

D-831

## N. & E. Crocheron Store

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

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***Last Updated: 02-04-2016***

D-831  
N. and E. Crocheron Store  
Crocheron  
c. 1890

Although abandoned for at least a generation, the N. and E. Crocheron store is one of the few waterfront commercial structures standing in Dorchester County. Built with its principal façade to White Wood Cove of Tedious Creek, the two-story, gable-front frame structure was designed as a warehouse as well as a dry goods store that incorporated the post office at the turn of the twentieth century. The two-story main block is fitted with several loading doors, one of which retains a timber hoist beam on the second floor water side. The store and post office operated in the contemporaneous side shed, which is defined by the principal public entrance, also on the water side. Small three-paned barred windows light the store interior on two sides and are fixed above interior wall shelving. The enclosure for the post office is fitted with a wire grille top section.

The N. and E. Crocheron store building is located on twenty-acre property that includes a late nineteenth century house and outbuilding complex. (See D-837) The village of Crocheron developed during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with the boom in the oyster and seafood industry across the Chesapeake. An oyster packing house was also a fixture on White Wood Cove. The store and oyster house were part of the complex built by Nathan Crocheron (1802-1889) and his grandson, Eugene Crocheron (1857-1928), originally from New York state. Eugene married Triphina Johnson and in 1890 purchased a sizable acreage between Tedious Creek and Hooper's Straits. By 1920, Eugene Crocheron is listed in the national census as a dry goods merchant with his wife and two sons, Irving H. and Clarence E. Crocheron. Eugene Crocheron was also postmaster of the community, beginning in 1901. Following Eugene Crocheron's death in 1928, his son Clarence took on the role of postmaster until 1934, when Minnie Short Crocheron,

Irving's wife, assumed the role and held it until her retirement in 1968. The Crocheron store remained in family hands until 2002.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-831

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic N. & E. Crocheron Store

other \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street and number Crocheron Road  not for publication

city, town Cambridge vicinity \_\_\_\_\_

county Dorchester

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

name Andrew A. Dumaine & Cristina Y. Creager

street and number 206 Cedarcroft Road telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21212-2516

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 690 folio 239

city, town Cambridge tax map 113 tax parcel 18 tax ID number 10-006627

## 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 at MHT  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
				Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		

**Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory**  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

Inventory No. D-831

### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 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.

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The N. and E. Crocheron Store stands at the end of a lane that intersects Crocheron Road in the watermans' community of Crocheron in the Strait Neck Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland. Oriented to face White Wood Cove of Tedious Creek, the two-story gable-front frame store building dates around 1880 and rests on a low brick foundation. The exterior is sheathed with asbestos shingles, and the steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles over wood shingles. The building faces southeast with the gable roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis. Attached to the two-story main block is a contemporaneous single-story shed roofed wing. The building has been abandoned for more than a generation. It served as a waterfront store and post office for the village of Crocheron.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The N. and E. Crocheron Store is located on White Wood Cove of Tedious Creek in the village of Crocheron in the Straits election district of Dorchester County, Maryland. Built with an orientation to the waterfront, the two-story, rectangular frame store building is defined by a narrow three-bay gable-front façade and a longer two-bay southwest side elevation. The building is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles over wood shingles.

The southeast (main) elevation is an asymmetrical façade with the two-story, gable-front main block pierced by a center door opening and flanking window openings that are shuttered. The second story is pierced by a center freight type door with a timber hoist beam above. A second door opening is located to the east and boarded over window to the west. The gable end is pierced by a two-over-two sash window. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave with returns at the base.

The northwest side elevation is marked by a single-story door opening on the first story and a pair of boarded over window openings on the second. The edge of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice. A single flue brick stove chimney, now collapsed, remains centrally located on the roof.

The northeast (rear) elevation is defined by a single door opening on the ground floor fitted with Closed doors secured with a metal bar hung on a metal staple. The second story and the gable end are Defined by boarded over window openings. The edge of the roof is extended and finished with returns at the base.

