

Capsule Summary
SM-446
Swann's Store and Hotel
Piney Point
Private

Circa 1885 - 1900; 1920

Swann's Store and Hotel is significant as the only summer boarding house that still stands at Piney Point. Although both the hotel and store have been significantly altered in recent years, these buildings are the only remnants of Piney Point's history as a popular summer resort during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Alice J. Swann, wife of schooner captain James Thomas Swann, purchased three acres of "Part Pridgett's Land" from her grandmother, Mary A. Travers, in 1883 for \$500. According to one source, she and her husband erected a log dwelling here. Soon after establishing their home, the Swanns opened a grocery and general store on the property. The Piney Point post office occupied a portion of the Swann store off and on from 1886 until 1960.

Sometime prior to 1912 the Swanns began to take summer boarders. These visitors came from up and down the east coast. Usually, they arrived at Piney Point by steamboat from Washington, Baltimore, Virginia, and New York. Once the steamboat had docked at Piney Point Beach, a member of the Swann family would transport guests and their luggage from the landing to the hotel by buggy. Boarders stayed for a week, a month, and sometimes for the entire summer. In the 1920s, B. Gorman Swann built a series of one-room bungalows to house additional boarders.

During the 1940s, the installation of the Torpedo Test Range at Piney Point provided Swann's Hotel with an influx of customers. In the 1960s, business at the hotel had begun to slow. By 1970 the hotel was closed, although the cottages continued to be rented. In 1989 Swann's Hotel complex was renovated and reopened for business.

SM-446, Swann's Store and Hotel
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: Commerce

Resource Type

Category: Building

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

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common **Swann's Store and Hotel**

2. Location

street & number **Route 249** not for publicationcity, town **Piney Point** 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 **Richard Gorman Swann**street & number **Piney Point Road (Route 249)** telephone no.: **(301) 994 0774**city, town **Piney Point** state and zip code **Maryland 20674**

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. **St. Mary's County Courthouse** liber **MRB 341**street & number **folio 69**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

Survey No. SM 446

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<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: 5

Swann's Store and Hotel is located on the east side of Route 249 at Piney Point in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The hotel is a large two-story, ell-shaped structure while the store building, which also houses a bar and restaurant, is a smaller two-story building that stands on the shore of St. George's Creek. A wharf extends into the creek from the south side of the store. An asphalt parking lot separates the store and the hotel. Between the two buildings stands a cinderblock, gable-roofed building that once served as a concession stand. A series of three one-story cottages dating to the 1920s are located south of the hotel and store buildings. The hotel, which now has a U-shaped footprint, faces east with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis. The store faces west with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis. Both buildings have been completely remodeled and wrapped with modern materials.

Built around 1900, the hotel foundation is not visible. Originally sheathed with weatherboard siding, it was covered with vinyl siding in the 1980s. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The east (main) elevation is pierced by a series of three doors and five one-over-one sash windows. A modern two-story porch extends across this elevation. This porch replaced a one-story shed roof porch supported by turned post supports as illustrated in old photographs. The second floor of the hotel is pierced by six doors and three one-over-one sash windows. A cross gable pierced by a round window breaks the roofline.

The north elevation is pierced by two doors and six one-over-one sash windows on the first floor. A modern two-story porch extends across this elevation. The second floor of the hotel is pierced by six doors one one-over-one sash window. A cross gable pierced by a circular window breaks the roofline at the east end of the elevation.

The west elevation of the main block is a gable end with cornice returns. The first floor is pierced by two one-over-one sash windows. The eave is pierced by a circular window. A one-story, gable roof addition pierced by five one-over-one sash windows extends to the south of the main block. The south elevation of the hotel's east wing is pierced by two doors on the first floor and five one-over-one sash windows on the second floor.

The south elevation of the main block is pierced by three one-over-one sash windows on the first floor and five on the second floor. The gable end of the western addition is pierced by two one-over-one sash windows. The gable end of the eastern ell is pierced by one one-over-one sash window on the first and second floors.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

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.

Swann's Store and Hotel is significant as the only summer boarding house that still stands at Piney Point. Although both the hotel and store have been significantly altered in recent years, these buildings are the only remnants of Piney Point's history as a popular summer resort during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Alice J. Swann, wife of schooner captain James Thomas Swann, purchased three acres of "Part Pridgett's Land" from her grandmother, Mary A. Travers, in 1883 for \$500. According to one source, she and her husband erected a log dwelling here. Soon after establishing their home, the Swanns opened a grocery and general store on the property. In the March 11, 1886 issue of the newspaper The St. Mary's Beacon, J. T. Swann advertised for rent "the Store and large grocery, Good Wharf, 10 pin alley, dwelling, and comfortable tenant house, and stable including four acres of fertile land and...my oyster ground." In 1886 James Thomas Swann was appointed post master of Piney Point during which time the post office was located in the Swann store. The post office continued to occupy a portion of the Swann store off and on until 1960.

