

Hellen Creek Archaeological Survey

Final Report prepared for:
Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, Inc.
Lusby, Maryland

Christopher L. Nagle, Ph.D.
Nagle Research
Tucson, Arizona

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Abstract

This report documents the results of a two-day archaeological survey performed on November 28th and 29th, 2005, on the Hellen Creek property of the Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, Inc. (the Trust), located in southern Calvert County, Maryland. The survey was undertaken to begin to develop an inventory of cultural resources within the boundaries of the Trust. The Hellen Creek property, situated on the southern shore of a stream which drains into the nearby Patuxent River, has high potential for possessing both historic and prehistoric cultural resources. Survey consisted of walking the entire 55-acre property and shovel-testing some of the most likely areas for past human occupation. All survey, testing, recording and analysis conformed to standards of the Maryland Historical Trust and those of the Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning.

Eleven shovel-tests were excavated, only two of which contained cultural remains. Each of the two positive test pits contained a single historic creamware sherd. These sherds date from the middle of the to the 17th century to the end of the 18th century, and very likely come from the historic structure CT-107 located on the property. No evidence of prehistoric occupation was found.

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Introduction

The Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust owns 55 acres within the Hellen Creek watershed in southern Calvert County, Maryland (Fig. 1). The property adjoins The Nature Conservancy's Hemlock Preserve. It includes upland and estuarine habitats, marsh, hill, and stream valleys. The Trust is in the process of long-term planning for the property and wishes to develop an inventory of cultural resources within its boundaries.

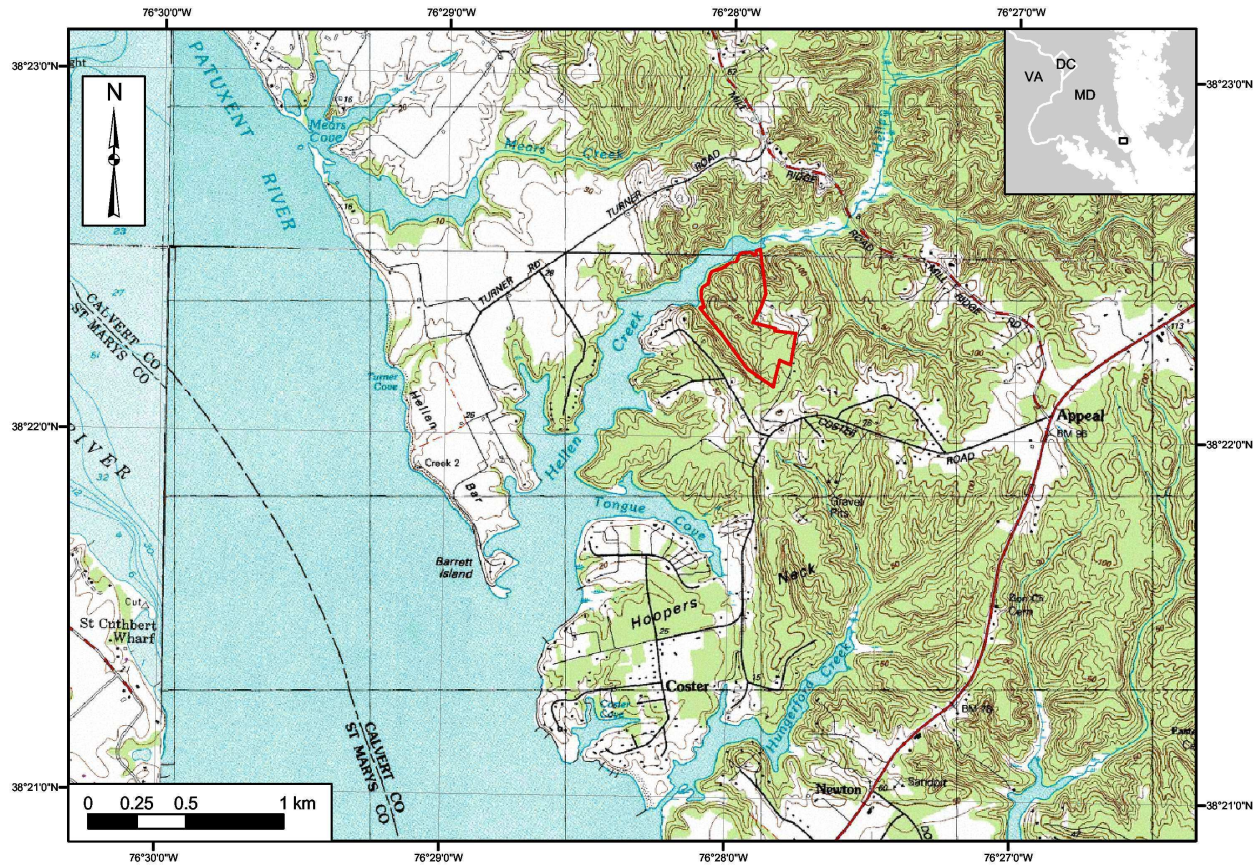


Figure 1. Approximate Area-of-Interest (AOI) for the Hellen Creek cultural resources study (area in red), superimposed on U.S. Geological Survey 7.5' map (1"=24,000').

