
7. Description

Inventory No. CT-88

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.

The Mount Summit site is presently covered by a Safeway supermarket and a parking lot at a shopping center called Dunkirk Marketplace at MD Route 4 and West Ward Road in Dunkirk.

The description below is based primarily on an undated, unattributed partial inventory form in the vertical files at the Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning. The form was created sometime before 1993 and has been edited for this submission. The information on the undated form apparently came from an interview with Mildred Ward Lyons, now deceased, who with her husband A. Gorman Lyons, purchased the property in 1931:

The original structure on a farm known as Mount Summit was demolished in 1948 when the Lyons's deemed it beyond repair. Mount Summit was a Smith family home and is said to be on land which was part of the original Smith family grant given to Thomas Smith in 1670. Mrs. Lyons remembered that the house was nearly square with four rooms down, four up plus a "hall, entry way, pantry, and kitchen" in the rear. It was a wooden frame house with a "flat" roof and it had a fireplace in every room, eight fireplaces. There was a small front porch. There was only a partial basement which is supposed to have been a dairy and/or root cellar.

When the house was demolished, the iron work was saved from one fireplace, as were a pair of double doors which were installed on the front or east side of the brick house that replaced Mount Summit. Mrs. Lyons also saved some of the boxwoods.

Dating Mount Summit is difficult. As Mrs. Lyons described the house, it sounds quite similar to the neighboring Cherry Hill [CT-76] which has been dated to ca. 1820. The fireplaces tend to place it at least before 1870. According to Isabella Fonner's "Smith Family of Smithville," Dr. John Sparrow Smith (1832-1883), son of Mordecai and Mary Cruse Smith, lived at Mount Summit with his first wife.

Leila Boyer, Executive Director of the Calvert County Historical Society and owner of Cherry Hill (CT-76), wrote: "My understanding is that Mt. Summit was perched atop a hill (hence the name), which was leveled when they built the Safeway compound. Our house (Cherry Hill), Mt. Summit, and Hampton [CT-9] (before it was altered) were all of the same design and all had connections through marriage via the Carcaud, Smith, Sparrow, and Chaney families."¹

¹ Leila Boyer, personal email communication, September 26, 2018.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CT-88

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates	18?? - 1948	Architect/Builder	unknown
Construction dates	unknown		

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.)

The Mount Summit site is significant for its potential to contain archaeological remains that could shed light on the settlement of Dunkirk, then known as Smithville. Archaeological potential, however, is low owing to grading and utility intrusions.

Thomas Smith received land grants to two parcels of land in the area now known as Dunkirk. The first, in 1679, was called The Highlands², and included Highland (CT-3). That parcel was north of the current town center. The other, in 1695, called Chance,³ extended west and south toward Hall Creek and included Whitehall (CT-84), and what is now Dunkirk Regional Park, north of Smithville United Methodist Church.

Leila Boyer, Executive Director of the Calvert County Historical Society, reports that Mount Summit had been part of a resurvey of Red Hall in 1668, 300 acres of which was in the sole possession of a Mr. Lyles by 1703. The property was passed to descendants of Lyles until a parcel 140 acres was sold in a sheriff's sale to Mordecai Smith in 1815.⁴

According to an obituary published for Dr. John Sparrow Smith he was born at Whitehall and died at his "late residence" at Mount Summit.⁵ It is not clear who, if anyone, lived on the property before Dr. Smith. Mount Summit remained in the family until it went to auction in 1931 following a dispute between then-owner, Frank. O. Smith and others. A. Gorman Lyons purchased Mount Summit at the auction for \$7,500.⁶ A plat prepared in 1931 shows the extent of the property at that time and includes the label 'Mount Summit' (Figure 2).⁷

² Robert W. Hall and Sandy Hall, *Early Landowners of Maryland, Volume 3: Calvert County, 1640-1710*. p. 183

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Leila Boyer, personal email communication, September 26, 2018.

⁵ *Evening Capital*, May 23, 1887, Annapolis, Maryland.

⁶ Calvert County Circuit Court land records, AAH 27:0130.

⁷ Plat AAH 1:18, MSA C2237_66, accessed online at MdLandrec.net, August 2018

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-88

Hall, Robert W. and Sandy Hall. *Early Landowners of Maryland, Volume 3: Calvert County, 1640-1710*. Lewes DE: Colonial Roots, 2009.

