Notes on the Settlement of
St. Michael's Hundred
1634-1644

Garry Wheeler Stone
April 1978

These notes document the spread of settlement south of the St. Mary's
Town Lands. They synthesize information collected by the staff of the St.
Mary's City Commission since Russell Menard prepared the first St. Mary's
County tract maps. I am indebted to Lois Carr for bringing this information
to my attention. The 18th-century tract map subsequently prepared by Chris
Allen and Lorena Walsh facilitated revision of Menard's maps. Barbara Raley,
St. Mary's City, identified for me the creeks and necks of St. Michael's
Hundred.

St. Michael's Hundred, initially all of the peninsula below the St.
Mary's Town Lands, was allocated to the first immigrants to Maryland's
western shore. Original surveys or adequate surrogates survive for almost
three-fourths of the hundred (see figure). Slightly more than two-thirds
of the hundred (12,000 acres) was taken up by the principle investors in the
1633-34 expedition. The Society of Jesus, Commissioner Thomas Cornwaleys,' and
Commissioner Jerome Hawley claimed 9,000 acres of the hundred (another
3,000 acres of Hawley's land extended north into St. Mary's Hundred). Gov-
ernor Leonard Calvert patented another three thousand acres at the tip of
the peninsula. In between these large manorial grants is a strip of about
5,000 acres. I assume it was divided among the middling adventurers in
blocks of 1,000 acres. Only one record remains of these conjectured grants,
a 1,000 acre neck granted to a 1634 immigrant from Virginia, Thomas Pasmore.
The other probable grantees, the middling investors in the expedition, all
returned to England or died before the initial temporary grants were replaced
by formal surveys and patents.

Part of the resulting gap between Cornwaleys', Hawley's, and Calvert's
manors was filled in during the late 1630s and early 1640s by new property
owners, immigrants, or the freed servants of the first settlers. Unfortunately,
most of the surveys and patents for 1642-1644 are lost. It is possible to
place only one new freeholder, Thomas Baldridge (see below). The approximate
location of his land survives only as a ghost in later surveys. Giles Brent
received a warrant for 1,000 acres on the south side of St. Jerome's Creek
in 1644, but he did not have a chance to settle it before Ingle's Rebellion.
The remaining land, at least 2,500 acres, makes it impossible to determine
if several of the freemen in the hundred were manorial tenants or freeholders.
Mariner John Hallowes presents a typical problem. By 1643, he owned a well
stocked plantation southeast of the Governor's Creek. (One of his hogs strayed
onto Francis Gray's tenement.) Hallowes' plantation could have been a free-
hold located in the forks of the Governor's Creek between Baldridge's land
and the 1648 grant to Anthony Rawlins (White Birch Freehold), or it could
have been a tenement on Trinity or St. Gabriel's manors. Either location
is compatible with the biographical data contained in the Provincial Court
St. Inigoe's Manor (2,000 acres), the Society of Jesus.

DATING: Probably established no later than 1636. One of the Jesuit farms produced large crops of tobacco and corn in 1637. This was probably St. Inigoe's Manor as the Jesuits' overseer and servants (and some tenants) were seated there in 1638 (Calvert Papers, 1:202; Md. Arch., 4:35-39). The bounds of the manor were established prior to the survey for Cornwaleys Cross, 8 September 1639 (Patents, 1:110-11).

Cornwaleys Cross and Elizabeth Manor (4,000 acres), Thomas Cornwaleys.

LOCATION: Following Barbara Raley's suggestion, I have relocated the east bound of Cornwaleys Cross (the path to the head of the Governor's Creek) to agree with the path alignment described in the survey for White Birch Freehold (Patents, 2:439). The path has been extended north following the road alignment shown on the 1823-24 Army Engineers' Map.

DATING: Cornwaleys was building on Cross Manor by 1638. Development may date from May, 1637, when two carpenters entered into a covenant with Cornwaleys (Md. Arch., 4:35-39).

Thomas Baldridge's Land (acreage unknown).

No documentation for this tract has survived. (The surveys and patents for 1642-44 are missing.)

LOCATION: on the east side of the Governor's Branch of Trinity Creek. "Baldridge's Tree" was a reference point in the subsequent surveys for White Birch Freehold (Patents, 2:469), St. Patrick's (Patents, 15:194), and Warnell (Patents, 22:269). In 1642 Baldridge lived south of the head of the Governor's Creek (Md. Arch., 3:108).

DATING: Baldridge moved to St. Michael's Hundred between February 1639 and September, 1640 (Md. Arch., 1:29, 89).

Thomas Pasmor's Grant (1,000 acres).

LOCATION: next to Trinity Manor, as the adjacent planters were tenants on Trinity Manor. In 1650, Mrs. Margaret Brent tried to claim the tract as a tenement of Trinity Manor (Md. Arch., 4:167-71, 541-42).

DATING: Pasmor, a carpenter, migrated to Maryland in 1634 (Patents, 1:72-73). The grant was made prior to 28 December 1638, when Pasmor deeded all his estate to his former copartner, James Caunter, planter. While Pasmor never may have lived in St. Michael's Hundred, Caunter was a resident of the hundred in 1639. Caunter had been living on Pasmor's former grant prior to 1 November 1641, when he sold it to Thomas Sturman, cooper, and Thomas Yeowell, planter. At that time, Caunter was also a tenant on Trinity Manor (Md. Arch., 1:29; 4:485-85; and see below). Stephen Thomas was a neighbor of Sturman and Yeowell (Md. Arch., 4:167-71, 192, 194, 219). He may have rented or purchased from them part of Pasmor's grant.
Trinity Manor (600 acres), St. Gabriel's Manor (900 acres), and St. Michael's Manor (1500 acres). Surveyed for Leonard Calvert in August, 1641.

LOCATION: the south end of the peninsula. The boundary of the three manors began at the head of Norton's Creek and ran southeast past the heads of the two branches of Broad Creek (Cauther's Branch and James Branch) and intersected Deep Creek (Patents, 1:121-22; Provincial Court Deeds, WRC #1:782). The location of Norton's Creek is established by the survey for Osterstons Oak (Patents, Q:441).

DATING: Calvert had tenants established on his manors before the 1641 survey and possibly before 1638, as three of his known tenants--John Norton, Henry James, and Robert Smith--were freemen who participated in the 1638 assembly.

TENEMENTS: four, 100 acre tenements escheated in 1651 (three of the four tenants were dead). These were not freeholds, as the rents in arrears (two barrels of corn and two capons) were far greater than quit rents (Md. Arch., 4:278; 10:93). I have listed below those tenants of Calvert that I have been able to identify. The list is certainly incomplete.

Trinity Manor


St. Gabriel's Manor

Henry James, planter. Resident on "James Branch" in 1641. His 100 acre tenement escheated in 1651. The tenement was later known as "Henry James his Neck" and was adjacent to "Langford's Neck." (Md. Arch., 10:93; 49:412-13).
John Langford. Two men named John Langford were residents in St. Michael's Hundred in 1642-43: John Langford, carpenter, and John Langford, Esq., councilor and surveyor general. In 1643, John Langford, Esq., sued Francis Gray for not having constructed 300 feet of housing at Pinie Neck (Md. Arch., 1:130; 4:175). Langford's Neck is on the south side of Harry James Creek (St. Mary's Co., Wills, EJM:1-8 [Barbara Raley, "Bradburn" file]).

St. Michael's Manor

Thomas Butler [Allen?]. His 100 acre tenement escheated in 1651 (Md. Arch., 10:93). Thomas Allen was a freeman of St. Michael's Hundred in 1642. In 1648 he was murdered at Point Lookout by Indians. His will and inventory survive (Md. Arch., 1:146, 297; 4:403-06).

St. Jerome's [Manor (6,000 acres?)]. Assumed to have been allocated to Jerome Hawley. Never surveyed or patented in his name.

LOCATION: The creek name suggests its location, as do depositions taken in 1643 that indicate St. Jerome's was within easy walking distance of Sturman's and Yewell's land (Md. Arch., 4:167-71). An approximate location and size for St. Jerome's are indicated by a 1648 grant to Capt. William Hawley (St. Mary's Co. Rent Rolls of 1707; Patents, A.B, & H: 346, 370). His rights to 6,000 acres and upwards were derived from Jerome Hawley. As resurveyed in 1653, St. Jerome's measured 5,700 acres. The upper part of St. Jerome's Manor was in St. Mary's Hundred. (Robert Nicholls, planter of St. Jerome's, was a resident of St. Mary's Hundred. See below.)

DATING: Jerome Hawley may have established tenants at St. Jerome's before 1638. The court records identify three men as planters of St. Jerome's, 1639-1642; all three men were copartners or mates: Michael Lums, partner unknown; and Thomas Davidson and Robert Nicholls, partners. Nicholls was a freeman in St. Mary's-St. Michael's Hundred in January 1638 (Md. Arch., 1:3, 143; 4:60, 89-90, 116, 227).

Giles Brent's Land (1,000 acres).

LOCATION: "on the south side of St. Jerome's Creek's Mouth." (Patents, 1:131).

DATING: Brent received a warrant for this land in March 1643 (Ibid.). It may not have been surveyed before Ingle's Rebellion.
MANORS, FREEHOLDERS, AND TENANTS
in St. Michael's Hundred

1. Thomas Baldridge
2 & 3. Thomas Sturman
   Thomas Yewell
4. John Norton
5. Robert Smith
6. Francis Gray
7. James Cauther
8. Henry James
9. John Langford
10. Thomas Allen

WBF White Birch Freehold (1649)
BT Baldridge's Tree

(all locations approximate)
ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT POINT LOOKOUT STATE PARK
September 4-5, 1975

In August, 1975, George Miller, Archeological Conservator with the St. Mary's City Commission, reminded the Division of Archeology that construction within Point Lookout State Park, scheduled to begin in October, would affect two areas of potentially significant archeological information. The State Archeologist, Tyler Bastian then contacted the Park Superintendent to suggest an investigation be undertaken. Gerald Sword's response was enthusiastic and generously offered his assistance. The investigation was set for September 4th and 5th and Norma Wagner and Susan Deeney of the Division of Archeology, Maryland Geological Survey, met with Sword and Ranger Oleo Teeter to review all available information on the two areas and also to determine their exact locations.

The first site is an early 19th century farm midden (ST 62), previously reported by J. Kent (1973), at which a marina has been scheduled for construction. Numerous artifacts have been recovered by Sword, Teeter and Miller and are being preserved by Ranger Teeter under Miller's supervision. Miller has examined the site closely and feels it is highly significant for the preservation of wood and leather which is generally not recovered from dry land sites. Also, the exceptionally large fragments of pottery from the 1830's and 1840's will make reconstruction of whole plates, jars, etc. easier and more accurate for display and study purposes. Miller has identified the midden as representing a very short span of time which will aid researchers in understanding social and economic relationships from the study of the leather, wood, bones, glass fragments and metal items found at the site. The preservation of ordinarily perishable materials, the large ceramic sherds, and the short time span makes the site unique in Maryland.
among those known to the Division of Archeology, although similar sites probably exist in comparable tidewater marsh environments. As much of the material as possible should be recovered and the contractor should be advised that any material he may uncover must be reported immediately to the Park personnel.

The second site, which is subject to destruction by channel construction, is in an area suspected of being part of the breastwork of the Civil War Prison once located on the Point. Three posts approximately 9 cm in diameter were visible in the water on the west shore of Lake Conoy. With the use of a probe 2 more posts were located in the water; however, they are ½ m apart whereas those nearer the shore are abutting against each other. One additional post was found buried on land abutting against the first visible posts.

Sword and Teeter stated that they observed 6 to 8 posts projecting in Lake Conoy (also mentioned by George Miller). On the basis of Kent's report, Sword and Teeter stated that in the Potomac River directly across from the posts of Lake Conoy, additional posts are known. On his base map #5 and the accompanying explanation (part III, p. 2), Kent notes "pilings with nails and wood" in the Potomac River which he thought to be "either a dock construction area or remains of some sort of earthen support". A map by C. Seaford Stewart, Major of Engineers, 1864 (forwarded to the Division of Archeology by Sword, 1974), shows a dotted line in the area where Sword, Teeter and Kent thought some "earthen supports" might be, but no specific identification was made by Stewart.

The discrepancy in the number of posts reported and those actually found may in part be a result from the failure of Deeney and Wagner going out into the water and checking the area out. The reasons for this were (1) the urgency to test the land for buried posts, (2) the archeologists were not properly equipped for underwater investigation and (3) the lake as well as the Potomac River were infested with jellyfish.
The area of the posts was in tall marsh grass and shrubs which had to be cleared. It was decided to excavate a trench perpendicular to the posts and as close to them as possible. A 5 ft wide by 15 ft long trench with 5 ft extending southwest of the posts and 10 ft extending northwest of the posts was the chosen design. The purpose of this was to determine (1) additional posts in alignment with those identified, (2) the builders' trench and (3) perhaps a moat which would have been located parallel and northwest of the posts.

With the help of Park personnel the grass was mowed and a large portion raked away. A 30 m baseline was laid along the dirt road of the Park's overflow camping area (located between the Lake and the Potomac River) and approximately 9 m west of and perpendicular to the posts in Lake Conoy. A geodetic marker served as a permanent point of reference for the baseline.

Excavation was conducted in 10 cm levels in order to provide better stratigraphic control should the features of a stockade, builders' trench and moat be found. Because of rise in water level, due to high tide, excavation had to be halted in the southwestern 5 ft section of the trench. The water obscured all attempts to determine any soil distinctions or features. Excavation continued in the northwestern 10 ft section of the trench. The first 10 cm level contained many roots and the only artifacts recovered were a highly deteriorated tin can, a complete non-returnable brown glass beer bottle and a neck fragment from a second brown glass beer bottle. From the 10-20 cm level a piece of redware pottery attached to roots of a shrub was recovered and also part of a leather sole of a shoe. No indications of breastwork posts nor other features were noted.
The water level made it extremely difficult to determine features and the floor of the trench was becoming too muddy to excavate properly. It was decided to cease all excavations except in the area of the supposed alignment. A test pit was excavated within the trench in the area of the alignment of the posts to a depth of 25 cm at the east wall and 45 cm at the west wall. The only feature determined, before rising water inundated the test pit, was an oyster shell midden which also contained a brick lodged in the east wall (i.e., the wall nearest the posts). No posts were found within the test pit and all areas were mapped.