Background

Physiography

Hellen Creek lies within the Western Shore Sub-Province of the Atlantic Coastal Plain Province of Maryland, an area of sedimentary deposits cut by large river drainages (Fig. 2; Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum 2002a). The Chesapeake Bay divides the Coastal Plain in Maryland into two parts—the Eastern Shore Sub-Province and the Western Shore Sub-Province. The Eastern Shore, situated between the Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, is an area of relatively flat topography while the Western Shore has a more rolling topography and steeply-cut ravines.

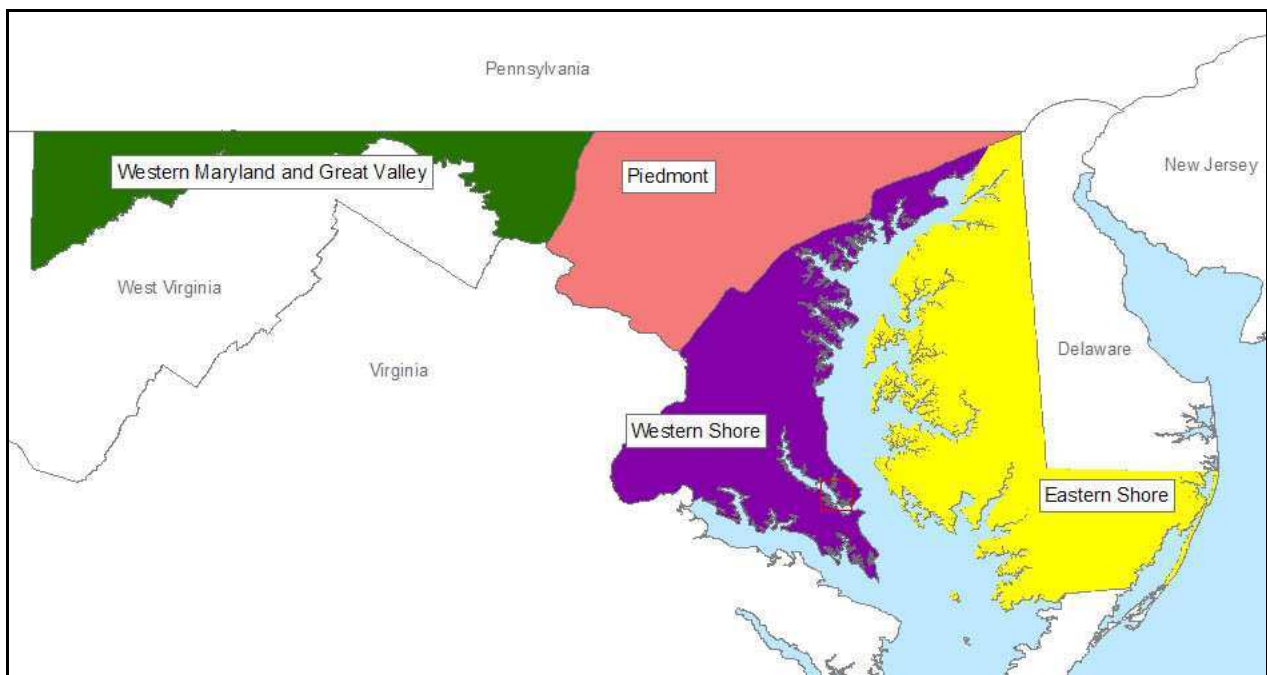


Figure 2. Geographical regions in Maryland (after Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum 2002a). The study area is shown with a small red square in the Western Shore Sub-Province.

Relative Sea-Level Change: Shorelines Over Time

The search for historic and prehistoric sites in areas adjoining the Patuxent River and Hellen Creek estuaries needs to be carried out with an appreciation of the role that sea-level change over time, relative to land surfaces, has played in determining the locations of shorelines seen at the present day. Since both historic and prehistoric peoples often located their settlements near water in order to exploit fish and shellfish resources and to take advantage of water bodies

for transportation, relative sea-level change over time may result in sites now being either underwater, or located some distance inland from modern shorelines. The description of relative sea-level changes over time in Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River that follows has been adapted mostly from a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Fact Sheet on the Chesapeake Bay (USGS 1998; see also Steponaitis 1986: 69-73). The relevance of sea-level change for the presence or absence of archaeological sites of different time periods in the study area is discussed in the following section.

