CAPSULE SUMMARY
CT-1290
American Legion Hall, Gray-Ray Post No. 220
2105 Sixes Road
Prince Frederick, Calvert County
Ca. 1955
Private

The American Legion Hall, Gray-Ray Post No. 220 is located on Sixes Road in Prince Frederick in Calvert County, Maryland. The Gray-Ray Post No. 220, a traditionally African-American chapter of the American Legion, constructed the building following the purchase of the property in 1955. The African-American community in Calvert County was historically excluded from local organizations and fraternities with a white membership, often inspiring them to form their own chapters, as was the case with the Gray-Ray Post No. 220. The hall continues to be used by this organization, as well as by the local community for social events. The American Legion Hall, Gray-Ray Post No. 220 is characteristic of the mid-20th-century organizational hall in Calvert County.

The American Legion Hall, Gray-Ray Post No. 220 is a one-story, concrete-block building with a raised basement. The gable ends are clad in aluminum siding, and the gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. Windows are 8/8 with a projecting rowlock sill, and doors are metal. The front elevation is five bays in width with a central projecting gable-roof vestibule. The raised basement is accessed by an inset door on the west elevation. In a linear arrangement behind the hall are four late-20th-century ancillary structures including a wood-frame concession stand, a vinyl-clad shed, a particleboard shed, and a barbecue shelter.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-1290

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	American Legion Hall, Gray-Ray Post No. 220
other	

2. Location

street and number	2105 Sixes Road	___	not for publication
city, town	Prince Frederick	___	vicinity
county	Calvert		

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

name	Gray-Ray Post 220, Inc., American Legion Home				
street and number	2105 Sixes Road			telephone	410/535-1477
city, town	Prince Frederic	state	MD	zip code	20678

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Calvert County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	M27, P133		
city, town	Prince Frederic	liber	JLB	folio	218

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

___ district
X building(s)
___ structure
___ site
___ object

Ownership

___ public
X private
___ both

Current Function

___ agriculture
___ commerce/trade
___ defense
___ domestic
___ education
___ funerary
___ government
___ health care
___ industry
___ landscape
X recreation/culture
___ religion
___ social
___ transportation
___ work in progress
___ unknown
___ vacant/not in use
___ other: _____

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	3	buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
1	4	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

0

7. Description

Inventory No. CT-1290

Condition

___	excellent	___	deteriorated
X	good	___	ruins
___	fair	___	altered

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

The American Legion Hall, Gray-Ray Post No. 220, built circa 1955, is located at 2105 Sixes Road, between Prince Frederick and Port Republic. It is a one-story, concrete-block building with a raised basement. The gable ends are clad in aluminum siding, and the gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. Windows are 8/8 with a projecting rowlock sill, and doors are metal. The front elevation is five bays in width with a central projecting gable-roof vestibule. The raised basement is accessed by an inset door on the west elevation. In a linear arrangement behind the hall are four late-20th-century ancillary structures including a wood-frame concession stand, a vinyl-clad shed, a particle-board shed, and a barbecue shelter.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The street-front, or south, elevation of the hall is five bays in width, with a projecting vestibule occupying the central bay. This vestibule has a gable roof and heavy metal double doors approached by a concrete stair. The pediment of the vestibule is clad in aluminum siding. Flanking the vestibule are two windows, arranged symmetrically.

The east elevation measures three regularly spaced bays, with a single window per bay. The rear, or north, elevation features fenestration at both the first story and the basement. This elevation is five bays in width, with full-sized 8/8 windows on the first story and short, single-sash windows below. The easternmost bay of this elevation is occupied by a door that leads out to a rear shed and handicapped ramp. The west elevation features no fenestration, and a recessed door at the basement, accessed by a concrete stair that goes below grade.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the American Legion Hall, Gray-Ray Post No. 220 was not accessible at the time of the survey.

NON-HISTORIC STRUCTURES

In a linear arrangement behind the hall are four late-20th-century ancillary structures. The westernmost structure is a partially screened-in, wood-frame, vinyl-clad concession stand. East of the concession stand is a vinyl-clad shed, and east of that is a particleboard shed that lacks windows. This shed is connected to the hall by a concrete platform that runs to the back door of the hall. The easternmost structure is a barbeque shelter, consisting of a brick pit with a wood-frame shelter over it.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CT-1290

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

Specific dates c1955 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates c1955

Evaluation for:

____ National Register ____ Maryland Register X 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 American Legion Hall, Gray-Ray Post No. 220 is located on Sixes Road in Prince Frederick in Calvert County, Maryland. The Gray-Ray Post No. 220, a traditionally African-American chapter of the American Legion, constructed the building following the purchase of the property in 1955. The African-American community in Calvert County was historically excluded from local organizations and fraternities with a white membership, often inspiring them to form their own chapters, as was the case with the Gray-Ray Post No. 220. The hall continues to be used by this organization, as well as by the local community for social events. The American Legion Hall, Gray-Ray Post No. 220 is characteristic of the mid-20th-century organizational hall in Calvert County.