It was decided to use power equipment to remove dirt from an area parallel to the first trench dug by hand and perpendicular to the posts in the water but nearer to the dirt road to avoid the rising water. Ranger Teeter began excavations with a front end loader going approximately 68 cm deep and 2 m northwest of the posts before he was forced to stop because of high water. The cut did not reveal any posts. A test pit was dug near the west wall of the cut in the area of the supposed alignment to a depth of 104 cm. Excavation was again halted due to high water level. No indications of posts were found and the only artifacts recovered were 3 sherds, with orange glaze and buff interior of a probable ceramic beer bottle, at a depth of approximately 98 cm. Two sherds had a fragment of an incised design which consisted of 2 concentric circles separated by lettering (FA_______EN*). In the center of the inner circle remains of an animal design, probably that of a lion, is evident. According to Noel Hume such bottles were made between A.D. 1840-1890 (1969: pp. 79-80). Everett and Janice Ford report that ceramic bottles were in characteristic use in Baltimore from ca. A.D. 1860-1885 (1974: p. 2). Though the evidence is not conclusive, these
sherds represent the only material recovered from the site which could be attributed to the Civil War period of the Park. The only other artifact recovered from the cut was a Huntz baby food jar. The cut was mapped.

No evidence was found indicating a straight aligned breastwork remaining in the vicinity. Either (1) it did not exist, or (2) perhaps the breastwork had a projection or bastion and was not straight across. If the latter is true then the test excavations could have missed the alignment if the test trenches were in the area of the bastion. A test perpendicular to the posts located in Lake Conoy and about 10 ft north of the initial trenches might reveal the breastwork, but the problem of rising water will still remain a constant affliction. Therefore, it is recommended that if construction is to take place in that area, the contractor should be on the alert for any cultural materials and that all such materials should be reported immediately to Park personnel.

Norma B. Wagner
Archeological Aide
Maryland Geological Survey
October 1975
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ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AT POINT LOOKOUT STATE PARK  
November 25, 1974 thru January 1, 1975

Pending construction of a new boating facility along the southern shore of Lake Conoy within Point Lookout State Park, prompted this investigation. The site is apparently a early 19th century farm midden (St 62), as previously reported by Kent (1973). Numerous ceramic sherds, brick fragments, and a few stone artifacts were recovered from the site since first reported by Kent. These recoveries were from the shore along the lake by Steve Sholl, Olie Teeter, Daryl DeCesare, Jerry Denton and Glen Simms, all of the Maryland Park Service. All of the recovered items are in the possession of Sword and Teeter, or George Miller, Archeological Conservator, St. Mary's City Commission.

The investigations were conducted both on the land and under the lake waters. All available information relating to the site area was reviewed. No excavations were made. Electronic detectors were not used.

The collections from the shore resulted in a variety of small sherds consisting mainly of blue and green edge wares, salt glaze, and a few square nails and brick fragments. During periods of low tide Teeter and Sword waded out into the shallow waters of the lake and picked up larger sherds of salt glaze, edge wares, a few pieces of leather, mostly shoes, and a few mammal bones.

The land area immediately to the south of the shoreline was examined for structural remains of any buildings which may have line the shore. Only a small depression was found along with what could possibly have been a old road bed. The possible road bed leads from the east to a point near the depression. The depression is situated next to the wetland on the south shore of the lake and to the east of the midden area. No artifacts of any kind were located near the possible road bed or the depression.

Mrs Dorthy Courtney, a resident of Point Lookout since 1930, was interviewed. She stated that the area in question was formerly farmed, but had not been plowed since 1930. Her husband's family first came to Point Lookout in the 1890's. She has no recollection of any buildings being in the questioned area and has never heard of any buildings being there from her in-laws.

All available pertinent records were reviewed. Only two of them indicated buildings of some type in the vicinity of the south lake shore. The first appeared on a map dated 1849-56-58 & 59, United States Coast Survey, compiled by the United States Coast Guard on August 19, 1863. The map indicates two buildings immediately south of the lake shore and one near the boat ramp. The second record is the
well publicized 1863-1864 Civil War lithograph of the Point. The lithograph shows a structure along the south shore of the lake.

The results of this investigation are not conclusive. Further collections from the site are recommended. Cleaning, cataloguing, and interpretation of the collected artifacts will be delayed until time permits. They will be stored at Point Lookout State Park and at St. Mary's City Commission, until further study can be given them.

Olie K. Teeter, Jr., Park Ranger
Maryland Park Service
December 4, 1975

Gerald J. Sword, Park Superintendent
Maryland Park Service
December 4, 1975
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4. Letter - Maury to Pleasanton, December 27, 1825
5. Letter - Maury to Pleasanton, June 22, 1829
6. Letter - Maury to Pleasanton, June 22, 1829
7. Letter - Taylor to Maury, March 22, 1826
8. Letter - Maury to Pleasanton, March 23, 1826
9. Letter - Maury to Pleasanton, March 23, 1826
10. Letter - Maury to Pleasanton, November 7, 1826
14. Letter - Maury to Pleasanton, October 7, 1826
15. Letter - Thaw to Barney, October 11, 1826
16. Letter - Pleasanton to Barney, October 26, 1826
17. Letter - Pleasanton to Newton, February 9, 1828
18. Letter - Pleasanton to Maury, June 2, 1828
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27. Letter - Pleasanton to Carr, September 25, 1829
28. Letter - Pleasanton to Secretary of Treasury, February 12, 1830
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35. Lighthouse Letters, Vol. 8, December 7, 1830

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ANnapolis, MARYLAND

Maryland Park Service

36. Letter - Wood to MacLauchlan, August 3, 1965
37. Letter - Henderson to Pickall, January 11, 1966
APPENDIX I

Commissioners appointed under the Maryland 1824 December session of the Maryland Assembly - "Act to provide for the cession of territorial jurisdiction at Cedar Point and at Point Lookout in St. Mary's County and at Smith's Point in Casey's Straight in Summerset County for the erection of lighthouses thereon. Elwily Smith, Mordicia C. Jones, Josiah Briscoe, James Kirk and Robert Dunkinson were appointed for Point Lookout in St. Mary's County with power to fill vacancies in their body and to fix and terminate the value of the lands required by the United States for the purpose of erecting a lighthouse at Point Lookout aforesaid on the land of Jenifer Taylor of St. Mary's County..."

Dunkinson died before their first meeting on August 21, 1826, and was replaced by Lewis Smith.

The Point Lookout Lighthouse was constructed (34) and Ann Davis was appointed the first keeper of the light on December 7, 1830 (35). The facility remained in use until November 15, 1965, at which time the United States Coast Guard "discontinued the light" (36). At approximately 1100 hours on January 11, 1966, the lighthouse officially closed ending 136 years of service to navigation on the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River (37).
APPENDIX II

Twelve jurors appointed under the warrant issued to the St. Mary's County Sheriff on August 29, 1826, by the commissioners appointed to access the land of Jenifer Taylor at Point Lookout for a Lighthouse.

Elijah Tarlton   George S. Leigh
Charles Nuthall  Thomas R. Johnson
John Milburn     John M. Briscoe
Benjamin Hewett  James Richardson
Benjamin G. Cole Samuel Bean
Cornelius Combs  George White

The warrant was taken care of by William Williams, Sheriff of St. Mary's County.

APPENDIX III

Commissioners appointed to access the land of Jenifer Taylor at Point Lookout under the 1824 Act of the Maryland Assembly.

Elwily Smith    James Kirk
Mordica C. Jones Robert Dunkinson
Josiah Briscoe Lewis Smith (replaced Dunkinson who died in office)

January 13, 1975

Mr. Tyler Bastain  
State Archaeologist  
Maryland Geological Survey  
Latrobe Hall  
Johns Hopkins University  
North Charles Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Tyler:

Continuing the search for the original 1877 map, I found a letter containing the following:

"Law Office Of  
J. M. Moyer,  
32 North Fifth St.,  
Philada.

Philadelphia, December 20th 1877.

To the Lighthouse Board,  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen,

The Point Lookout and St. Mary's Land and Improvement Co., desire me to submit that they are desirous to commence improvements at Point Lookout—— that they have staked off streets and lots with the view of opening said streets and building on the lots. They want to locate as near the Southern Point as possible. The government owns two acres of land which is used as a garden by the lighthouse keeper near the lower point which interferes seriously with the plan of improvement adopted by the company. Only about one acre of the ground now owned by the government is susceptible of cultivation, balance being so low and near the water's edge that it is constantly filling with sand which renders it useless as a vegetable garden. The company propose to exchange two acres of land further north on higher ground and better adapted for a garden than the present garden. They are anxious to make this exchange because it will give them a more favorable site for a hotel and will enable them to lay off their blocks and streets more regularly. While the company would gain in this particular, the government would gain a much more valuable piece of ground for the purpose for which it is used. All the land belonging to the company is readily accessible to the light house. I send herewith a copy of the plan of the company's property showing the streets & Co. Also the ground belonging to the government—— the diamond figure being the garden. The company will give a perfect and satisfactory title
for the land exchanged.

Should any legislation be necessary we will procure it. If your board should consider our proposition favorably we will at once proceed to consummate it in order that the proposed improvements may be commenced early in the spring.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully,

Signed: J. M. Moyer.

So perhaps the original is in the light house records at the U.S. National Archives. whoever gets there first could check it out.

Very truly yours,

Gerald J. Sword
Park Superintendent

cc: File
Mr. Hallow, MPC
Mrs. Hardell, MPC
Fort Lincoln - one of the 3 depresion - central receiving
Hosp.       Fort Delaware - hospital - prisons
Aerial photograph
microfilm - Hammond Hosp. Newspaper - Geny award
First architect
Shipyard - 1920s - in area of fort
More
Dr. Add in Rev. ?
Scott Stand - Fort McHenry

1874 - Bird's eye engraving:
Ed. Parchem - US Colored Troops
National Union Catalog of the US Govt. issued by Library of Congress
Libary HS. L

- Medical waste pits
- What was "supposed" to happen.

Potomac River Heritage Project - Wilt Corden
Acting for Healthier DoD - Steve Joseph.
Point lookout - confluence of Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River
- name first used mid-17th century
- 17th c.: at least two instances where Europeans attacked by native Americans
- area was of some importance during American Revolution
- members of the St. Mary's Co. militia stationed on the point to keep watch for British ships
- War of 1812 - even more active
  - first est'd an observation post here
  - British invasion force of 2,000 men occupied the entire peninsula; used OTO as a base for operations for its raids on southern Md.
- By 1823, a navigation map shows a house there identified with the name of Clarke
- By 1830 - lighthouse station est'd after years of negotiating; fairly well-documented

- 1862 - the OTO area rented to the government for building a hospital
- 1863 - prisoner of war depot set up

After C.W. Point purchased by numerous private interests to try to develop area into hotel
Hospitals are perhaps one of the most universally needed facilities the world has ever known. In war time hospitals take many shapes and forms. Hospitals of the American Civil War were no exception. Doctors performed their field duties in barns, tents, churches, sheds and under trees to name a few. Behind the lines general hospitals were established. One such hospital was the Hammond General Hospital at Point Lookout, Maryland.

Prior to the civil war Point Lookout was fast becoming a popular watering place or water front recreation community. Aside from a hotel, wharf and support buildings, about one hundred cottages dotted the low flat sandy tip of land that wedges between the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River in St. Mary's County. By the time the war started notables such as Rodger Brook Tanny, Cyrus McCormick of Chicago; John A. Washington of Fairfax County, Virginia; and John L. Daniels of New Orleans, Louisiana, had leased several of the cottages (1).

With the approach of conflict, recreation became less important as the country prepared for civil war. William Cost Johnson, the community developer was soon deep in financial troubles as was William H. Allen of Baltimore, Maryland, who held Johnson's mortgage. Allen, not wishing to loose his investment, offered the entire facility to the United States government for hospital purposes.

On June 5, 1862, Surgeon General W. A. Hammond instructed General Montgomery C. Meigs, Quarter Master General, to negotiate a rental agreement with Allen. Hammond added, that he had had the facilities "inspected by a surgeon of experience and his report is very favorable to their occupation. It is estimated that they will accomodate from 1,300 to 1,500 men besides ample room for quarters, store houses, dispensary, kitchens etc" (2).

Only one month later, Acting Surgeon General R. C. Wood, telegraphed Surgeon Simpson at Baltimore, Maryland, to "send tomorrow to Point Lookout, sixty dozen cans of preserved soup (Coleman's) and two contract physicians to report to Assistant Surgeon Clinton Wagner, USA, who leaves here tomorrow to establish a hospital at that Point" (3). Wood's communication to Wagner instructed him to immediately "repair to Point Lookout, take charge of and establish a hospital there. You will take with you three assistants and a sufficient
number of citizen nurses from the other hospitals. You will also take with you, bedding, furniture and supplies of all kinds for 1,000 men to be obtained from the Medical Purveyor of the District of Washington, and also rations for 20 days for the same number of men" (4). Four days later Simpson was directed to send to Wagner what ever number of Sisters of Charity he may request for nursing duty (5).

To expedite the establishment of the new hospital, Hammond requested that Meigs send Captain Abraham Edwards, Assistant Quarter Master, US Volunters, to the Point. Hammond praised Edwards for his recent skill and effort in establishing hospital facilities in and around Washington (6). Anticipating early completion of the hospital, Miss Dorthy Dix was next contacted to send 20 nurses to Point Lookout (7).

Wanting to be completely ready for the arrival of the sick and wounded 4 two horse ambulances and 2 transportation carts were requested on July 14 (8). The next day Hammond telegraphed Doctor Cuyler at Fort Monroe, Virginia, stating that, "Point Lookout will be ready for the sick tomorrow" (9).

By this time the bureaucracy began to catch up with Wagner. On July 20, 1862, he was notified that his hospital would be under the jurisdiction of Surgeon Letterman, USA, Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac (10). Wagner was to report to Letterman, but his requisitions for supplies and nurses were to continue to go directly to the Surgeon General. Then the Secretary of War got into the act. He ordered, "that all women (not engaged as nurses or laundresses) and children be immediately removed from Point Lookout" (11). Just what brought about this directive from the Secretary is not known. However, J. R. Smith, Assistant Surgeon, USA, wrote Wagner saying, "in reply to your letter of the 22nd. asking that the female nurses brought by Miss Dix, be relieved from your hospital, the Surgeon General authorizes you to use your own discretion in the matter" (12).

The battlefields of Virginia and elsewhere were producing increasingly larger numbers of sick and wounded. To keep pace with this growing need, Hammond forwarded to Meigs "plans and specifications for the construction of a hospital. Point Lookout, Maryland, recommends itself for hospital purposes, being both healthy and contiguous to the Army of the Potomac" (13).
With unusual swiftness the contract for construction of a new hospital was completed. On August 4, 1862, Captain A. Edwards and William H. Allen executed the necessary documents. Apparently Allen was making good his position of landlord of the Point. The contract required Edwards to furnish Allen with "transportation for his hands to and from Point Lookout . . . and rations for the hands employed". Edwards was also bound to keep Allen's crews supplied with construction materials. Allen was required to complete the work to Edwards satisfaction and to post a $5,000 Bond.

