

CAPSULE SUMMARY
CT-1287
Chesapeake Beach Town Hall
8200 Bayside Road
Chesapeake Beach, Calvert County
1954
Public

The Chesapeake Beach Town Hall is situated on a level, grassy lot on the west side of Bayside Road, with paved parking lots to the north and south. Constructed in 1954 under the auspices of Mayor Samuel L. Deets, the town hall was built after the height of development in the resort town of Chesapeake Beach, which was established as a seaside resort in 1894. Chesapeake Beach Town Hall is representative of the bureaucratic municipal government building in Calvert County. Designed by Raymond E. Cranford, the building is executed in the Colonial Revival style of architecture, conventional to civic structures.

Constructed in 1954 in the Colonial Revival style of architecture, the Chesapeake Beach Town Hall is one story in height and three bays in width. Set on a six-course American-bond brick foundation, the town hall is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond. The façade is dominated by a one-story, one-bay-wide, front-gabled portico. An interior-end brick chimney with a basket-weave cap rises from the rear of the front-gabled roof. The roof, clad in asphalt shingles, also features a boxed cornice and a square cupola with louvered sides and a metal spire. A circa 1965 addition of stretcher-bond brick construction stands along the rear of the main block, projecting to the south. The interior is largely finished with wallboard or simulated wood paneling on the walls, vinyl sheeting or carpet on the floors, and acoustical tile on the ceiling. The main block retains the courtroom with raised dais and two jail cells to the rear.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-1287

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Chesapeake Beach Town Hall

other

2. Location

street and number 8200 Bayside Road not for publication

city, town Chesapeake Beach vicinity

county Calvert

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

name Town of Chesapeake Beach

street and number PO Box 400 telephone 410/257-2230

city, town Chesapeake Bch state MD zip code 20732-0400

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse tax map and parcel: M101, P 12-14

city, town Prince Frederic liber AWR folio 872

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>1</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense		
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic		
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education		
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
			<u>0</u>	

7. Description

Inventory No. CT-1287

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

The Chesapeake Beach Town Hall is located at 8200 Bayside Road (Maryland Route 261) in the town of Chesapeake Beach in Calvert County. It is set on a level, grassy lot with paved parking to both the north and south. Constructed in 1954 in the Colonial Revival style of architecture, the Chesapeake Beach Town Hall is one story in height and three bays in width. Set on a six-course American-bond brick foundation, the town hall is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond. The façade is dominated by a one-story, one-bay-wide, front-gabled portico. An interior-end brick chimney with a basket-weave cap rises from the rear of the front-gabled roof. The roof, clad in asphalt shingles, also features a boxed cornice and a square cupola with louvered sides and a metal spire. A circa 1965 addition of stretcher-bond brick construction stands along the rear of the main block, projecting to the south. The interior is largely finished with wallboard or simulated wood paneling on the walls, vinyl sheeting or carpet on the floors, and acoustical tile on the ceiling. The main block retains the courtroom with raised dais and two jail cells to the rear.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The east elevation or façade of the town hall features a dominating front-gabled portico with fluted Doric metal columns and Tuscan pilasters. The enclosed pediment of the portico features the words "TOWN HALL" on the entablature. Set beneath the portico is the main entry, which consists of double-leaf, eight-panel doors with a rowlock brick sill and a soldier-course brick lintel. The entry is flanked by 8/8 vinyl replacement windows. Like the entry, the windows feature rowlock sills and soldier-course lintels. A plaque is set to the south of the entry and states that the Chesapeake Beach Town Hall was erected during the administration of Samuel L. Deets, Mayor. Additionally, the plaque states that the town hall was designed by Raymond E. Cranford in 1954. The circa 1965 rear addition projects to the south of the main block of the town hall. The east elevation of this addition is pierced by two 1/1-vinyl replacement windows with rowlock sill and a single-leaf, one-light wood door. A concrete ramp for the physically disabled leads to this entrance.