Sometime prior to 1912 the Swanns began to take summer boarders. These visitors came from up and down the east coast. Usually, they arrived at Piney Point by steamboat from Washington, Baltimore, Virginia, and New York. Once the steamboat had docked at Piney Point Beach, a member of the Swann family would transport guests and their luggage from the landing to the hotel by buggy. Boarders stayed for a week, a month, and sometimes for the entire summer.

Every morning the day began with the rising bell, a hand bell run by a black woman known by the family as "Aunt Lizzie." At 8:00 A.M. the breakfast bell was rung. Breakfast consisted of fried fish, hot rolls, corn bread, french fried potatoes, bacon, and eggs. Throughout the day many of the guests spent their time bathing or fishing. Dinner was served at noon and consisted of potatoes, vegetables, and a different meat every day. Dinner was always followed by dessert. Supper was served at 4:00 P.M. This light meal featured fried fish or meat. Meals were always served family style in

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM 446

Thompson, Helena Swann, Personal Interview, September 1994

"Swann Celebrates 90th Year", The Enterprise 20 June 1979: A 11

Drury, Nadya. "One Woman's Story" Unpublished essay, 1972.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 Acre

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
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County Plannig & Zoning

date September 1994

street & number

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

SM-446, Swann's Store and Hotel
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

The interior of the hotel once housed a dining room, kitchen, and living room on the first floor and guest bedrooms on the second floor. The interior has been recently reworked to accommodate more guests.

The cottages, some of which are duplexes, are sheathed with vinyl siding and roofed with asphalt shingles. Although their exterior form remains much the same, the interiors have been reworked.

Built around 1885, the store is now covered with vinyl siding and roofed with asphalt shingles. The foundation is not visible

The west elevation of the store consists of a shed roof addition across the first floor pierced by a window. The gable end of the elevation is pierced by a modern Palladian window. The verge of the gable is sheathed with fish-scale shingles. To the south of the gable end is a two-story tower capped by a pyramidal roof. A portion of the tower is sheathed with fish scale shingles. It is pierced by a rectangular window on each side.

The south elevation of the tower is pierced by a doorway. The first floor of the main block is pierced by a series of octagonal windows on the first floor and by three pairs of one-over-one sash windows on the second floor. An interior brick chimney pierces the south roof slope. A wood deck is located on the south side of the store and extends out over St. George's Creek as a wharf.

The east elevation consists of a modern addition across the first floor that serves as a restaurant. The second floor is pierced by two one-over-one sash windows.

The north elevation consists of the eastern addition that serves as the restaurant. Two shed roof additions are attached to this side of the store. One was built for use as a walk-in freezer. The other served as the Piney Point post office for many years.

The interior of the store consists of one large room. General merchandise continues to be sold here. The walls are sheathed with wainscoting. To the north of the store room is a small room that currently serves as an office. Originally, the post office was located here. A three-light-over-three-panel door opens from the store into a hallway where the bar was once located. Beyond the hall is the newly constructed restaurant.

SM-446, Swann's Store and Hotel
St. Mary's County
8.4 Description

the main dining room which seated up to one hundred people. Both guests and the Swann family dined together.

The Swann family lived in a two-story building situated behind the hotel. The house had eight bedrooms. The family used the main hotel living room as their own. Originally, the hotel consisted of forty rooms. On some occasions, especially on holidays when the hotel was full, it was necessary for family members to give up their bedrooms to guests. In the 1920s, B. Gorman Swann built a series of bungalows to house additional boarders. These one-room quarters were used for sleeping only. Each room was equipped with a slop jar, and bathrooms were located outside.

The successful operation of Swann's Hotel was due not only to the cooperation and hard work of the family but also to the reliability of their employees. The cooks and waitresses that provided guests with their three daily meals were local African American women. On weekends and holidays Mr. Swann would often transport these hotel workers between their homes and Piney Point. The closure of the hotel in the 1960s was partly the result of the unavailability of this work force.

During the 1940s, the installation of the Torpedo Test Range at Piney Point provided Swann's Hotel with an influx of customers. During the week, many of the men from the base spent their leisure time at the bar. In the 1960s, business at the hotel had begun to slow. By 1970 the hotel was closed, although the cottages continued to be rented.

