
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8.4 Description

Plat showing Locust Grove as "J. E. Coad's House" from Benjamin Tippett's Surveyor



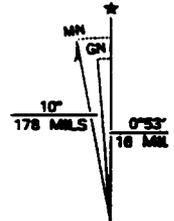
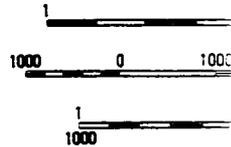
66-6264  
water to E  
to 11 to 110 with  
area to 61-3000  
66-6166-61  
to 110 to 110

SM-439  
 Locust Grove  
 Drayden Vicinity  
 St. Mary's City Quad



(KINSALE)  
 5880 II SE

Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
 and the National Ocean Service  
 Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and DMA  
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
 taken 1981. Field checked 1982. Map edited 1987  
 Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1943  
 Bathymetry compiled by the National Ocean Survey from  
 tide-coordinated hydrographic surveys. This information is  
 not intended for navigational purposes  
 Mean low water (dotted) line and mean high water (heavy  
 solid) line compiled by NOS from tide-coordinated aerial  
 photographs. Apparent shoreline (outer edge of vegetation)  
 shown by light solid line  
 Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Maryland coordinate  
 system (Lambert conformal conic)  
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18  
 1927 North American Datum  
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,  
 move the projection lines 9 meters south and  
 28 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks  
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
 the National or State reservations shown on this map  
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ST. MARYS CITY, MD.

38076-B4-TB-024

1987

DMA 5760 III NW-SERIES V833

UTM GRID AND 1987 MAG  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



11 439

Local site

1. May 2000

1. 2000

1/94

1. 2000

1. 2000

1/5







SM-139

Locust Grove

St. Mary's Church

3 Highways

" 4

MC - 100

Parr - SE elevation

3/5

1948



PH. 439

Lowest grade

St. Mary's [unclear]

1/19/94

1/19/94

MS MS

1. MS of [unclear]

45

Source: Mary J. Hayes

1/19/94



SM-439

Lowest Grave

St. Mary's Church

E. Height:

1/24

115 - 118

prob of N elevation. Same. Height is Height

1/3 (low 20-2)



SM-439

Lowell Grove

St. Albans, Vermont

E. Hughes

11/94

MD 31110

Photo of - illustration -  
(transf. 12)

St. Albans, Vermont

10



SH- 439

Locust Grove

in Montgomery County

E. Hughes

1/94

MD 110

Historic part of Joseph Cox's home - formerly  
located on this site near Mary & Douglas

7/8



SH-431

LOCUST Grove

St. Mary's County

E. Hughes

11/97

MD 410

Historic photo of Joseph Court - owner formerly  
located on lot 11 - owned by J. Hughes

8/8