The north elevation of the town hall consists of both the main block and the rear addition. The main block is accessed via a single-leaf, eight-panel door with a rowlock brick sill and a soldier-course brick lintel, much like the entrance on the façade. Likewise, the entry is sheltered by a front-gabled portico with Tuscan columns and a flush entablature. This portico is more modest in scale than the portico on the façade. Three 8/8-vinyl replacement windows, also with rowlock sills and soldier-course lintels, pierce this elevation. Additionally, there are two small 1/1 vinyl replacement windows with metal security bars, rowlock sills, and soldier-course lintels. The addition is pierced by two 1/1-vinyl windows with rowlock sills and two single-leaf, nine-light doors.

The rear or west elevation of the main block is entirely obscured by the circa 1965 addition. This elevation features a single-leaf flush metal door and four 1/1-vinyl windows with rowlock sills. The wide eaves of the roof create a shallow overhang along the length of the wall.

The south elevation, like the north, consists of both the main block and the addition. The main block is pierced by four 8/8-vinyl replacement windows, also with rowlock sills and soldier-course lintels. Likewise, there are two small windows with metal security bars, rowlock sills, and soldier-course lintels. The metal-frame windows have been boarded shut with plywood. The addition features two 1/1-vinyl windows with rowlock sills and a single-leaf metal flush door.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the town hall has been altered, but the original plan remains intact, with the courtroom, antechamber, and jail cells. The town hall is entered through the front portico, which leads directly into the courtroom. The floors of the courtroom are covered with rolled vinyl sheeting and the walls are clad in replacement simulated wood paneling. A new ceiling has been installed, featuring drop-in acoustic tile panels and fluorescent lighting. With the installation of the paneling, the baseboard, window and door casements were replaced with two-inch-wide simulated wood surrounds. Remaining intact is the dais for the

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courtroom, which sits at the west end of the room. Raised one step above the main level of the floor, the dais is covered with wall-to-wall carpeting and is surrounded by a balustrade with plain round balusters. The turned support posts of the balustrade are further detailed by ball finials. A canted partition wall, standing at the southwest corner of the dais, forms an antechamber for the court. It is accessed via a single-leaf, six-panel wood door. The antechamber features a poured concrete floor, concrete block walls, and a wallboard-clad ceiling framed by ogee-molded crown molding.

To the rear of the courtroom is a series of small rooms, including a hall, vestibule, storage room, a bathroom, and two jail cells. The hall, vestibule, storage room, and bathroom are detailed in the same manner, with rolled vinyl flooring and concrete-block walls. The rooms are accessed by single-leaf, five-panel doors with brass knobs, set within three-and-a-half-inch-wide molded wood surrounds. Surrounding the two jail cells on the south wall of the hall is painted brick laid in stretcher bond. In the southwest corner of the original portion of the town hall are two jail cells, which are identical in size and detailing, with poured concrete floors and ceilings. The interior of the jail cells feature stretcher-bond brick that has been painted. The small window openings have no surrounds, and are reinforced on the exterior by metal security bars. Likewise, there are metal security bar doors with metal frames and large metal locks. The jail cells are no longer in use as such and are currently used as storage for office supplies.

To the rear of the main block is the circa 1965 addition, which contains five offices, a reception area, a conference room, and two bathrooms. Furnished in the same manner throughout, the addition features wall-to-wall carpeting and a drop ceiling with acoustic tile panels and fluorescent lighting. The walls are clad in painted wallboard and simulated wood paneling. Further detailing the addition are one-inch-wide wood window casements, two-and-one-quarter-inch-wide flush wood door surrounds, and five-and-a-half-inch-high square-edged baseboards. The offices are accessed through single-leaf flush doors. Situated between the northwestern-most offices is an interior sliding metal window, also with a narrow wood surround.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates	1954	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1954; c1965		

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Chesapeake Beach Town Hall is situated on a level, grassy lot on the west side of Bayside Road, with paved parking lots to the north and south. Constructed in 1954 under the auspices of Mayor Samuel L. Deets, the town hall was built after the height of development in the resort town of Chesapeake Beach, which was established as a seaside resort in 1894. Chesapeake Beach Town Hall is representative of the bureaucratic municipal government building in Calvert County. Designed by Raymond E. Cranford, the building is executed in the Colonial Revival style of architecture, conventional to civic structures.

