

Easement

MGT # 0500682623

ET-68

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 17 1975
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Drum Point Lighthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Drum Point Lighthouse

2 LOCATION

Western shore of Back Creek, Calvert County Marine

STREET & NUMBER

Museum

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Solomons Island

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

CODE

24

COUNTY

Calvert

CODE

009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Calvert County Marine Museum, Ralph Eshelman, Director

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 281

CITY, TOWN

~~Solomons~~ Solomons VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 20688

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Calvert County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7. DESCRIPTION

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CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1973</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Drum Point Lighthouse was located at the southern end of Drum Point, Calvert County, Maryland at the mouth of the Patuxent River. The Light is now at the Calvert Marine Museum on the western bank of Back Creek on the east side of Maryland, Route 2, north of Solomons Island.

The hexagonal wooden structure is held up by iron supports of the screw-pile type. An auger-like flange was bored into the soft Patuxent River bottom forming the support for the columnar iron base from which the weight of the entire lighthouse, which is fastened to the column, is diffused.

Chesapeake Bay screw-pile lighthouse construction is typically hexagonal or square.

The Keeper's quarters, six-sided and sheathed with weatherboards, is solidly built with mortised and tenoned joints, a hexagonal roof and two dormer windows. An unroofed open gallery encircles the lower story of the structure. On the top of the house is the cupola containing the lighthouse lamp.

A small, second open gallery surrounds the cupola. The original light, described as a "fixed red" on an 1877 chart, was replaced with an automatic light after World War II. The original light from the Drum Point Lighthouse is on exhibit at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels, Maryland.

Originally placed one-sixteenth of a nautical mile from shore, the water around the lighthouse gradually receded until, from 1965 on, the lighthouse had become marooned on the beach. The present site gives the lighthouse a much more appropriate setting at the edge of the water.

Drum Point Lighthouse had been a matter of concern to preservationists for several years. The only way to preserve it and to secure its future was to move it. A memorandum of agreement between the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the General Services Administration and the Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer (June 1973) endorsed the move.¹ The Memorandum of Agreement contains a copy of the positive easement attached to the deed of sale which further protects the lighthouse. The General Services Administration disposed of the Lighthouse after the State of Maryland had been unsuccessful in maintaining the property. The lighthouse was legally inaccessible from the land. After April 1973, when the property was nominated to the Register (and while in Federal ownership), vandals got through fins in the structure. All twenty-two doors and twelve windows were broken, guard rails were damaged and the interior was defaced. Now, on its new site, the lighthouse will undergo restoration and will be accessible to the public. Private donations made possible the painting of the exterior.

¹Memorandum of Agreement, June 1973, with copy of easement and language, can be found in the files of the Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.

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

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Drum Point Lighthouse is one of the four remaining screw-pile lighthouses on the Chesapeake Bay.

Any lighthouse, and particularly a historic structure, is fast disappearing as navigational equipment due to the modern communications channels and satellite-related aids.

The Drum Point Lighthouse and other screw-pile lighthouses flourished on the Chesapeake Bay from the second half of the nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. They served as important navigational aids. Although the Drum Point Lighthouse has escaped demolition, its original light, which required a resident attendant, was replaced with an automatic light after World War II.

The first screw-pile lighthouse on the Chesapeake Bay was erected in 1855 in Virginia waters. In the mid-nineteenth century these practical lighthouses began to replace light ships, which were the principal navigation aids, on the Bay.

The United States Lighthouse Board, a branch of the United States Treasury Department, built the Drum Point Lighthouse on five acres in the mouth of the Patuxent River. The State of Maryland conveyed the property on which the lighthouse (only) stands to the Federal government on February 15, 1883. This transaction followed the provisions of an 1874 Maryland law that provides for the transfer of State property to become Federal property of the United States for the purpose of the erecting of lighthouses and other navigational aids.