During the last glaciation, about 18,000 years ago, ice sheets covered most of Canada and extended southward into the Midwestern United States and eastward into northern New Jersey and along Long Island. Water, once contained in the oceans, fell as snow onto the continents, where it was stored as glacial ice. Worldwide sea level fell as glaciers expanded.

At the full extent of the last glaciation, sea level was approximately 100 meters lower than at present and, as a result, continental shelves were exposed around the world. At the end of the last glacial epoch, sea level rose relatively rapidly as continental glaciers melted. By 15,000 years ago, the outer continental shelves had been submerged, and by 10,000 years ago, the main channel of the ancient Susquehanna River valley was flooded and became a narrow estuary. Between 6,000 and 7,000 years ago, the rate of submergence began to slow, and the Chesapeake Bay took on its characteristic "drowned river valley" shoreline pattern. Sea level at that time stood approximately 9 meters lower than the present level. Since then, the rate of sea-level rise relative to the land over much of the last 6,000 years has been an almost-imperceptible 1.4 mm per year (14 cm/century). The present general shoreline configuration was attained by the time the first European and colonial maps were prepared, but as tide gauges and the continued inundation of low-lying areas indicate, relative sea level in Chesapeake Bay is still rising.

Continuous tide gauge records around the Chesapeake Bay show that the rate of sea-level rise during the 20th century has not been constant and that modern rates are more rapid than those determined by geologic studies conducted two decades ago. The current rate of sea-level rise at the mouth of the Chesapeake is about 4 mm per year (40 cm/century) and decreases northward. Tide gauges with longer periods of record, like that at Solomons Island at the mouth of the Patuxent River, record mean sea level since 1937 and illustrate a 3-mm-per-year rate of rise (30 cm/century). Areas described as marsh in colonial times have given way to shallow creeks. Dead trees farther up tributary creeks signify areas only recently submerged to become marsh. Tree

stumps of former forests can be found beneath the sediments of tributary creeks. The effects of such submergence are both dramatic and visible:

"Islands once populated in colonial time and during the past century have disappeared due to submergence and related shore erosion. The artifacts of early European settlers and prehistoric peoples are sometimes found by watermen working over land areas now covered by the shallow waters of the bay. Sharps Island, described and mapped by John Smith in 1608, has since disappeared, although it was shown on maps and charts as recently as the beginning of the 20th century (USGS 1998)."

Scientists disagree on the cause of the recent increase in the rate of rise. One spectacular geologic factor that might account for anomalous rates of sea-level change, at least for the mouth of Chesapeake Bay, is possible subsidence related to compaction of the fill of a large buried meteor impact crater that underlies much of the Norfolk, Hampton Roads, and Cape Charles area (see USGS 2002a, 2002b).

Culture History of Maryland

The prehistoric time period in Maryland is divided into three primary periods (Table 1; Curry 2002; Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum 2002b):

Table 1. Prehistoric time periods in Maryland.

Period	Age
Paleoindian	(12000 B.C. – 9500 B.C.)
Archaic	(9500 B.C. – 1000 B.C.)
Woodland	(1000 B.C. – A.D. 1650)

Paleoindian (12000 B.C. – 9500 B.C.). The Paleoindian period was a time of radical climatic change at the transition of the Pleistocene to the Holocene at the end of the last ice age. Spruce-dominated boreal forest was replaced by the northward expansion of deciduous forest. The glacial environment changed from its chilling cool temperatures with mastodons and mammoths roaming over vast grasslands to a warmer post-glacial setting of forests inhabited by

smaller mammals including elk, moose, deer, and possibly caribou. The people occupying Maryland at this time were organized into a highly mobile society of small bands. Not many sites dating to this time period are known. Base camps were located near outcrops of high-quality lithic (stone) sources used for making stone tools, with smaller transient hunting camps near game-attractive areas. People ate what they procured from hunting, fishing, and gathering seasonal resources, such as nuts and tubers. Settlement was oriented towards the large rivers. The Chesapeake Bay did not yet exist. This area would have been mostly dry land along the ancestral Susquehanna River, which flowed directly into the Atlantic Ocean. Artifacts of this time period are limited to stone tools and their manufacturing waste (flakes and debitage). Diagnostic fluted projectile points were made of high quality jasper, chalcedony, and chert, but also of local quartz. Other typical tools included scrapers for working hide and bone.

Sites of the Paleoindian Period are least likely to be found in the study area. Sources of high quality lithics are not found in the immediate region (Steponaitis 1986:72), and many Paleoindian sites formerly located near large rivers can be expected to now be underwater as a result of post-glacial sea-level rise.

