

— Capsule Summary
SM-442
Russell's Store and Bar
Valley Lee
Private

c. 1903

Russell's Store and Bar is significant as an example of one of the many small general stores which have traditionally served both a commercial and social function for St. Mary's County's crossroad communities. Today, the owners of these stores, which generally include a back room bar, find it difficult to survive. Russell's, located on a site previously known as "Hobb's Corner," has served the Valley Lee area since the early 1900s. Notably, a bar has always been operated in conjunction with the store.

— Louis Springer purchased 50 acres of "Bennett's Delight" from the heirs of Mary Ridgell in 1903. Here he funded construction of both a store and a dwelling house. Harrison Hobbs, Springer's son-in-law, purchased the property in 1924 and operated the store until the 1940s. The Russell family, who bought the store and house lot in 1947, continue to conduct business here today.

SM-442, Russell's Store and Bar
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: Economic

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function and Use: Bar
Store
Dwelling

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Hobb's Store

and/or common Russell's Store and Bar (pref)

2. Location

street & number Route 244 ___ not for publicationcity, town Valley Lee 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <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 William B. and Elizabeth L. Russell

street & number Box 51 telephone no.:city, town Valley Lee state and zip code Maryland 20692

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber CBG 19street & number folio 488city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input 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 of move _____ |
| <input checked="" 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: 2

Russell's Store and Bar is located on the southeast corner of Route 244 and McKays Beach Road in the Valley Lee district of St. Mary's County. The store consists of a gable roof main block which has been enlarged over the years by a series of additions. A modern brick ranch-style dwelling house and an older two-story frame dwelling house are located to the north of the store. A parking lot extends to the east of the store. The store faces south with the gable roof of the main block oriented on a north/south axis.

Built in the early 1900s, Russell's Store and Bar is a one-story, frame building sheathed with artificial siding. Some of the original vertical board siding is visible on the south gable end. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The foundation was not visible.

The south (main) elevation consists of a center door flanked by a one-over-one sash window to the west and a pair of two-over-two sash windows to the east. A shed roof porch supported by square posts extends across the south facade. The porch floor is a cement pad. The eave of this gable end is pierced by a louvered vent. A one-story wing extends to the east. Built by the current owners, this wing originally housed "Triggie's Beauty Shop." The wing is pierced by one two-over-two sash window and a picture window flanked by two-over-two sash windows. A one-story wing extends to the west of the main block. This wing, expanded by the current owners, houses the bar. The bar wing is pierced by an entrance door sheltered by an enclosed gable roof portico. A diamond pane window lights the bar area.

The west elevation of the bar wing is pierced by an entrance door and two two-light windows. The eave of this gable end elevation is pierced by a louvered vent.

The north elevation of the main block is pierced by a door and a window. The bar wing is blind, but a cinderblock chimney stands against the exterior wall. A shed roof addition, used for storage, extends from the east wing.

The east elevation of the beauty parlor wing is pierced by a door and one two-over-two sash window. The eave of this gable end elevation is pierced by a louvered vent.

The interior of the store is one large room with wood floors. Shelves and refrigerator units hold the store's stock of general goods. The bar is accessible from the interior of the store by means of two door openings through the west wall. The east wall of the bar is furnished with a bar and bar stools. Pool tables and a few tables ar.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input checked="" 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 | Unknown | 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.

Russell's Store and Bar is significant as an example of one of the many small general stores which have traditionally served both a commercial and social function for St. Mary's County's crossroad communities. Today, the owners of these stores, which generally include a back room bar, find it difficult to survive. Russell's, located on a site previously known as "Hobb's Corner," has served the Valley Lee area since the early 1900s.

Louis Springer purchased 50 acres of "Bennett's Delight" from the heirs of Mary Ridgell in 1903. Here he funded construction of both a store and a dwelling house. The house was almost always occupied by successive owners of the store. Lumber for the construction of these buildings probably came from the saw mills owned by Springer.

Harrison Hobbs, Springer's son-in-law, purchased the property in 1924. Hobbs operated the store and lived in the nearby dwelling house. Apparently, the Hobbs family used an upstairs room in the house for distilling alcohol. A large ring in the center of one of the bedroom floors is all that remains of the small family distillery.