The northeast side of the main block is entirely covered by shed roofed store and post office wing, which has the principal public entrance on the southeast side. Sheltered by a gable roofed porch, the entrance is fitted with double doors dating from the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The raised-panel doors have removable upper panels typical of late nineteenth century stores. There is a small shuttered window opening fixed above the porch roof. The edge of the shed roof is extended. The

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Name N. and E. Crocheron Store  
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other two sides of the shed roofed store section are defined by highly placed three-pane windows fitted with vertical iron security bars. The high wall position allowed for uninterrupted wall space inside for store shelving.

The interior survives with shelving around the perimeter of the shed roofed section, and in the southwest corner a wired enclosure for the post office.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. D-831

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input 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 checked="" 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 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.)

## SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Although abandoned for at least a generation, the N. and E. Crocheron store is one of the few waterfront commercial structures still standing in Dorchester County. Built with its principal façade to White Wood Cove of Tedious Creek, the two-story, gable-front frame structure was designed as a warehouse as well as a dry goods store and post office. The two-story main block is fitted with several loading doors, one of which a timber hoist beam on the second floor water side. The store and post office operated in the contemporaneous side shed, which is defined by the principal entrance, also on the water side. Small three-pane barred windows, light the store interior on two sides and are fixed above interior wall shelving. The enclosure for the post office is fitted with a wire grill top section.

## HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The N. and E. Crocheron store building is located on the edge of White Wood Cove of Tedious Creek, and it is part of a twenty-acre property that includes a late nineteenth-century house and outbuilding complex in the village of Crocheron. The village developed during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with the boom in the oyster and seafood industry across the Chesapeake. An oyster packing house was also a structure that defined the creek edge during the early to mid twentieth century.<sup>1</sup> The store and oyster house were part of the complex built by Nathan Crocheron (1802-1889) and his grandson Eugene Crocheron (1857-1928), who were originally from New York state. Eugene married married Triphina Johnson. By 1920, Eugene Crocheron is listed in the national census as a dry goods merchant with his wife and two sons, Irving H. and Clarence E. Crocheron. Eugene Crocheron was also postmaster of the community called Crocheron, which had developed around the family complex between 1890 and 1920. Following Eugene Crocheron's death in 1928 his son Clarence took on the role of postmaster until 1934, when Minnie Short Crocheron, Irving's wife, assumed the role and held it until her retirement in 1968. The Crocheron store remained in family ownership until 2002.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dorchester County Plat Record, PLC 16/4, 6 June 1964, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge.

<sup>2</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, MLB 690/239, 15 April 2002, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge.

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N. and E. Crocheron Store  
Crocheron Road,  
Crocheron, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 113, Parcel 18

MLB 690/239

Marie C. Cannon and John Eric Cannon

to

4.15.2002

Andrew A. Dumaine and Cristina Y. Creager

Plat Record PLC 16/4

PLC 243/104

Gloria C. Flook

to

1.13.1987

John Irving Cannon and Marie C. Cannon

PLC 240/725

Harry Flook and Gloria C. Flook, New Cannan, Connecticut

to

6.30.1986

Gloria C. Flook

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PLC 188/696

Vernon E. Robbins and Millie Short Ott, Co-personal representatives  
of the Estate of Minnie C. Crocheron, deceased,

to

2.18.1975

Harry Flook and Gloria C. Flook, Fairfield, Connecticut

All that parcel or tract of land, containing 20 acres more or less, as  
shown on a Plat of the lands of Minnie Crocheron (now deceased)  
prepared by L. Alan Evans, Surveyors, said Plat being recorded  
immediately, PLC 16, Folio 14.

CL 14/383

Henry T. Todd and others

to

9.27.1890

Eugene Crocheron

All that tract of land with improvements thereon situated in Straits election  
District in Dorchester County, Maryland...being the same lands described  
in a deed from Edward Willing to Thomas Todd, bearing date the twenty  
eighth day of July 1840, ER 18/93 and 94, and being the same land of  
which the said Thomas Todd died seized and possessed during his life,  
and others named in deed do covenant that they will execute such other  
and further assurance as may be requisite to complete the title to the land  
hereby conveyed...

