

Capsule Summary  
SM-819  
Shorty's Shack  
Compton vicinity  
Private

circa 1900

Located at the southern tip of a peninsula surrounded by Combs Creek, Breton Bay, St. Williams Creek, and ultimately the Potomac River, Shorty's Shack is a two story, wood weatherboard covered dwelling that probably has important associations with local maritime history. Situated near the waterside community that grew up around the Combs Creek Marine Railway (SM-816), the circa 1900 house has unfortunately received a number of unsympathetic alterations thus diminishing its integrity. Architectural investigations should confirm the date of the building and oral history should uncover the maritime background of the building, otherwise no further documentation is recommended.



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## 7. Description

Inventory No. SM-819

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

Commanding expansive views of the mouth of Breton Bay and the Potomac River, Shorty's Shack is located at 21540 Joe Hazel Road near the rural crossroads community of Compton, Maryland. Situated at the southern tip of a peninsula, the house is oriented on a south/north axis and lies on a broad flat turn-around at the terminus of Joe Hazel Road. The 1.59 acre lot is bounded by water on the east, south, and west sides and by a residential lot to the north. These bodies of water include St. Williams Creek, Combs Creek, Breton Bay and ultimately the Potomac River.

The house, constructed circa 1900, is a two story, five bay, single pile, dwelling with a gable roof and a rear two story kitchen ell. The exterior walls are entirely sheathed with clapboard and the roof is clad with raised-seam metal. The roof is pierced by two interior brick chimney flues and on exterior end chimney located on the house's north side.

The fenestration of the primary or south elevation has been altered since its initial construction. The first floor is pierced by two doors and two one-over-one, double-hung sash windows which are shaded by a porch supported by square posts interspersed by plain square balusters. The east side of the porch has been enclosed and is pierced by a paired set of one-over-one windows. The second floor of the elevation features four one-over-one windows.

The east elevation is comprised of a confusing array of additions to the dwelling. The enclosed portion of the front porch is lit by single window. The gable end of the main block has a one-over-one window on the first and second floors. An addition to the rear is pierced on the first floor by a central door flanked on either side by a one-over-one window. The second floor of the rear ell is distinguished by one window. A shallow pitched shed addition to the north of the rear ell is entered through a single doorway.

No other elevations were investigated.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-819

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**Specific dates**

**Architect/Builder**

**Construction dates**

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Located at the southern tip of a peninsula surrounded by Combs Creek, Breton Bay, St. Williams Creek, and ultimately the Potomac River, Shorty's Shack is a two-story, wood weatherboard covered dwelling that probably has important associations with local maritime history. Situated near the waterside community that grew up around the Combs Creek Marine Railway (SM-816), the circa 1900 house has unfortunately received a number of unsympathetic alterations thus diminishing its integrity. Architectural investigations should confirm the date of the building and oral history should uncover its relationship with local maritime history, otherwise no further documentation is recommended.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-819

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Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property	<u>1.59 acres</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>same</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Leonardtown</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24 000</u>

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The 1.59 acre lot is bounded by water on the east, south, and west sides and by a residential lot to the north. These bodies of water include St. Williams Creek, Combs Creek, Breton Bay and ultimately the Potomac River. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber 872, Folio 208.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Maryland

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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 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



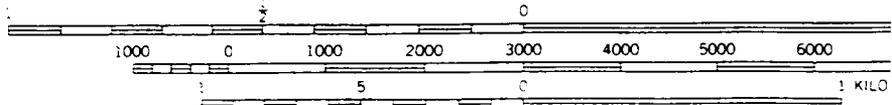
21°30' ROAD ENDS 1 MI

(ST. CLEMENTS ISLAND)  
5880 N MW

76°30'

SM-819  
Shorty's Shack  
Compton  
St. Mary's County  
Leonardtown Quad

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DASHED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
BATHYMETRIC CONTOUR INTERVAL 1 METER WITH SUPPLEMENTARY  
0.5 METER CONTOURS—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER

NEAR LAND



819

Shorty's Shack

7-201 1/2

K. C. P. 1/2

1/2

1/2

Looking N

1 of 2



50 - 819

Shorty's Shack

St. Marg's County

Kirk Fancetta

1000 93

Mid SFR

Looking W

2 of 2