Notably, a bar has always been operated in conjunction with the store. The bar did not cease operation during Prohibition. Leo Springer noted that every Friday and Saturday night, local farmers would go to the store "for a loaf of bread," meaning that they would spend the evening socializing and playing cards. In place of cash, which was scarce, land was sometimes bet on a card game. It is said that several farms changed hands as a result.

When the Russell family purchased the property in 1947, the bar consisted of four bar stools, a wood stove, and a table for card playing. The store carried a wide variety of items as it does today, including a great deal of feed and grain which is no longer in demand. Customers would stop by the store once a week to pick up their groceries and on Friday and Saturday nights the bar would be packed with card players. Slot machines, a ubiquitous feature of St. Mary's County life for much of the

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM 442

Betty Russell, Personal Interview, September 1994
Edward Leo Springer, Personal Interview, September 1994.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 Acres Surrounding House and Store

Quadrangle name Piney Point

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

B

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| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

C

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|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

D

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|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

E

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|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

F

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| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

G

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| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

H

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

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 Co. Planning & Zoning date August 1994

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

city or town Leonardtwn 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

SM-442, Russell's Store and Bar
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

chairs are located in the center of the bar room.

The old house located on the north side of the store building is a two-story, frame structure which faces west. Contemporary with the earliest section of the store, a kitchen and bathroom addition were constructed in the 1940s by W. Bailey Russell. Russell also enclosed the back porch. The house suffered a fire in 1986 and is now sheathed with a combination of vinyl siding and weatherboard. The roof is covered with pressed metal shingles.

The west (main) elevation has a replacement center door flanked on either side by a one-over-one sash window. A porch extends across the full width of the west elevation first floor. The porch is supported by turned posts with decorative sawn brackets. It retains a tongue-in-groove wood floor and wainscoted ceiling. The second floor of the house is pierced by one two-over-two sash window and one eight-over-eight sash window. A former window opening on the second floor is now enclosed. Two cross gables break the roofline of the house. One of these is pierced by a louvered vent while the other is lit by a diamond pane window. A one-story, shed roof addition, dating to the 1940s, extends to the south of the main block. This addition is lit by a one-over-one sash window on the west side.

The south elevation of the main block is obscured on the first floor by a one-story, shed roof addition. This addition is pierced by a door, a picture window, and a one-over-one sash window. An exterior cinderblock chimney stands next to the exterior wall of the addition. The second floor of the house is lit by one one-over-one sash window and a pair of single light windows. An interior brick chimney pierces the roof ridgeline of this gable end.

The east elevation of the addition is lit by a one-over-one sash window. The first floor of the main block is covered by an enclosed porch pierced by modern window openings. The second floor is lit by a one-over-one sash window and a three-light window. The roofline is broken by two cross gables. One of these is pierced by a single-light window.

The north elevation is lit by two one-over-one sash windows on the first floor. The second floor is pierced by a door and one two-over-two sash window. The door opens onto a modern frame exterior stair and deck. The medium roof overhang of this elevation is finished with decoratively sawn rafter feet.

The interior was not seen.

One outbuilding stands on the property. This gable roofed structure, used for storage, is located in the southeast corner of the house lot.

SM-442, Russell's Store and Bar
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: W. Bailey Russell and Elizabeth Russell
FROM: Joseph B. and Helen M. Russell
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 19, folio 488.
DATE: April 1, 1947.
NOTES: Transfer of "Part of Bennett's Delight" more recently known as Hobb's Store and Dwelling lot.

TO: Joseph B. Russell
FROM: F. Abell Woodburn and Elsie M. Woodburn
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 19, folio 85.
DATE: October 2, 1946.
NOTES: Transfer of part of "Bennett's Delight," more recently known as Hobb's Store and Dwelling lot."

TO: F. Abell Woodburn and Elsie M. Woodburn
FROM: Stephen H. Bean and Mary E. Bean
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 17, folio 510.
DATE: November 16, 1945.
NOTES: Transfer of part of "Bennett's Delight," more recently known as Hobb's Store and Dwelling lot."