Alexander Mitchell (1780-1868) invented the screw-pile principle. His idea was first used in 1838 at the Malpin Sand Lighthouse at the mouth of the River Thames, England. The principle was later applied to bridges, viaducts and piers. The screw-pile principle is well suited to southern bodies of water and to soft bottoms.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Drum Point Lighthouse
Calvert County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9

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#9

Johnson, Arnold Burgess. The Modern Light-House Service. Washington:
Government Printing Office, 1890.

Laws of Maryland. 1874. Chapter 193.

Lee, Sidney (ed.). Dictionary of National Biography. XXXVIII.

New York: MacMillian, 1894, p.62-63.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brewington, M.V. Chesapeake Bay, A Partial History. Cambridge, Maryland: Cornell Maritime Press, 1953.
Burgess, Robert H., Chesapeake Circle Cambridge, Maryland: Cornell Maritime Press, 1965.
. This Was the Chesapeake Bay. Cambridge, Maryland: Cornell Publishing, 1963.

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one
UTM REFERENCES

A	18	37	2	08	10	4	2	43	36	10
	ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING					
B										
	ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING					
C										
D										
	ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE	Paul Brinkman, Architectural Historian Nancy Miller, Historian	IS
ORGANIZATION	Maryland Historical Trust	DATE
		Summer 1967, January 1972
STREET & NUMBER	21 State Circle	TELEPHONE
		267-1438
CITY OR TOWN	Annapolis,	STATE
		Maryland 21401

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:
NATIONAL STATE _____ LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

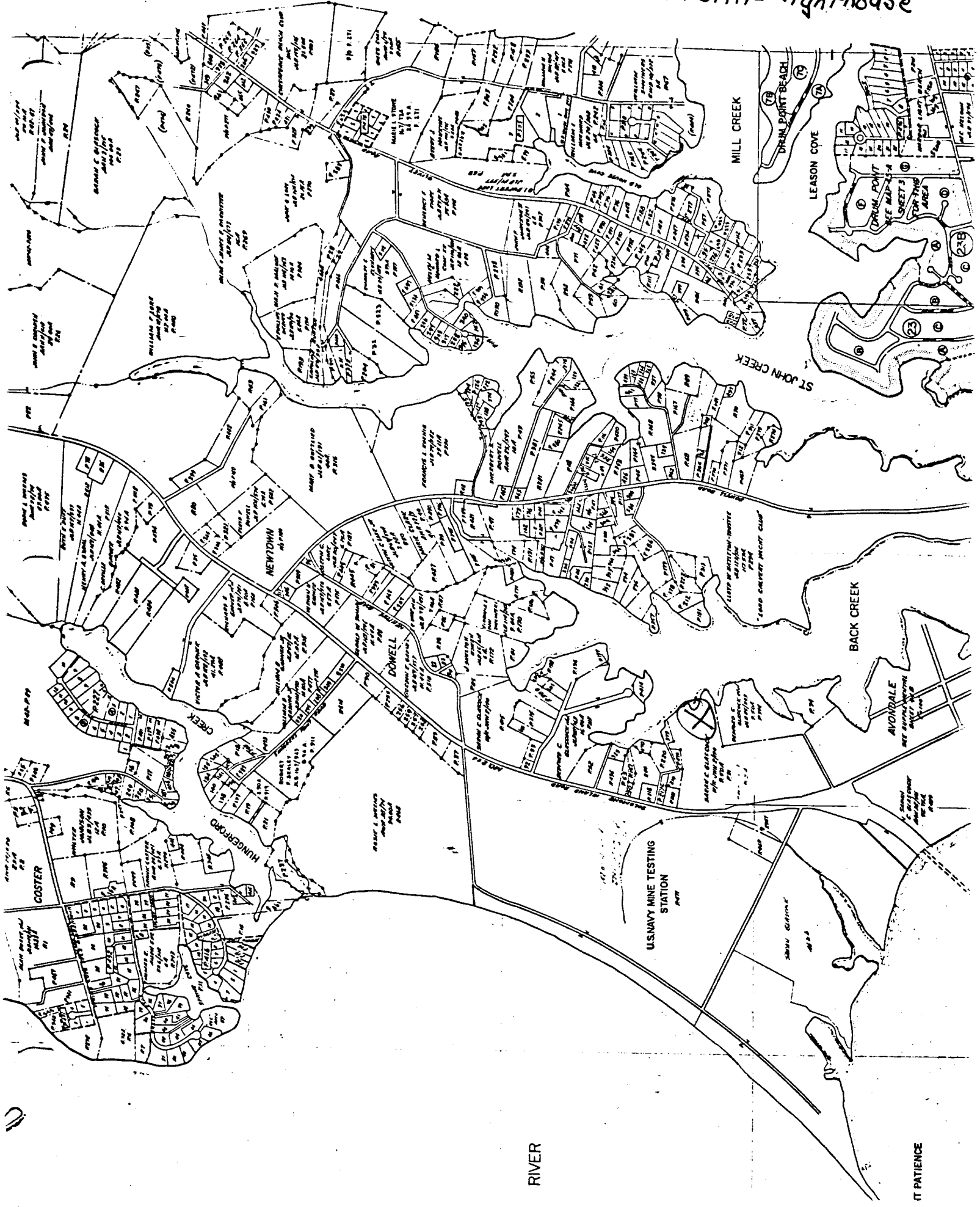
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE	<i>John W. Pearce</i>	DATE
		10/24/75
TITLE	State Historic Preservation Officer	DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST:	DATE
EPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