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Will Book  
JWF 1/192

Last Will and Testament of Nathan Crocheron

Executor, Grandson Eugene Crocheron

Written  
4.18.1879

Estate to be equally divided between heirs, Estate No. 0-1521

Proved  
4.30.1889

Goods and Chattels held by Nathan and Eugene Crocheron trading  
as N & E. Crocheron

FJH 10/235

Ezekial Johnson

to

7.21.1875

Nathan Crocheron

\$760 "southwest side of the broads of Teagious Creek to the west side of  
White Wood Cove..."

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge.

John L. Graham, ed. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 1 acre  
Acreage of historical setting 20 acres  
Quadrangle name Bloodsworth Island, Md      Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

---

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	8.10.2013
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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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.

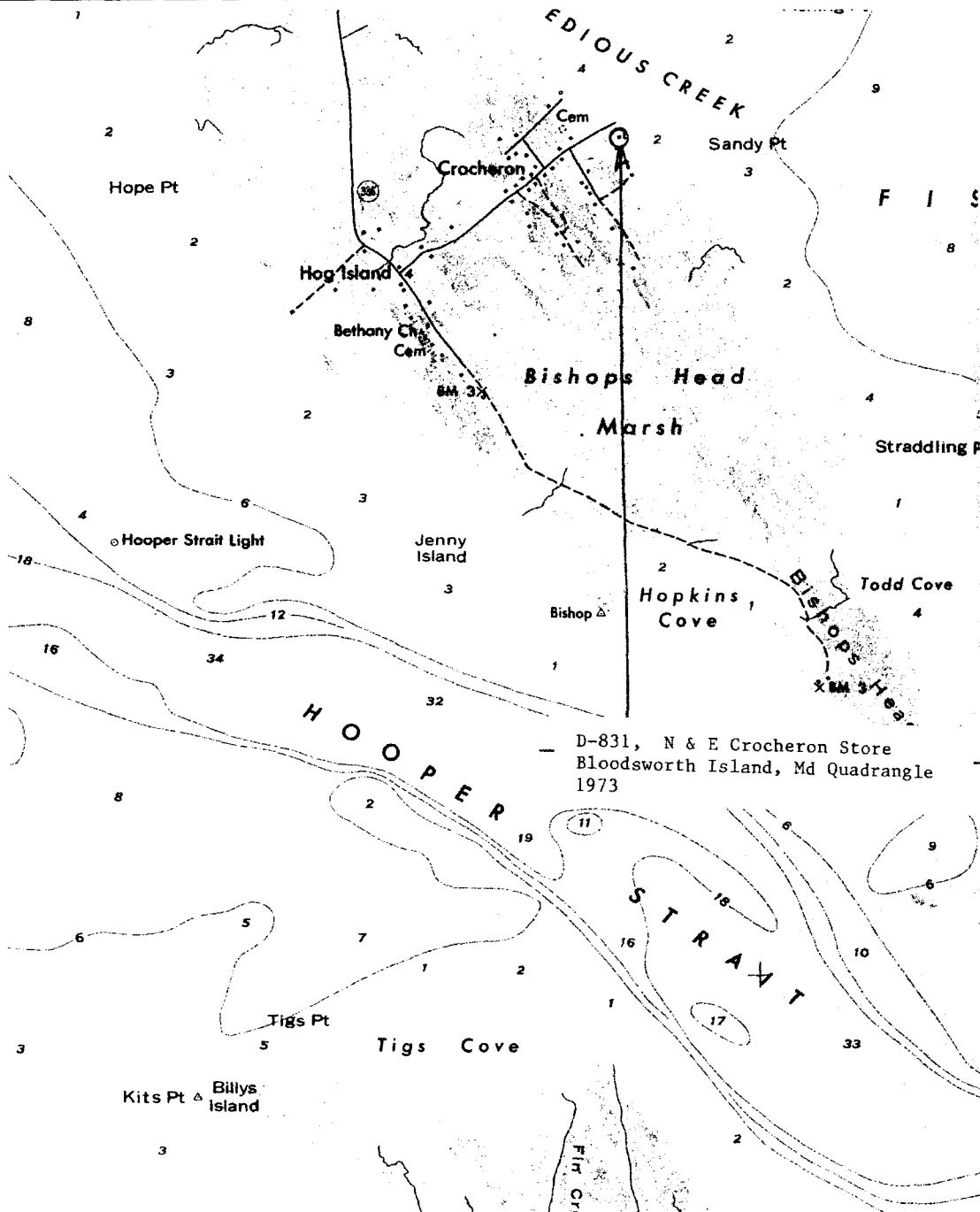
return to:                    Maryland Historical Trust  
                                      DHCD/DHCP  
                                      100 Community Place  
                                      Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
                                      410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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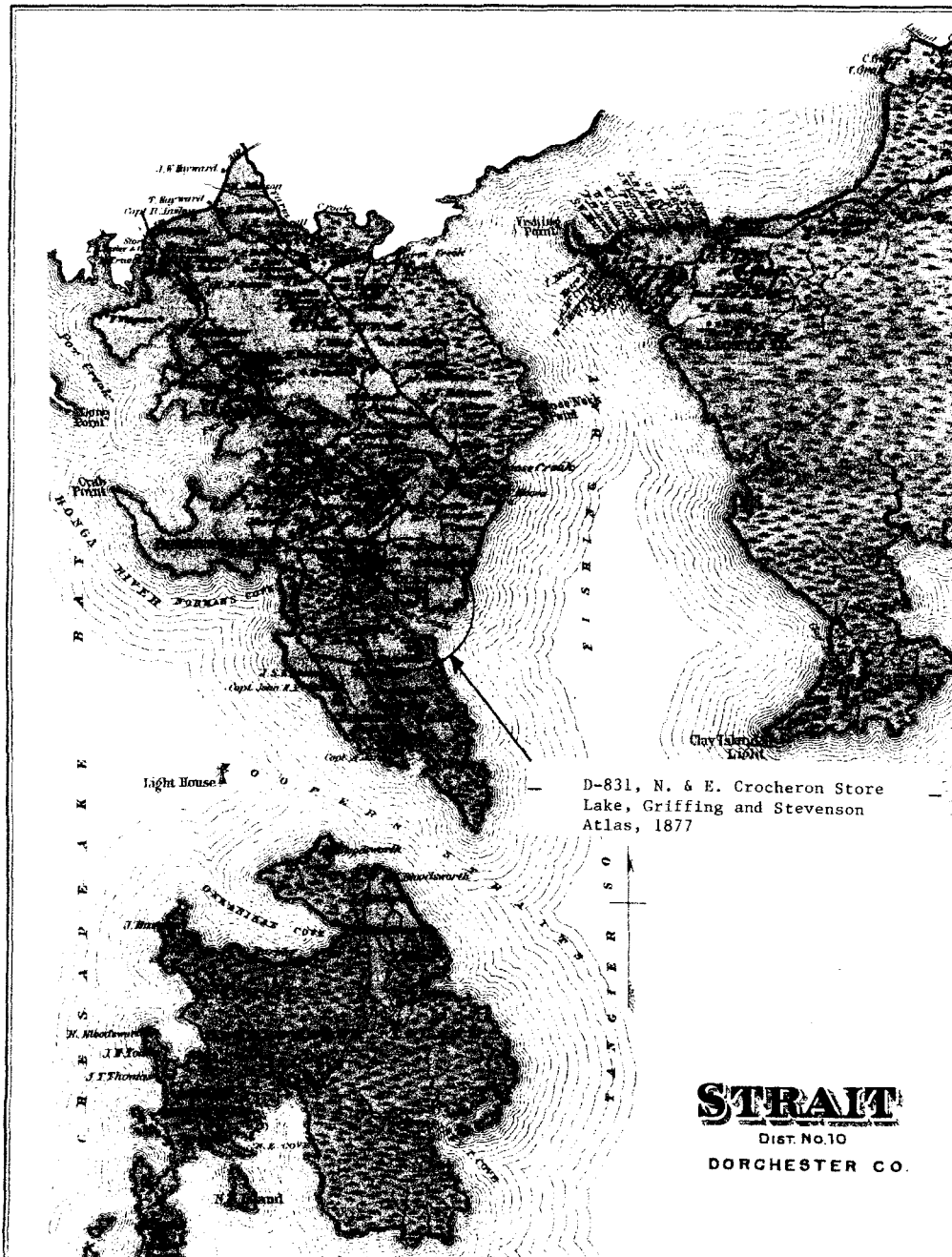


