

1118

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Tidewater Inn
other names T-1160

2. Location

street & number 101 East Dover Street not for publication
city or town Easton vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Talbot code 041 zip code 21601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title

9-20-07
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patrick Andrews

11/2/2007

Tidewater Inn (T-1160)

Name of Property

Talbot County, MD

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | 1 | structures |
| | | objects |
| 1 | 1 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/hotel

COMMERCE/restaurant

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/hotel

COMMERCE/restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof STONE/slate

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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Description Summary:

The Tidewater Inn is a 1949 Colonial Revival brick, hip-roofed, four-story hotel with flanking three-story wings and an addition on the north wing, located on an irregularly-shaped lot at the northeast corner of Harrison and East Dover streets in Easton, Maryland. The façade has a three-bay, projecting center gable on the main block, a full arcade at the first story, and is embellished with marble sills and belt course.

General Description:

Construction of the Tidewater Inn started in 1947 and was completed in 1949 on the original portion of the hotel. An addition was constructed in 1953 on the north end of the north wing. The ground floor shops in the west wing were significantly altered when they were converted to a restaurant in 1968 and the adjacent space converted into the Decoy Bar in 1972. A small brick pavilion located in the northeast corner of the garden was added at an unknown date.

The floor plan of the 1949 building is a flattened chevron shape (see attached Plans). The center pavilion is four stories plus attic and cellar levels, and is approximately 67 feet tall. The east and west wings are three stories plus a cellar. A portion of the building at the inside of the chevron on the northeast side is one-story high, with no basement, and contains the Kitchen and Crystal Room. The 1953 addition is three stories plus basement and a penthouse. Floor-to-floor heights are approximately 10 feet, with the exception of the first floor to second floor, which is 16 feet.

The site is improved with brick walks and a concrete driveway at the front of the building. The east side of the building contains a garden with a concrete swimming pool and brick paved patio. The garden is enclosed with a brick wall on the east and north sides. The north portion on the site is a service delivery and parking area paved with asphaltic concrete.

The Colonial Revival style building has a nine-bay central corps de logis mass that includes a three-bay, pedimented, projecting center-gable with arcaded base on the front, and lower symmetrical eight-bay wings extending east along Dover Street and North along Harrison Street. A one-story terrace on both sides of the center gable extends the arcade to a length of 125 feet.

The exterior has a pinkish face brick trimmed with Georgia White Cherokee marble window sills and a belt course at the second floor level. The rear window sills are limestone and the door sills are bluestone. A projecting brick belt course is located at the spring line of the arcade arches. The addition has brick spandrel panels below the first floor windows on the west facade. A wood cornice is located at the eaves. The arcade has round arches with rubbed brick voussoirs.

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Wrought steel railings with decorative emblems, produced by local artisan Carroll Elder, are located on the three balconies at the second floor above the main entrance and along the terraces above the side arcades.

Typical windows are single-pane, eight-over-eight, double-hung wood windows. Triple-hung eight-over-eight-over-eight, wood windows are located on the second floor of the corps de logis and along the east side of the Crystal Room facing the garden. The north façade of the Gold Room has eight-over-twelve wood windows. Steel single-pane windows are located at the first floor level of the rear service areas. A fanlight is located within the front pediment. Projecting, fixed-glass, single-pane, divided-light rectangular show windows are located at the first floor of the wings.

The main entrance door is a pair of four-panel doors with sidelights and round-arch fanlight. The typical storefront door has a rectangular three-light transom over a nine-light door with four panels below. The northern most and eastern most doors of the wings are eight-panel with sidelights and round fanlights. The front entrance to the addition is an eight-panel door with pediment and pilasters.

The 1949 foundations are concrete and the 1953 foundations are concrete masonry units. The typical exterior walls are face brick with concrete masonry backup with plastered interiors. The penthouse has vinyl siding. The superstructure is steel columns and beams with cast-in-place concrete floors and concrete plank roofs.

The 1949 building is hip-roofed with Pennsylvania Bangor slate roofing, with the center pavilion having a nine-in-twelve pitch and the wings having a six-in-twelve pitch. The one-story portion and the 1953 addition have flat roofs with built-up roofing. Flashing, built-in gutters and a large center roof vent are copper. There are five brick chimneys—one on each side of the center gable, one adjacent to each side of the rear of the main mass, and one near the northeast corner of the east wing.

The cellar levels contain mechanical and service areas, the first floor contains the Lobby, meeting rooms, restaurant and bar, and service areas, and the upper floors contain 139 guest rooms.

The central space of the first floor is the rectangular Lobby that is oriented approximately southeast-northwest, with a connected square entry space on the southwest and a stair hall on the northeast that is semicircular. A reception desk is located in the north corner and a fireplace is located on the southeast side of the Lobby. The single traction elevator is located adjacent to the northwest corner of the Lobby and connects to all levels.