CT-68 Drum Point Lighthouse

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186



RIVER

IT PATIENCE

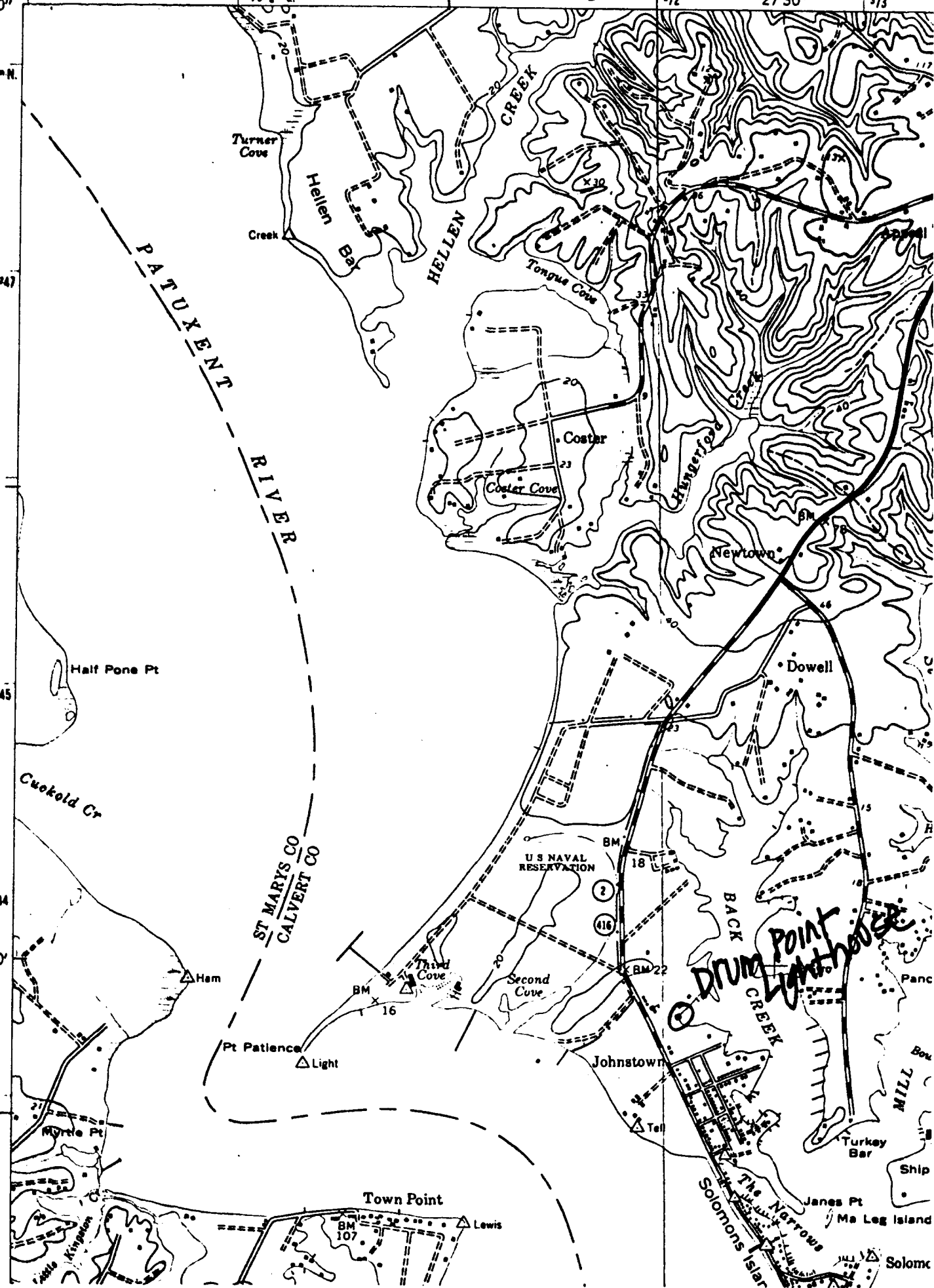
76°30'
38°22'30"