HISTORY OF THE CHESAPEAKE BEACH

The Chesapeake Beach Town Hall is located at the north end of Chesapeake Beach, which was incorporated in 1894. Prior to this time, the area was largely undeveloped. The 3,000-acre parcel of land was platted in 1899 by the Chesapeake Beach Railway Company, financed by Otto Mears and David Moffat, who sought to create a wealthy seaside resort town on the Chesapeake Bay. The town was linked by rail to Washington, D.C. and by water to the ports visited by steamboats, particularly Baltimore. The company constructed a boardwalk and amusement park, which opened in 1900. (1) The town of Chesapeake Beach was thriving by the second decade of the 20th century and, by 1916, the town had begun to attract a large number of visitors, primarily middle-class individuals from the Calvert County area rather than the intended wealthy from the nearby metropolitan areas. Among the various activities available to tourists to Chesapeake Beach was gambling, as indicated by the Calvert Journal which printed in 1916 that "there was no attempt whatever to temper the degree of gambling on the Boardwalk...All the games were patronized freely, and Dame Fortune seemed to smile on none except those running the games." (2)

During the 1920s, the town of Chesapeake Beach entered an economic decline, spurred by the increased ease of visitation to the Atlantic coastline. In 1930, the creation of Seaside Park resulted in the removal of part of the boardwalk and, in 1933, a hurricane destroyed the remaining portion. Additionally, lack of visitors and the effects of the Depression forced the Chesapeake Beach Railway Company into bankruptcy in 1935, after which the railroad tracks were pulled up. These factors dramatically impacted the resort community and with the commencement of American participation in World War II in 1941, steamboats no longer called at Chesapeake Beach, ending much of its fame as a resort community. Despite its decline in popularity as a resort community on a statewide level, Calvert County families continued to vacation there during the second quarter of the 20th century, and the year-round residents remained maintaining the demand for the surrounding businesses and civic institutions that continued to serve the populace.

HISTORY OF CHESAPEAKE BEACH TOWN HALL

The municipal counterpart to the county courthouse during the mid-20th century and into the present day is the town hall. Historically in Calvert County, an independent freestanding town hall building was found only in the larger towns, such as Prince

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Frederick and Chesapeake Beach, while smaller villages such as Owings and Appeal conducted town business in church buildings, fraternal lodges, businesses or private homes. Chesapeake Beach is one of two incorporated towns in Calvert County, the other being North Beach. Even in large towns like Prince Frederick, the town hall as it is thought of today did not appear until the 20th century with the growth of the bureaucratic government system. Until that time the county was the primary government presence. Late-19th and early-20th-century town halls were less like an official government building and more like general function community halls, where public meeting and events were held. An excellent example of the early town hall was the old Prince Frederick Town Hall, now demolished but recorded in a series of postcard images from 1917. (3)

The town hall at Chesapeake Beach, however, like that of North Beach, is representative of the modern bureaucratic town hall which housed the mayoral and associated administrative offices, and frequently the sheriff's office and jail cells. Such official municipal town halls, owned by the town government rather than private individuals, are technically "public" but function less like the general community halls of the late 19th century, although these functions do still occur in the modern town hall building. This is the case with the Chesapeake Beach Town Hall in Chesapeake Beach, Calvert County.

On April 15, 1953, the Town of Chesapeake Beach, a municipal corporation of Calvert County, purchased three lots of land for \$2,500 from the Chesapeake Company, Incorporated. According to historic deeds, the parcel of land consisted of Lots 12, 13, and 14 of Block F of the Middle Subdivision of the Town of Chesapeake Beach. A number of restrictive covenants were placed in this deed, preventing the owner from operating a place of amusement, a gambling establishment, or a manufacturing establishment on the premises. Further, spirituous or malt liquors could not be made, sold, or kept for sale on the property. Additionally, the deed stated that wells could not be built, a house no less than \$2,500 could be erected and that no person of African-American descent could own the property. (4)

The Town of Chesapeake Beach, under Mayor Samuel L. Deets, hired local architect Raymond E. Cranford (1913-1987) to design the town hall. Constructed in 1954, the Chesapeake Beach Town Hall was designed in the Colonial Revival style of architecture, which emerged in the United States following the nation's Centennial celebrations in 1876, and rose to its height in popularity during the early 20th century. The style, which borrowed heavily from early American architecture, was largely an outgrowth of a nationwide pride in the past and a rapidly growing interest in historic preservation. One of the most popular architectural styles of the 20th century, the Colonial Revival style was applied to public buildings, as well as to academic buildings, dwellings and commercial establishments such as suburban shopping malls.