Dr. John S. Smith obituary, *The Evening Capital*, Annapolis, Maryland, 23 May 1887.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 4.87
Acreage of historical setting 25 +/-
Quadrangle name Lower Marlboro

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Current property: TM 6, Parcel 362 – historic house stood on this parcel, according to evidence from 1938 USDA aerial photo. Historic property also included at least TM 6, Parcel 409

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kirsti Uunila, Historic Preservation Planner		
organization	Calvert County Dept. of Planning & Zoning	date	5 August 2019
street & number	150 Main Street, Suite 300	telephone	410-535-1600 ext 2504
city or town	Prince Frederick	state	MD

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
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

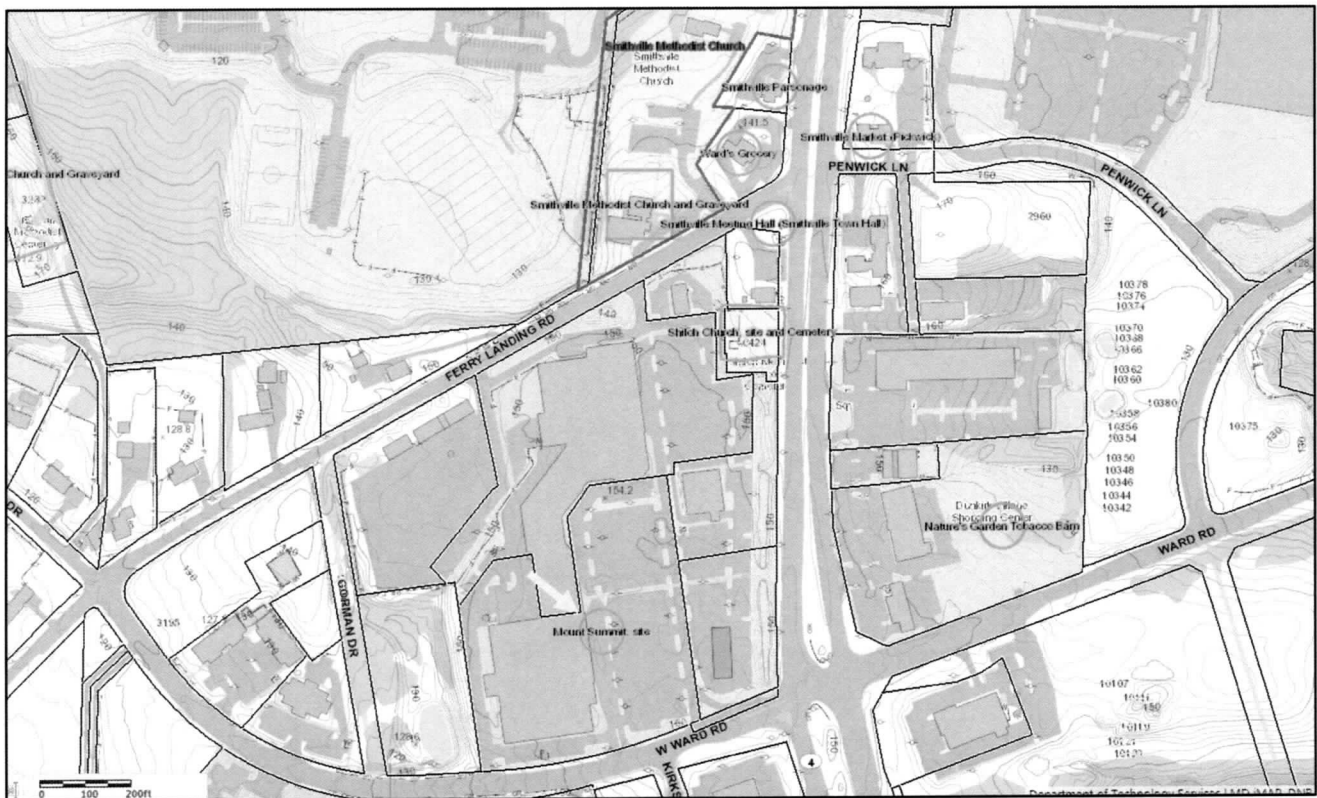
Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-88