Archaic (9500 B.C. – 1000 B.C.). Early Archaic (9500 B.C. – 6000 B.C.) sites also have a relatively low visibility in the archaeological record. Much of the information we have is derived from surface finds in headwater and riverine locations. During the Early Archaic there was a gradual increase in sedentism and in the use of locally available lithic resources, as people gradually adapted to continuing environmental changes.

The beginning of the Middle Archaic (6000 B.C. – 3500 B.C.) corresponds to a climatic episode marked by rising temperatures, decreasing precipitation and the development of a more seasonally variable climate. Oak-hemlock-hickory forests dominated the landscape, providing extensive mast crops of acorns and nuts, which provided food for humans and increasing deer populations. Settlements began to shift, as a wider range of environments was available for exploitation, such as upland swamps, interior ridgetops, marshes and springheads. During this time period, the embayment of the Susquehanna drainage began and gradually more riverine and estuarine environments developed. With an increase in the number of shallow estuarine areas, the oyster began to be exploited towards the end of the Archaic.

During the Late Archaic (3500 B.C. – 1000 B.C.), shell middens began to form where prehistoric people discarded oyster shells. Populations became increasingly sedentary and groups

along the major river drainages—although still organized as bands—began to show signs of developing territoriality and social complexity. Large base camps were established at the fall lines of major freshwater streams where fish-spawning runs were most productive and at saltwater estuaries for collecting oysters. Seasonal hunting and foraging camps were located in the interior regions. Increased sedentism allowed for the use of heavy steatite (soapstone) bowls towards the end of the Late Archaic.

Archaic Period sites are more likely to be found in the study area than Paleoindian sites, given the wider range of environments exploited during this period and, especially, the development of shell middens. Nevertheless, post-glacial submergence probably means that many former riverine or estuarine sites are now under water.

Woodland (1000 B.C. - A.D. 1600). The beginnings of the Woodland period saw sweeping changes across all aspects of this evolving society. As Native Americans settled into more sedentary hamlets, they developed ceramics and began to farm. The appearance of ceramic technology around 1000 B.C. is considered to be the marker for the beginning of the Woodland Period in Maryland. The earliest pottery was a flat-bottomed ware, tempered with crushed steatite. These vessels were oblong or semi-rectangular, with straight walls and lug handles that resembled the carved stone steatite bowls of the Late Archaic. Soon after and contemporaneous with these bowls, coil-constructed pottery was made. The Early Woodland (1000 B.C. – A.D. 200) was a period of ceramic technology experimentation with tempering agents and manufacturing methods.

During the Middle Woodland (A.D. 200 – A.D. 900) there was an increase in the range of subsistence economies along the Bay and the major coastal rivers. At the same time, long-distance trade and communication expanded. For example, raw materials such as rhyolite from west of the Monocacy drainage, were used in large quantities in sites on the coastal plain. During this time period crushed rock-tempered ceramics like Watson were made in the Western regions of Maryland, showing growing connections with groups in central Pennsylvania and Western Virginia. On the Coastal Plain, the shell-tempered Mockley ware became dominant pottery.

The Late Woodland (A.D. 900 – A.D. 1650) represents the continuation of economic and social trends of the preceding period. During this time, the farming of corn was introduced, even though it did not become a major food source until the last few centuries of the Late Woodland. The numbers of permanent settlements increased and eventually fortified villages developed,

although the interior uplands continued to be exploited by hunting and foraging groups. Ceramic technology improved during the Late Woodland. Vessels were thinner and fired at hotter temperatures, thus creating more durable wares. Decorative motifs became more complex and extensively used, possibly indicating different cultural affiliations.

Of all prehistoric periods, sites of the Woodland Period are most likely to be found in the study area, given that they are the ones least likely to have been affected by post-glacial submergence of the landscape, and because of continuing deposition of shell middens, increases in site density, and the expanded range of surviving material culture, notably pottery.

Historic Period. Sites of the Historic Period in Maryland are usually dated from archival records or from certain time-sensitive classes of material remains, such as pottery, beads, or pipe stems, for example. European colonists brought numerous pottery varieties with them when they settled in the Chesapeake Region. The web pages of the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (2002c) describe many of the more common diagnostic, or time-sensitive, types that were imported into colonial Maryland between its founding in 1634 and the American Revolution, while their *Bibliography for Prehistoric Ceramics* (Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum 2002d) documents many others. Although this information will not be repeated here, these resources will be relied on to date Historic Period sites found in the study area.

Historic Period sites are as likely as Woodland Period sites to be found in the study area, and for the same reasons.

Known Cultural Resources in the Area

The variety of habitats present within the study area and its location adjoining Hellen Creek suggest that it has high potential for containing prehistoric Archaic and Woodland sites, and sites of the Historic Period. The records of the Maryland Historical Trust were checked to determine the numbers of documented cultural resources within about a two-mile radius of the study area, together with their cultural and temporal affiliation (to the extent this information is known), to help confirm the suggestion of the study area's high cultural resource potential. The following table provides a breakdown of historic standing structures, historic artifact scatters, and prehistoric sites on file.