The Chesapeake Beach Town Hall was originally designed to serve as a courthouse, with two jail cells to the rear. These services were subsequently transferred to the Calvert County Courthouse in Prince Frederick. Circa 1965, the building was enlarged to provide office space for town employees. In 1981, the town acquired an additional 1,500 square feet of land, running along the rear of the addition.

CHAIN OF TITLE

April 15, 1953: Chesapeake Company, Inc. to Town of Chesapeake Beach
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber AWR 40, Folio 364

February 2, 1981: Lynwood T. Kellam to Town of Chesapeake Beach
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber ABE 270, Folio 872

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Name Chesapeake Beach Town Hall

Continuation Sheet

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ENDNOTES

1. Anne M. Sundermann, Harbours, Creeks & Places: The Steamboat Wharves & Landings of Calvert County, Maryland, (Prince Frederick, MD: Calvert County Historic District Commission, 2001), p. 20.
2. "Sunday in Chesapeake Beach," Calvert Journal, July 8, 1916.
3. Chesapeake County Life, July 1981, p. 17. A copy of this now defunct publication is currently in the collection of the Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, MD.
4. Land Records of Calvert County, Liber AWR 40, Folio 364, Calvert County Courthouse, Prince Frederick, MD.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-1287

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.26 acresAcreage of historical setting 0.09 acresQuadrangle name North BeachQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Chesapeake Beach Town Hall has been associated with Lots 12, 13, and 14, as denoted on Tax Map 101, Block f in the Middle Subdivision of Chesapeake Beach since its construction in 1854.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title R. Weidlich and C. Albee, Architectural Historiansorganization E.H.T. Traceries, Inc.date 8/26/02street and number 1121 Fifth Street, N.W.telephone 202/393-1199city or town Washingtonstate DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

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Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-1287