As work progressed on the new hospital sick and wounded federal soldiers were arriving for care in the old hotel and surrounding cottages now used for wards. On August 17, 1862, the Steamer, State of Maine, arrived at the wharf. As the 350 men were being unloaded, the wharf collapsed; fortunately no lives were lost. Edwards was then compelled to immediately construct a new wharf. It was finished to 310 feet in length and 16 feet in width. By the end of the war the wharf, located slightly north of the old one on the Potomac shore, totaled 469 feet long by 102 feet wide at the channel end and supported a railroad.

Work progressed rapidly on the new facility which was located just north of the Point Lookout lighthouse. The massive structure set on piles approximately two to three feet above grade and covered nearly all the area between the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay, being well over 500 feet in diameter. It's 16 buildings, each being 175 feet by 25 feet, radiated out from an open central area like the spokes of a giant wheel. One of these buildings contained the hospital offices and the others were wards. A covered circular walkway connected all the buildings at the center or hub. Within the hub were four buildings measuring 77 feet by 25 feet. They were the chapel, half-diet kitchen, library and reading room, and the baggage room. An elevated 20,000 gallon water tank 16 feet in diameter and 30 feet high occupied the center of the hub when completed in late Spring 1863. Its purpose was to flood the hospital in event of fire. The New York Times of October 16, 1864, reported the hospital to be "one of the largest in the service" and "built upon one of the most approved plans adopted by the Surgeon General".
Surgeon Wagner, aside from his duties as chief medical officer for the Point, found time to provide and have operated a newspaper service. The paper called the, Hammond Gazette, began publication in the late summer of 1862 and continued for about two years (20). It contained information of local interest and frequently published list of sick and wounded federal soldiers housed at other hospitals such as the West Philadelphia Hospital. It noted visits to the Point by such persons as President Lincoln; Robert Lincoln and Secretary Seward; and Secretary Stanton and General Halleck. The Gazette reported the first birth to occur at the hospital (21). That birth occurred on September 20, 1862, when Mary Jane, a contraband, gave birth to a five pound male child. And of course there were deaths to be reported. The first staff member to die was Sister Consolata Conlan, who died in early August 1862 (22). The first union military death to occur on the Point was that of the , on (23).

The Sisters of Charity, of which Sister Conlan was a member, arrived at the hospital almost the same time as the federal sick and wounded. Among the Sisters serving on the Point was Miss Betty Morgan, a native of St. Mary's County, Maryland (24). The Sisters worked in the kitchens and wards of the new hospital (25). By December of the first year there were twenty-five of the Sisters rendering service at the hospital (26).

Sarah Blunt, a civilian nurse who worked in the wards set up in the old hotel and cottages, was quite envious of the Sisters' facilities. On March 26, 1863, Sarah wrote that, "I get forty cents a day and rations so I shoult complain or feel jealous . . . The other day I went through the Sisters wards. They are built around a circle. Everything was in perfect order. And looked very tasty - the wardmasters having decorated the wards with flags and bright paper. I have sent my wardmaster down there to get an idea, but we have no materials to work with . . . I shall make our ward look pretty too" (27).

Jealousy reached its peak in January and February 1863, in a clash between Surgeon Wagner and Major John Carter Brown. Brown arrived on the Point shortly after Wagner with Enfans Perous, Independant Battalion, New York Infantry. Brown's troops were to provide guard duty for the hospital. Both men claimed to be in-charge. The winner of the power struggle would claim the right to live in the largest
of the cottages then occupied by Wagner. Wagner claimed his authority from his orders from the Surgeon General which instructed him to "take charge of and establish a hospital" (28). Brown staked his claim on out ranking the doctor when he arrived from Camp Van Allen at Yorktown, Virginia (29). The Major was responsible to General Dix in Baltimore, and received his orders from him. Wagner was responsible to Surgeon Letterman. The orders received by the two men came from two different authorities and were not coordinated. The situation finally came to a head when Wagner fired one of his contract doctors. This doctor then brought charges that the Quarter Master at the Point was an alcoholic and also questioned the government's decision to build a hospital at Point Lookout. The hospital and staff supported Wagner in this matter. Brown, looking out for himself, seized the opportunity and attempted to remove Wagner from his quarters. Wagner refused to leave. Brown then placed Wagner under arrest and posted guards outside his cottage. In effect Brown brought the hospital operation to a stand still as Wagner could no longer issue orders or sign operational forms and papers (30).

The Hammond Gazette, being controlled by the hospital unit, carried continues accounts of the fused. On January 13, 1863, the paper beamed that "We take pleasure in announcing the release of Doctor Wagner, by an order from the Secretary of War. We are told that instructions came for Major Brown to report the reasons for his conduct, and to vacate the quarters he has unjustly seized.

"Taking the proceedings of last week from the common stand point of an unmilitary observer, they are decidedly of an obscure and complicated nature. Major Brown, the commander of this post, has been for a month past quietly in possession of quarters occupied by his predecessors. Suddenly he issues an order that Dr. Wagner shall vacate the room he occupies in a cottage a few doors off, and our little busy community is thrown into a state of unwonted excitement, by the appearance of a body of armed men, who march up to this cottage and stack arms on the porch.

"We are told that Dr. Wagner is arrested; some say for one thing, some for another. At last we learn that this little pageant is gotten up because Dr. Wagner tells Major Brown that, believing he has a right to his quarters, he does not propose to leave. Then during the silent watches of the night we hear the tread of a sentry as he paces up and down, before this cottage--and the next..."
day the Dr. is marched out nolens ro lens, into the next house and the Major marches in.

"Everyone knows that Point Lookout was taken for a general hospital. A few companies of soldiers have been kept here for guard purposes. By an order from the War Department which we have seen, all general hospitals are placed under the direction and control of the Surgeon General of the U. S. Army.

"The buildings at this place were all taken by the government for hospital purposes, and Surgeon General Hammond gives his instructions to Dr. Wagner concerning them. The cottage in dispute being larger than others, was taken by the Surgeon in charge, and some accommodation retained for those who come here on official, or other business connected with the hospital--there being no public resort for strangers at the Point. The seizure of these quarters by Major Brown, even if justified, is of comparative little consequence, compared with the grave responsibility which that officer assumed; when he arrested the Surgeon in charge, and put a temporary stop to the business of a great hospital.

"We learn from the best authority that Major Brown has neglected to comply with the order of the Secretary of War, and declined to recognize the authority of the Surgeon General of the United States Army."

Major Brown's battalion, being loyal to their commander, retaliated to the news articles by raiding the Hammond Gazette offices. The raid spilled over into the Quarter Masters office where a quantity of alcoholic beverages were stolen. The fury over this incident brought the recall of the alleged alcoholic quartermaster to Washington to explain why bills up to a year old had not been paid (31). The matter was resolved with the removal of Major Brown and his unit which had become known as "the lost children". Wagner's supporters got in the last lick of the feud, or so they thought. As the Major and his Lost Children sailed away from the Point Lookout wharf in February 1863, their former quarters were set a blaze in celebration. Wagner was then returned to his full position and power.

The bureaucracy feeling what is fair for one is fair for another then notified Wagner that he too was being replaced. Again the hospital staff, convulsants and nurses rallied to Wagner's support.
Mrs Gibbons, who was incharge of the hospital nurses, went to Washington to try to have the order rescinded. When she returned the last week of March 1863, everyone was confident that she had been successful. However, the first of April, notice was received that Doctor Hager would relieve Wagner as Surgeon in charge. Unknown to Wagner’s supporters, Wagner was actually relieved of duties at Point Lookout and Hager appointed on March 14, 1863 (32).

The final effort to remove future struggles over the "larger cottage" were struck with the arrival of General Lockwood. The general announced plans for making the Point his headquarters. He would occupy the "flag house" where Wagner stayed. The plan also required that several near by nurses relocate to other cottages so that the general’s staff could be close to his quarters (33).

With this upheaval now resolved, the hospital operations returned to normal. The Maryland Company of Independant Calvary arrived to replace Major Brown’s unit (34) and the hospital area was renovated (35).

Blunt commented on the Maryland unit’s drill. "We have a parade every afternoon from the Maryland Regiment. They form in the square back of our cottage so if I want to see them I have only to open the back door and look out. However, it would not pay to take the trouble for they are a miserable set. In the drill way - their great fault bing in the unmilitary bent of pitch forward ... Tell Jackie that I am getting so accustomted to the drum that I hope to be able to stand it when I get home" (36).

The life of a civil war nurse on the Point was not an easy one. Blunt wrote to her mother on April 6, 1863, that inspections were twice per week and that, "everything is looked into besides the rooms. And if anything is found out of place the owner or the nurse in charge is placed on bread and water and ordered to bed. This order of course does not apply to us femines ... We have no butter at all here. And though our fare is good enough for a nurse if I were boarding at Mrs Haoilands or at anyother it would not satisfy me".

Soon after the Battle of Gettysburg, in July 1863, Point Lookout was selected as the site of what was to become the largest of all civil war prison camps. The hospital was expected to receive many of the sick and wounded confederates. To make room for them the federal convulsants were transferred to Baltimore. However, the
1,400 beds of the hospital and the additional 1,300 to 1,500 beds of the old hotel and cottages would not accommodate the expected 8,000 to 10,000 wounded.

From this time onward the condition of the hospital and the treatment of the patients in the hospital appears routine. The same was far from true at the prison hospital or at the small pox hospital both only a short distance away. On August 23, 1864, Private Charles Warren Hutt, a confederate prisoner, applied to Surgeon J. H. Thompson "for clerkship at Hammond General Hospital on the Point" (38). Why Hutt applied to Thompson is unknown as Thompson was responsible for the prison hospital only. Prior to the war Hutt had been a student a Lynchburg College, Virginia. After the war he became a businessman and prominent person in Montross Township, Virginia. Perhaps Hutt perceived the job as a service to his captured comrades or perhaps it was a chance to improve his lot as a prisoner. Apparently he was not accepted for the position.

At the close of the war many of the sick and wounded from battlefields in and around Richmond were brought to Point Lookout in hospital transports (39). It was during this period after the war ended that the confederate deaths on the Point rose to an all time high. The idea was that by bringing these men to the Point that they would have a better chance at regaining their health.

On May 16, 1865, General Barns, the commanding officer at Point Lookout, stated that of the 1,859 confederate prisoners then in the Hammond Hospital, a total of 1,700 were well enough to go home. By July 5, all except a few had been released and on July 15, the post was officially closed as a garrisoned post. One company of the 24th Regiment U.S. Colored Troops were left to look after the government property (40). The official closure of the hospital occurred on August 18, 1865, with the departure of Surgeon G. L. Sutton (41).

With the fighting war now over a new war over the Point was gaining momentum. This war was one with humanitarian goals. Delphine P. Baker launched an aggressive campaign to obtain the government property at the Point to be used for the "National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers". Baker obtained a charter for the establishment of the home on March 3, 1865. Having the burden of one hundred incorporators, she soon found it impossible to obtain the presence of a majority for the purpose of organizing. A March 21, 1866, amendment to the charter corrected this problem. Meanwhile Baker searched for a temporary site. Her search ended at Point Lookout.
General Grant was consulted concerning use of the Hammond Hospital and its related buildings. Grant commented on July 14, 1865, that, "I see no objection to the use of Point Lookout as a place for temporary use as a Home for Disabled Soldiers. The number of public buildings already there, which are of no further use for public service, makes it, I think, altogether peculiarly appropriate for that purpose (42)."

December 8, 1865, brought the petition of William C. Bryant, Henry W. Longfellow, Horace Greeley, John A. Dix, U.S. Grant, and others requesting congress to appropriate funds to establish and support a national home for totally disabled soldiers and sailors of the United States (43).

For whatever reason, General Grant issued orders on December 23, 1865, "that the government buildings at Point Lookout be sold at as early a day as practicable" (44). The order was quickly approved by the Secretary of War and on December 29, 1865, the property was publically advertised (45). Listed as hospital property were the following:

United States General Hospital

"One headquarters building, 175 by 25 feet; 15 hospital wards, each 175 by 25 feet; one mess-house, 250 by 28 feet; one guard's quarters, 167 by 24 feet; one contraband quarters, 60 by 14 feet; one kitchen, 60 by 28 feet, one chapel, 77 by 25 feet; one laundry, 99 by 22 feet, with stationary engine, locomotive boiler, and all the necessary apparatus for steam laundry and drying; one cow stable, 91 by 14 feet; one horse stable, 52 by 21 feet; one wagon-hou small; one baggagehouse, 55 by 25; one warehouse, 55 by 25 feet; one ice-house, 40 by 30 feet and 19 feet high; water-tank building, 17 by 17 feet, 30 feet high, with circular water-tank 16 feet diameter; two coal-houses, one saw-house, one forage-house, one dead-house, and one wash-house, of various dimensions; also covered plank footwalks connecting the above buildings; aggregate length 1,800 feet, and 8 feet wide.

"The above mentioned headquarters building is two stories high, lathed and plastered, and the fifteen hospital wards, the mess-house, and a few other structures are also lathed and plastered."
The Secretary of War, apparently being reminded that the property was being considered for the National Asylum, ordered that the sale be suspended for one week. However, Colonel Ludington, who was responsible for the disposal sale, reported on January 20, 1866, that only a few of the out buildings had been sold realizing $958.

On March 21, 1866, Senate Bill S-54, authorized conveyance of all government property at Point Lookout to the managers of the National Military Asylum, as soon as they procured title to 300 acres of land at the Point including the acreage upon which the facilities sat. Six months later Ludington reported that the buildings were fast depreciating and urged early disposition. General Canby recommended on September 14, 1866, that the buildings be sold and the money held for the benefit of the asylum. Early the next month the Secretary of War understood from the asylum managers that they no longer intended to purchase the Point Lookout site. Ludington was then instructed to bring to Washington for government use or for public sale all buildings be could not sell on site. On site sales were tallied as follows:

- 8 Rebel cookhouses J. H. Bell $655
- 1 Ice House & Laundry E. W. G. Hall 90
- Refuse Lumber, Brick etc At auction 67
- Remaining standing buildings William Bayard
- Lumber taken to Washington Auction
- Poor buildings & wharf Delphian Baker

Colonel Ludington filed his report with the Quarter Master on January 17, 1867, stating, "several of the buildings have been sold, and all the rest of them torn down and that the materials of which the latter were constructed have all been either brought to the city or sold at public sale at Point Lookout . . . except one barge load . . . which will be taken to Baltimore within a few days to be sold at public auction" (46).