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Name N. and E. Crocheron Store  
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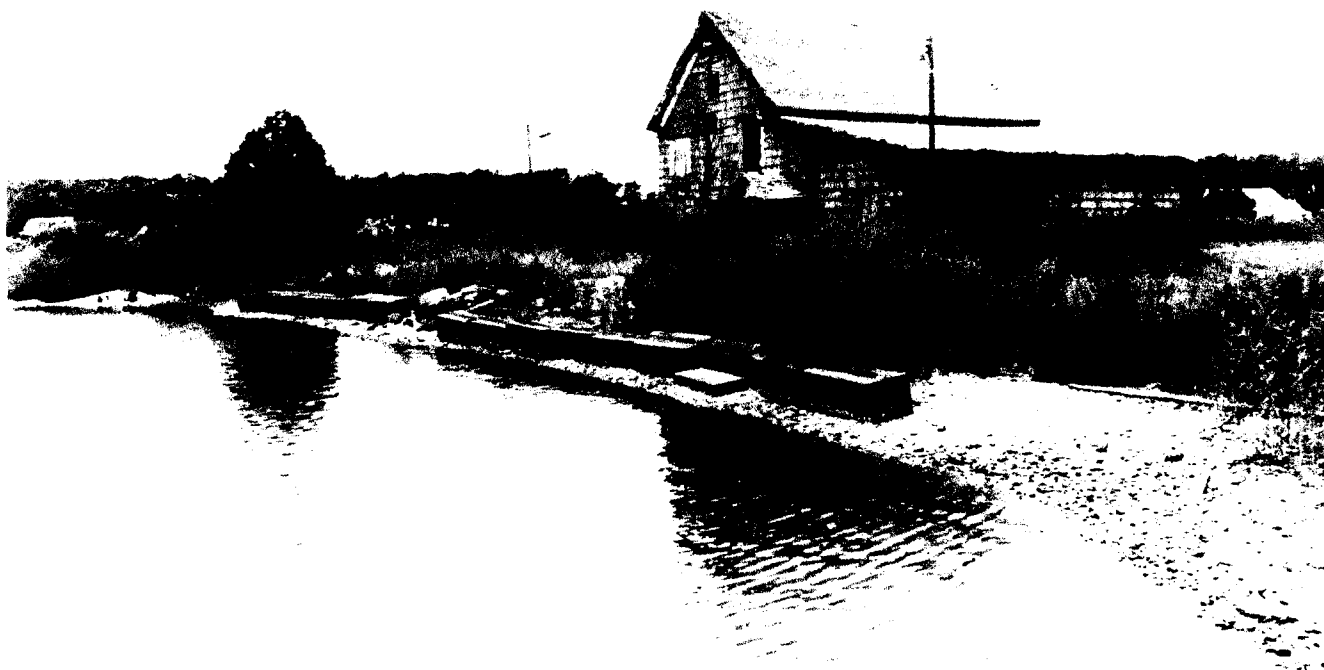
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D-831, N. & E. Crocheron Store, Crocheron, southeast elevation, Paul Baker Touart, 8.2013

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D-830, N. & E. Crocheron Store, Crocheron, southeast elevation, Paul Baker Touart, 8.2013

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Name N. and E. Crocheron Store  
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D-831, N. & E. Crocheron Store, Crocheron, northwest elevation, Paul Baker Touart, 8.2013

