Capsule Summary
SM-482
George E. Combs House
California vicinity
Private 1903

The George E. Combs House is significant as a virtually unaltered example of an early twentieth century St. Mary's County farmstead. Except for the addition of exterior aluminum siding, the house and its supporting outbuildings are little changed. The house continues to be the centerpiece of a working agricultural landscape.

Originally known as "Thirds with Addition," this tract was owned by the Armsworthy family between 1857 and 1900. In August of 1900, Lucy E. Combs purchased the 140 acre parcel "Third's Addition" at a tax sale. Three years later George Edward Combs and his wife Lucy funded construction of a dwelling here. The house was actually built on the site of a tobacco bed. Local carpenter Perry Cecil oversaw construction of the building.

George E. Combs was a farmer who raised tobacco, corn, and hay on this property. The oldest outbuilding on the site is the hay barn. The other fourteen structures were built over time as needed. Although tobacco is no longer planted in the fields that surround the Combs House, the barns are leased out for the use of tobacco farmers. The fields are generally planted with corn and soybeans.

SM-482, George E. Combs House
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

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

Resource Type

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

Survey No. SM-482

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Thirds Addition

and/or common George E. Combs House (pref)

2. Location

street & number Indian Bridge Road ___ not for publication

city, town Great Mills X vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X 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	___ other:

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

name John Stephen Bean & Mary Elizabeth Bean

street & number 500 Indian Bridge Road telephone no.: (301) 475-8230

city, town California state and zip code Maryland 20619

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber CBG 61

street & number folio 238

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-482

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ 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: 16

The George E. Combs House is located at the end of an unpaved, tree-lined drive on the north side of Indian Bridge Road near California in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The house is surrounded by cultivated fields. A series of fourteen outbuildings are grouped together on the north side of the house. Two barns stand northwest of the dwelling. The house faces south with the roof on an east/west axis.

Built in 1903, the Combs House is a two-story, three-bay frame structure with a center hall, single pile plan. A one-story, gable-roofed kitchen wing is attached to the north side of the main block. The house is supported by a brick pier foundation. The exterior, originally sheathed with weatherboards, is now covered with aluminum siding. The house is capped by a seamed metal roof.

The south (main) elevation of the house consists of a central, partially glazed entrance door flanked on either side by a two-over-two sash window with narrow surrounds. A shed roof porch with an asphalt shingle roof extends across the full width of this elevation. Originally supported by turned posts, the porch is now enclosed. The second floor of the house is pierced by three two-over-two sash windows.

The east elevation of the main block is blind. An exterior cinderblock chimney stands against this east wall. A one-story, gable roof kitchen wing projects to the north of the house, attached to the main block by an enclosed hyphen. The kitchen is pierced by a three-light-over-three-panel entrance door and a one-over-one sash window.

The north elevation of the main block is pierced by one two-over-two sash window on the first floor and two on the second floor. The gable end of the kitchen is pierced by a small two-light window. To the west of the chimney extends a shed roof addition dating to about 1950 when the house was equipped with indoor plumbing. Both an interior brick chimney and interior cinderblock chimney project from the roof of the kitchen wing.

The east elevation of the kitchen shed roof is pierced by one one-over-one sash window and one two-over-two sash window. The main block is blind. An interior brick chimney pierces the roof ridgeline.

The interior of the house consists of a center hall with a plain open string stair that leads to the second floor. The hall is flanked by a parlor on either side. The second floor consists of three bedrooms. Wood stoves heat the house. A hyphen, enclosed around 1911, leads from the stair hall to the kitchen wing. The kitchen

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-482

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	X 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 1903 **Builder/Architect** Perry Cecil

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 George E. Combs House is significant as a virtually unaltered example of an early twentieth century St. Mary's County farmstead. Except for the addition of exterior aluminum siding, the house and its supporting outbuildings are little changed. The house continues to be the centerpiece of a working agricultural landscape.

Originally known as "Thirds with Addition," this tract was owned by the Armsworthy family between 1857 and 1900. In August of 1900, Lucy E. Combs purchased the 140 acre parcel "Third's Addition" at a tax sale. The property remains in possession of the Combs' daughter, Mary Elizabeth Bean, today.