3700000 E

372

27'30"

373



PATUXENT RIVER

HELLEN CREEK

Turner Cove
Hellen Bay
Creek

Tongva Cove

Coster

Coster Cove

Newtown

Dowell

Half Pine Pt

Cuckold Cr

ST MARYS CO
CALVERT CO

U S NAVAL RESERVATION

DRUM POINT Light house

BACK CREEK

Third Cove

Second Cove

Pt Patience Light

Johnstown

MILL

Turkey Bar
Ship

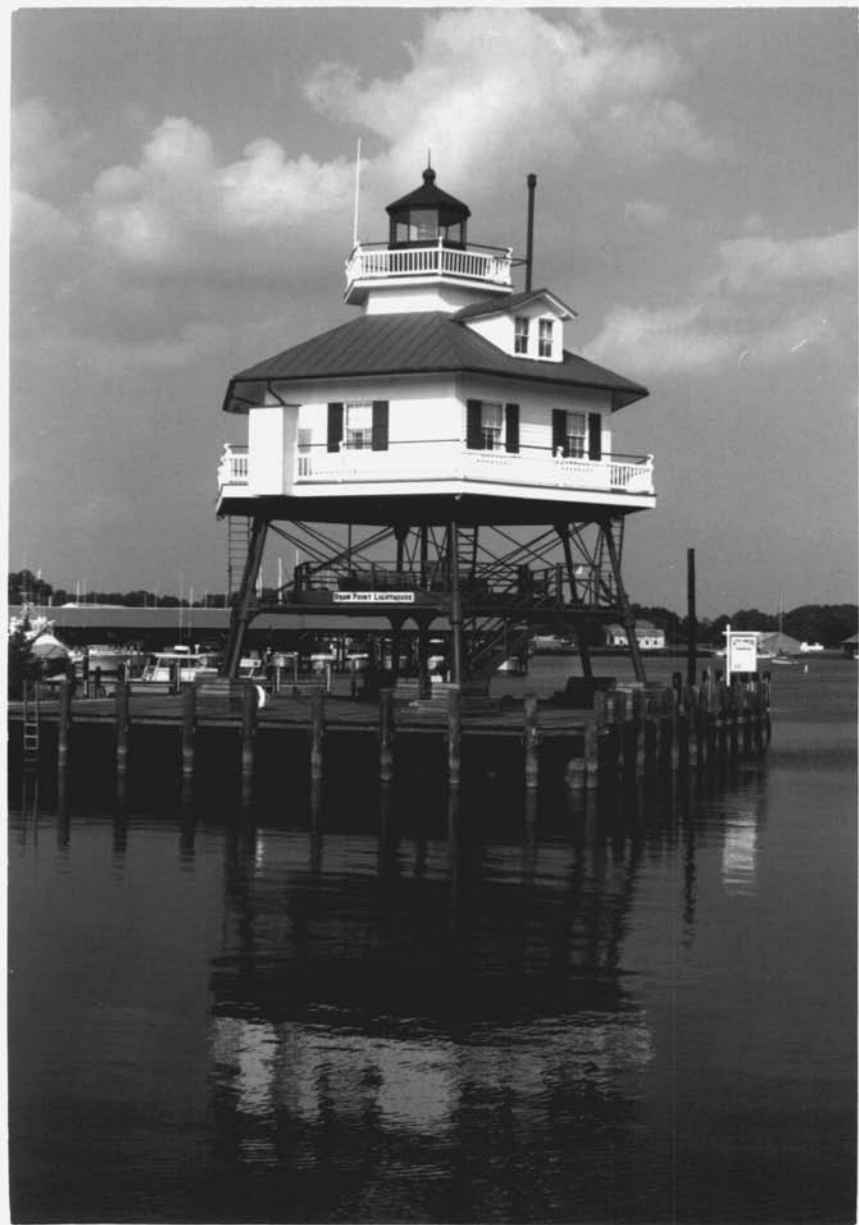