The Swann's Hotel complex was renovated and reopened around 1989. At this time the main hotel building was reworked. The community living and dining areas were divided for use as individual bedrooms and the second floor bedrooms were fitted with exterior entrances.

SM-446, Swann's Store and Hotel
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Richard Gorman Swann
FROM: Richard Gorman Swann and Paulette Louise Swann
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 341, folio 69.
DATE: January 6, 1987.
NOTES: Transfer of Swann's Hotel Property, subject to the life estate of Anita G. Swann.

TO: Richard Gorman Swann and Paulette Louise Swann
FROM: Ruth R. Swann and Robert B. Swann
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 138, folio 452.
DATE: March 14, 1983.
NOTES: Transfer of Swann's Hotel Property.

TO: Ruth R. Swann
FROM: Ruth R. Swann, personal rep. of will of Joseph Howard Swann.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 284, folio 88.
DATE: July 29, 1977.
NOTES: Transfer of Swann's Hotel Property. See estate 2548.

TO: J. Howard Swann and Robert B. Swann
FROM: Anita G. Swann, widow of B. Gorman Swann
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 52, folio 479.
DATE: September 18, 1954.
NOTES: Transfer of Swann's Hotel Property.

TO: B. Gorman Swann and Anita G. Swann
FROM: Philip J. Medley
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 17, folio 208.
DATE: June 23, 1945.
NOTES: Transfer of Swann's Hotel Property.

TO: B. Gorman Swann
FROM: Alice J. Swann
RECORD: St. Mary's County Testamentary Record, Liber ACM 1, folio 350.
DATE: September 26, 1939.
NOTES: Swann devises to her son "...my Hotel property on Piney Point." The same as that conveyed in JFF 7/240.

SM-446, Swann's Store and Hotel
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

TO: Alice J. Swann
FROM: Mary A. Travers
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 7, folio 240.
DATE: December 31, 1883.
NOTES: Transfer of "Part Pridgett's Land" situated near Piney Point, being 3 acres.
Price: \$500.

TO: Mary A. Travers
FROM: Charles Guyther
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 6, folio 342.
DATE: April 20, 1883.
NOTES: Transfer of "Part of Pridgett's Land" being 3 acres. Price: \$500

TO: Charles H. Guyther
FROM: Elizabeth C. Lowe and David E. Lowe
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 6, folio 296.
DATE: April 17, 1882.
NOTES: Transfer of three acres. Price: \$500.

TO: Elizabeth C. Dodge
FROM: Catherine Nichols and George M. Nichols
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JAC 2, folio 247.
DATE: April 9, 1867.
NOTES: Transfer of "Part of Pridgett's Land" being a piece containing 3 acres reserved from the 15 acres reserved from the sale made to James A. Ingram.

TO: George Nichols
FROM: George C. Morgan, Trustee.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JTB 3, folio 427.
DATE: May 25, 1857
NOTES: Sale of property as result of a judgement in Circuit Court in the case G. M. Nichols and George C. Morgan vs. Ann E. Redmon, John E. Wrightson et al. Sale of land commonly called "part of Piney Point" being 67 acres and the land formerly belonging to George W. Redmond, deceased. George A. Remond died in 1854. The valuation of his estate in 1856 noted on his plantation " a dwelling house, a kitchen, smokehouse, stable, granary, barn, paled yard adn garden all in reasonable good repair." The land to be worked on his property was divided between "half of cleared land put in wheat or oats and the other half in corn and tobacco and the rest...to be put in pasture."

SM-446, Swann's Store and Hotel
St. Mary's County
8.3 Significance

Photo of the east elevation of Swann's Hotel featured in the article "Swann Celebrates 90th Year" published in The Enterprise of June 20, 1979.