The fight was not over even though the buildings were gone. Baker then filed a claim for damages with the Senate Military Affairs Committee in 1873 and 1876 and with the Claims Committee in 1880 (47).
Baker claimed that, acting in good faith, she proceeded to purchase a total of 320 acres at Point Lookout including that upon which the government buildings sat as required by her charter. In purchasing the property she also obtained the right to file claim for any damages due the owner as a result of government occupation subsequent to July 4, 1862.

The resulting claim stated that the government occupied the property from July 4, 1862 thru January 4, 1867. Since no rental fee had been agreed upon the Quarter Master approved a payment of $40,864.50 to Baker, leaving the balance, if any, for further consideration on additional evidence. Baker consulted several noted hotel keepers such as Mr. Willard of Washington. These consultants agreed that the property was worth a yearly rental of $30,000. The War Department then sent Mr. Clark, the architect of the capital, to the Point. He estimated the damages to the property at $33,968. Baker's total claim was then submitted for payment as follows:

- Total Rent Due: $135,000.00
- Cost of Damages: $33,968.00
- Total Amount of Claim: $168,968.00
- Deduct Amount Paid On Account: $40,864.50
- Balance Due: $128,104.50

Upon receipt of the money claimed, Baker stated that she would pay off the debts due on the property and fix it up with suitable buildings for residences for disabled soldiers and sailors and that she would build schools for the veterans' children. Future expenses would be paid, she said, from profits of the watering place, the wharfage, the warehouses and the oysters and fish that could be taken there.

By 1880, Baker was failing fast in her efforts. She reported to the U.S. Senate and House of Representative that while she had given of her time and money to the good of the country and its defenders that she was constantly confronted with obstacles. The Point Lookout project had drag on for 15 years. During this time while congress was considering her charter to establish an asylum and while she was trying to fulfill the obligations of the charter, the Quarter Master authorized the sale of the buildings. Later, at considerable public expense, the government removed the buildings which cost nearly $500,000 to construct. This resulted in further delay and more obstacles in the way of establishing the facility for the disabled. And finally, the debt of $53,000 on the Point Lookout purchases had resulted in
the sale of the land to several dissatisfied creditors. A short while later the land was conveyed to a group of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, businessmen. With the new owners, Baker caught another ray of hope. She said she was now "encouraged to hope for final success in the great enterprise which has been so long delayed by evil and designing persons".

Within the next few years, Baker's lofty idea was lost forever. Ownership of the land changed frequently during the two decades following Baker's last petition. Suits and counter suits were filed in the courts. By the end of the 1800's, the Point appeared very much as it did before Johnson began his recreation community. Only the lighthouse and the farm remained along with a cottage or two. The lavish recreation community had vanished mostly through vandalism and fires. The sprawling hospital buildings and the civil war period buildings were but memories in the minds of the areas oldest residents. Now as we approach the end of the 1900's every recognizable evidence of the recreation community and hospital are gone.

The Point is now the site of Point Lookout State Park. The park is one of Maryland's finest water oriented parks and is visited by hundreds of thousands of recreation seekers each year. A wide range of interpretive programs depicting the life of civil war soldiers and prisoners are carried out on the Point during the summer season. A small museum and reference library are located in the park's visitor center. Each June a "Confederate Day" is sponsored by the Maryland Park Service and the Vincent Camiler Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, of Leonardtown, Maryland. The program recalls to memory the life of the confederate prisoner while on the Point and places in proper prospective the sacrifice made by those brave soldiers who never returned to their homes. Visitors are always welcome at the park.
ACQUISITION OF THE POINT LOOKOUT LIGHTHOUSE SITE
BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FROM JENIFER TAYLOR

by
Gerald J. Sword
November 1976

Point Lookout
Scotland, Maryland
ACQUISITION OF THE POINT LOOKOUT LIGHTHOUSE SITE
BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FROM JENIFER TAYLOR

The acquisition of the Point Lookout Lighthouse site was one of tedious negotiation. In fact, it required a special act of the Maryland legislature; condemnation of the land; the appointment of a special appeal jury; the replacing of the Superintendent of Maryland Lighthouses; and nearly seven years of negotiations before a valid deed was presented to the United States government.

Soon after the March 3, 1825, passage of the United States Congressional authorization for a small beacon light or lighthouse to be constructed at Point Lookout (1), Stephen Pleasonton, Esquire, Fifth Auditor and Acting Commissioner of the Revenue, in Washington, D.C., directed William Maury, Superintendent of Maryland Lighthouses, in Baltimore, Maryland, to, "take measures for obtaining the land if to be had at a reasonable rate" (2).

On April 15, 1825, Maury wrote to Captain Webster of the revenue cutter, requesting that he go to Point Lookout and contact Jenifer Taylor, the land owner, for information as to cost of the site and etc. Maury was at the time delayed in Baltimore. Maury had, on March 16, 1825, received instructions from Pleasonton to, "obtain an Act of the Maryland legislature ceding jurisdiction over the site, before measures would be taken for commencing the work!" Maury responded that, "the legislature being adjourned, I did not conceive it of any importance to cause a survey of the land at that time, and therefore did not go down for that purpose until the month of December following" (3).

After Maury's visit to Point Lookout, he wrote to Pleasonton on December 27, 1825, that, "where the lighthouse should be placed is but a bleak, barren sand beach for many acres; and I concluded it best to locate the site for the lighthouse and dwelling immediately at the Point, and to lay off for the use of the keeper, about four acres of tillable, tho very poor, land at some hundred yards distance including in all about 5½ acres. The actual proprietor was not on the premises, but I have since heard from him and find him disposed to make as good bargain for himself as he can, for he not only prohibits such locations, but estimates that his price will not be anything like reasonable. I of course, by your authority, will appeal to the legislature to land the site and etc. condemned of value ..." (4).

Taylor immediately objected to the site chosen and staked out by Maury and declared his intentions to hold for a high price. Maury applied to Benjamin Howard, House of Delegates from Baltimore City, to secure a special act from
the Maryland Legislature to obtain the Point Lookout site. Seven days later, on February 14, 1826, the special act passed the Maryland legislature. The next day Maury asked Howard for the names of the commissioners appointed to assess the land (Appendix I) (5). Maury then wrote Taylor saying, "that unless reasonable terms are proposed by him, the law of the State would be enforced" (6). Taylor responded on March 22, 1826, saying that he had wrote to Pleasanton to see if the site could be changed. He added that he just purchased the farm "at a very high price". Taylor next proposed that the government place a line across the Point for the number of acres wanted and that he would then name a price. He, however, cautioned, "I fear we shall differ in price" (7).

When Maury received Taylor's letter he immediately wrote to Pleasanton saying that he had proposed to Taylor on February 15, 1826, to "take as much land immediately on the Point which is nothing but sand land as would be sufficient for the lighthouse, dwelling and etc. and three or four acres a short distance off for a garden patch including a slip from the one to the other ...". Maury continued by telling Pleasanton that he had checked with the former land owners concerning the price Taylor paid for the farm. According to them, the price was not over $25 per acre including the improvements. The road through the area was stated to be a county road (8).

Pleasanton instructed Maury to double the allledged $25 per acre and to make another offer to Taylor. If Taylor refused the offer of $50 per acre, then Maury was to get an exact price that Taylor would accept.(9).

During the remainder of May, Maury arranged for the enforcement of the special act of the Maryland Legislature. By the end of June the appointed commissioners arranged for August meetings to access the property. The proceedings continued until October 1826.

On October 7, 1826, Maury transmitted to Pleasanton the proceedings of the commissioners appointed by the Maryland Act and the added proceedings of the special jury (Appendix II) summoned in consequence of the protest of Taylor (10) (Appendix III).

The commissioners appointed according to the Act of the Maryland Assembly, had arrived at a total property value of $500 (11). Taylor protested, saying that the property was worth more (12). On September 11, 1826, the commissioners the St. Mary's County Sheriff, Taylor and his attorney, and the twelve jurors met at Point Lookout. After Elwily Smith administered the oath to the jury,
(Appendix IV) and Taylor's attorney spoke, the jurymen returned their inquisition of $1,100 (Appendix V). Maury was quite upset with the nearly $383 per acre value. He then wrote that the site was a "bleak sand point without the least particle of vegetation and utterly useless for any purpose". As for the garden plot Maury said it is "at best hardly tillable". The road was on the Potomac beach and only 3/8 mile passed through Taylor's property. The rest was a public county road.

Maury continued to Pleasanton that, "to take it all in all I do not believe such a decision was ever before made by men acting under the sacred obligation of an oath". He then recommended that the decision of the jury be appealed to the next session of the legislature or that the United State Congress repeal that part of the law which authorized the Point Lookout facility. Maury then began to look to the future. He warned that, "should the terms be accepted to, the president will be set, and every landholder in the State of Maryland will be annoyed against government at all future periods where a site for a lighthouse or any other purpose maybe wanted" (14).

Pleasanton then presented the information to the United States Congress and requested the repeal of the authorization law (15, 16). However, in February 1828, Pleasanton asked for $6,500 to renew the project (17). The request was granted by Congress and Maury was authorized to pay Taylor the $1,100 upon receipt of the valid deed (18).

Maury went to Point Lookout with the necessary papers and money to close the purchase. Taylor then insisted that the papers were not the same as those drawn up by the commissioners and jury. After a while he conceded that point. He then objected to executing the deed as previously agreed at the inquisition as it called for a 20 foot wide road and the point that the government should have certain landing privileges. Taylor would not agree and consequently the transaction was not completed. Maury also discovered during his visit that Taylor had extended his fence toward the Potomac beach and took in the road that had existed when the valuation was made. This left only the sand beach for a road which would be subject to overflowing by the tides (19).

At this point in the negotiations Taylor made a proposal that added much irritation to the governments point of view. Taylor proposed that if he were to be made the light keeper that he "would agree to take five hundred dollars for the land and priviledges of a road along the beach. The United States to pay the expenses of assessment amounting to about eighty dollars more".
While Maury though Taylor's proposal quite acceptable (20), it upset Pleasanton. Infact, Pleasanton responded to Maury the next day when he received the letter report. Maury was instructed to go to Point Lookout with witnesses and tender the money to Taylor (21, 22) and get certified copies of the commissioners reports filed at the St. Mary's County Court House, Leonardtown, Maryland. Once these things were done, Pleasanton stated, "we will proceed to erect the buildings as the law of the United States contemplates". Pleasanton then leveled on Taylor's bid for the light keeper's position. "Mr. Taylor's proposition to lower his terms in condition of his being appointed keeper of the lighthouse, involves a principle which cannot, and never ought, to receive the sanction of this government. It is nothing short of selling the office to him. He was told, when here sometime ago, that such a proposition would not for one moment be entertained by the government however high the sum might be" (23).

In March 1829, Taylor inquired if the government had abandoned it's plans to purchase the site. Maruy replied in the negative. However, Maruy's health had become poor and travel for him was extremely difficult. None-the-less, he arranged to go to Point Lookout again with William B. Barney, his replacement, onboard Captain Webster's revenue cutter and settle with Taylor. Due to a communications problem, the cutter sailed with neither Maruy nor Barney (24).

Pleasanton wrote to Barney again on May 30, 1829, directing that he immediately pay the $1,150 allocated for Point Lookout, to "Mr. D. Carr, your successor in office, in order that the deed may be obtained of the proprietor, who is ready to give it upon the money being tendered" (25). The sharply worded letter implies that Barney was being replaced due to his failure to obtain the deed from Taylor. A six page statement by Maury to Pleasanton on June 29, 1829, indicates that the situation was causing much frustration, irritation and accusations. Maury said the letter was to "exculpate myself from the implication of suspicion or neglect, the account would have been accounted for at that time. Now Sir, go over this statement, scan it yourself and let it be scrutinized by others, and it will be manifest to all that no censure can or ought be be laid to me" (26).

In September 1829, Pleasanton began to act. He ordered Carr to fence in the area agreeable to the survey and proceed to advertise for construction of the facilities. Up to this point the plan called for the lighthouse and the keeper's house to be separate structures. However, short funding required
that the "dwelling and light house united" (27).

A resolution of the United States House of Representatives in February 1830, required Pleasanton to explain the long delay in purchasing the Point Lookout site. Pleasanton outlined the long tedious negotiations. He pointed out that several times the money was offered to Taylor, but the government objected to the deed as tendered by Taylor and that "nothing was done during the continuance of the then (1828) superintendant in office. Upon the appointment of a successor, Mr Dabney S. Carr, the business was continued to him . . .". Still the conveyance was not obtained (28).

Two years later H. C. Jones, inquired of Daniel Jenifer, United States House of Representatives, as to when Taylor could expect payment for the Point Lookout property. Pleasanton replied immediately to Jenifer, saying that attempts were made to pay Taylor, however, Taylor could not produce a valid deed as he never had one for the land. Pleasanton stated that apparently Taylor still had no deed to the property and that he was surprised that Taylor should even expect payment for the land (29). He added that just as soon as Taylor could produce a valid deed the government was prepared to pay him.

One July 18, 1832, Peter Gough, Elwily Smith, Ignatius Langley and Mordecia C. Jones, the surviving commissioners named in a commission of partition heretofore granted by the St. Mary's County Court to John Clarke, Jr and others on the real estate of Mary L. Clarke, deceased, sold to Jenifer Taylor the land left by John Clarke, Sr., known as Point Lookout (30). Taylor made payment to the partitioners in the amount of $2,589.93 for the 250 acres of land and several buildings (31). The average cost per acre, including the buildings, being approximately $10. Taylor had received a "deed of bargain and sale" from John Clarke, Jr, on January 18, 1826, in the amount of $2,000 for the entire tract of land (32).

Pleasanton, on February 20, 1833, was elated when he wrote to Jenifer saying, "I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 16th. inst. stating that Mr Taylor had received the purchase money for the site of the lighthouse at Point Lookout on 19th December last." However, Taylor was now claiming interest on the money since the award of the commissioners and jurors on August 4 or September 19, 1826.

Pleasanton said the claim was not valid as it was Taylor who had held up the transaction by not producing a valid deed early in the proceedings (33).
POINT LOOKOUT LIGHT  
draft 2/9/95

Location: Located on land at the tip of Point Lookout\textsuperscript{164}, located on the north side of the Potomac River at its confluence with the middle section of the Chesapeake Bay, near Scotland, St. Mary’s County, Maryland, USCG District 5.

Year Station Established: 1830; Year Automated: never; Date Station Deactivated: 1965.

Type: 3.5 story brick house, stuccoed, painted white with red trim, and black iron octagonal tower with integral lantern surmounted on top of roof.