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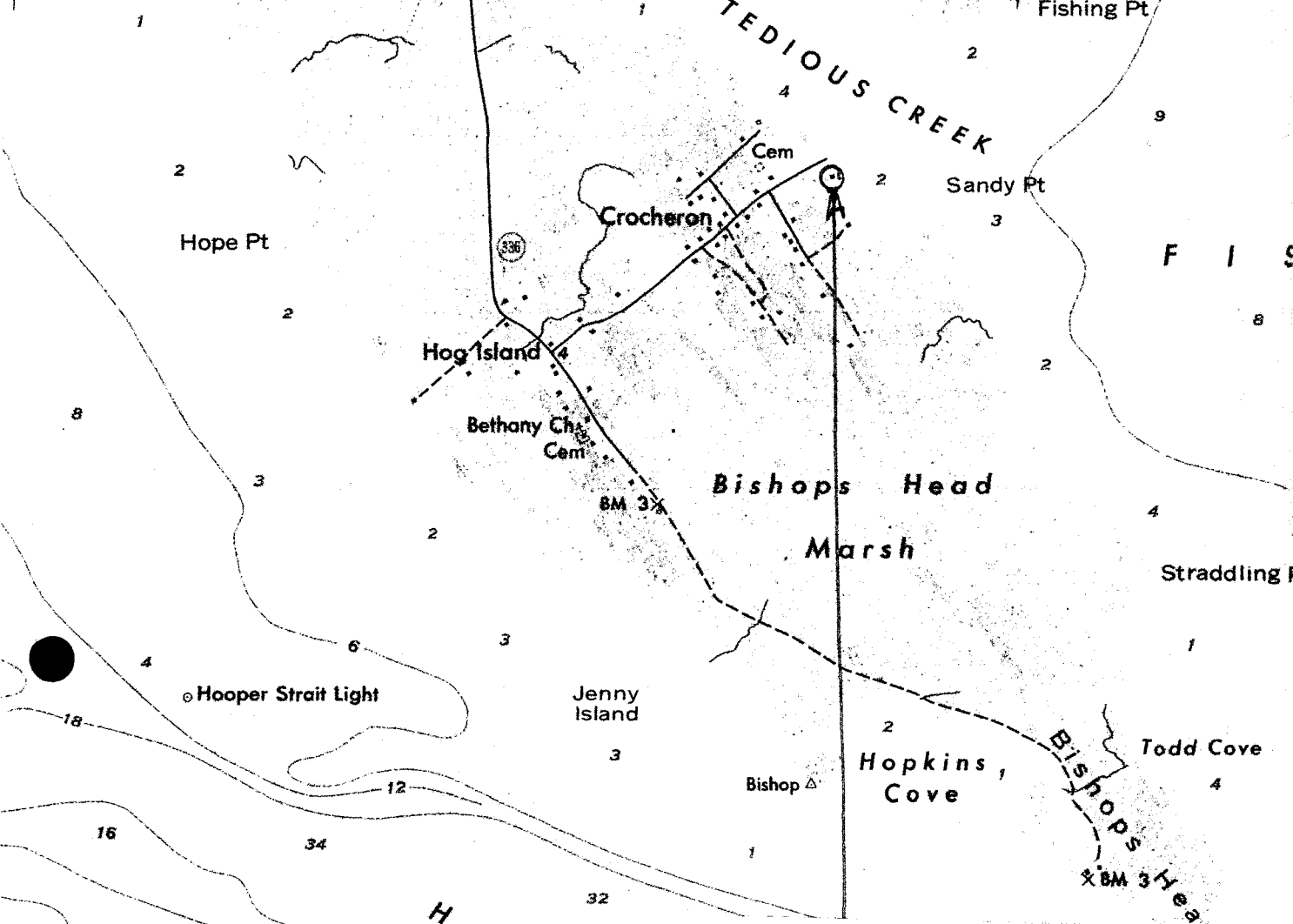
Name N. and E. Crocheron Store  
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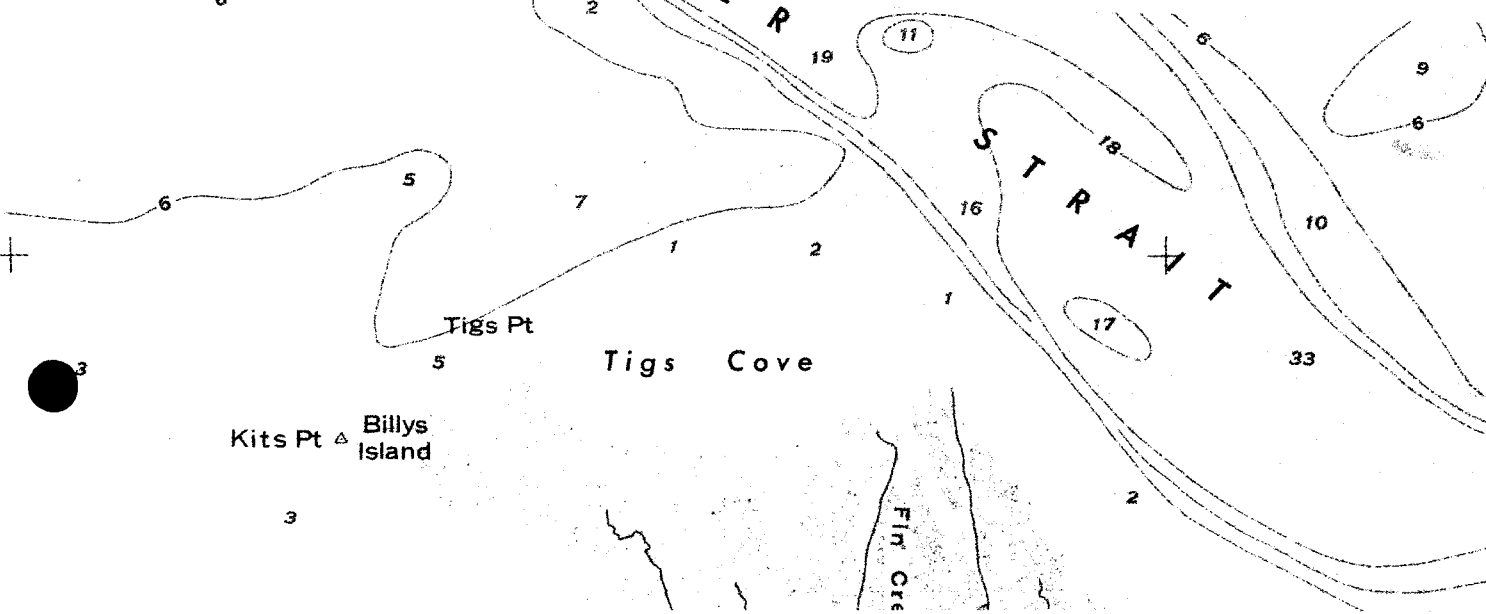