Town Point

BM 107

Lewis

Janes Pt
Ma Leg Island

Solomons Island

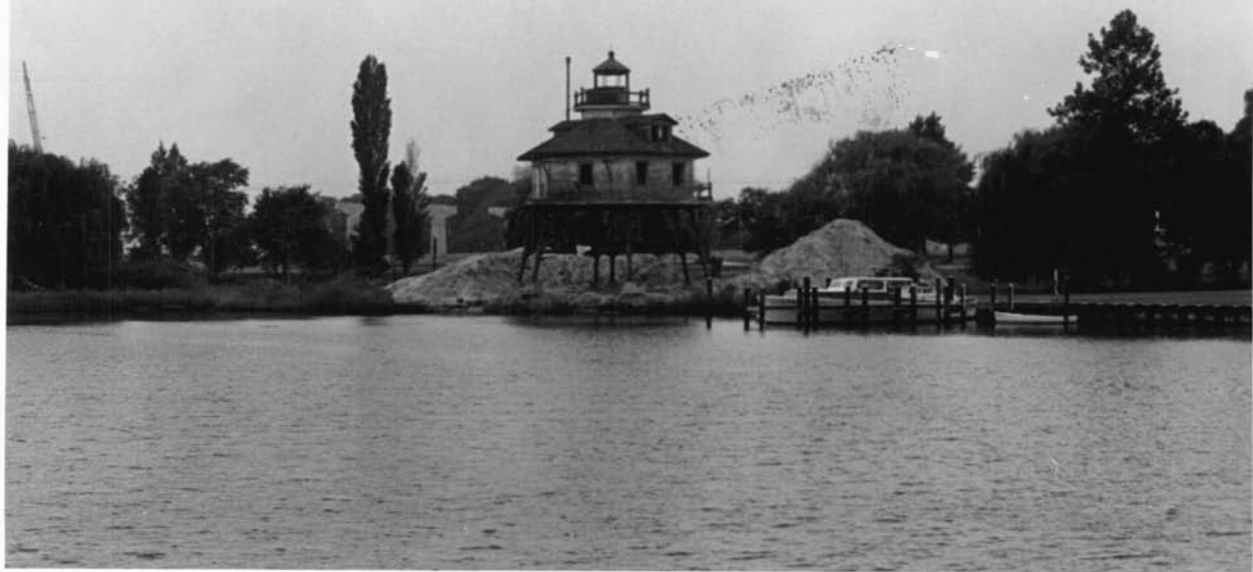


Ct-68 Drum Point Lighthouse
Solomons Island Road
Solomons

Camille Wells
view from the southwest

9/86

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Drum Point lighthouse

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