Table 2. Known cultural resources within about a two-mile radius of the study area.

Prehistoric Sites	Count	Historic Artifact Scatters	Count	Historic Standing Structures
Archaic	1	17 th Century	1	
Woodland	3	18 th Century	3	
Unknown	35	18 th -19 th Century	1	
		19 th Century	2	
		Unknown	1	
TOTALS:	39		8	22

The numbers of documented cultural resources found in proximity to the study area is strong evidence of its potential to contain both historic and prehistoric sites.

Proposed Work/Research Design

Objectives

The specific objectives of the archaeological investigation are to:

- delineate all archaeological properties, including those that may be eligible for the National Register or the Maryland Register, within the study area;
- characterize all identified archaeological properties with respect to the cultural/temporal periods outlined above, to the extent permitted by the data recovered;
- evaluate the results of the investigation in light of existing models of settlement patterning;
- if sufficient data are available, evaluate National Register or Maryland Register eligibility;
- assess any potential ongoing negative impacts on the identified archaeological properties, such as erosion, submergence, and/or collecting; and
- determine the need for additional archaeological work.

Methods

Archaeological survey will consist of walking the entire 55-acre property and then shovel-testing the most likely areas for past human occupation. Shovel test pits (STPs) will be dug in 50 cm widths, and all soil will be screened through 1/4-inch mesh screening. Any prehistoric or historic sites identified by shovel testing may be subjected to additional testing by

excavation of 1-meter squares to further refine identification of the cultural/temporal affiliation of sites, after consultation with Trust personnel. The spatial locations of all STPs will be recorded with a Garmin eTrex GPS unit, WAAS enabled for accuracy less than 3 meters, 95% typical. All artifacts recovered will be recorded, washed, labeled, and conserved in accordance with existing state and county standards (Artifact conservation may require supplemental funding, depending upon the type of material and quantity recovered).

The cultural/temporal affiliations of all identified archaeological sites and materials will be ascertained, to the extent permitted by the data recovered. Where possible, archaeological sites will be categorized with respect to existing models of settlement patterning. If sufficient data are available, National Register or Maryland Register eligibility of archaeological sites will be evaluated. Any potential, ongoing negative impacts on identified archaeological remains, such as erosion, submergence, and/or collecting, will be determined. Finally, the need or desirability for additional archaeological work will be assessed.

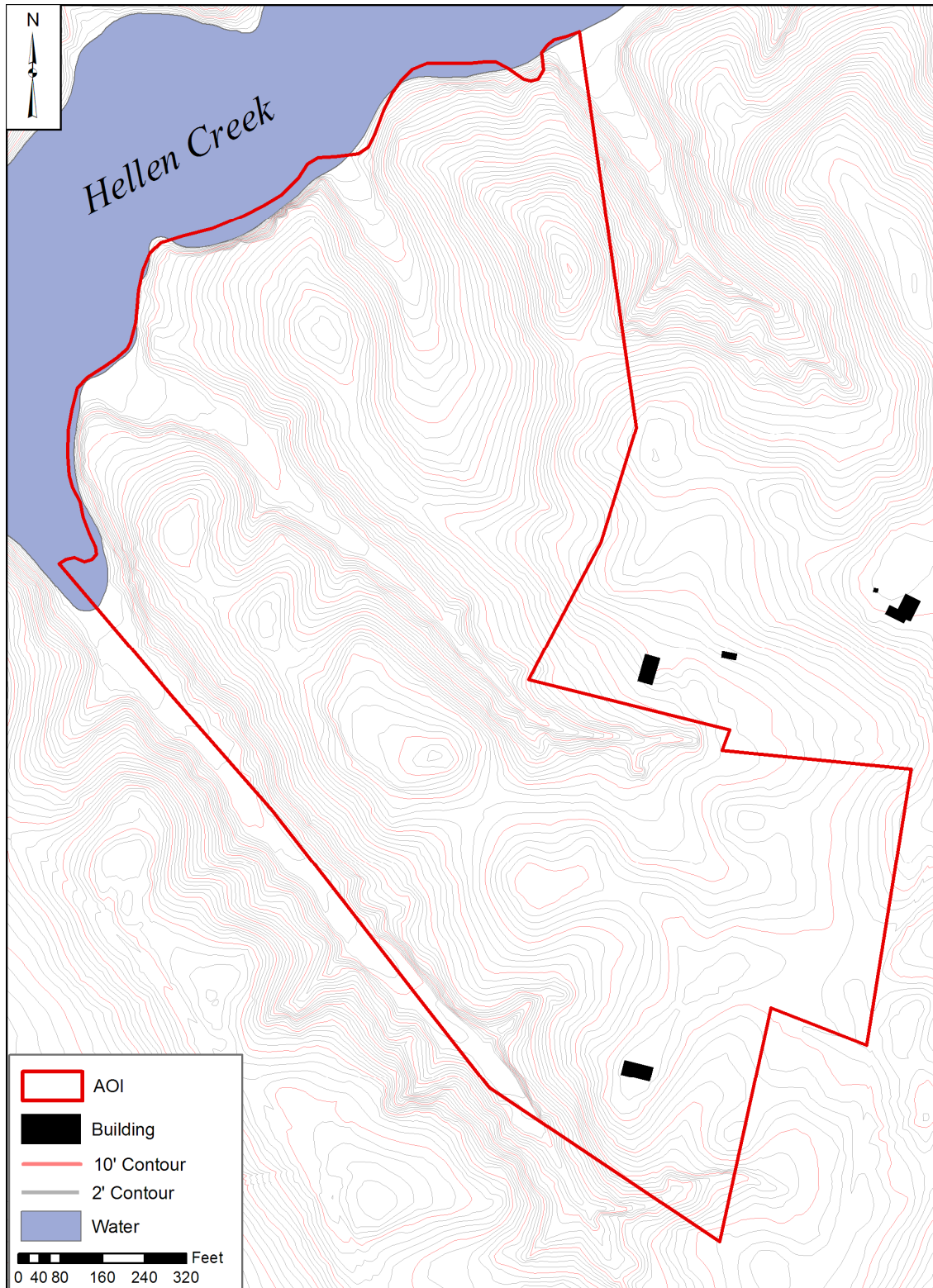
All GPS data documenting archaeological and any other type of feature locations will be transferred to an ESRI ArcMap Geographic Information Systems (GIS) document. A report will be written detailing the findings of the study and submitted to the Trust, together with all GIS data. Where necessary or appropriate, all survey, testing, recording, and analysis will conform to standards of the Maryland Historical Trust (Shaffer and Cole 1994; Maryland Historical Trust 2005) and those of the Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning.