Other Associated Structures: a small brick structure believed to be the smoke house for the station is located 337 feet north of the house/tower structure. The 1883 buoy shed and 1884 coal shed, built as part of the buoy depot, still stand just to the south of the keepers quarters. The fog bell tower with its original weight driven fog bell striking mechanism, originally attached to the coal shed, was donated to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels, Maryland in 1967 where they are now on display (catalog # CBMM 67-30-1). A 1966 wooden square skeletal fog signal and light beacon replaces the original structure.

Original Optic: fourth order; Present Optic: none; Height of Focal Plane: 41 feet; Light Recognition: was a fixed white light with 300 degree arc, the 60 degrees toward land being opaque.

Owner/Manager: U.S. Navy.

Current Use: Patuxent Naval Air Test Center.

Open To Public: By appointment only; Access: Route 5 to Point Lookout State Park.

National Register Status: None

Significance: The coal and buoy sheds represent two of the few buoy depot building extant in the United States. The following structures survive from the St. Joseph, Michigan depot, dating from 1892: keepers quarters, storehouse, carpenter and lampist shops; but the buoy shed was demolished. The buoy shed at Point Lookout Light is remarkably little changed from as originally built, containing a major percentage of original fabric. The coal shed has been modified several times and what original fabric remains is

\textsuperscript{164} Originally named "Saint Michaells Poynt" by Father Andrew White in 1634, called "Whiffins Point" on 1636 chart, and first noted as "Point Lookout" on charts of 1660; see Beitzell, p. 183.
hidden under newer cement floors, vinyl siding, interior wall paneling, and modern shingled roof.

History:

The U.S. Congress authorized $1,800 for the construction of a "a small beacon light" at Point Lookout on March 3, 1825 but it took a special act of the Maryland Legislature, condemnation of the land, appointment of a special appeal jury, replacement of the Superintendent of Maryland Lighthouses, and nearly seven years of negotiations before a legal deed could be executed. William Maury, Superintendent of Maryland Lighthouses, in Baltimore, Maryland wrote on December 27, 1825, that,

where the lighthouse should be placed is but a bleak, barren sand beach for many acres; and I concluded it best to locate the site for the lighthouse and dwelling immediately at the Point, and to lay off for the use of the keeper, about four acres of tillable, tho very poor, land at some hundred yards distance including in all about 5½ acres.165

The owner of the land, Jenifer Taylor, immediately objected to the site selected by Maury and indicated he would hold out for a high price. Maury requested on February 7, 1826 and received within seven days a special act from the Maryland Legislature to obtain the Point Lookout site for a lighthouse. Taylor wrote on March 22, 1826 asking if the site could be changed as he had just purchased the farm containing the site "at a very high price". Maury contacted the former owners of the disputed land and they indicated they sold it for $25 per acre including the improvement and that a road through the area was a county road. Maury was instructed to offer $50 per acre. Meanwhile commissioners were appointed to access the property through the special act of the Maryland Legislature. They valued the property at $500 which Taylor protested. Thus a special jury was summoned, who along with the commissioners, the sheriff of St. Mary's County, Taylor, and his attorney, all met at the property on September 11, 1826. The jury awarded Taylor a value of $1,100 amounting to $383 per acre. Taylor was still contesting the price while Maury asked for an appeal of the jury's decision or repeal the Federal law which authorized the light at Point Lookout. Congress, however, chose to accept the award of the jury and offer Taylor $1,100 upon receipt of a valid deed. Because the property cost more than originally estimated, and only seven hundred dollars of the 1825 appropriation

remained, Congress authorized an additional $4,500 on May 23, 1828.166

Taylor refused to sign the deed as it stipulated a 20 foot right of way and certain landing privileges at the point. Meanwhile, Taylor had extended a fence across the road leaving only the sand beach subject to overflowing tides for access to said property. Furthermore, Taylor proposed that if he were made lighthouse keeper, he "would agree to take five hundred dollars for the land and privileges of a road along the beach and the United States to pay the expenses of assessment amounting to about eighty dollars more". This 1829 request infuriated the federal Auditor and Acting Commissioner of the Revenue who refused to allow the position to be sold and instead ordered that the area agreed upon and surveyed be fenced in and procedures undertaken to build the lighthouse. Due to the high cost of the land, the original intention to build a light tower and separate living quarters was changed so that the "dwelling and light house united". The delays in establishing this light station resulted in a resolution of the United States House of Representatives who on February 15, 1830 requested an explanation of the long delay in this project. Then again in 1832 the House requested information on when Taylor could expect to be paid. They were told Taylor still had not provided a valid deed to the property but upon its receipt he would be promptly paid. It turns out Taylor purchased and received a "deed of bargain and sale" of 250 acres on Point Lookout with several building for approximately $10 per acre on January 18, 1826.

On July 18, 1832 the surviving commissioners named in a commission of partition by the St. Mary's Court settled the claim. Now with a legal deed Taylor was paid $1,150 for the 5½ acres for land on which the light had already been built and operated for the past two years. The deed dated December 13, 1832 included an acre and forty-six square perches "at the junction of the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay" for the lighthouse and another two acres near his home for the "garden" with a perpetual right-of-way by land or sea "for the purpose of visiting or supplying the Light House and dwelling house on said lands." But now Taylor insisted on interest on his award back to 1826. The government countered that the claim was entirely Taylor's fault for not producing a valid deed. The deed from Taylor was received on December 13, 1832 but not recorded

until July 30, 1877.  

On May 29, 1877, J.M. Moyer of Philadelphia wrote to the Lighthouse Board stating that the keeper at Point Lookout had been using about two acres of his property as a garden for the last four to five years on property which he now plans to build a "large hotel" connected to Washington, D.C. by a railroad. Moyer offered to sell to the Lighthouse Board, "for a reasonable sum," other property for the same use. The government in researching this matter discovered that Taylor's deed had never been recorded. The government quickly corrected this oversight and Moyer it was stated was "fully satisfied." Then on December 20, 1877 Moyer again wrote to the Lighthouse Board asking to trade two acres for the garden tract apparently so he could proceed with his development plans. Moyer stated that of the two acres, the keeper uses only one as the other is too low and near the water to be used as a garden. The records are silent but the trade apparently never was made and work on the hotel and railroad link never begun. Ironically, this lack of a railroad link hastened the closure of the buoy depot which was built in 1883 and used until at least 1930 (see below).  

At about the time the light was to be built (1830), the secretary of the Treasury was interested in testing the use of a gas illuminant in a lighthouse. Since the Point Lookout Light was about to be built the construction proposal was changed to reflect a gas-lighting apparatus. Though there were several responses to the bid, the use of gas-lighting was dropped from the proposal for some unknown reason. Point Lookout Light was built in 1830 by John Donohoo for $3,350. In its original configuration the height of the light's focal plane was 24 feet above the ground, but the house was raised in 1883 giving the light its present focal plane height of 41 feet. The light apparatus was supplied by James Geddes of Baltimore. In June of 1831 the Lighthouse Establishment became concerned when it was thought the lantern was made of cast iron instead of wrought iron as specified in the contract. Donahoo completed his work by October 1, 1832 and was able to receive his  


168 O.F. Babcock, letter to Prof. Joseph Henry, Baltimore, September 20, 1877; J.M. Moyer letters to M.C. Meigs, Philadelphia, May 29, and December 20, 1877, all in Point Lookout Lighthouse file, National Archives, Washington, D.C.  

169 Holland, "Chesapeake Bay Lighthouse," chapter 1, p. 32.
final payment after demonstrating that only the storm window sash was made of cast iron.\textsuperscript{170}

James Davis was appointed the first keeper at Point Lookout on September 20, 1830 but died December 3, 1830. His daughter, Ann Davis, was appointed his replacement on December 7, 1830 with a salary of $350 per year. In her contract a notation forbid the selling of liqueurs on the station grounds. In 1840 Davis was complimented by the captain of the lighthouse supply boat who wrote the following in his report, "Mrs. Davis is a fine woman, and I am sorry she has to live on a small naked point of land". She served until her death in 1847. Two additional women served at Point Lookout: Martha A. Edwards 1852 to 1855; and Pamela Edwards, her daughter, from 1855 to 1869.\textsuperscript{171}

William Wood replaced Ann Davis as keeper upon her death in 1847. He lasted only two years before he was replaced by William P. Baxter. At this time it was discovered that Wood was short fifty-six gallons of oil and twenty-nine panes of glass. When confronted with this he claimed a cat had fallen into the oil and by the time he discovered it the "oil Smelt so Bad" he could not use it. As for the glass he stated while "handling wood A stick fell ... and Broke 29." Baxter reported that Wood had nearly used up all the supplies and he could only light half the lamps in order to conserve fuel which was in short supply. Furthermore, he reported that the "reflecting glass," probably the lamp reflecting mirrors, were all broken except for three.\textsuperscript{172}

During the American Civil War the United States Government established a military hospital and prisoner of war camp for captured Confederates at Point Lookout. A small standing brick building referred to as being "the only surviving prison camp building" instead is probably the smoke house for the Point Lookout Light Station and is discussed below in the existing structures section. At least one individual during this period referred to

\textsuperscript{170} Lighthouse Letters, volume 8, pp 502-503, and volume 9, p. 11, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

\textsuperscript{171} Lighthouse Letters, Volume 8, December 7, 1830, Record Group 26, United States National Archives, Washington, D.C.; and Mary Louise Clifford and Candance Clifford, Women Who Kept the Lights - An Illustrated History of Female Lighthouse Keepers (Cypress Communications, Williamsburg, Virginia, 1993), p. 143.

\textsuperscript{172} Fifth Auditor's Office, Lighthouse Letters, volume 13, p. 460, volume 22, p. 509, volume 29, p. 24; George T. Kane letter to S. Pleasonton, Baltimore, June 27, 1849, with attachment, and July 24, 1849, with attachment, Lighthouse Superintendent's Correspondence, Baltimore, 1825-1852, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
Point Lookout as a, "Burning - freezing sandy hell spot."  

A "large fog-bell" was installed on a red "frame detached from the house" and put into service on November 2, 1872. When the buoy depot was established in 1883 the a new tin roof on the keepers quarters was raised one story to provide three additional rooms needed for the additional personnel added to the station. The addition of depot sheds between the fog signal and the Chesapeake Bay however blocked the sound of the fog bell. Therefore a new inclosed square wood framed bell tower was built in 1888 on the Bay side of the coal shed and the fog bell and striking mechanism placed in it. A new summer kitchen and stable was also added. In 1896 an iron oil house was installed.  

During the summer of 1913 a US Navy Hydroplane C-1 was somehow disabled and landed on the Bay about three miles northeast of the light. Keeper Jacobson gave assistance by sailing the station boat to them, towed the plane to the station on the river side and assisted in hauling it on shore. The station provided temporary quarters for two nights while the Navy crew worked on the plane to get it operational again. In August of 1919 keeper, G.M. Willis "rescued three persons from drowning, recovered the body of another who had drowned, and endeavored to recover the bodies of two other persons." The district superintendent of lighthouses called the event a "case of actual heroism." In 1923 Willis also rendered assistance to the occupants of a nearby home which was destroyed by fire.  

Between 1927 and 1928 the keepers quarters were converted into a duplex dwelling with the following specifications:  

The rear wing of present dwelling is to be torn down and rebuilt of frame, remove present roof and cover entire building with a hip roof covered with red hexagonal asbestos shingles laid French method, exterior walls both brick and  

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174 Lighthouse Board, *Annual Report*, 1872, p. 40; 1873, pp. 43-44; 1883, pp. 49, 55; 1888, pp. 82-83; 1889, p. 90; 1894, p. 94; 1895, p. 100; 1896; and Lighthouse Board, *Light List*, 1873, p. 65.  

wood to be covered with galvanized metal lath and stuccoed with cement plaster. Partitions to be rearranged and the present stairway to be removed and new stairways to be built to allow private entrance to each apartment on all floors. The plaster of all interior walls and ceilings to be removed and covered with wall board.

All floors were to be replaced and a new hot water system installed. The cellar was to have a new six inch cement slab poured over it, and new chimney added.176

In 1930 the station was described as consisting of a dwelling costing $14,200, fog signal house costing $300, summer kitchen $450, and buoy shed $3,000. The Point Lookout Development Company requested permission to use the station depot wharf in 1930. This request was denied due to fears it might interfere with the work activities of the depot. In 1933 the Point Lookout Hotel, without first seeking permission, advertised that its excursion steamer would land at the station depot wharf. The Bureau of Lighthouses, upset by this announcement allowed the hotel one landing but no more. The hotel attempted to use political force to gain access to the wharf but to no avail.177

Porch screens were installed at the Point Lookout station in 1930, as well unspecified electrical work, and a "sign board" added in 1932. A stand for a precession lathe was installed in 1933 costing


The USCG also approved a permit for the operation of a navigation aid for aircraft in 1949 though there is no record whether this was ever built. In 1951 a $8,800 request for installation of sanitary facilities was supported by the statement that a "3rd set of quarters" is "advisable and recommended".

In 1941 a W.R. Tuckerman of Bethesda, Maryland offered to exchange property between the lighthouse and garden tract for the garden tract. It seems that part of the lighthouse station was actually built on land outside the boundaries of the original land purchase. The Coast Guard offered to buy the land but Tuckerman wanted an exchange of land instead. Apparently no action was taken as a Joseph D. Weiner and Irita Weiner offered to sell two acres for $500 in 1949. The USCG agreed to purchase said property, "In view of the Government's occupancy of private lands over a long period of time without written agreements..." Apparently only 0.91

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178 USCG Work Order Book from the Lazaretto Depot, archives of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels, Maryland (catalog number CBMM 68-110-21).

179 Telegram ECV to CPC, no exact date; Memo C.H. Peterson to Chief, Legal Division, 2 May 1949; and budget request from H.S. Berdine, Acting Chief, Office of Operations to Budget Division, Planning and Control Staff; all in Point Lookout File, USCG Historian's Office, Washington, D.C., and copy in Point Lookout Lighthouse File, National Maritime Initiative Office, Washington, D.C.

180 W.R. Tuckerman letter to USCG 1941, Point Lookout Lighthouse File, National Archives. Tuckerman went on to donate the site of Fort Lincoln to St. Mary's County for a park (the beginning of what today is Point Lookout State Park) and sold other property to the Point Lookout Hotel, Inc., "D.C. Men Plan to Built Resort at Point Lookout," The Evening Star (September, 15, 1955), Section B, p. 1; and Assistant Commandant, L.C. Covell letter to Commandant, Norfolk District, 27 February 1941, copy of original in Point Lookout File, USCG Historian's Office, Washington, D.C. and copy in Point Lookout Lighthouse File, National Maritime Initiative Office, Washington, D.C.