George Edward Combs and his wife Lucy funded construction of a dwelling here in 1903. The house was actually built on the site of a tobacco bed. Local carpenter Perry Cecil oversaw construction of the building. An early photograph of the house shows that the front porch was added at a later date. The rear kitchen wing, built separate from the house, was originally accessible by means of a plank walk. Around 1911, this walkway was enclosed. Old photographs also show that the house was originally enclosed by a white picket fence.

George E. Combs was a farmer who raised tobacco, corn, and hay on this property. The oldest outbuilding on the property is the hay barn. The other structures were built on the site over time as needed. Although tobacco is no longer planted in the fields that surround the Combs House, the barns are leased out for the use of tobacco farmers. The fields are generally planted with corn and soybeans.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-482

Mary Elizabeth Bean. Personal Interview, February 1995

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 7 acres

Quadrangle name Hollywood

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

Acreage Including house and 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 January 1995

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

consists of one large room. The shed addition that extends to the west is occupied by a bathroom and pantry.

Fifteen frame outbuildings stand on the property. Closest to the house is a meat house sheathed with board and batten siding and roofed with corrugated metal. The meathouse faces west with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis. A vertical panel door pierces the west elevation. Two shed roof chicken houses, a corn house, a cow shed, a wood shed, a tractor shed, three storage sheds, a hay barn, and a tobacco barn are located at the north edge of the house lot. Two tobacco barns stand west of the house.

SM-482, George E. Combs House
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: John Stephen Bean and Mary Elizabeth Bean
FROM: Lucy E. Combs, widow.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 61, folio 238.
DATE: January 25, 1956.
NOTES: Transfer of "Third's Addition" being the same land that formerly belonged to the late Thomas B. Armsworthy and 140 acres more or less.

TO: Lucy E. Combs
FROM: Joseph B. Armsworthy
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 5, folio 431.
DATE: October 5, 1900.
NOTES: Transfer of "Third's Addition" being the same as that sold to Lucy Combs at a tax sale made by John W. Jones on August 7, 1900.

TO: Heirs
FROM: Thomas B. Armsworthy
RECORD: St. Mary's County Testamentary Record, Liber JTMR 1, folio 200.
DATE: November 19, 1867.
NOTES: Devision of tract "Thirds Addition" being 140 acres "at this time rented to Henry Pilkerton" to his two sons, Joseph B. and Thomas P. Armsworthy.

TO: Thomas B. Armsworthy
FROM: Frances Spencer
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JTB 2, folio 406.
DATE: January 17, 1857.
NOTES: Transfer of "Thirds with Addition" being 140 acres. Price: $1000