THE COMMUNITY HALL IN CALVERT COUNTY

Historically, one of the most significant public meeting places in Calvert County was the community hall, extant examples of which date primarily to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Community halls, located in villages and small towns rather than in heavily rural locations, were built for the expressed purpose of serving as public meeting locations for the surrounding community and in many ways were substitutes for the town halls of larger, more populated towns such as North Beach and Prince Frederick. As seen in the case of a number of organizational and fraternal halls throughout Calvert County, including Owings Hall (CT-1289) in Owings and the American Legion Hall, Calvert Post No. 85 (CT-757) in Huntingtown, these building types often functioned as community halls for local residents when a true community hall or town hall did not exist.

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION HALL, GRAY-RAY POST NO. 220

In many cases, the African-American residents of the community were prohibited from using these halls either covertly through personal antagonism or overtly by deeds which specified that the property was not to be owned or occupied by "negroes." In cases such as these, organizations, like the American Legion, which did not prohibit African-Americans from becoming members, would in effect be closed to the African-American community. This was the case with the American Legion Hall in Huntingtown. When the Calvert Post No. 85 purchased the Huntingtown Hall from the United Methodist Church in 1957, the deed specifically set out that the property was never to be sold to or occupied by "any person of the Negro Race." (1) Accordingly, African Americans formed their own chapters, posts and lodges and held their meetings in locations where they were free to come and go. Naturally other members of the African-American community would be free to use their halls for meetings and social events. The American Legion Hall, Gray-Ray Post No. 220, built in 1955 is illustrative of this reaction.

The American Legion was chartered in 1919 by an act of Congress as a patriotic, mutual-help, wartime veterans' organization. (2) The organization proclaims as its mission the defense of the United State Constitution, the promotion of law, order and "Americanism," and the remembrance of the events and associations of the major wars, and has traditionally been a strong supporter of the Boy Scouts of America and other charitable organizations for children. (3) During the 1950s, nationwide

membership in the American Legion had reached an all time high of over three million U.S. Armed Services veterans of both World Wars and the Korean War, a large percentage of which were from rural and small town areas such as Calvert County. (4) Calvert County hosted a number of posts including those in Chesapeake Beach, Huntingtown and Prince Frederick. As with many other organizations of this type, the American Legion had a counterpart women's group called the American Legion Auxiliary, which held their own meetings and participated in their own events and charities. American Legion halls during the 20th century have served not only as the meeting place for the posts and their auxiliary, but also as spaces for larger community or private events, as aspect which posts have developed as a way to make money to keep the post home in good repair.

CHAIN OF TITLE

January 1, 1955:, Overton Hawkins and Mary K. Hawkins, wife to Gray-Ray Post 220, American Legion
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber JLB 1, Folio 218

ENDNOTES

1. Land Records of Calvert County, Liber JLB 11, Folio 455, Calvert County Courthouse, Prince Frederick, MD.
2. "American Legion," on the World Wide Web at www.legion.org.
3. "American Legion."
4. "American Legion."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-1290

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	3.50 Acres		
Acreage of historical setting	3.50 Acres		
Quadrangle name	Prince Frederick	Quadrangle scale	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The American Legion Hall, Gray-Ray Post No. 220 has been associated with parcel 133, as noted on Tax Map 27, since its construction circa 1955.

