

Capsule Summary  
SM-445  
Bernard McKay House  
McKays Beach  
Private

1919

The Bernard E. McKay House is significant as a well-preserved example of an early twentieth century bungalow. This house was the first dwelling built on the site of what later became the community of "McKays Beach." Both the original material and plan of the structure remain intact.

Bernard E. McKay purchased the 100 acre tract "Four Brick Chimney" in 1916. According to one of his sons, McKay funded construction of the house here in 1919. Summer visitation to the McKays Beach area began in the 1920s. Visitors from the Washington area initially boarded with the McKays and later rented cottages on the property. Beginning in 1927, McKays Beach was subdivided into building lots for summer vacation homes. Over time, these summer homes were winterized. Today, about fifty houses are located in the McKay's Beach area. Many of the people who live here are year- round residents.

SM-445, Bernard E. McKay 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  
Economic

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Residence  
Boarding House

Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Bernard E. McKay House

## 2. Location

street &amp; number McKays Beach Road \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town McKays Beach \_\_\_\_\_ 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 Bernard E. McKay Jr. et al c/o Aloysius C. McKay

street &amp; number Box 90 \_\_\_\_\_ telephone no.: (301) 994 1559

city, town Leonardtown \_\_\_\_\_ state and zip code Maryland 20650

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's Co. Courthouse \_\_\_\_\_ liber MRB 431

street &amp; number \_\_\_\_\_ folio 1

city, 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

<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.

The Bernard E. McKay House is located at the west end of McKays Beach Road in a community known as "McKays Beach" in the Valley Lee district of St. Mary's County. A small beach on the Potomac River acts as the lot's western property line. Three outbuildings, a few cedar trees, old fruit trees, and decorative shrubs stand on the property. More recently constructed bungalows are located on lots to the north and south of the McKay House. The house faces east and is capped by a hipped roof.

Built in 1919, the McKay House is a one-and-a-half story frame structure sheathed with square butt, wood shingles. The foundation consists of concrete piers infilled with cinderblocks and painted red. The roof is covered with pressed metal shingles.

The east (main) elevation consists of a one-story, projecting vestibule which originally served as a screened porch. The vestibule is pierced by a six-light-over-three-panel door flanked by a pair of six-light casement windows on either side. Three of these casement windows light the north and south ends of the vestibule. The main block of the house is pierced by a partially glazed entrance door and two six-over-six sash windows on either side of the central entrance. A hipped roof dormer lit by three four-over-four sash windows projects from the roofline. Two interior chimneys, one of brick and one of cinderblock, flank the roof ridgeline. A one-story, kitchen wing extends from the south end of the house. The east elevation of the kitchen is pierced by a partially glazed entrance door and one six-over-six sash window. The wing's roof overhang is supported by square posts which creates a small porch area that has a cement pad floor.

The south elevation of the main block is pierced on the first floor by one six-over-six sash window. A hipped roof dormer, lit by a pair of four-over-four sash windows, projects from the roof of the main block. The kitchen wing is blind on the south gable end, but an interior brick chimney pierces its east roof slope. A shed roof addition extends from the west side of the main block and is lit by a pair of two-light windows.

The west elevation consists of a shed roof addition which extends across the first floor of the main block. Originally a screened porch, this area is now enclosed and pierced by a series of eight-light casement windows and an entrance door. The south end of the addition is lit by one four-light window, while the north end is lit by a pair of six-light windows. The roof is pierced by a shed roof dormer lit by three four-over-four sash windows. A screened porch extends across the west elevation of the southern kitchen wing.

The north elevation is lit by three six-over-six sash windows. One of these

# 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input 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 1919 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.

The Bernard E. McKay House is significant as a well-preserved example of an early twentieth century bungalow. This house was the first dwelling built on the site of what later became the community of "McKays Beach." Both the original material and plan of the structure remain intact.

Bernard E. McKay purchased the 100 acre tract "Four Brick Chimney" in 1916. The tract name stems from the fact that four brick chimneys, the ruin of an older dwelling, stood in a field a few hundred yards away from the McKay House site. According to one of his sons, McKay funded construction of the house in 1919.