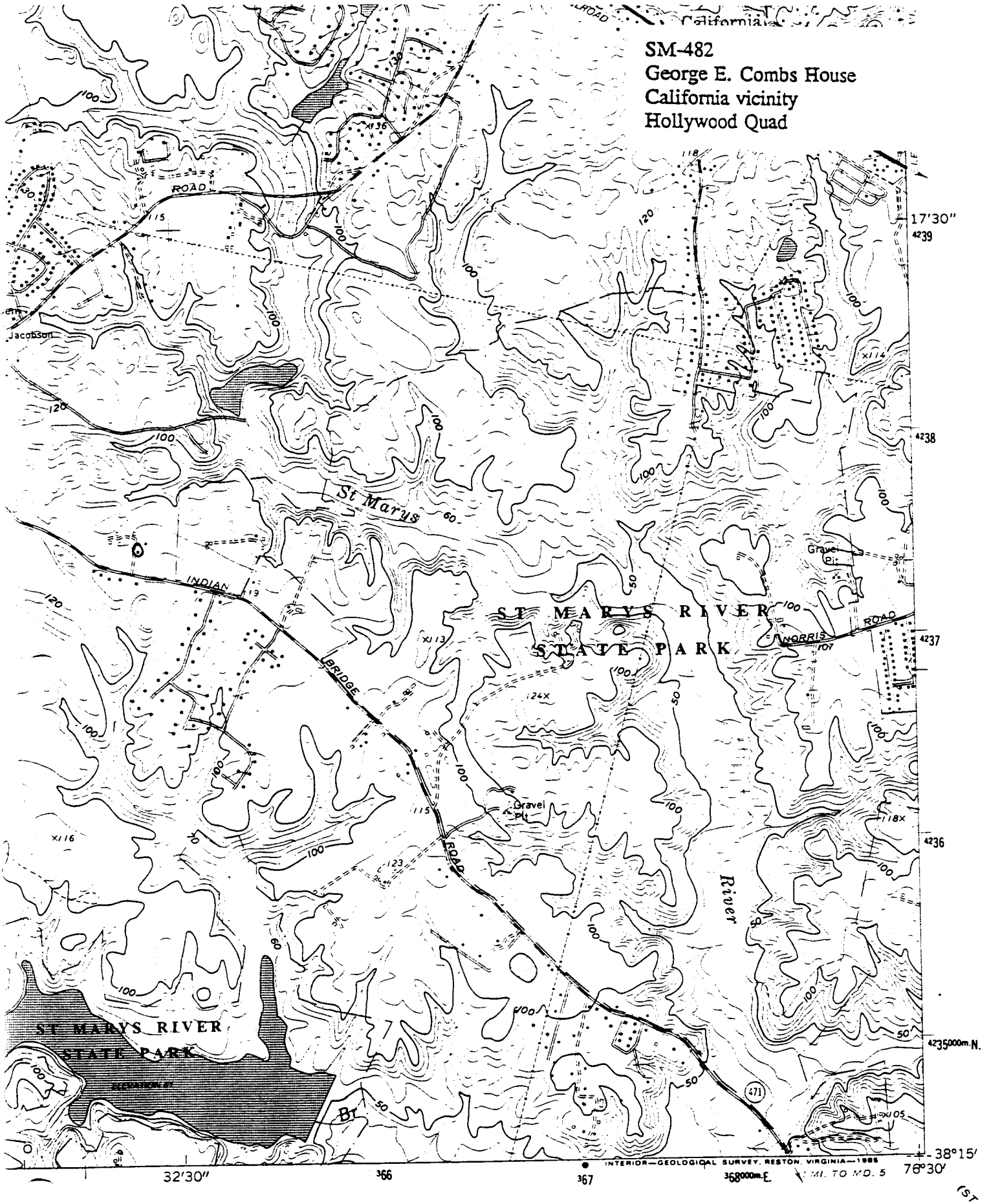
TO: Frances Spencer
FROM: George W. Floyd
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JTB 1, folio 598.
DATE: November 29, 1853.
NOTES: Transfer of "Thirds with Addition" being 150 acres consisting of two parcels, one from James Redman and one from William Wood. Price: $800

TO: George W. Floyd
FROM: William Wood and Susan Wood
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JTB 1, folio 517.
DATE: November 25, 1853.
NOTES: Transfer of 150 acres being a 1/2 undivided interest in the tract "Thirds with

Addition." Price: $200

TO: George W. Floyd
FROM: James B. Redman and Ellen E. Redman
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber WTM 2, folio 371.
DATE: February 12, 1851.
NOTES: Transfer of 150 acres being a 1/2 undivided interest in the tract "Thirds with Addition." Price: $200

SM-482
George E. Combs House
California vicinity
Hollywood Quad



1 MILE

7000 FEET

1 KILOMETER

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty — Light-duty

Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt

State Route

MARYLAND

(ST. MARYS 5760 III NW)

SM-482

George E Combs House

St Mary's County, MD

E Hughes

February 1995

MD SHPO

1/4

N Elevation

SM-482

George E Combs House

St Mary's County

E Hughes

Feb 1993

MD SHPO

2/4

NE Elevation

SM-192

George E Combs house

St Mary's County

E. Hughes

February 1995

MD SHPO

2/4

Northern

SM-482

George E Combs House

St Marys County

F Hughes

February 1995

MD SHPO

4/4

[illegible] photo: Source: Mary Elizabeth Bean