TO: Stephen H. Bean
FROM: John S. Bean and Agnes Violet Bean
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber CBG 16, folio 484.
DATE: January 12, 1945.
NOTES: Transfer of two parcels, one being 50 acres of "Bennett's Delight" and one being "Bean's Purchase" and a part of the land "Bennett's Delight" being 90 acres.

TO: Stephen H. and John S. Bean
FROM: Harrison Hobbs, widower.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber CBG 14, folio 306.
DATE: May 13, 1943.
NOTES: Transfer of two parcels, same as above.

TO: Harrison Hobbs and Sarah C. Hobbs
FROM: Lena E. and Lewis R. Springer of Baltimore City.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 2, folio 320.
DATE: July 2, 1924.
NOTES: Transfer of "Bennett's Delight" being 50 acres more or less.

SM-442, Russell's Store and Bar
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

TO: Lena E. Springer
FROM: John T. Ridgell
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 7, folio 251.
DATE: August 8, 1908.
NOTES: Transfer of his interest in "Bennett's Delight." Price: \$100

TO: Lena E. Springer
FROM: Jefferson Ridgell
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 5, folio 168.
DATE: September 2, 1905.
NOTES: Transfer of his interest in "Bennett's Delight." Price: \$100

TO: Louis R. Springer
FROM: Frances A. Ellis, James E. Ellis, Charles W. Ridgell, Maggie M. Ridgell, Eliza J. Ridgell, being heirs of Mary A. Ridgell.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 3, folio 401.
DATE: November 25, 1903.
NOTES: Transfer of their interest in 50 acres of "Bennett's Delight" being part of that property conveyed on August 27, 1868 by John H. Milburn, Sr. and Caroline Milburn et al to Biscoe Adams. Price: \$400

TO: Heirs
FROM: Mary A. Ridgell
RECORD:
DATE: 1901
NOTES: Mary Ridgell died intestate.

TO: Mary A. Ridgell
FROM: Biscoe and Sarah Jane Adams
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JAC 4, folio 357.
DATE: June 9, 1870.
NOTES: Transfer of property "lying in the Factory district...near Poplar Hill Church commonly called...Bennett's delight." Price: \$500