McKay was a farmer who planted corn and tobacco on the property. He also raised some livestock, including cattle, hogs, turkeys, and chickens. Two barns, a corn house, and chicken houses originally stood here. One tobacco barn and a chicken house survive.

Summer visitation to the McKays Beach area began in the 1920s when Mrs. McKay started taking summer boarders. In 1924, Bernard McKay had five cottages built at the east end of the river front property. During the summer months, he rented the cottages out to families from the Washington area.

In 1927 a survey of McKays Beach subdivided the property into seven lots, numbered 15 through 21, with a frontage on the Potomac River. Over time, more of the land was subdivided and summer homes were winterized. Today, about fifty houses are located in the McKay's Beach area. Many of the people who live here are year-round residents.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM 445

Aloysius McKay, Personal Interview, August 1994

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 Acres Surrounding House

Quadrangle name Piney Point

Quadrangle scale 1: 24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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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 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

SM-445, Bernard E. McKay House  
St. Mary's County  
7.1 Description

windows has been set into the house in a horizontal position. A hipped roof dormer lit by a pair of four-over-four sash windows pierces the roof.

The interior of the house consists of a large entrance hall with an open string stair which rises to the upper half story. A pair of french doors separates the entrance hall from the main parlor. Four panel doors with wide, molded surrounds and corner blocks are employed throughout the interior of the house. The walls of the kitchen are tiled.

A garage, originally located next to the road, stands on the south side of the house. The garage is sheathed with asphalt shingle siding and roofed with corrugated metal. Two pairs of doors with metal hinges pierce the east side of the building.

A shed and chicken house are located on the north side of the house. The shed is sheathed with board and batten siding and roofed with corrugated metal. The chicken house is sheathed with shingles and roofed with corrugated metal. Vertical panel doors and screened windows pierce the walls of the chicken house.

A frame summer house with a cement pad floor once stood in the backyard of the property near the Potomac River shore. Built in the 1930s, this structure is no longer standing.

SM-445, Bernard E. McKay House  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Bernard E. McKay, Jr., Xavier F. McKay, Aloysius S. McKay, Joseph S. McKay, Louise T. Zabel, and Virginia McKay

FROM: Bernard E. McKay, Jr., Pers. Rep. of estate of Benjamin Gilbert McKay, deceased.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 431, folio 1.

DATE: July 25, 1988.

NOTES: Benjamin G. McKay died intestate on June 19, 1987 with no heirs except his brothers and sisters. This deed transfers his undivided 1/7 interest in the 3.5 acre tract of "Four Brick Chimney" which has been subdivided into five lots, and is improved by a 1 1/2 story, 5 bedroom, shingled house built 70 years ago.

TO: Heirs

FROM: Bernard E. McKay

RECORD: St. Mary's County Testamentary Record, Estate No. 1182.

DATE: May 6, 1969

NOTES: Bernard E. McKay died intestate. The Real Estate Inventory lists a dwelling, a garage, a beach pavilion, a pier, and a storage house on the property.

TO: Bernard E. McKay

FROM: Elizabeth C. McKay, widow, Thomas A. McKay, Mary V. McKay, Laura C. McKay, and Joseph R. McKay, and B. Ford McKay and Agnes McKay of Washington, D.C.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 14, folio 355.

