Cobb Island Citizen's Association **1928**
CH-709
Cobb Island
Public

The Cobb Island Citizen's Association, constructed in 1928 is a rectangular, one-story, front-gable frame structure prominently located on the corner of Main Avenue and Oakley Avenue. Like many of the buildings in Cobb Island, this structure has evolved over the last three quarters of a century, beginning as an open pavilion with screened windows. The Cobb Island Citizen's Association is the only documented example of its kind in Charles County and reflects the interesting history of one of Maryland's earliest formal community organizations. The Association was formed in 1927 and in the following year Charles Elgin owner of nearby Elgin's Store (CH-710) donated a lot upon which a community hall was constructed. Cobb Island consisted of a large summer population, with most of the lot owners living and working for much of the year in Washington D.C. During the summer months dances were held at the community hall.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-709

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Cobb Island Citizen's Association Hall
other	

2. Location

street and number	13201 Main Avenue	___	not for publication
city, town	Cobb Island	___	vicinity
county	Charles		

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

name	Cobb Island Citizen's Association				
street and number	13201 Main Avenue			telephone	None
city, town	Cobb Island	state	MD	zip code	20625-0268

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Charles County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	90-5 lot 169		
city, town	LaPlata	liber	206	folio	501

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
X public
___ private
___ both

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

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	___	buildings
___	___	sites
___	___	structures
___	___	objects
1	___	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-709

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 Cobb Island Citizen's Association, constructed in 1928 is a rectangular, one-story, front-gable frame structure prominently located on the corner of Main Avenue and Oakley Avenue on Cobb Island. Like many of the buildings in Cobb Island, this structure has evolved over its history. The Citizen's Association Hall began as an open pavilion with screened windows. Large hinged shutters could be lowered to protect the structure during inclement weather. Over time the structure was enclosed and enlarged.

Unfortunately the Cobb Island Citizen's Association has lost most of its historic materials in subsequent renovations. Currently the structure rests on a poured concrete pier foundation with concrete block infill. Asphalt shingles cover the roof and vinyl siding sheaths the frame. A hipped roof porch covers the offset entrance door. Windows throughout are paired wood 6/6 sash. A simple concrete block chimney stands on the exterior end of the eave wall. The main block consists of a single bay front gable structure with full-length shed additions on either eave wall, These sheds appear in some of the earliest photographs of the building and are believed to an original feature. The front elevation includes an offset entry door and two pair of asymmetrical 6/6 windows. The eave walls contain three pair of 6/6 windows. A five panel door is found on the rear elevation.

The interior is open in the center with a large portion of the wooden tongue and groove planks that originally served as a dance floor incorporated into the current room. An enclosed kitchen and bathroom stands in the northwestern elevation shed.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-709

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	X entertainment/ recreation	__ landscape architecture	__ religion
__ 2000-	__ commerce		__ law	__ science
	__ communications	__ ethnic heritage	__ literature	__ social history
	X community planning	__ exploration/ settlement	__ maritime industry	__ transportation
	__ conservation		__ military	__ other:

Specific dates 1928 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1928

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 Cobb Island Citizen's Association is the only documented example of its kind in Charles County and reflects the interesting history of one of Maryland's earliest formal community organizations. Cobb Island, long regarded as a peninsula rather than an island, was part of the acreage associated with Pine Grove for much of the 19th century. The first home was established in 1889 , with the construction of the Vickers House. In 1918, the entire island was purchased by Robert Crain of nearby Mt. Victoria. Quickly Crain organized the Cobb Island Development Company with F. B. Bannister & Company as agents. By 1922, surveyors had laid out small narrow building lots and intersecting roads under the direction of civil engineer, Edmund P. Russell of Washington. The first bridge to the island, connecting Bridge Drive to Chigger City was completed in 1923. Within a few years over 80 homes had been built, serving a summer population of between 500 and 700 people. The Cobb Island Citizen's Association was formed in 1927 and in the following year Charles Elgin owner of nearby Elgin's Store (CH-710) donated a lot upon which a community hall was constructed. Cobb Island consisted of a large summer population, with most of the lot owners laving and working for much of the year in Washington D.C. During the summer months dances were held at the community hall.

The Citizen's Association many of the communities earliest needs. They consistently advocated for island improvements, successfully acquiring telephone lines in 1928. The association also sponsored the Annual field day during the last week of summer featuring a host of food and games including boat races and a beauty contest in which Miss Cobb Island was crowned. In its earliest years, the Citizen's Association also played a crucial role in the divisive issue of incorporation in Cobb Island which pitted neighbor against neighbor during the 1920s and early 30s. Between 1929 and 1933, the battle over incorporation, essentially an issue of taxation and representation, led to a heated lawsuit and overturned legislation. It was finally resolved. In 1933, Cobb Island was disincorporated, largely as a result of the lobbying efforts of several active Citizen's Association members.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-709

Hickling, Lee. An Illustrated Centennial History of Cobb Island. Ambell Press. Cobb Island, MD. 1989.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property N/A

Acreage of historical setting N/A

Quadrangle name Rock Point

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Cobb Island Citizen's Association is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 90, Parcel 5, Lot 139.

11. Form Prepared By

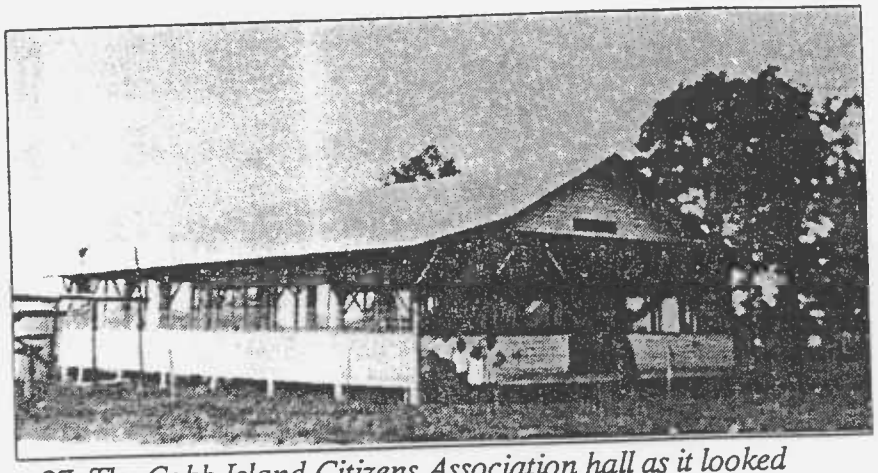
name/title	Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Charles County Planning Dept.	date	9/9/01
street and number	200 Baltimore Street	telephone	301-396-5815
city or town	LaPlata	state MD	zip code 20646

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

CH-709



27. The Cobb Island Citizens Association hall as it looked when it was originally built in 1928. (DKJ)

FROM AN ILLUSTRATED CENTENNIAL HISTORY
OF COBB ISLAND.
BY LEE HICKLING
AMBELL PRESS, COBB ISLAND, MD
1989

CH- 709 Charles County, MD
Name: Cobb Island Citizen's Assoc.
Location: Cobb Island
Quad: Rock Point

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by USC&GS
Topography from

COBB ISLAND
CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

CH-709
COBB ISLAND CITIZEN'S ASSOC.
CHARLES CO. MD
C. CURREY
8/2001
MD SHPO
FRONT ELEVATION
1 OF 2

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LOOKING EAST

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