11. Form Prepared By

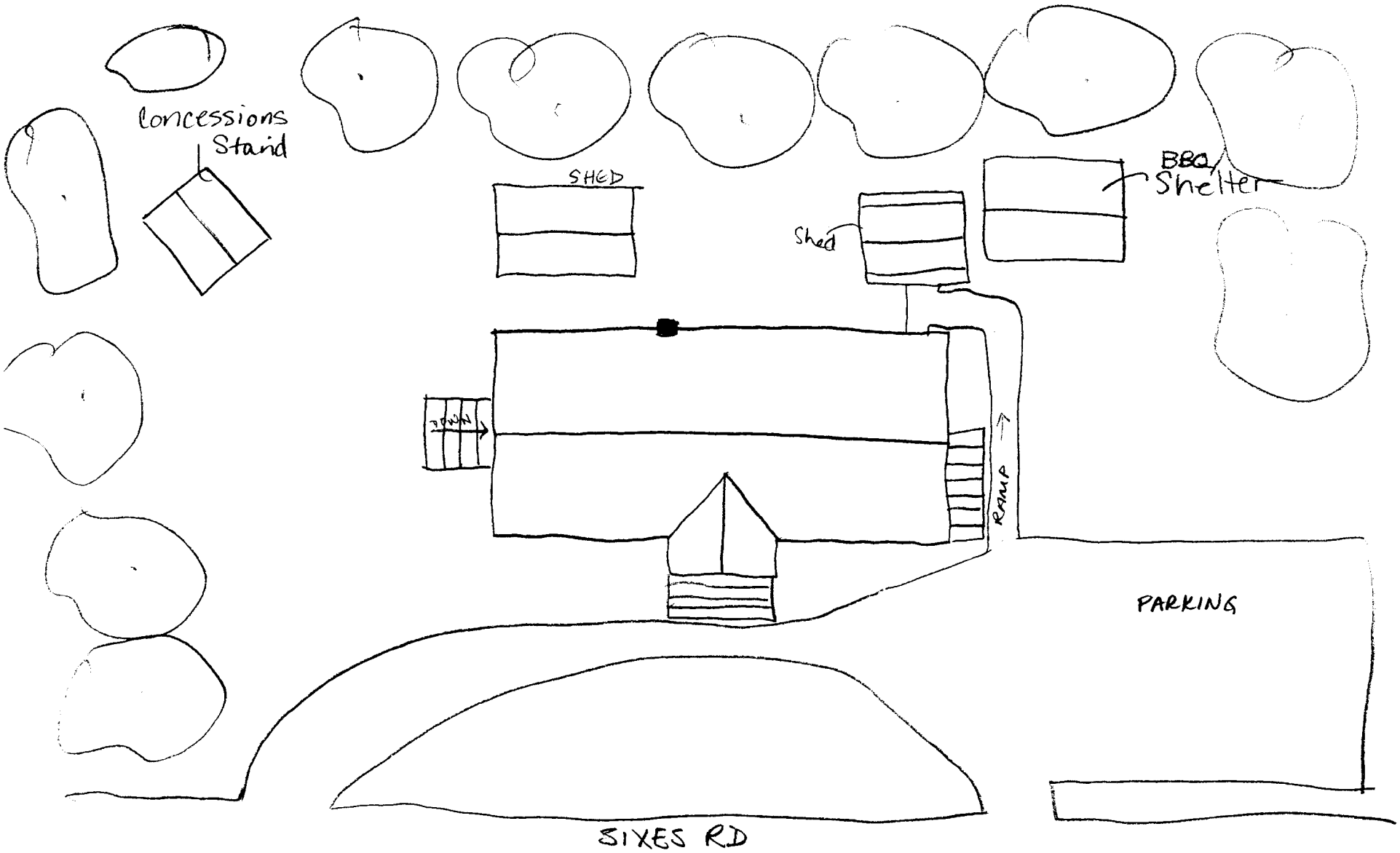
name/title	R. Weidlich and C. Albee, Architectural Historians		
organization	E.H.T. Traceries, Inc.	dat	8/26/02
street and number	1121 Fifth Street, N.W.	telephone	202/393-1199
city or town	Washington	stat DC	zip code 20001

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

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
CT-1290
AMERICAN LEGION HALL, GRAY-RAY POST NO. 220
2105 SIXES ROAD
PRINCE FREDERICK, CALVERT COUNTY, MD