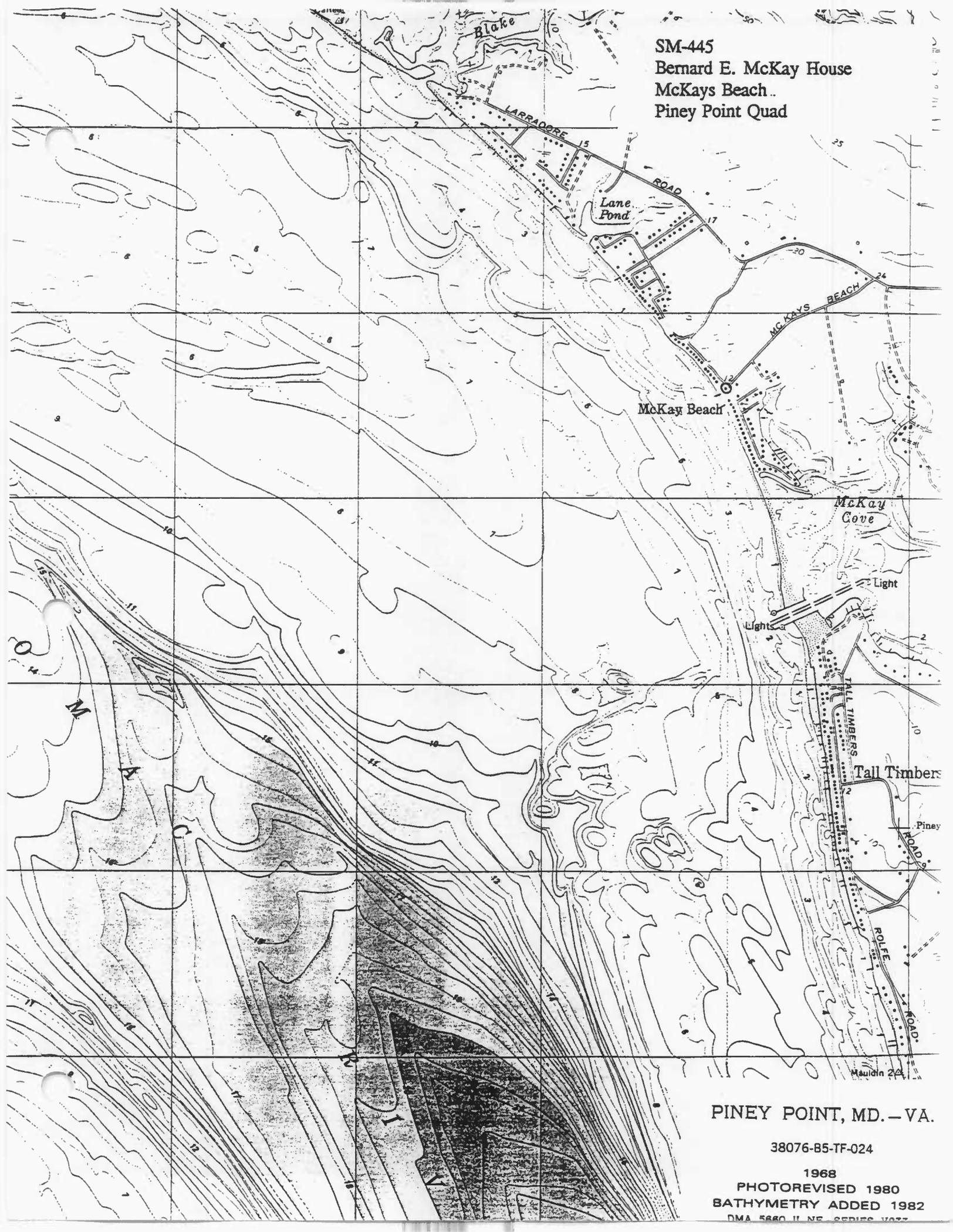
DATE: January 1, 1916.

NOTES: Transfer of two lots constituting one tract now known as "Four Brick Chimney" as described in survey made by George Dent in the early part of the year 1888.

Lot No. 1: Lot No. 3 of subdivision of "Rose Hill" which, under the will of George Coad, dec'd., was awarded by the Commissioners to divide the real estate of said dec'd. to the children of his daughter Virginia Combs and by them partitioned, being 50 acres more or less and the same as JJG 5/165 to William A. McKay, deceased brothers of grantors herein.

Lot No. 2: Lot No. 4 of subdivision of "Rose Hill" being 50 acres more or less and the same as JJG 5/89 from William Cornelius Combs to Benjamin G. McKay and at his death to his widow Elizabeth C. McKay and children. Price: \$1200

SM-445  
Bernard E. McKay House  
McKays Beach  
Piney Point Quad



PINEY POINT, MD. - VA.

38076-B5-TF-024

1968  
PHOTOREVISED 1980  
BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982  
DMA 5660 II NE SERIES V037