Name Mount Summit (site)
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Figure 1:
Mount Summit site on Calvert County topographic map, shown in relation to nearby historic properties in Dunkirk



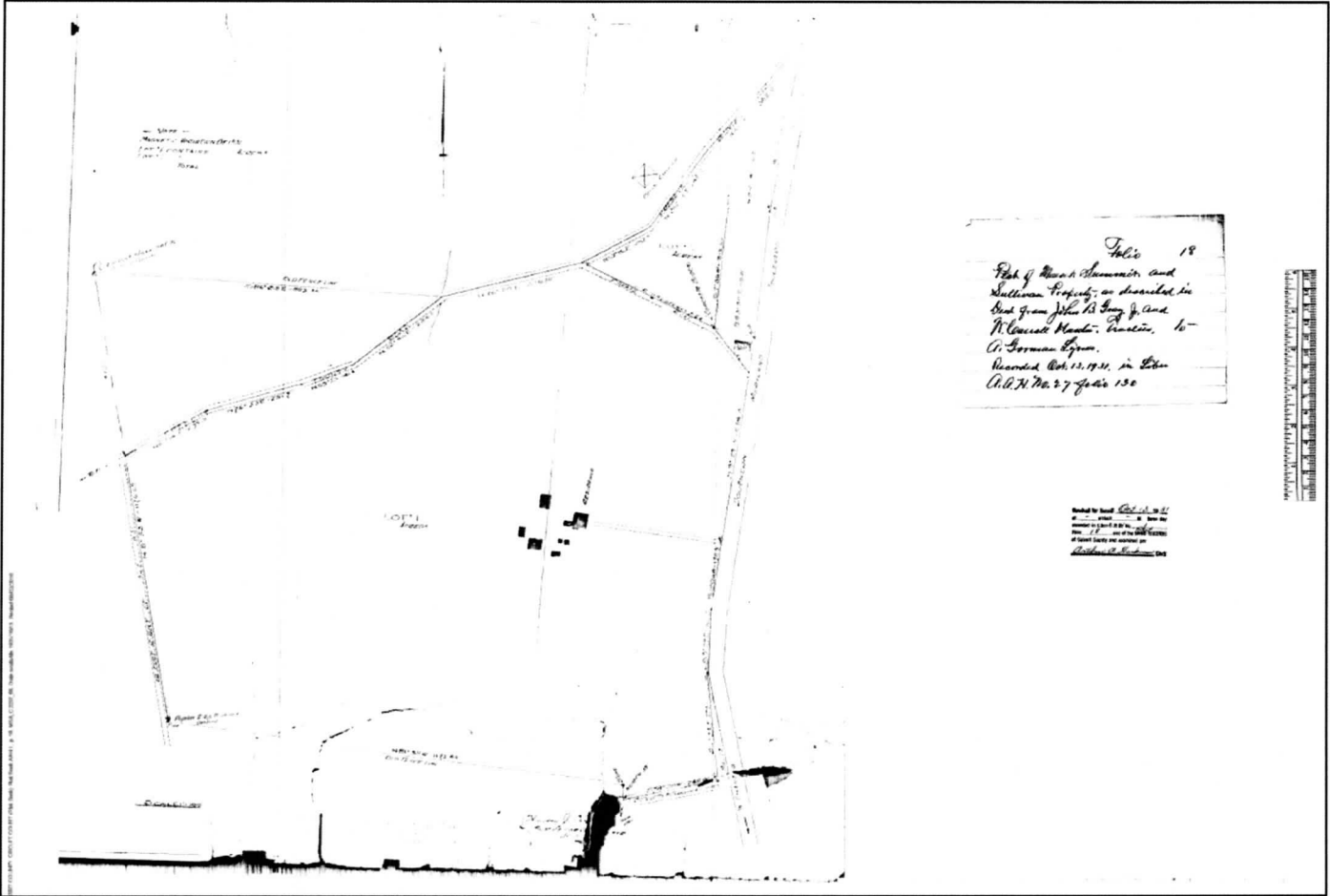
Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-88

Name Mount Summit (site)
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Figure 2:
Plat of Mount Summit AAH 1:18, MSA C2237_66, accessed online at MdLandrec.net



Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-88

Name Mount Summit (site)
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

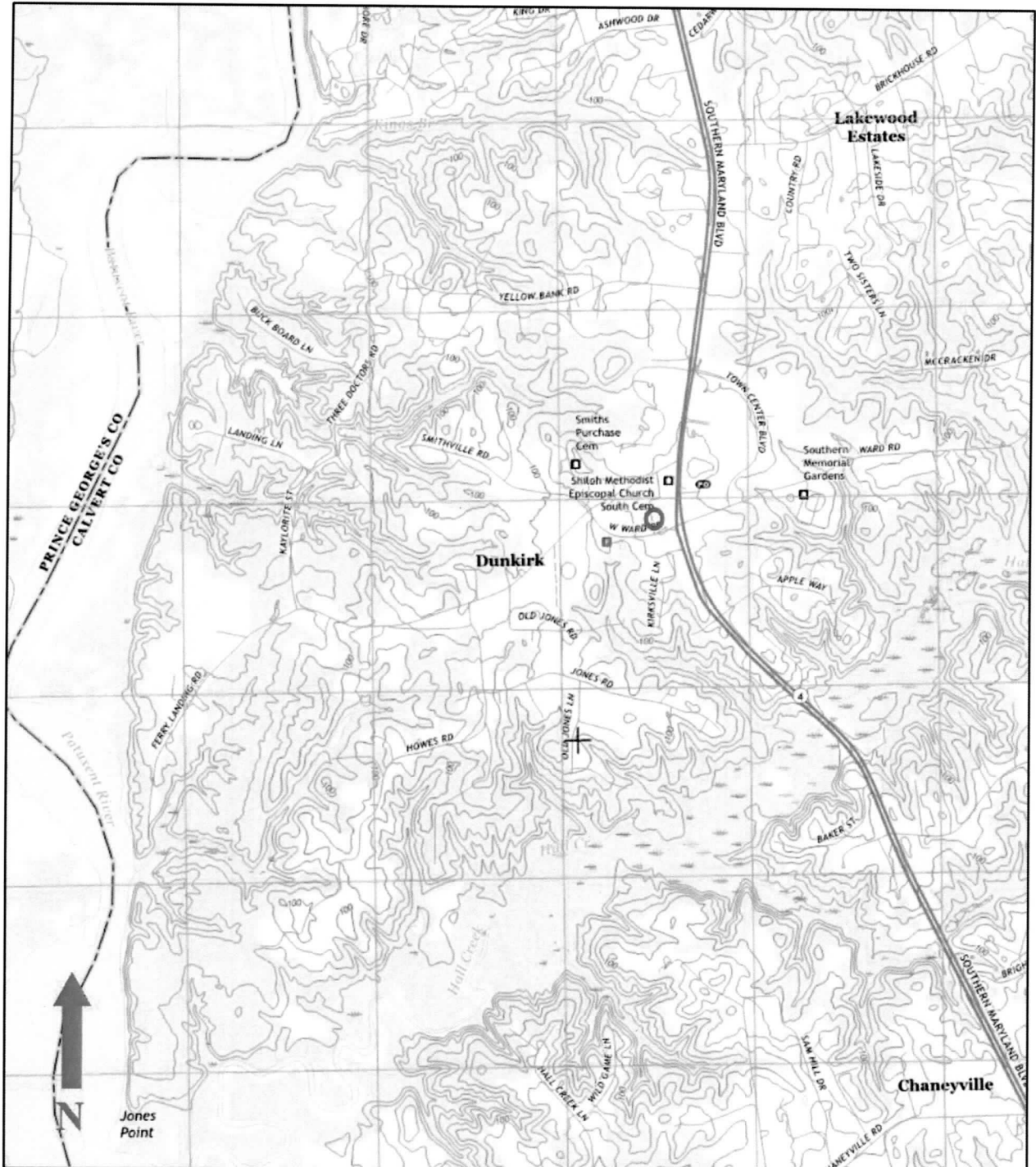
Figure 3:
Mount Summit on 1938 USDA Aerial photograph



10276 Southern Maryland Blvd.
Dunkirk, MD
Calvert County

Lower Marlboro Quadrangle (2016)
USGS Topographical Map
1:24,000

Mount Summit site
CT-88



10276 Southern Maryland Blvd.
Dunkirk, MD
Calvert County

Lower Marlboro Quadrangle
USGS Topographical Map (2016)
1:12,000

Mount Summit site
CT-88