THE ENTERPRISE, Lex. Pk., Md., Wednesday, June 20, 1979, Page A-1



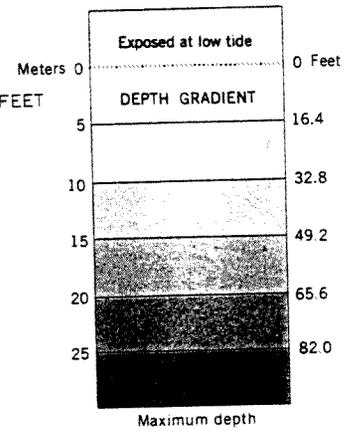
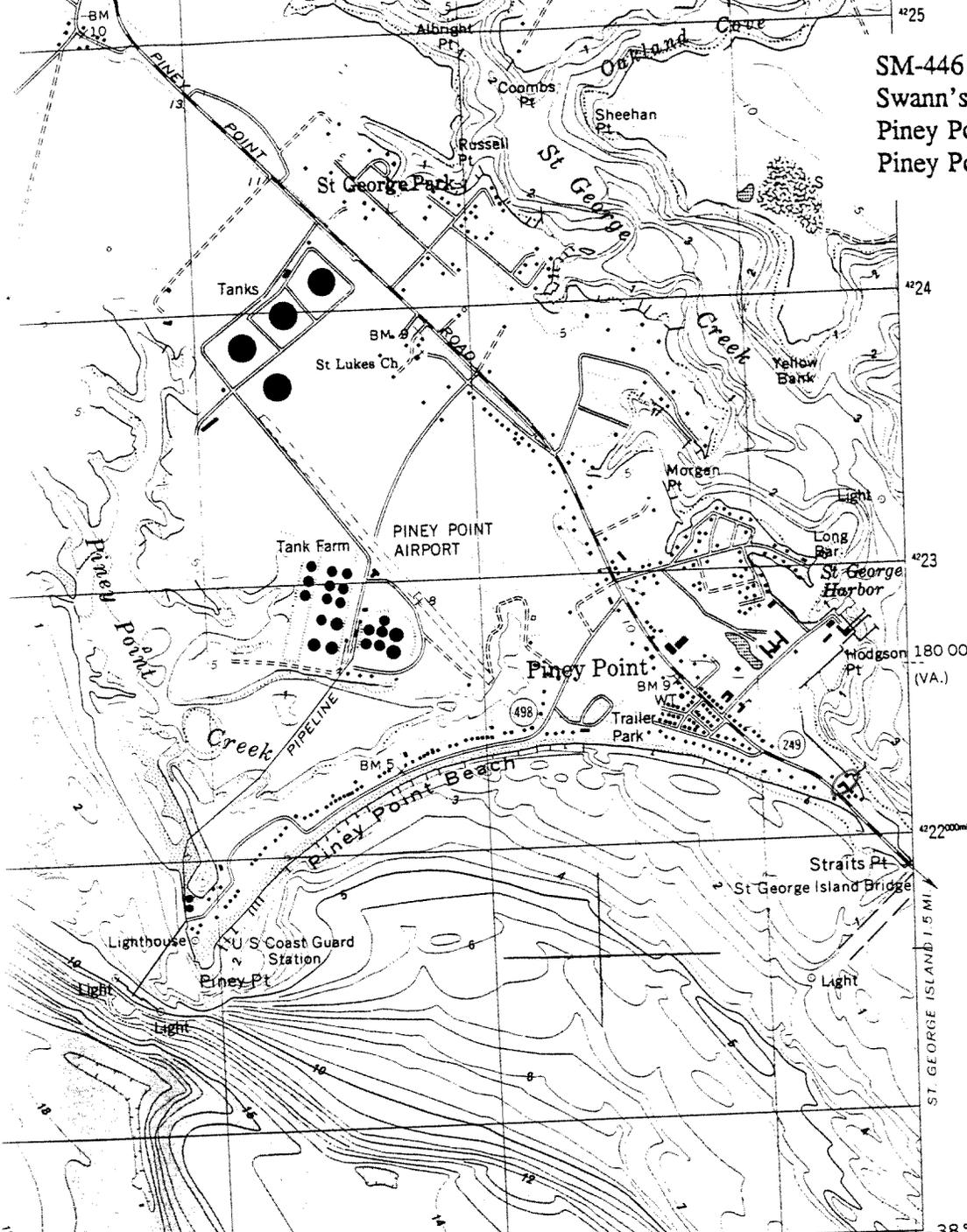
Staff Photo by Dorothy Shann

The Home and Hotel

Swann's Hotel and the Swann's home in Piney Point. The long porch runs the length of the structure.

6 1.8238
7 2.1336
8 2.4384

SM-446
Swann's Store and Hotel
Piney Point
Piney Point Quad



INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1988
2 570 000 FEET (VA.) 168°00'E 76°30'

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Secondary highway, all weather. Light-duty road, all weather, hard surface
 Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
 State Route

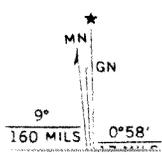
PINEY POINT, MD.—VA.

38076-B5-TF-024

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



QUADRANGLE LOCATION



(ST. GEORGE ISLAND)
5760 III SW





Swains
HOTEL
& RESTAURANT

FOX BAY
COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL
AND RESIDENTIAL
REAL ESTATE
SERVICES





SWANN'S HOTEL PINEY POINT, MARYLAND

SM - 4 + 6

2000th or 19th St. of 10th St.