Name Chesapeake Beach Town Hall

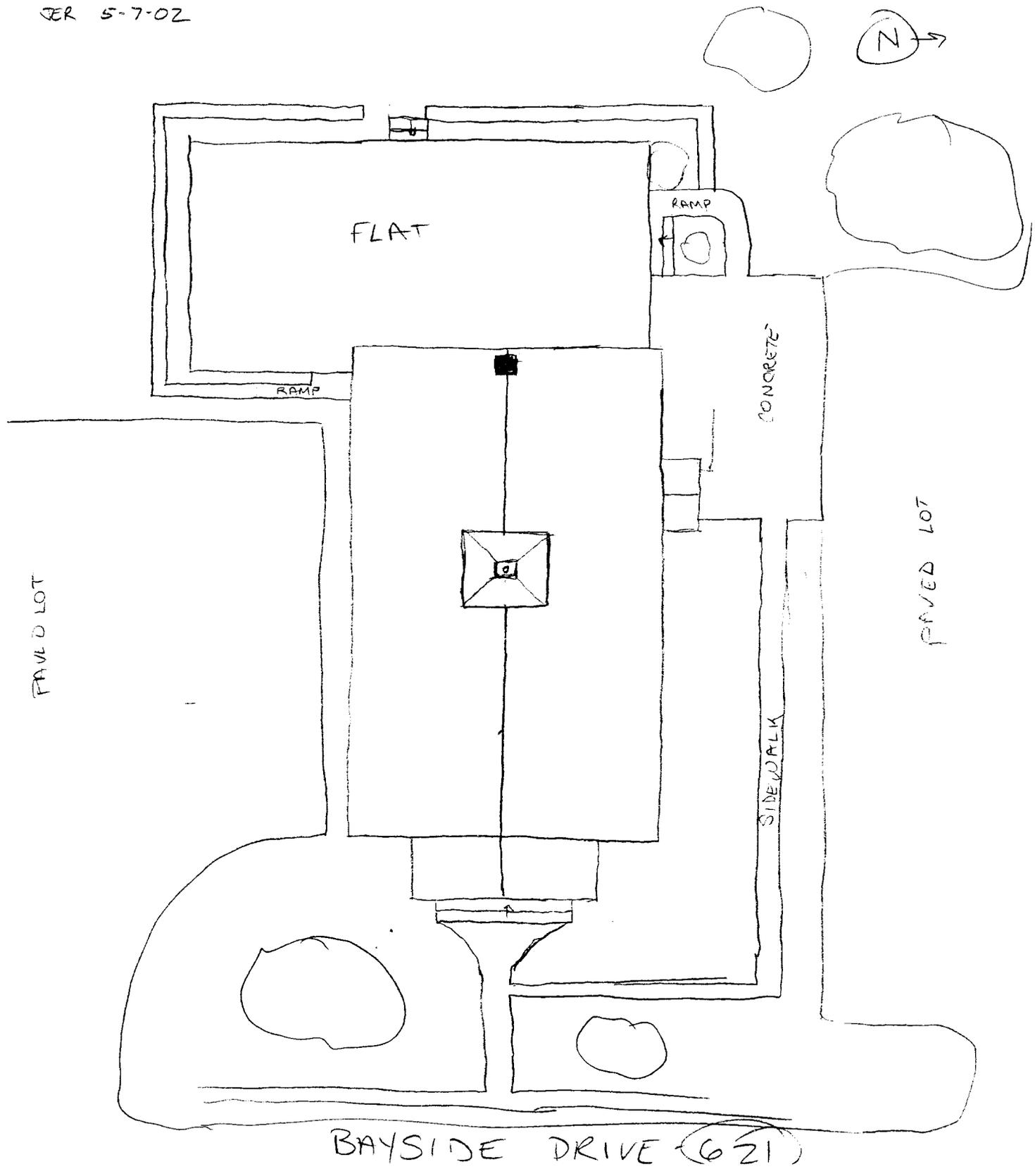
Continuation Sheet

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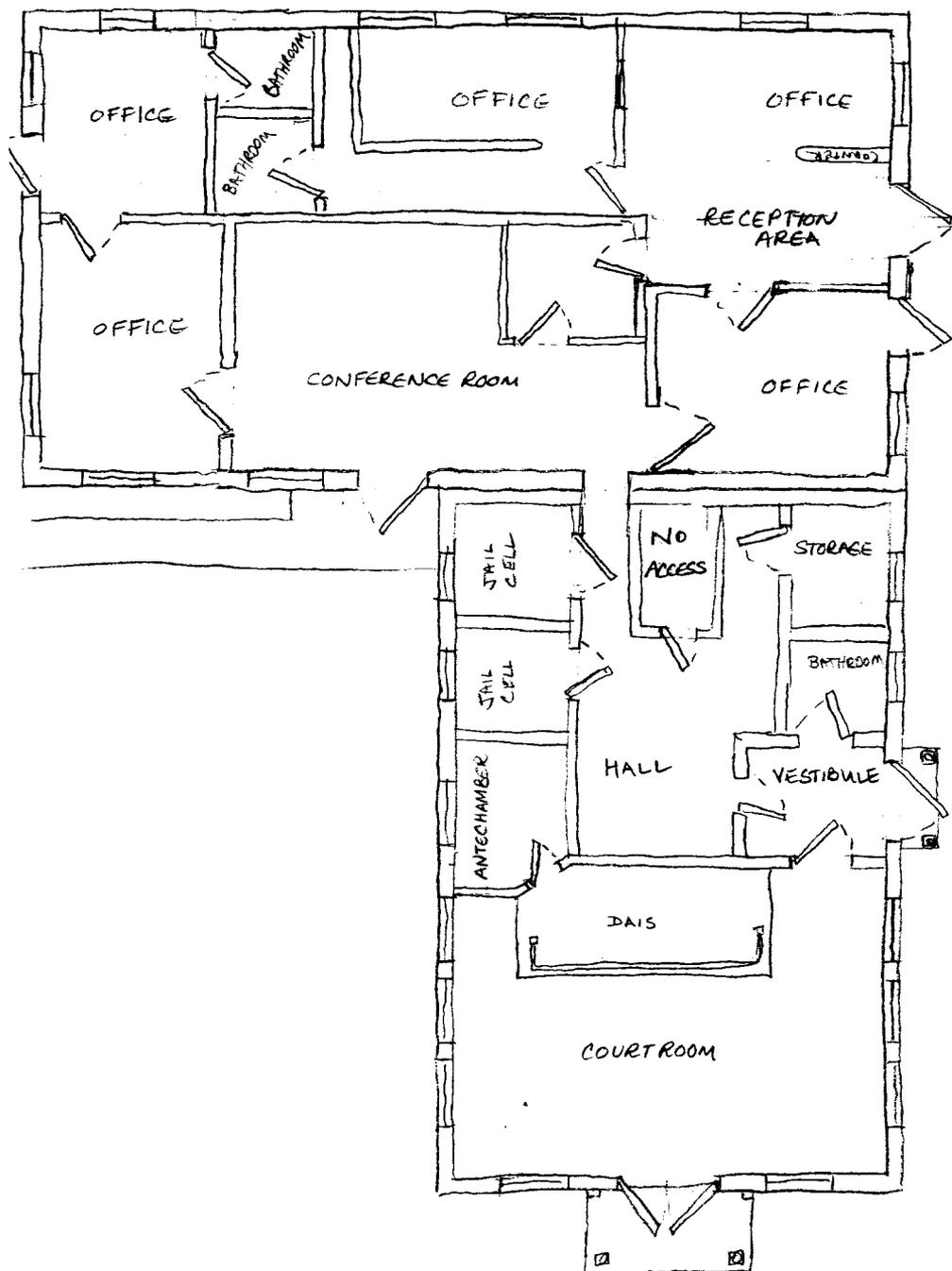
Sundermann, Anne M., Harbours, Creekes and Places: The Steamboat Wharves and Landings of Calvert County, Maryland
2001.

CT-1287

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
CHESAPEAKE BEACH TOWN HALL CT-1287
8200 BAYSIDE DRIVE
CHESAPEAKE BEACH
CALVERT COUNTY, MD
JER 5-7-02