181 Letter from Joseph D. Weiner to Commander, Fifth Coast Guard, October 4, 1949; quote from letter from R.B. Wood, Chief of Staff to Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District, December 16, 1949; both in Point Lookout File, USCG Historian's Office, Washington, D.C. and copy in Point Lookout Lighthouse File, National Maritime Initiative Office, Washington, D.C.
acres of the said property was purchased in 1951.182

Erosion Control - F.A. Gibbons was awarded a contract in 1846 to repair groins at Point Lookout. The following year the seawall which was made of ten-inch wooden piles and three-inch planking required considerable repair. In 1850 the Lighthouse Establishment ordered four or five additional groins similar the existing groins to be placed along the seawall to stop erosion which had continued beyond the existing wall. A stone breakwater built about eight feet in front of the wooden seawall had been undermined by erosion and sunk by 1850. In 1891 a V shaped shore protection of sheet piling about 60 feet long was installed. In 1919 a contract was awarded and completed in 1920 to place 600 tons of riprap to "restore existing protection." In 1932 200 feet of interlocking steel pile was "straightened and anchored," and 350 tons of riprap placed on the beach.183 Officer in Charge at the Point Lookout Station reported sixty feet of erosion along the inside of the jetty in December of 1949.

Buoy Depot Establishment - A buoy depot was established at the Point Lookout Light in 1883 to store, repair and place buoys for the middle portion of the Chesapeake Bay. This was necessitated by the distance and delay time between the Lazaretto Depot in Baltimore to the north and the Portsmouth Depot near Norfolk, Virginia to the south. Point Lookout was ideally situated equal distant between the two. The lighthouse keeper was placed in charge of both the light and the depot with additional pay. A wharf on the Potomac River side, built on 140 driven piles, was 65 feet long and 35 feet wide and connected to land by a bridge about 250 feet long. The wharf allowed buoy tenders to drop off and pickup buoys. The wharf piles were pine, sheathed with "yellow-metal" to protect them from shipworms. A standard 100 foot by 40 foot shed, one for the storage and repair of buoys was built the same year of pine, with brick piers, and floor paved with brick. A coal shed of the same dimensions and construction was completed in 1884. A tramway with two cars was added in 1885 for moving supplies, buoys, and coal between the sheds and the wharf. Nine sets of buoy skids were also built. The buoy depot was described as in excellent condition in 1886. New fender piles were installed on the wharf to replace those damaged by ice. In 1887 an 11 foot

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diameter, 8 foot tall cedar tank, with capacity for 5,000 gallons was set up in the buoy shed, and a room built around it to protect it from dust. A gutter and down spout system was hooked up to it and necessary pipe connections made at the end of the wharf so buoy tenders could take on water. The floor of the coal shed was noted as being rotten and replaced in 1889, suggesting it was made of wood.

By 1892 a new 365 foot long wharf was built on 212 white oak piles, 104 of which were sheathed with "yellow-metal," and three-inch yellow pine decking to replace the older wharf. The new wharf was 15 ½ feet wide at the river end and broadened to 32 feet wide at the shore end. New railings for the tramway and a new floor between the sheds was also installed. The following year 38 additional piles were sheathed with "yellow-metal" to protect them from shipworms and ice chafing. A force pump was connected to the water tank in 1900. In 1901 the depot was described as "in very fine condition" though part of the coal shed was in urgent need of new flooring. In 1909 and 1910 it was noted that the depot was reachable only by expensive water transportation there being no railroad, and furthermore, vessels lying at the wharf which was in poor condition were exposed to northerly and westerly winds. In 1932 some 3,200 feet on the inshore wharf was rebuilt after being damaged in a March 1932 storm, and two additional buoy skids, each 72 feet long were added.\footnote{Lighthouse Board, \textit{Annual Report}, 1877, p. 32, 1878, pp. 37-38, 1879, pp. 39-40, 1882, p. 37, 1883, p. 55, 1884, p. 52, 1885, pp. 52-53, 1886, p. __, 1887, p. __, 1888, p. __, 1889, p. __, 1891, p. __, 1892, p. __, 1893, p. __, 1900, p. __, 1901, p. 116, 1909, p. __, 1910, p. 39, 1932, p. 103; and Holland, "Chesapeake Bay Lighthouses," chapter 6, p. 36.}

\textbf{Point Lookout Light Decommissioned} - The light served mariners with a 6,000 candlepower beam which was visible for 12 miles. It was "discontinued" on November 15, 1965, and at approximately 11 a.m. and the lighthouse station was officially closed on January 11, 1966 after 136 years of service.\footnote{Letter from Wood to MacLauchlan, August 3, 1965; and letter from Henderson to Pickall, January 11, 1966; both in the files of the Maryland Park Service, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Annapolis, Maryland and cited by Sword, p. 6.} The surviving house/tower structure and property was turned over to the U.S. Navy. The Superintendent of the Point Lookout State Park once lived in the lighthouse when it and the surrounding property was leased to the State of Maryland. Presently, the structure and immediate surrounding property is fenced off and not open to the public despite the desire of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.
wishes to restore and open the light to the public.\textsuperscript{186}

Point Lookout is part of an old sailor's ditty which was believed to help navigators remember landmarks when traversing the Chesapeake Bay north of the Potomac River -

\begin{verbatim}
Point Lookout and Point Lookin;
Point No Point and Point Again.
\end{verbatim}

While there is a Point Lookout, Point Lookin, and Point No Point, there is no Point Again in this section of the Bay.\textsuperscript{187}

Elaine Eff of the Maryland Historical Trust's Office of Cultural Conservation Programs conducted an oral history interview in 1990 with Alma Gatton, granddaughter of William Yeatmen and wife of George Gatton, both keepers at Point Lookout. Mrs. Gatton recounts her remembrances of these two men and life at Point Lookout Light. This interview is available from the Maryland Historical Trust office at Crownsville, Maryland. The tape is part of Eff's "Keepers and Kin: Inside the Chesapeake Bay's Lighthouses" oral history project. The lighthouse also is reputed to be haunted.\textsuperscript{188}

**General Description:**

**Existing Structures:**

Keepers Quarters/Light Tower, Exterior - The original 1830 keepers quarters/tower was described in an 1858 report as a yellow brick dwelling of four rooms and an attached kitchen with a shingle roof painted red from which the tower and lantern protruded. This same report states the structure is two stories tall but this probably includes the tower; the dwelling was probably a 1.5 story structure which was raised to two-stories (3 stories including the raised basement) in 1883. It was at this time that the tower was raised 16 feet. A new summer kitchen was added in 1888. In a pre-1928 photograph the dwelling, except for the tower, looks very similar to the Cove Point keepers quarters before it was enlarged from a gable to hip roof structure. The dwelling was three stories, the

\textsuperscript{186} de Gast, p. 59.


\textsuperscript{188} Trish Gallagher, "The Voices at Point Lookout," Ghosts and Haunted Houses of Maryland (Centreville, Maryland, Tidewater Publishers, 1988), pp. 88-91.
bottom level for storage, and the first level reached by a set of stairs with ten treads. The tower is two stories high, the first story with a 6/6 window and the lantern forming the second story. The configuration of the lantern with its storm panes and ventilator top is also similar if not identical to the Cove Point station. The front or west side has four 6/6 windows on the second level, and a door and two windows on each side. All windows were fixed with shutters. The south wall had one 6/6 window on the second level. A covered porch on piles with a sloping standing seam sheet metal roof continued across the full front of the structure.\textsuperscript{189}

Sometime prior to February 1928 the gable roof was raised and changed to a hipped roof. At the same time the width of the dwelling was doubled from the east side making the structure into a duplex dwelling. A full length porch was added onto the east side giving the dwelling a nearly mirror image, except the tower, in its original position which is now not centered on the new roof line in a east west direction. In the raising the roof, the tower now appears squatter than before. The window on the first level of the tower was reduced to a single sash four pane window. A two pane semi-circular "eye brow" window on the roof of the south side was added at this time to allow light into the new half floor. This roof heightening is very similar to the same work done at Cove Point Light. A summer kitchen existed till at least 1930.\textsuperscript{190}

Keepers Quarters/Light Tower, Interior -

Smoke House - circa late 1800s brick smoke house. The exact date and use of this structure has been debated numerous times with opinions varying from the structure being the Spaulding Photographic Gallery dating from the Civil War period to a late 19th century smoke house used by the lighthouse keeper. A June 28, 1925 photograph clearly shows the structure present at that time. An 1967 aerial photograph shows four outbuildings located in this area. A 1933 plat shows two structures at this location, one a "stable" about 25 feet long and the other a "corn house" about 15 feet long. The structure in question is almost certainly the corn house, which previously may have been used as a smoke house. It is also possible this structure was never part of the Point Lookout


\textsuperscript{190} Photographs from the National Archives taken by R.C. Smith, May 1930 and W.J. Taylor February 1928; copies in the Point Lookout Light file, National Maritime Initiative Office, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
Light Station and instead was part of a nearby homestead.\textsuperscript{191}

Buoy Depot - two nearly identical shed-like buildings are located just south of the house/tower structure. The one closest to the house/tower was used for buoy repairs and the second for coal storage. Buoys were also stored on the Bay side of these shed structures. Both sheds were originally open-sided on the west end and on the sides facing each other, creating a semi-protected working area between the two sheds. These sheds were later closed in and the coal shed severely altered into living quarters. When the US Navy took over the station they further altered the shed into climatized electronic testing labs for their test range. The buoy shed, while receiving some new internal partitioning, a cement floor in the east end, and some closing in of the original shed fenestration, remains remarkably in its original condition. This includes original framing, brick piers, brick flooring, and possibly siding in some areas.

Previously Existing Structures:

Fog Signal Tower - the first fog signal was a bell. The exact design for the bell housing and sticking mechanism is unknown but a print which is probably pre Civil War show a small square structure, probably on posts located just south of the tower/dwelling.\textsuperscript{192} A framed fog signal building detached from the house" was put into service on November 2, 1872, probably near

\textsuperscript{191} Edwin W. Beitzell, \textit{Point Lookout Prison Camp for Confederates} (Abell, Maryland, 1983), p. 184 and supplement p. 3, photographs of smokehouse located between pages 184 and 185 and pages 22 and 23, see also Richard Weeks, Inc. 1967 photograph; 1925 photograph AN-4250-12-25, Historians Office, USCG Headquarters, Washington, D.C.; 1865 plate "U.S. General Hospital Point Lookout, MD." from National Archives shows no standing structure in present location of smokehouse; Gerald J. Sword, letter to Bridgett Deale, Annapolis, December 22, 1979 claims the building was probably built by William Yeatman as a smoke house in the late 1800s from brick left from the 1877 burning of the Point Lookout Hotel and since then has been used for many different things. Copy of letter in Point Lookout Light file, National Maritime Initiative Office, National Park Service, Washington. D.C. July 28, 1933 plat from Point Lookout Lighthouse file, National Archives, Washington, D.C. See also Lighthouse Board, \textit{Annual Report} 1923, p. 55 which mentions a nearby home destroyed by fire. Could structure belong to that homestead?

\textsuperscript{192} Print entitled "Point Lookout, Mouth of the Potomac," no date but based on depiction of steam ship probably pre-Civil War, archives, Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons, Maryland, copy in Point Lookout file, National Maritime Initiative, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
where the first fog bell was located. A tall square wooden tower, located on the west or Chesapeake Bay side of the buoy shed was built in 1889. This tower has been moved the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels, Maryland.

Oil House - an iron oil house capable of holding 1,000 gallons, was erected in 1895.\textsuperscript{193}

Wharf - The 1883 wharf, located on the Potomac River side of the point, was 65 feet long and 35 feet wide and connected to land by a bridge about 250 feet long. It was outfitted with a tramway to get buoys and supplies in and out of boats and into the shore depot sheds. A new 365 foot long wharf was built in 1892. Today all that remain are eight pairs of metal piles just off shore. They line up directly with the buoy shed. Metal fasteners and ghosts of formerly placed rails on the concrete pad clearly indicate the path of this tramway directly into the buoy shed. Inside, the brick floor is interrupted by wooden board which presumably now cover the rail tracks. A branch track continues between the sheds.

Other Structures - a water pump windmill was located just to the south of the dwelling and several small outbuildings were scattered about the property.\textsuperscript{194} An 1865 site plan clearly shows the lighthouse surrounded by a square shaped fence incorporating two unspecified outbuilding. One is a small square outbuilding located near the south corner of the fence line, possibly a privy, and the other is a rectangular outbuilding located near the west corner of the fence, possibly a stable. The south corner of the tower/dwelling has a small ell attached, probably a summer kitchen. None are extant today. A new stable was built in 1889.\textsuperscript{195}

\textsuperscript{193} "Point Lookout Lighthouse, Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey," copy in Point Lookout Light file, National Maritime Initiative Office, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

\textsuperscript{194} Information based on Holland (1993), p. 110 and photographs and captions in the Point Lookout Lighthouse file, housed at the USCG Historian’s Office, Washington, D.C. Photostatic copies of these photographs are in the Point Lookout Lighthouse file, National Maritime Initiative Office, Washington, D.C.

\textsuperscript{195} "U.S. General Hospital Point Lookout, Md." from the National Archives and titled "Layout of the Hospital and other Buildings at Point Lookout, Md. 1865" in Beitzell (1983); and "Point Lookout Lighthouse, Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey," copy in Point Lookout Light file, National Maritime Initiative Office, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
POINT LOOKOUT -- REPORT ON HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION

The National Archives in Washington, D.C. has a mountain of material relating to Point Lookout. Most of the material deals with the Point's use as a hospital and prison camp during the Civil War. Much of it has never been used in previous investigations. During two weeks of work at the Archives, I was able to get through a fair amount of it. What follows is a descriptive list of what may be found in the specific items that I saw, a list of items that I did not have time to see but which contain important information, and my recommendations for future research on the Point.

I. Items I Have Seen and What They Contain

A. Office of the Chief Engineer, Letters Received (Record Group 77).

I got the following references out of the LaGrange Index. Gerry Sword tried to check the same references out but had a problem getting them. They prove beyond a doubt that the three redoubts were built.

S-9235. Engineer Major C. S. Stewart to Chief Engineer, July 22, 1864. This is the letter proposing the construction of the redoubts with a simple map showing the proposed sites. I think Gerry has seen this.

S-9351. Same to same, November 3, 1864. Discusses the central redoubt and "the other redoubts" saying that they will all be essentially the same. Originally included a tracing of the central redoubt, now gone.

B-1002. Engineer Col. Henry Brewerton to Chief Engineer, Operational Report on Point Lookout for Dec. 1864. Lists the number and types of laborers working on the redoubts. Also states that there are four mounts for 12 pound Napoleons in redoubt #1.