D-831, N. & E. Crocheron Store, entrance-southeast elevation, Paul Baker Touart, 8.2013

5' 406 WINGATE 2.9 MI. 5760 1 SE (WINGATE) 408 2'30" 409



D-831, N & E Crocheron Store  
Bloodsworth Island, Md Quadrangle  
1973





D-831

W. + E. Crocker and Stone  
Crocker on, Dorchester Co., MD.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

9.2013, PAUL B. TOWART, PHOTO.

WEG./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

#1 OF 5



D-831

N. + E. Crockeron Stone  
Crockeron, Dorchester Co. MD  
Southwest Elevation

9.2013, Paul B. Touart, Photo.  
NE2. / MD Hist. Trust

#2 of 5



D-831

N. P. E. Crocker and Stone  
Crocker, DIRECTOR C. and  
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION  
9. 2013, Paul B. Touart, PITUIT.  
NEED AND HISTORICAL TRUST

# 3 OF 5



D-831

W P E. Crocker and Stone

Crocker, Dorchester Co. MD

Northwest elevation

9.2013, Paul B. Towart, Pittov.

Ver. / ind. Historical Trust

#4 of 5



D-931

N. + E. CROUCHMAN STONE

CROUCHMAN, DORCHESTER Co. MD.

ENTRANCE - SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

9, 2013, PAUL B. TOWNS, PHOTO.

WPA/MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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