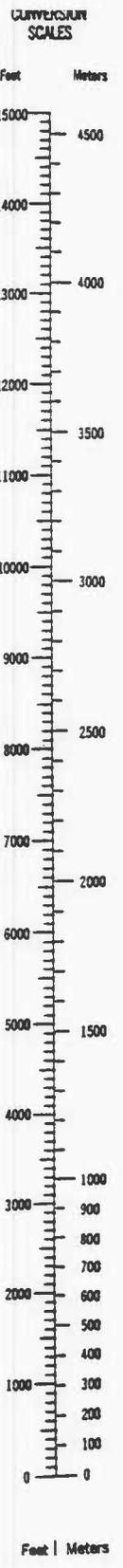
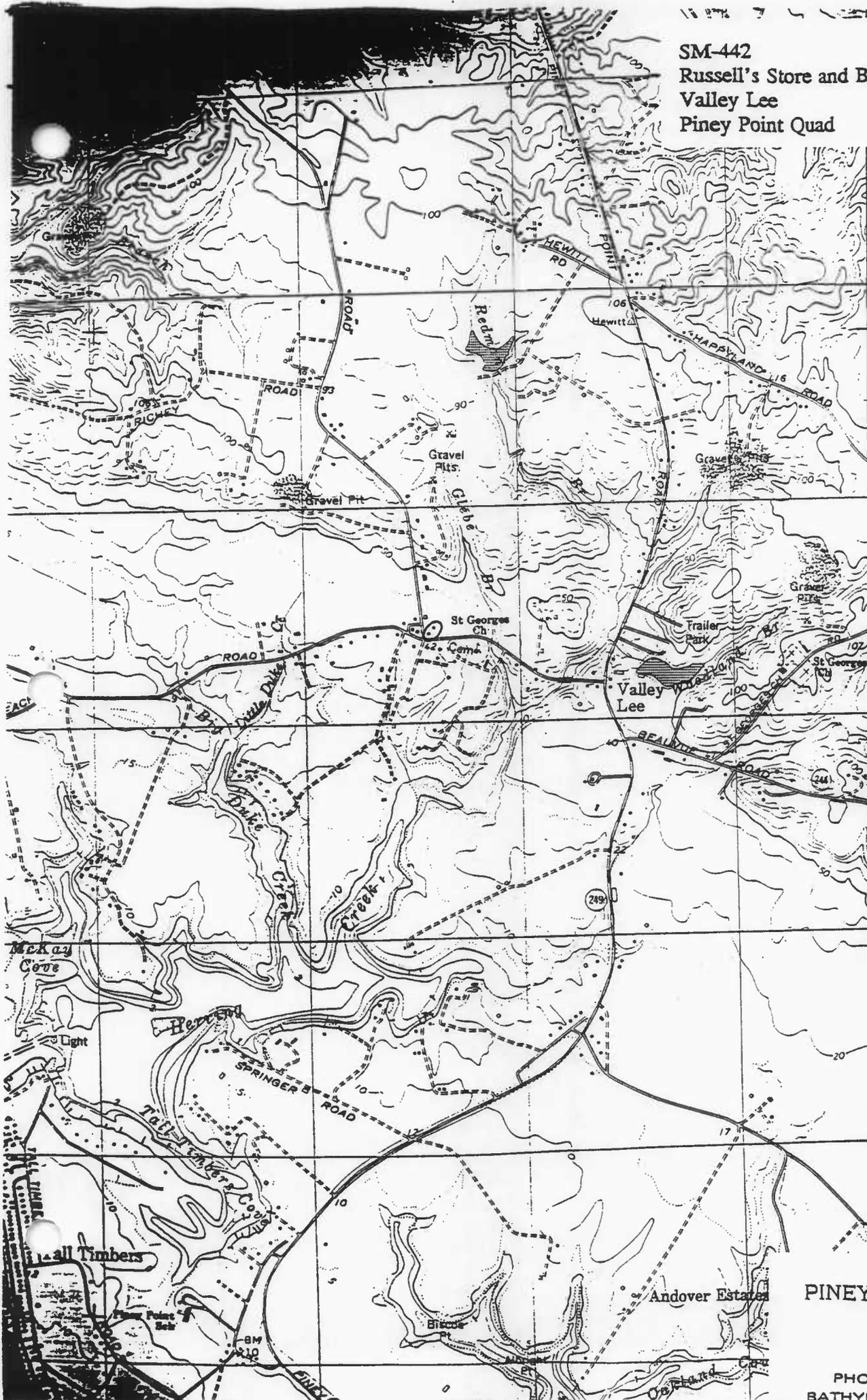
SM-442, Russell's Store and Bar
St. Mary's County
8.3 Significance

twentieth century, were also located in the bar.

The Russells added onto the store, constructing wings on both the east and west elevations. Mr. Russell also added onto the dwelling house, which had been divided to serve as a duplex by the 1940s. A portion of the house, which is in the process of being rehabilitated, continues to be rented out to a tenant.

Although business is slower than it once was, Russell's Store and Bar continues to serve as a vibrant local landmark. Perhaps the store's most regular customers are the local men from St. George's Island, Tall Timbers, and Piney Point who meet at the store between 5:00 and 5:30 every morning for coffee. Mostly retired people, they usually converse for a few hours in the bar. Throughout the day the store is frequented by men and women in search of various grocery items, cigarettes, and lunch. Pool, cards, and horseshoes continue to attract clientele to the bar in the evening.

SM-442
 Russell's Store and Bar
 Valley Lee
 Piney Point Quad



PINEY POINT, MD.-VA.
 38076-85-TF-024
 1968
 PHOTOREVISED 1980
 BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982



COLUMBIA
Russell's
STORE & BAR
Triggie's
BEAUTY SHOP





SM-442

Russell's Cove and Car

St. Mary's LA by MB

E. Higgins

1704

RD SHD

Old Elevation of house on property

2/3



SM-442

Russell's Store and Gas

at Marysville

L. Hughes

1924

1925

see also at base of page 10

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