B-989.

Same to same, January 5, 1865. Describes work being done on redoubt #1, especially interior buildings.
B-1077. Jan. 1865. Contains a couple of items relating to workmen hired to do the 3 redoubts.

B-1058. Brewerton to Chief Engineer, Feb. 1865. Reports that the only work left to do on the redoubts 2 and 3 are the barracks.

B-1105. Same to same. Feb. 25, 1865. Accompanied and explained a tracing of the plan for redoubts 2 and 3. Tracing is in the Cartographics branch, National Archives, document number 135-21. (Whether that number is the National Archives' or was put on there by the Chief Engineer's Office I am not sure.) Just tell the attendant what you want and he will get it.

B-1275. Same to same. April 8, 1865. Describes the work progress on all three redoubts. Very detailed.

B-1692. Same to same. "Annual Reports for the Year ending 30th June 1865. Fort Monroe, Va. Fort Wool, Va. Field Works at Point Lookout, Md." This document is so important that I quote the section on Point Lookout in full:

Field works at Point Lookout, Maryland.

During the past year three redoubts have been constructed at Point Look-Out M' Commanding the approaches to the prisoners' camp, and the camp itself.

These earthen redoubts are square, and of the same size; having sides of sixty yards in length. Two of these redoubts, No 1 and 3, are provided with platforms for four field guns. In all fourteen guns can be placed in position. The breast height of these redoubts is of wood, the other slopes being earth. The exterior wooden magazine under ground and made bomb-proof with earth is provided for each redoubt.

The entrance to each redoubt is defended by a traverse of timber and earth.

Sluice ways were cut, and timber trunks laid down, connecting the ditches of each work with the Potomac river, or Chesapeake Bay.

These redoubts were constructed by the voluntary labor of the prisoners of war, which labor was paid for by a small allowance of whiskey and tobacco. Operations were brought to a close on 3rd of May 1865. at which time four 12 pounder Napoleon Guns were mounted in Redoubt No 1. and three 12 pounder Brass Howitzers, and one 4 1/2 inch rifled gun, in Redoubt No 2.

All which is very respectfully submitted.

Henry Brewerton
Col. Corps Eng:
There may well be more material in the Office of the Chief of Engineers.
I would suggest searching the registers of letters sent and letters received
which are in the stacks with the collection itself.

B. Quartermaster Consolidated Correspondence (Record Group 92). Box 829.

I believe Gerry has seen some, if not all of this. Most of the material
deals with the asylum proposed by Delphine Baker after the war. Includes
Edward Gilbert's letter of July 12, 1866 re: grave sites including a map
locating the graveyards and a few other items. Also a letter of July 14,
1865 re: troops moving the graves. Also a packet of letters and other
material relating to the soldiers' home. Copy of the bill to postpone sale,
etc. Press copies of correspondence relating to the home. There is one very
interesting packet of material dated 1876 in an envelope marked "Q.M.G.O."
(Quarter Master General's Office). The envelope is identified as the "Case
of Mrs. D. P. Bakers hands in certain papers relative to Point Lookout
Building." The papers (actually cards about 3" x 9") abstract the history
of the buildings from Dec. 23, 1865, when U. S. Grant ordered them sold, to
Dec. 16, 1866, when a Colonel Ludington received orders to sell off the last
boatload of salvaged lumber. There is also a copy of Mrs. (elsewhere called
Miss) Baker's letter to M. C. Meigs, Quartermaster General, December 6, 1866,
protesting the tearing down of any buildings that might be left as she wants
to buy whatever property is left and donate it for the asylum. There is an
abstracted quote from Ludington to the effect that all the buildings have been
torn down and most of the salvaged stuff sold off. There is a final note that
copies of the foregoing were sent to Mrs. Baker as per her request of May 13,
1876. There is material relating to the Congressional Joint Resolution of
February 14, 1876 whereby the proceeds of the sale were handed over to
D. P. Baker and appropriated to the "National Asylum for Disabled Soldiers
by act of March twenty-first, eighteen hundred and sixty-six. There is a notice for the sale of the buildings itemizing most of them and giving dimensions. A barrack in Fort Lincoln is specifically mentioned but not other references to forts. There is a reference to two blockhouses. A letter from the Acting Auditor of the U.S. Treasury, June 13, 1876, shows the total amount received from the Point Lookout sale was $2,845.43. There is a copy of a letter from various members of Congress to Andrew Johnson, no date, that the advertised sale should be postponed because there is a proposal before Congress to put the buildings to a benevolent use. Copy of the proceedings of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Office of Surgeon General, Washington, D.C., Mar. 23, 1876, whereby the Board resolves to accept Point Lookout property whenever the government offers it. Letter from D. P. Baker to Meigs, May 19, 1876 stating that she has not been able to secure title to the Point itself due to the "illegal and fraudulent transactions" of the former owner. She proposes using the money from the sale of government buildings to either secure title to Point Lookout or to use the money for the benefit of the Home. Finally, there is a pamphlet containing a brief summary of Mrs. Baker's attempts to get Point Lookout appropriated for a home, testimonials as to the site's suitability for same, a petition signed by several important people supporting the idea, etc.

C. Civil War (U.S.) Regimental Records (Record Group 94). Box 5224. "U.S. First Infantry, Field and Staff."

Many Confederate p.o.w's at Point Lookout enlisted in this unit after taking the oath. Such converts were generally called "galvanized Yankees." There are many items of interest in the 1st Infantry material: a mustering out roll for Co. B complete with brief unit history; hospital and other
disposition papers regarding Confederate p.o.w. enlistees, especially those rejected for U.S. service; records of where the galvanized units were sent (mostly out west to fight Indians, for obvious reasons), battles they were engaged in, casualties, records regarding furloughs, desertions, illness, captured, etc., military justice records; advancement to rank; and numerous muster rolls.

Box 2413. "Regimental Papers, 5th New Hampshire Vols."

This unit was one of the Union regiments assigned to guard duty at Point Lookout. The box contains all kinds of administrative business for the regiment, much of it pertinent to Point Lookout: returns; discharge records; a copy of the unit's orders to report to Point Lookout, November 11, 1863; court martial and other matters re: military justice; reorganization papers, recruitment papers; numerous returns and other muster records.

"5th New Hampshire Infantry Regimental Books."

Contain enlistment records, general orders, rolls, etc.—all sorts of miscellaneous regimental business.

"U.S. Colored Troops, 36th Infantry, Regimental Papers." (boxes 29 & 30).

This unit was also part of the guard at Point Lookout. The papers contain much the same as for the 5th N.H. Vols. above. The unit was raised as the 2nd North Carolina Volunteers in the summer and fall of 1863, part of Wild's African Brigade. The material in these two boxes follow the unit from their initial formation through their assignment to Point Lookout, and reassignment to Texas after the war. General orders, detachments, etc.

"U.S. Colored Troops, 36th Infantry, Regimental Books."

Contains same sorts of information as 5th N.H. Vols. Regimental Books above.

some Rhode Island artillery).

D. Confederate Records (Record Group 109)

Boxes 269-323 contain material relating to the prisoners at Point
Lookout. I sampled the following boxes:

Box 319. Contains miscellaneous rolls, etc. Requests to take the oath, etc.
Box 320. "Miscellaneous. Two or more name records; Miscellaneous returns
and Inspection reports." Contains pretty much what the title says it does.
Also, furlough requests, orders for incarceration of unruly soldiers,
receipts for men sent or received, letters of transmittal of prisoners,
inspection returns.

Lookout, Md.; Orders, letters, etc. Miscellaneous orders, requisitions,
permission to visit troops, etc.

Box 406-A. A very important collection, contains letters to and from
p.o.w.'s confiscated for various reasons (sensitive material, length, etc.)
Most serve only to let homefolks know how the writer is, where he is, or
brief news from home.

"Miscellaneous Carded Records, etc." 13-17A (one box).

Contains a letter to George D. Johnson, black soldier at Point Lookout.
See under his name.

Microfilm 598. In microfilm reading room, 4th floor. Records of p.o.w.'s
at Point Lookout taking the oath.

E. Military District of St. Mary's. (Record Group 393).

References for the following were taken out of Vol. II of the Preliminary
Inventory of the Records of the United States Continental Commands 1821-1920,
available free at the Archives Publications Office. No. 252/669 DW (1 vol.)

"Letters sent Aug. 1863 – July 1864."

Contains numerous correspondence relating to prison. Some of the more
interesting are as follows: Unsigned letter (probably by Brig. General Gillman Marston, commander of the prison), Aug. 3, 1863, to Adjutant General, U.S. Army. Writer states that in compliance with orders from the Commander-in-Chief, he reported to General Meade for a guard for the prisoners' camp to be established in St. Mary's district. He was assigned the 2nd, 5th & 12th Regiments, New Hampshire Volunteers. He took them to Washington. The 5th was left in Washington at the General-in-Chief's orders, to be sent home. (However, it later joined the brigade at Point Lookout.) Proceeded by steamer with the two regiments and some prisoners to St. Mary's. Has selected ground for camp and started construction of necessary facilities: Letter of September 6, 1863 acknowledging the arrival of a detachment of 109 enlisted men and officers from the 2nd and 5th U.S. Cavalry; Letter of Sept. 24, 1863, discussing erection of a hospital and barrack, stating that prisoners are willing to work; Letter by a captain in charge of prisoners, Sept. 23, 1863, denying reports of harsh treatment of prisoners, stating again that prisoners are willing to work; Letter of October 1863, stating that there is equipage for 5000 prisoners and only 4000 on hand. Can receive another 1000; Letter of Oct. 7, 1863, regarding tents on hand and other prisoner accommodation; Letter of Oct. 31, 1863, to a local woman granting permission to send clothing to friends in prison; Letter of Oct. 30, 1863, granting permission to a woman to visit her son provided she takes the oath of allegiance first. Contains a good bit of sermonizing about how the Confederates have imbued their hands with the blood of rebellion, etc.; Letter of July 11, 1864, asking what to do with P.O.W.'s who are 1) deserters from Rebel army desirous of taking oath, 2) refugees in same condition, and 3) civilians held with no charges lodged against them.

Vol. 78/123 DW. "Letters Sent by the Ordnance Officer (of St. Mary's District), April 1864 - May 1865."

This is a smaller ledger inserted in a larger. It contains file copies of
letters sent by the ordnance officer of Point Lookout, Capt. N. Q. Largent. The letters deal with requisitions, equipment returns, reports of lost articles, etc.

Vol. 251/668.

"Letters received from p.o.w.'s, Sept. - Nov. 1864." These are abstracts of letters sent by p.o.w.'s to the Secretary of War. Most correspondents want to take the oath or otherwise procure their release by reason of their being union men conscripted into Confederate service, or they claim to be deserters from Confederate service, foreign nationals, civilians, etc.

"General Orders, Aug. 1863 - Aug. 1865." The orders deal with all facets of prison administration. Admonitions to guards to cease fooling around while on duty, posting hours for camp's daily routine, court martial of a civilian giving unauthorized clothing to p.o.w.'s, blockade running, etc. Since the H.Q. of St. Mary's District was at Point Lookout, much of the business is not directly concerned with the prison.

"Special Orders, Aug. 1863 - Aug. 1865." Concern such things as setting up guard details, ordering inquiries into certain specific problems, ordering the meetings of courts martial, etc.


Not too legible copies. Dealing with usual details of prison administration.

"Letters Received, St. Mary's District, 1863-65." (1 box).

Includes several packets of signed oaths (might be nice to reproduce some for museum display). Numerous letters and reports regarding prison affairs and detachments for skirmish operations across the river in Virginia.

There are two other collections in the St. Mary's District papers that I did not look at, but which are germane: Endorsements Sent, Aug. 1863 - Apr. 1864," in volume 258/666 DW: and "Endorsements Sent, March 1864-July 1865," in vol. 252 /669, 675 DW. These would only contain references to letters received
by the District but referred elsewhere for action.

F. "Investigation of Hammond Hospital, Oct. 1862 --" Microfilm 619, roll 131, document 96Q.

This is an extensive collection of documents relating to the hospital that preceded the prison camp. Basically, they concern a scandal over care of patients and other aspects of hospital administration. The first document is a lengthy deposition by Dr. D. J. Lee of Baltimore, a civilian physician who was under contract to the army to tend the patients at Point Lookout. Lee charges that Captain A. Edwards, assistant quartermaster at the Point, is habitually drunk and that the site is not healthful for a hospital because the water causes diarrhea, etc. He also charges that liquor is generally too much used at the hospital by patients and guards alike, and that Major Brown, commander of the guard, is unsuited to his job. As it turns out, Dr. Lee has just had his contract annulled by the army and is trying to get in a few final digs at his enemies. Following Dr. Lee's deposition is a 23-page report by a neutral observer. His findings are as follows: Major Brown and Assistant Surgeon Wagner are mortal enemies, fighting all the time. Most of Lee's charges are exaggerated, but there are lax policies. Patients are allowed to leave the grounds for liquor. Public property has not been adequately safeguarded. Other little irregularities are allowed to go on at an alarming rate. There is animosity between patients and guard. Does say some good things about the hospital. The site is well-suited. There are strong and weak points in the physical plant. Gives the number of beds and patients. Itemizes staff members. Talks about medicines on hand. Concludes that Dr. Lee's complaints about the hospital are groundless. Says Lee was discharged for unpopularity and the fact that he is a quack. Captain Edwards is known to drink and generally does not seem to know his job very well. Gives figures on number and employ of contrabands (slaves who have fled from southern masters). Reports on draft animals. Major Brown's men are believed
to sometimes break into the kitchen stealing and threatening the cooks. Brown does nothing about it. Sums up which charges are valid, which are not, in his opinion. Following the report are a number of other documents pertaining to above matters as exhibits.

G. Microfilm 617, roll 1533. "Post Returns, Point Lookout, 1865."

Returns of men and officers (U.S.) stationed at the Point. Gives exact figures of present and absent in each rank, etc.

H. The following photographs are available in the Brady Collection, Audio-Visuals, 18th floor.

1) Four Brady photographs of Gillman Marston (commander of the prison):
   BA-994, shows Marston close up, full face, in uniform.
   B-5934, shows Marston seated, three-quarter length, in uniform.
   B-1365, waist length, civilian clothing.
   B-4936, waist length, almost a profile, civilian clothing.

2) There are probably portraits of other key individuals at the Point in this file. Someone simply needs to search for them under last names. While I could find no other photographs directly related to Point Lookout, there are numerous pictures taken elsewhere which relate indirectly to the hospital or prison and could be used in the visitors' center. There are numerous shots of Confederate prisoners under the heading "Prisoners and Prisons," and numerous shots of U.S. troops convalescing in hospitals under the heading "Medical Services."