Results of Field and Laboratory Investigations

Walkover

The walkover of the parcel was carried out first. No cultural materials were found during the walkover. Most of the topography is rugged and steep, with deeply-cut ravines (Fig. 3). There are only a few places on the property where it makes sense to test for the presence for cultural materials, notably several relatively small and flat areas along the western portion of the parcel. These flat areas vary roughly from 516 to 2,464 sq. meters (5,551–26,520 sq. feet) in size.

Figure 3. Topography of the parcel.



Shovel Test Pits (STPs)

Seven judgmental STPs (STPs 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9) were excavated on or adjoining flat areas mentioned above (Fig. 4). Four judgmental STPs (STPs 2, 3, 10, and 11) were excavated along the bluff edge above the ravine bordering the western edge of the parcel to check the possibility that these areas may have functioned as game lookouts.

All STPs were dug in 50 cm widths, and all soil was screened through 1/4-inch mesh screening. All STPs were excavated beyond sterile at least 10 cm into the subsoil. The spatial locations of all STPs were recorded with a Garmin eTrex GPS unit, and subsequently incorporated in an ArcGIS map document.

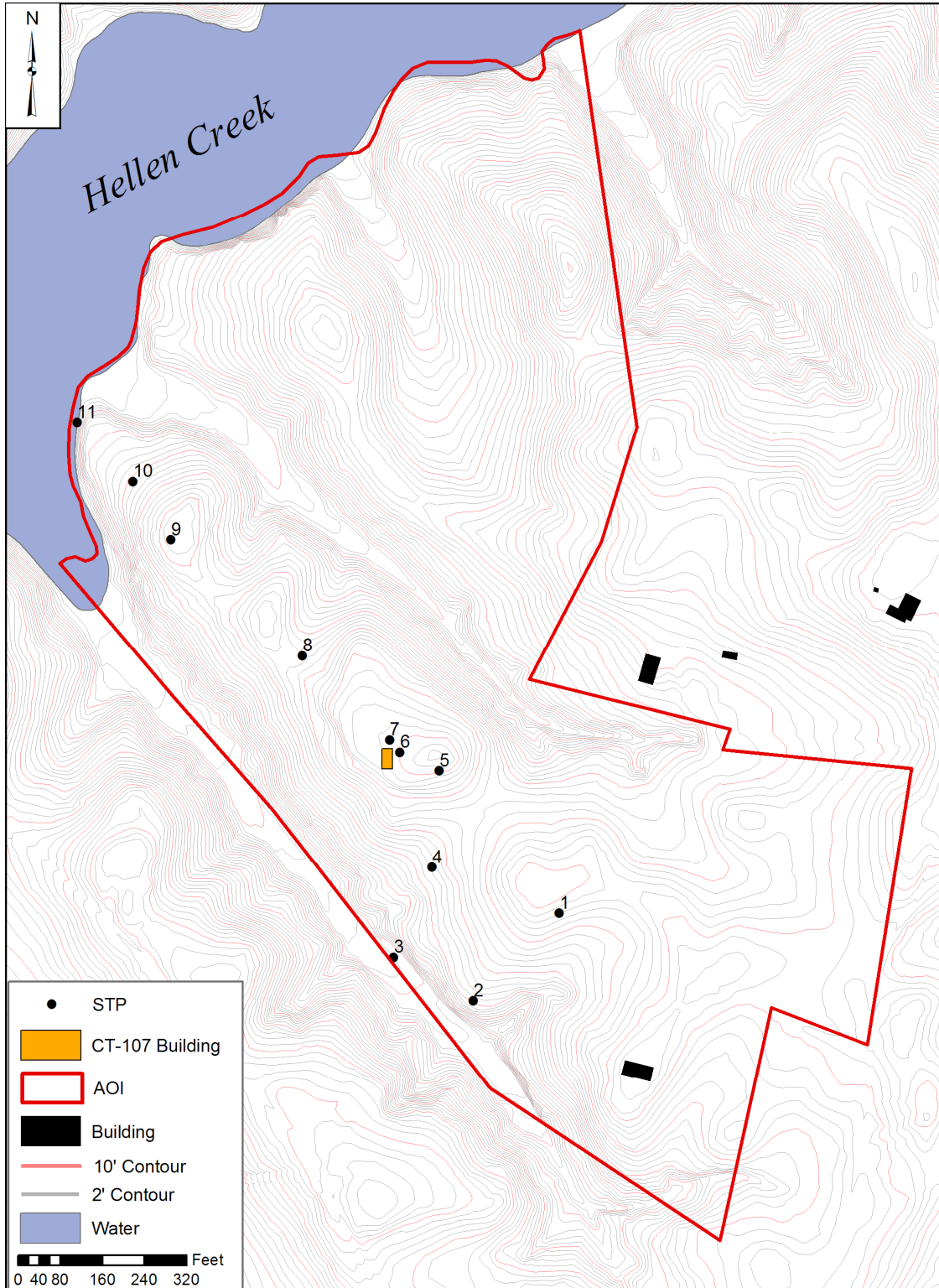
In general, test pits were shallow, with only an A-horizon composed of 10–15 cm of tree and leaf litter above sterile. A B-horizon (Munsell color 7.5YR 4/2), if present, comprises less than 5 cm above the C-horizon (Munsell color 7.5YR 7/8).

The result of shovel-testing is summarized in Table 3. Of the 11 test pits, only 2 produced any cultural material—STP 6 contained a single historic creamware sherd, as did STP 7. Each measured about 1.5x1 cm. These sherds undoubtedly come from the nearby historic structure CT-107 (see below).

Table 3. STP outcomes.

STP	Outcome	Cultural Material Found
1	negative	-
2	negative	-
3	negative	-
4	negative	-
5	negative	-
6	positive	1 creamware sherd