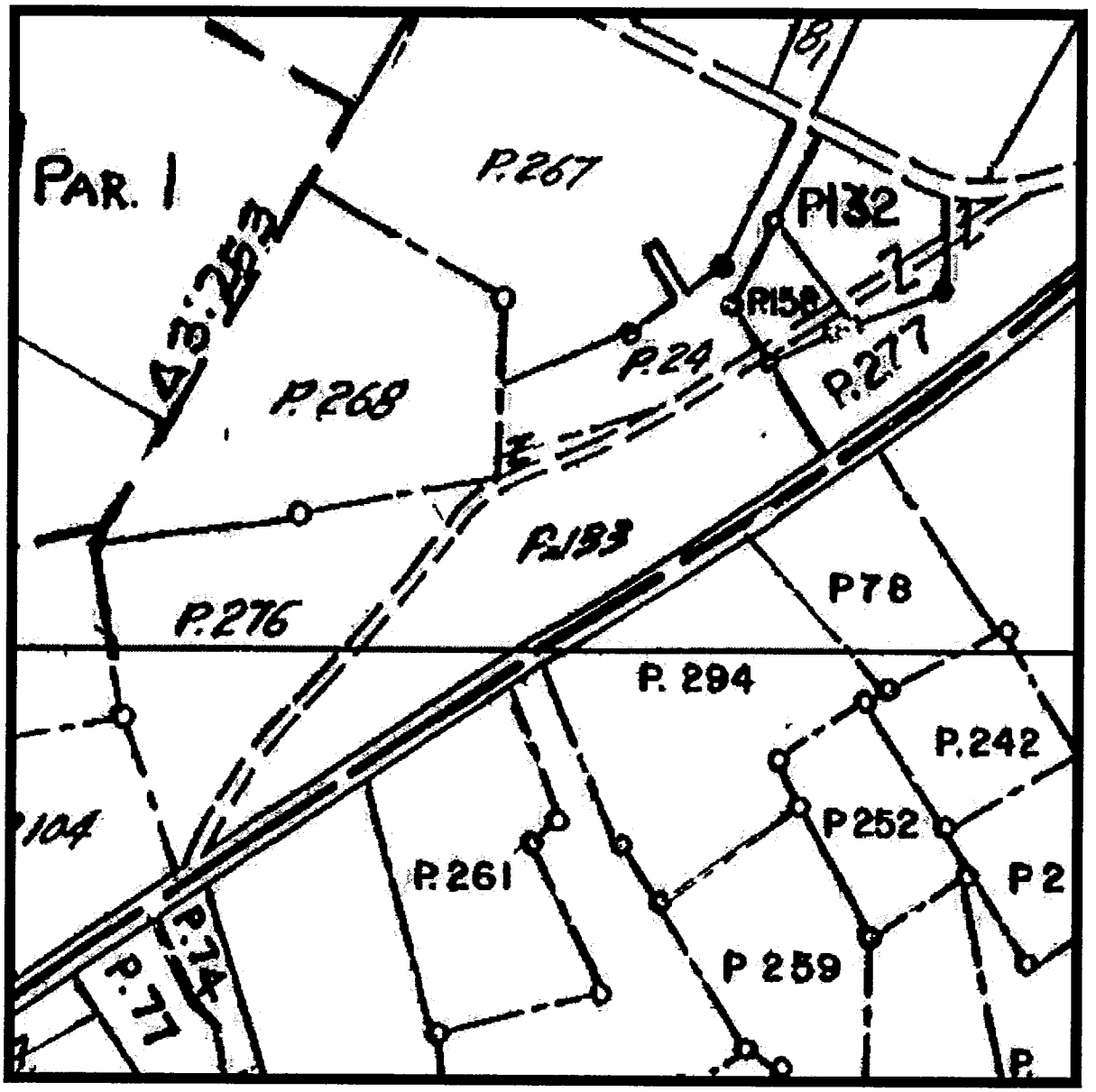
CT-1290

CT-1290

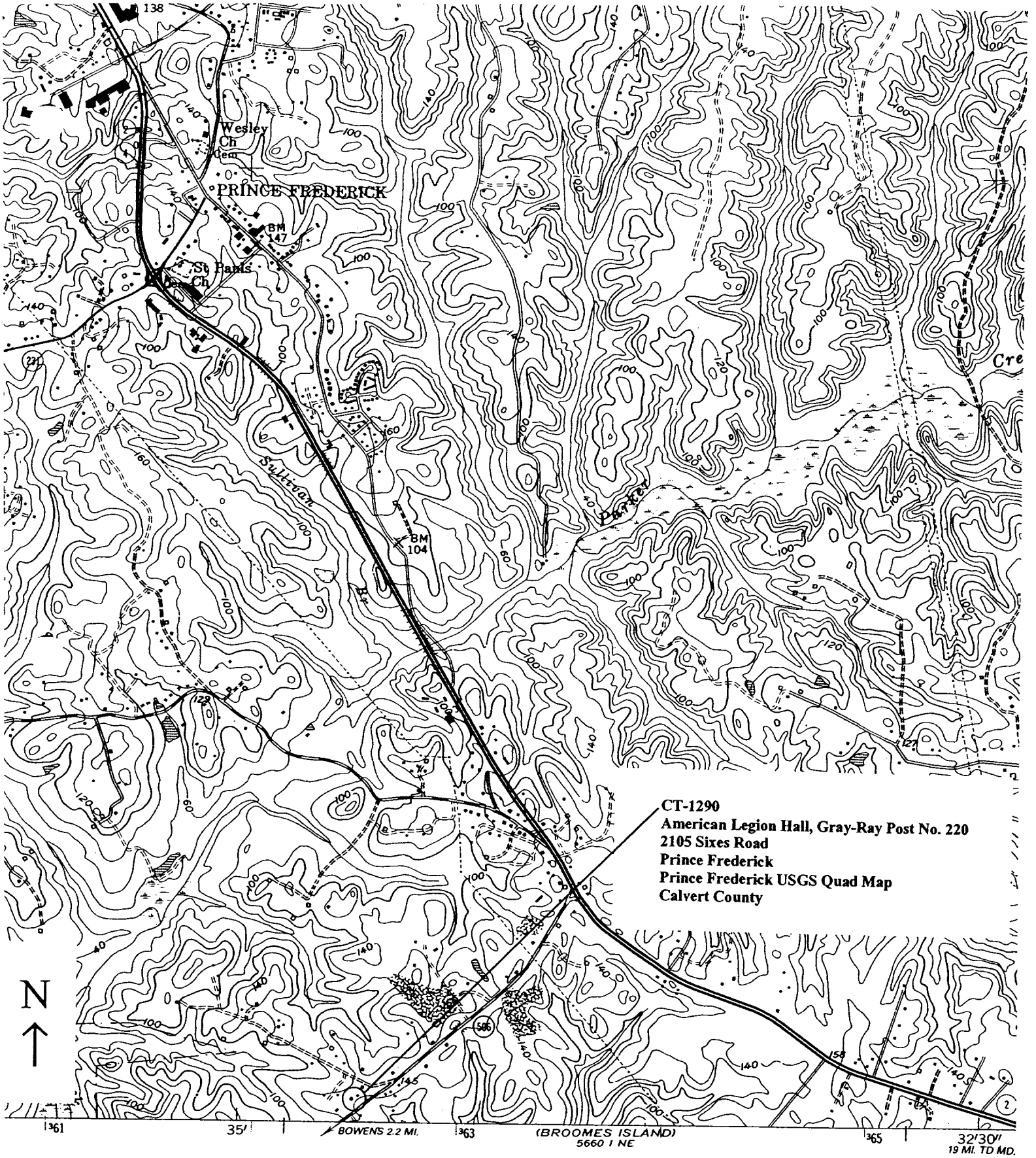
Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
CALVERT COUNTY
Real Property Data Search

Go Back
View Map
New Search

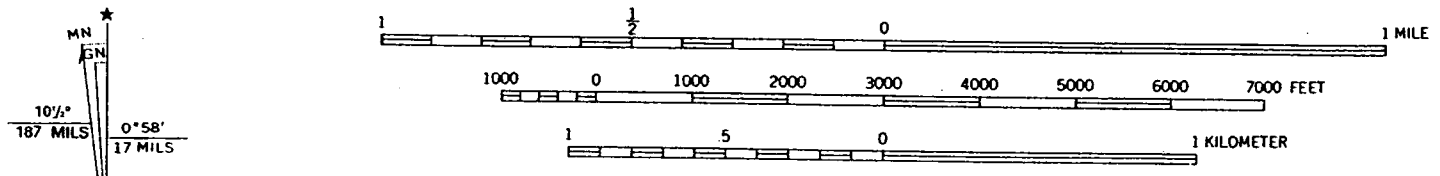
District - 02 **Account Number** - 036169



Property maps provided courtesy of the Maryland Department of Planning©2001.
For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning web site at www.mdp.state.md.us



SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

GRID AND 1993 MAGNETIC NORTH
CLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

CT-1290
American Legion Hall, Gray-Ray Post No. 220
2105 Sixes Road
Calvert County, MD
EHT Traceries
May 2002
Maryland SHPO
SE Elevation, Looking NW

1 OF 3

CT-1290
American Legion Hall, Gray-Ray Post No. 220
2105 Sixes Road
Calvert County, MD
EHT Traceries
May 2002
Maryland SHPO
NE Elevation, Looking SW

2 OF 3

CT-1290
American Legion Hall, Gray-Ray Post No. 220
2105 Sixes Road
Calvert County, MD
EHT Traceries
May 2002
Maryland SHPO
West Corner, Looking East
3 OF 3