CT-1287



CT-1287
FIRST FLOOR PLAN OF
CHESAPEAKE BEACH TOWN HALL
8200 BAYSIDE ROAD
CHESAPEAKE BEACH
CALVERT CO., MD

5-7-02
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

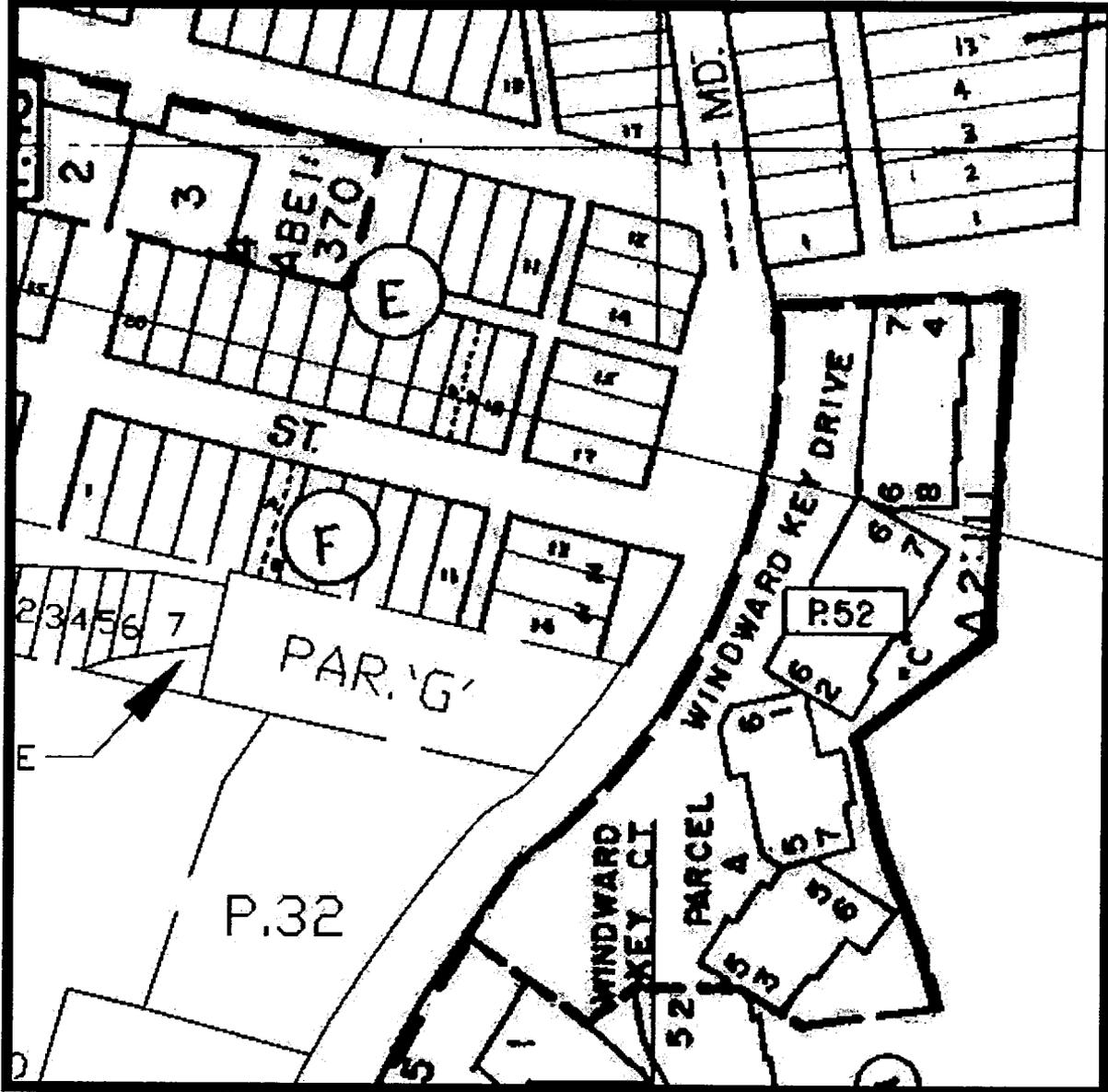
UT-1287



Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
CALVERT COUNTY
Real Property Data Search

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District - 03 Account Number - 057496



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For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning
web site at www.mdp.state.md.us