7	positive	1 creamware sherd
8	negative	-
9	negative	-
10	negative	-
11	negative	-

Figure 4. Topography of the parcel showing locations of STPs and approximate footprint of the former historic structure CT-107.



Historic Structure CT-107

Historic Structure CT-107, the William Hobson Johnson House, was inventoried in 1977 (see Appendix) and assigned a date range of 1800–1899. At that time, the house was still standing. However, it was deemed not significant for the National Register.

In 2000, when the Trust acquired the property, only the foundation of the main house remained, and the Trust was required to remove the remaining trash from the surface from where the house once stood. Except for daffodils that bloom in the spring in the area, there is now no surficial evidence of the house (Bob Boxwell 8/9/10, pers. comm.)

The two creamware sherds found in STPs 6 and 7 are consistent with the 17th century date given to the structure, but cannot be used to refine its dating since creamware was manufactured up until the end of the 18th century (Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum 2002c).

Summary and Recommendations

This report documents the results of a two-day archaeological survey of the Hellen Creek property of the Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, Inc., located in southern Calvert County, Maryland. The survey was undertaken to begin to develop an inventory of cultural resources within the boundaries of the Trust. The Hellen Creek property, situated on the southern shore of a stream which drains into the nearby Patuxent River, has high potential for possessing both historic and prehistoric cultural resources. Survey consisted of walking the entire 55-acre property and shovel-testing some of the most likely areas for past human occupation. All survey, testing, recording and analysis conformed to standards of the Maryland Historical Trust and those of the Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning.