St. Mary's County, MD

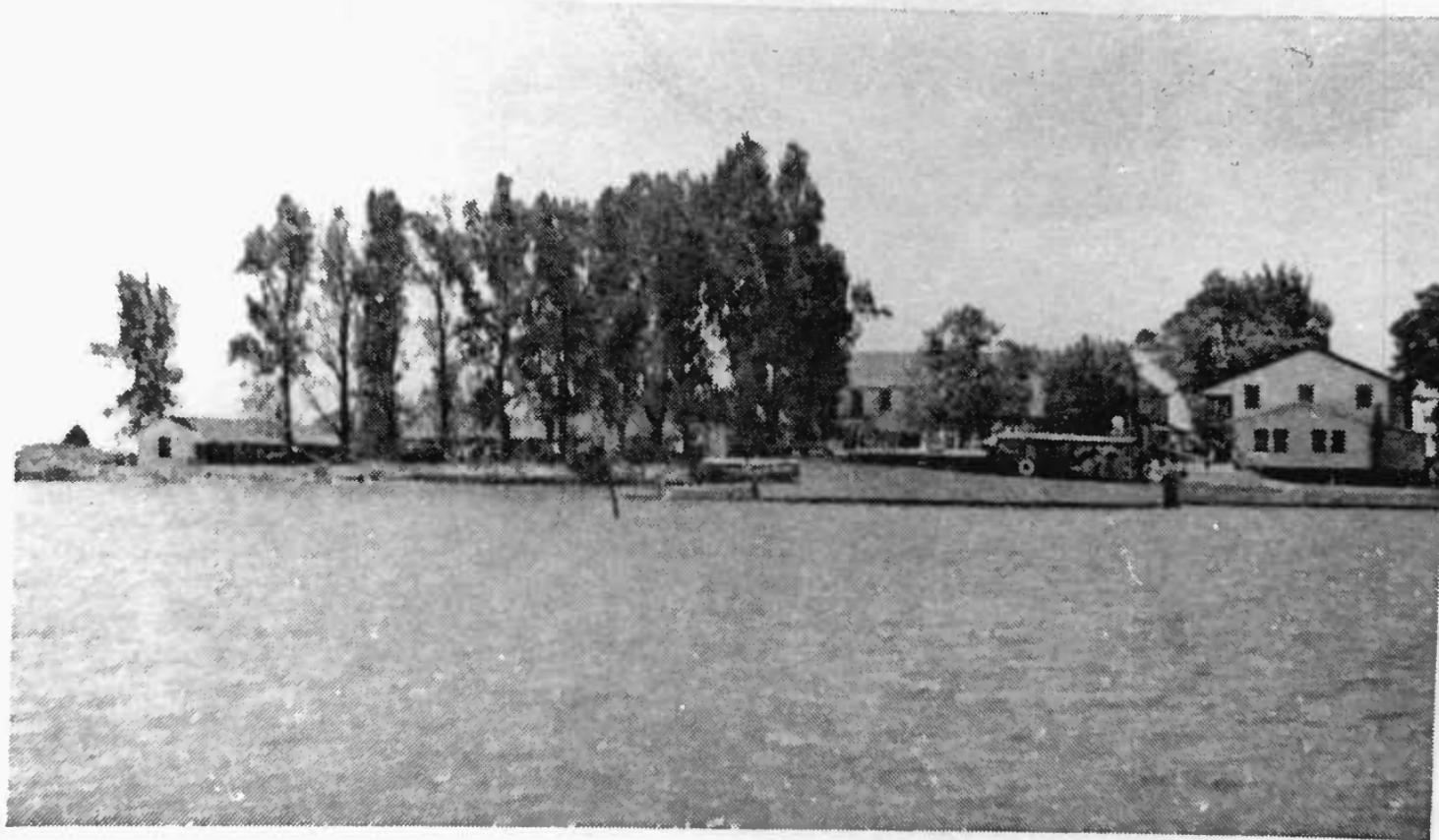
E. Houghton

1/11

MD 51-112

Historic records

1/6



SWANN'S HOTEL PINEY POINT, MARYLAND

24 4+6

Sum of 4 and 6

St. Mary's Church, N.Y.

D. Hughes

1/14

110 110

to the year 1881

5/6



SM: 446

Swann's Store and Hotel

St. Mary's County, MD

E. Hinks

11/94

MS 446

MS 446 photo

4/6