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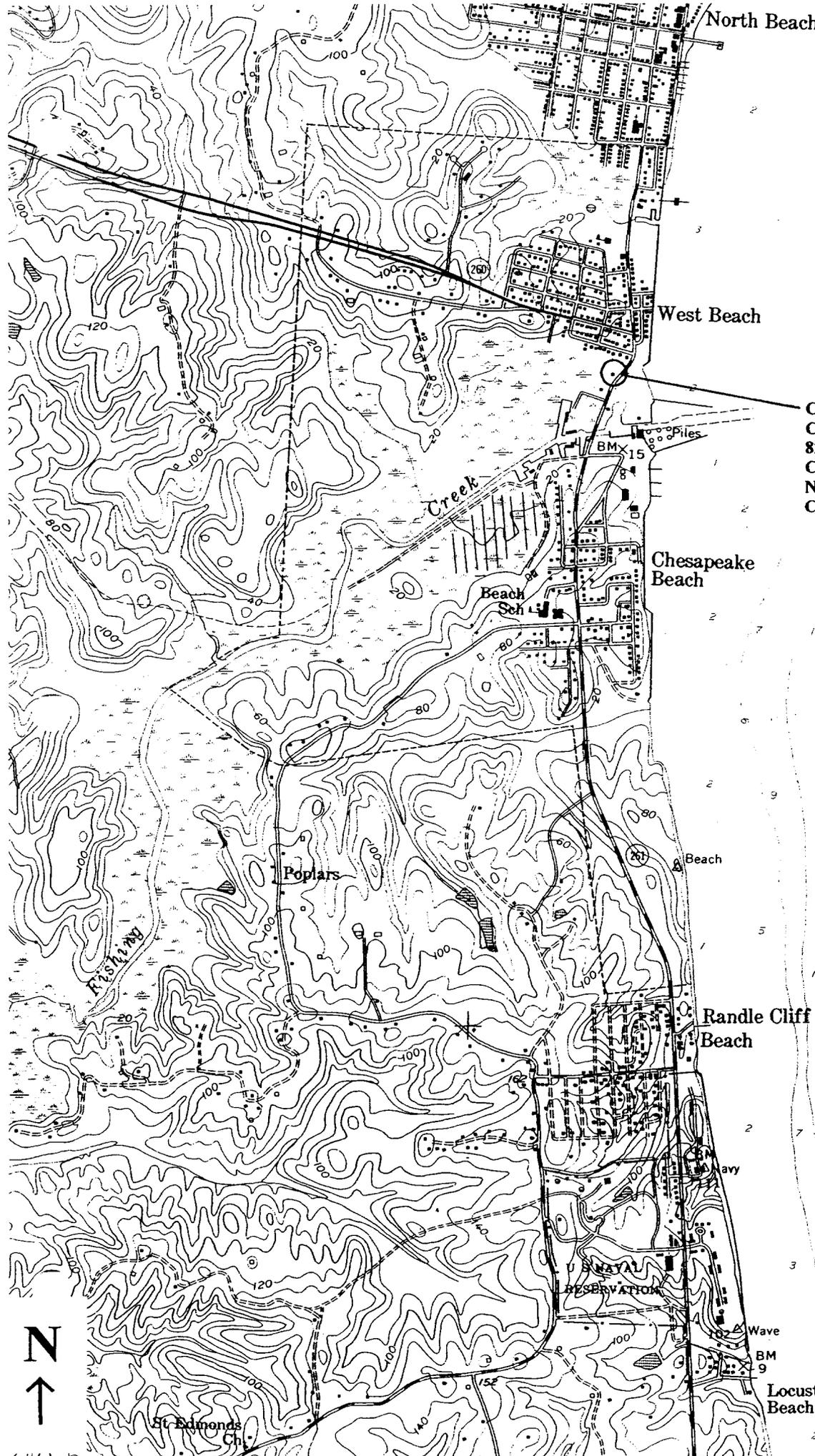
5
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24

27

13
23

26

B
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Y



North Beach

West Beach

CT-1287
Chesapeake Town Hall
8200 Bayside Drive
Chesapeake Beach
North Beach USGS Quad Map
Calvert County

Chesapeake Beach

Randle Cliff Beach

Locust Grove Beach



St. Edmonds Ch.



CT-1287

CHESAPEAKE BEACH TOWN HALL

8200 BAYSIDE ROAD

CALVERT COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES

MAY 2002

MARYLAND SHPO

EAST ELEVATION, LOOKING WEST

1 OF 6



CT-1287

CHESAPEAKE BEACH TOWN HALL

8200 BAYSIDE ROAD

CALVERT COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES

MAY 2002

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTH

2 OF 6



CT-1287

CHESAPEAKE BEACH TOWN HALL

8200 BAYSIDE ROAD

CALVERT COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES

MAY 2002

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTHWEST CORNER, LOOKING NORTHEAST

3 OF 6



CT-1287

CHESAPEAKE BEACH TOWN HALL

8200 BAYSIDE ROAD

CALVERT COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES

MAY 2002

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTH

4 OF 6



CT-1287

CHESAPEAKE BEACH TOWN HALL

8200 BAYSIDE ROAD

CALVERT COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES

MAY 2002

MARYLAND SHPO

COURTROOM, LOOKING WEST

5 OF 6



CT-1287

CHESAPEAKE BEACH TOWN HALL

8200 BAYSIDE ROAD

CALVERT COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES

MAY 2002

MARYLAND SHPO

HALL AND JAIL CELLS, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

6 OF 6