I. The following engineers plans for facilities on the Point are in the Cartographics section on the ground floor.


3) Series of watercolor washes, plans showing hospital, cattle yard, prison compounds, mechanics and contraband’s facilities, etc. 8 sheets, color. Looks like stuff Beitzell has reproduced.

All of the above may be located by asking attendant for material relating to Point Lookout during the Civil War.

II. Items I Have Not Seen But Which Contain Important Information
A. "Letters Received, Adjutant General’s Office." (RG 94).

There are registers to the letters; search under key names, like Marston.

B. "Hospital Registers of Hammond General Hospital," (RG 94) and "Miscellaneous Lists of Medical Cases in Hammond Hospital" (RG 94). These two sources should add valuable information on the hospital. Will give details of who was sent there and what sort of ailments were treated.

C. "Main Series of Letters Sent and Received, Commissary General of Prisoners" (RG 249). Check the registers first.

D. "Letters Sent and Received, Office of the Chief of Engineers." (RG 77)
Check registers first. The LaGrange Index refs. are to items in this collection.

E. Microfilm 598. "Miscellaneous Records Relating to Confederate POW’s" (RG 109). Beitzell has used this.

F. "Indexes and Case File of Records of the Office of the Adjutant General" (RG 153).


H. "Compiled Service Records for Union Volunteer Officers and Enlisted Men" (RG 94). G and H will give invaluable information on individual officers and men stationed at Point Lookout.

I. "Turner-Baker Papers." Will give information on civilians confined, such as blockade runners, etc.

J. "Compiled Military Service Records for Confederate Officers and Enlisted Men" (RG 109). Will service records on individual Confederates held at the Point.
K. "Union Provost Marshal's Files Relating to Confederate Civilians" (RG 109). Will give info on civilians held.
L. "Unfiled Confederate Papers" (RG 109).

M. "Records of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina" (RG 393). The Military District of Saint Mary's was part of this department.
N. "Quartermaster General Records of Civilian War Claims" (RG 92). Look under William Cost Johnson's name. If he had any reason to file claims against the government for the use of his land, records of those claims will be found here.
O. "Letters Sent and Received, U.S. Surgeon General" (RG 112). This collection may also shed more light on Hammond Hospital. Use the registers first.

III. Brief Bibliography of Printed Works

Aside from Mr. Beitzell's book, there are several other published works which ought not be overlooked. William B. Hesseltine's *Civil War Prisons: A Study in War Psychology* (The Ohio State University Press: Columbus, Ohio, 1930) is a well-balanced study of the general problem of prison camps. It is an excellent corrective to Beitzell's unabashed pro-southern view. Hesseltine states that, while conditions were bad in prison camps on both sides, the north and the south had tendencies to dwell on the worst aspects of the treatment each's troops got in the other's prison camps. Thus, a psychosis of atrocity arose on both sides and has lasted long after the war. Hesseltine attributes harsh conditions more to lack of facilities and proper planning than to the willful criminality that Beitzell implies.

Most of the Union regiments which garrisoned Point Lookout had official regimental histories. Mr. Beitzell cites most of these. There is a good military bibliography that contains citations of all printed material pertinent to individual regiments; Charles E. Dornbusch's *Military Bibliography of the Civil War* (New York Public Library: New York, 1961 to date). Thus far, Mr. Dornbusch has published two volumes in his bibliography. Both ought to be searched thoroughly for not only regimental histories, but for personal narratives
as well. I did look at William Child's *A History of the Fifth Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers, In the American Civil War, 1861-1865* (Bristol, N.H.: R.W. Musgrove, Printer, 1893). Child was the unit's chief medical officer. The book contains much information on the regiment's history at Point Lookout, including an account of an execution of one of its members, a deserter. All of the above sources might point the way to personal narratives telling the north's side of the story at Point Lookout.

While looking for northern accounts of Point Lookout, I found the following reference in the *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections*: Entry 60-1453, George Washington Smith (1814-1860) Papers (1818-1885). University of West Virginia Library. Contains, among other things, letters from Confederate POW's in several Union camps, including Point Lookout.

Although I was not successful in finding more on the northern point of view, I would suggest the following. A thorough search must be made of guides to manuscript collections printed by various state historical societies and archives. This will be a laborious task. There are other special manuscript collections which may contain such personal accounts, such as the Southern Historical Society's collection. The guides to these will have to be looked at. One good way to get at major collections is to consult the Harvard Guide to American History, edited by Oscar Handlin and others (*Athenaeum, New York, 1967*) especially section 26 "Guides to Manuscript Materials." It might also be a good idea to run classified ads in *Civil War Times* (write to them at Box 1831, Harrisburg, Pa. 17105 or phone 234-5091 to enquire as to rates) and in the *Military Collector and Historian* (write W. Ogden McCagg, Administrator, 287 Thayer Street, Providence, R.I. 02096). Together, these two publications probably reach the vast majority of people who would know of any such accounts.

1880-1902). Beitzell used them, but, for the record, references to Point Lookout can be found in the following series and volumes: I. vol. 33, pp. 268-9, 930-1; I, vol. 37 p. 2, pp. 71-3, 163-7; II, vols. 6,7,8, (check individual volume indexes): III, vol. 5 (check index); and I. vol. 40 (check index).

IV. Suggestions for Displays at the Visitors' Center

An effective display of the Point's Civil War history can be planned around well-selected graphics and a few available artifacts. Portrait photos of Gillman Marston (see above) and others will be easy to procure from the National Archives and from the Library of Congress Division of Prints and Photographs. The portrait photos of Confederate prisoners that Mr. Betizell published would be nice display items as well. We ought to check with him to see where the originals are for us to copy or, perhaps, he has copies he would donate.

There appear to be very few photographs taken at the Point itself. Beitzell publishes three. Two of them are evidently from F.T. Miller's Photographic History of the Civil War. Miller's was published in the late nineteenth century and contains many photographs for which the negatives and even original positives are now lost. I suspect this is the case with the two in Beitzell's book. If so, I would suggest that we have professional quality copies made directly out of Miller's. They are probably in the volume dealing with prisons and prisoners. Burt Kummerow has a very fine set of Miller's which I am sure he would make available for this purpose.

One of Beitzell's photos is credited to Charles Fenwick, who I know is active in the St. Mary's Historical Society. I am sure he would make a copy available. Finally, a few of the standard Brady photos of Confederate prisoners and Union hospital scenes, while not taken at Point Lookout, could nevertheless be used effectively to illustrate various aspects of the Point's history.

The various period prints of the Point are naturally appropriate as are the plans in the Cartographic section of the Archives. And we should be able to get copies of at least six of the Omenhausser watercolors from the Maryland
Historical Society. I refer specifically to the six of which the Society has color transparencies. Photographic copies of one or two manuscripts, such as a signed oath of allegiance (see above), may work in nicely.

Artifacts always hold tremendous visitor interest. Perhaps Mrs. Raley can be prevailed upon to donate those rusty relics that she has. Perhaps Mr. Fenwick will loan the camp table illustrated in Beitzell's book. If the archeologist who worked at the Point found anything, those items ought to be displayed as well. The Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond has a felt hat worn by a prisoner at Point Lookout. It is not on display. Perhaps we could get it on loan. The best way to handle that would be to get someone in the Maryland Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (the UDC administers the museum) behind the idea and have that person make the request, pull the strings, or whatever. As I remember, the hat is in the Museum's Maryland collection, which is controlled by the State Chapter.

Ross M. Kimmel, Maryland Park Service, August 5, 1974
WHERE THE UNION SOLDIERS SLEPT
(Federal Dead at Point Lookout, Maryland)
by Gerry Sword

The death rate of the Confederate captives at Point Lookout, Maryland, during the Civil War has been the subject of recent articles and discussions. But what about the Union soldiers who also died on the Point? Little has been said or recorded relating to their fate. They also paid the supreme price with their young lives for what they felt to be just and right. The place of their initial interment is now a low overgrown nearly inaccessible vine and brush covered area north of the Lake Conoy boat channel.

On June 5, 1862, Surgeon General A. W. Hammond, wrote Quartermaster General M. C. Meigs, suggesting that the facilities offered to the government by William H. Allen at Point Lookout be rented for hospital use. Meigs pursued the suggestion and on July 17, 1862, informed Hammond that Captain L. C. Edwards, Assistant Quartermaster at Point Lookout, had been instructed to construct a hospital at the Point.

This hospital was the apparent source for a large portion of the Union dead at Point Lookout. The first officially recorded Union death at the Point occurred July 3, 1862. On that date J. McLaughlin, 9th Massachusetts died. The youngest Union death occurred near the end of the war when John Leery, Company B, 88th Pennsylvania died. This 16 year old lad had been wounded at Hatcher's Run on February 6, 1865, and he passed from this earth on March 18, 1865, at Point Lookout. The last of the Union deaths occurred on July 25, 1865, with the passing of a man named Davis with Company D, of the 20th Veterans Reserve Corps.

The Federal government apparently placed little initial concern for the burial of their loyal soldiers. At least not until Hammond complained to Meigs on May 8, 1863. Hammond wrote that, "the graveyard is without fence or protection, the graves only marked through the kindness of friends or wardmasters; not a single properly marked headboard has been put up by the Quartermaster".

Apparently Hammond's letter got action. On July 9, 1863, Surgeon C. T. Alexander reported that interments were being made properly with each grave being marked with a headboard giving name, rank, company and regiment. Six months later Surgeon A. M. Clark stated that the "post mortem rooms and dead houses at sufficient distance from hospital and well arranged. Interment by Quartermaster at cemetery one mile and three quarters from hospital".

The well known and much publicized lithograph of the Point Lookout facilities indexes the graveyard as number 59. A close examination of this drawing will reveal a cleared area on the northwest side of the Potomac Stockade marking the spot of Union interments.
The Hammond General Hospital operated for the exclusive use of the sick and wounded Union soldiers until July 1863. At that time the Point was destined to become the largest depot for Confederate captives North or South. In preparation for the receipt of the Confederate captives, most of the Union sick and wounded were transferred to Baltimore. This made approximately 3,000 beds available for the Confederate sick and wounded anticipated from the Gettysburg campaign. The hospital continued to serve the seriously wounded and sick of both armies throughout the war, but on a lesser scale.

Union deaths were not confined to those soldiers received from the battlefields. The guard and support troops helped to make up the 678 officially listed Union deaths. A comparison of the official Quartermaster list and the reports of the Adjutant General for the State of New Hampshire reveals an average of two additional deaths for each five deaths listed by the Quartermaster. This would indicate perhaps as many as 270 additional deaths not included on the official list. With such a projection, the Union deaths would total 948, or about 25% of the Confederate deaths. This would place the Union death rate nearly equal or maybe even in excess of the Confederate death rate when total troops are considered. To argue figures is pointless. The fact is that the death rates of both armies were alarmingly high and that many of the deaths on both sides could have been prevented through better enforcement of existing rules and regulations, better sanitation, pure drinking water and proper diet and shelter.

In any event the little graveyard next to the Potomac Stockade grew in size monthly as more and more bodies were placed in the shallow sandy graves. On July 12, 1866, Edwin Gilbert, Assistant Quartermaster at Point Lookout reported, "the fact of the greater number of unknown among the Union than in the Rebels (cemetery) may be that the U. S. Yard is situated close to the beach on the river side and the fence being open the sand that drifts upon the shore during a blow, will settle on this place and has undoubtedly covered up a good many of the head boards or they may have been carried away. There has been a delay in getting this cleaned up from our not having wheelbarrows to wheel the sand out of the yard. I propose to make the fence on the river side a tight board one and will prevent the sand from blowing in again. A good many of the coffins are within a foot of the top of the ground".

Gilbert continued with an indication of the remoteness of the Point and of the living conditions there. He said, "I would suggest that Mr. J. Scudder who was formerly a wardmaster here and who has given me information here be appointed watchman at the yards after they are fixed up. He is now living on the Point and any new man would find it very difficult to live here, there being no way for him to subsist practically unless the government proposes to furnish him with rations. I would also state that the materials requested with exceptions came duly to hand last night viz. 25 blankets, 400 headboards, 2 dozen lettering pencils, and 25 coffins. Mr. Earp could not stand the rations and was compelled to leave."

Gilbert's next report to Bvt. Lt. Colonel E. E. Camp on July 14, 1866, recorded that the bodies of the Union soldiers which were outside of the fenced graveyard were being moved inside. His reasoning was that it was cheaper to move the remains than it would be to build another fence. The soil being sandy required that several coffins be placed in each large grave as the soil caved in quickly when individual graves were attempted. The sandy soils also caused the mules to loose their shoes frequently. With these problems and a painter who could letter only six headboards a day, Gilbert still felt that, "the work progresses as well as can be expected."

A little over a year later, A. P. Blunt, Bvt. Colonel and Assistant Quartermaster, made a full report on the cemeteries to Bvt. Brigader General McFerran. His November 11, 1867 report confirmed 678 Union graves in fair condition, each with a headboard. The location, he said, was not desirable for a National Cemetery as the high tide could wash over the graves.

Blunt concluded that the best course of action would be to relocate the entire cemetery to Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. An estimated work force of 25 men with a team and the use of a tug and a barge would require two weeks to complete the relocation process.
The relocation took place with the final reinterment taking place at Arlington National Cemetery between December 30, 1867 and January 3, 1868. Of the 678 listed remains, a total of 212 were not identified. Additionally, some of the 212 graves of the unknowns were noted as containing the remains of one or more additional soldiers. This tends to confirm the fact that, like the Confederate deaths at the Point, not all were properly recorded.

In addition to the removal of the remains of the white Union soldiers, the remains of the black Union soldiers and of the contrabands were also relocated to Arlington. The deaths of the black soldiers were likewise poorly recorded. The Arlington records indicate 30 interments for these soldiers and 18 for the contrabands. The Quartermaster's official list indicates 22 black soldiers. Gilbert, in 1866, had indicated 17 known and 27 unknown graves for black soldiers making a total of 34 black troops not counting the contrabands.

While the place of the initial interments remains secluded and forgotten and without monuments or markers, the final interment is one of international respect - Sections 13 and 27 of Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.

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SOURCES
3. US National Archives, Quartermaster General's Office, General Order 82, October 8, 1866
5. Point Lookout Prison Camp for Confederates by Edwin W. Beitzell, between pages 21 and 22.
7. US National Archives, Quartermaster General's Office, General Order 82, October 8, 1866
9. US National Archives, Quartermaster File, RG 92, Ltr 7-12-1866
10. US National Archives, Quartermaster File, RG 92, Ltr 7-14-1866
11. US National Archives, Quartermaster File, RG 92, Ltr 11-11-1867

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