Eleven shovel-tests were excavated, only two of which contained cultural remains. Each of the two positive test pits contained a single historic creamware sherd. These sherds date from the middle of the to the 17th century to the end of the 18th century, and very likely come from the historic structure CT-107 located on the property. No evidence of prehistoric occupation was found.

No additional archaeological work is recommended for the parcel. Although more test pits could be opened on the flat areas in search of prehistoric remains, the effort may just yield diminishing returns.

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Appendix

Maryland Historic Trust
Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey
Form prepared in January, 1977

The William Hobson Johnson House, CT-107

Not deemed significant

Photographs included

CLVT- 1017
JOHNSON HOUSE

Lusby
Private

1st & last quarters 19th century
and 1930's

This house is the last stage of a remarkable evolution. The structure began as a small one-story log house on Thomas R. Tongue's plantation near Helen's Creek. It was the slave house in which Anna J. Johnson was raised in the days before emancipation. In the late 19th century the tract was sold to William A. Johnson, Anna's husband, who added a two-story frame block to the northern gable end. Later his son, William Hobson Johnson, a professional waterman, replaced the original log house with further additions and added the twin gable pediments. The result disguised the humble origins of the house, but revealed the changes over time in the lifestyle of a family of black watermen and landowning farmers.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CLUT 107
CT-107
Map # 0501075504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC THE WILLIAM HOBSON JOHNSON HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

On Clifton Drive,
1 mile at end of Helen's Creek Rd. which is the unmarked
dirt road 100 yards north of intersection of Coster R.
and Hilltop Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Lusby

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

Calvert

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Alfred and Helen Ward

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Unavailable

CITY, TOWN

Washington

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

D. C.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Calvert County Courthouse

Liber #: AWR 41

Folio #: 428

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house and its environs have changed substantially during the last century: from a one unit log house which was the nucleus of a farmstead to a 2 and a half story, neglected, frame house surrounded by forest.

According to William H. Johnson, an elderly black man who was raised here and who was its previous owner, his mother Anna Johnson was born in this house in c. 1856. At that time the house was located as a slave house on the Tongue plantation (see the Thomas and Benjamin Foote houses, also surveyed). It was a typical A roofed log house with one room downstairs and another upstairs. The facade, which faces S.W., looked out over cleared fields and Helen's Creek. It had one door; a window opened on the "creek side" (N.E.) of the house downstairs. The brick chimney ascended the opposite gable end. A shed kitchen was attached to the rear at some time in the last quarter of the 19th century.

In c. 1909 Anna Johnson and her husband, William Andrew Johnson (no known relation of families) hired a white carpenter, according to their son, to build a 2' story frame unit to add to the creek side gable end of their log house. Though the addition had only one room up, and one room down, it was taller than the original log block.

In the early 1930's, William H. Johnson, their son, tore down the log block and kitchen and replaced it by a large frame unit, 1 room up and another down that matched the new frame block and joined them under one roof and divided them by a central hall-passageway. He also raised the roof and added the twin cross gable pediments. At this time the house finished its growth and was comprised of two rooms on each floor plus 2 more in the top half story used for storage of fishing equipment and household articles.

Behind the house stood a number of outbuildings: a meat house, barn for oxen and cows, a horse stable, and other structures. On the S.E. side of the drive approaching the house stood a large tobacco barn. None remain.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
				Black History
				Social History
				Cultural History

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Cultural History
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The process by which the Johnson family came into possession of the large tract of land from Tongue's Landing up to head of Helen's Creek, of which this site is but one portion, is as yet unclear because of the courthouse fire in Calvert County which destroyed most deeds prior to 1883. According to Mrs. Charles Tongue Reichart, descendant of the Tongue family, her grandparents sold this land to the Johnsons, who had been slaves on her family's plantation, shortly after the Civil War.

According to William H. Johnson, his grandfather, Albert Johnson raised at least three children in the small log house. His mother Anna raised 9 both before and after the first frame addition. Johnson himself raised 4 children in the house before and after the final enlargement. Until the sale of the house and property in 1955, the Johnsons raised tobacco, kept their own livestock, and worked as watermen. Johnson was a professional waterman until his retirement eight years ago at the age of 69 due to failing health.

Though the house is not maintained and is deteriorating, it is worthy of restoration and re-use.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel , Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Md. Commission on Afro-American History & Culture

DATE

January, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



Hopsie Johnson House

~~CLVT 107~~ CT-107

Lusby, Md.

GWM — 5/77

S.E. View



Hopsie Johnson House

~~CLVT-107~~ CT-107

Lusby, Md.

GWM — 5/77

N.W. View



Hopsie Johnson House
~~CLVT - 107~~ CT-107
Lusby, Md.
GWM - 5/77
Family Chair



"Hopsie"
Johnson

CT-107

GEORGE W. BUSH
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Lusby, Md.

Gum-5/77