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The Lobby flooring is Pennsylvania bluestone laid in a diagonal 24" x 24" grid in imitation of the Cloister at Sea Island, Georgia. The wood trim is Colonial Revival style and includes a baseboard, chair rail, dentiled cornice, and arched double-architrave door casings with plinth block, spring block and keystones. The fireplace has a marble surround, shouldered architrave, and paired brackets supporting the mantel. A 4' wide circular stair with a 5'6" inner radius connects the lobby to the second floor. The stair has turned balusters and newel posts, and a half-rail on the outside wall. Similar fine trim is located in the adjacent Crystal Room and the Rose Room on the east side of the Lobby, plus shouldered architrave door surrounds, divided transom lights and paired three-panel mahogany doors with brass box locks. Some of the original trim also remains in the former Grille Room adjacent to the north side of the Lobby.

The Gold Room and its Anteroom on the north end of the building have heavier wood moldings with baseboard, chair rail, cornice, casings with plinth blocks around rectangular door and window openings, corner blocks and paneled jambs at the doorways, paired three-panel doors with rectangular fanlights, and raised spandrel panels under the windows. The flooring is wall-to-wall carpet, walls are plaster, and ceilings are sprayed acoustical treatment. The large brass ball chandeliers are a replacement of the original iron and crystal fixtures.

The east wing of the building, formerly the Hunter's Tavern and Decoy Bar (photos 132.1 [MD_TalbotCounty_TidewaterInn18.tif] and 133.1 [MD_TalbotCounty_TidewaterInn19.tif] dated July 6, 2006), is currently being renovated into one large restaurant (photos 132.1 and 133.1, dated November 6, 2006). These two areas, which are not original to the building, had fake brick walls, rough hewn box beams, and recessed lighting in the painted drywall ceiling.

The typical secondary room is carpeted and has simple wood base, chair rail and crown molding. The service areas typically have concrete floors, glazed or painted brick walls, and painted plaster ceilings.

Two stair towers with steel stairs and pipe railings are located at the rear junction of the center pavilion and the wings and connect all levels. A steel stair located in the addition where in joins the north wing connects the third floor corridor to the fourth floor penthouse in the addition. An exterior fire escape is located on the east wall of the addition. An exterior stair connects the rear service yard to the basement.

The upper levels have double-loaded corridors with a dead end on the east and a trapezoidal loop with two spurs on the north. The corridors have carpeted floors, vinyl wallpaper on plaster walls, and simple base, chair rail, and crown moldings adjacent to a small box soffit.

The 114 guest rooms are distributed as follows: second floor, forty-three rooms; third floor, fifty-two rooms; fourth floor, nine rooms.

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The typical guest room has a bedroom, closet, and bathroom. The bedrooms have carpeted floors, wood base and crown, and painted walls and ceiling. The typical guest bath has ceramic tile floor and wainscot, vinyl wallpaper, and porcelain fixtures.

Heating is via hot-water radiator supplied by an oil-fired boiler in the basement. Cooling is via central chilled water supplied to duct mounted fan coils. Plumbing stacks are cast iron. Water supply is via galvanized piping. There are two non-functioning 300-foot deep wells located at the front of the building

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Commerce

Architecture

Period of Significance

1949-1964

Significant Dates

1949 construction

1954 addition

1962 Civil Rights tests

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Litchfield, Clarence B., architect

Bower, Jr., Frank W., site architect

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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Summary Statement of Significance:

The Tidewater Inn is significant under Criterion A for its association with Easton's mid-20th century development as the governmental, commercial, and social center of Talbot County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Opened in 1949, its modern systems and amenities, combined with its feeling of manorial plantation hospitality, embodied post-war sentiments for progress and patriotism. The Inn served as the preeminent hostelry and community gathering place on the Eastern Shore during the time when new automobile-oriented transportation routes intensified the volume of visitors. The Inn derives additional significance for its association with the Civil Rights movement; by serving Civil Rights protesters in 1962, the Tidewater Inn set an example which led Talbot County hostelrys to accept changing values toward public accommodation of African Americans. The Inn also is significant under Criterion C as a carefully conceived example of Colonial Revival architecture. The structure reflects the renewed sense of colonial heritage that prompted local decision-makers of the period to actively endorse Colonial Revival building design. The period of significance begins with construction of the Inn in 1949 and ends with the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964.

Resource History and Historic Context:

The Tidewater Inn was built to replace the Hotel Avon, a four-story frame hotel occupying the same footprint and orientation to the northeast corner of Dover and Harrison Streets in the heart of what is now the Easton Historic District. The 1891 Hotel Avon was the largest hotel in the county. On January 10th, 1944¹ it suffered its second major fire, leaving an inoperable hotel and an urgent need for meeting space and accommodations. Shortages of building materials due to the war precluded any activity beyond site-clearing for the next three years. The State Roads Commission, also affected by the war and several years of post-war labor and materials shortages, put all area projects other than ferry repair at Claiborne on hold.² Even with a priority approval, the Fire Department had to wait a year after the fire to receive a ladder truck.³ The vacant lot at one of the town's most important downtown intersections stimulated an abiding community interest in planning and development.

Shortly after the fire, attendees at a Rotary luncheon were warned that without a major hotel, mid-shore business and tourism opportunities would be lost to Wilmington, Delaware.⁴ At the same time, alternate uses proposed for the valuable corner lot⁵ prompted community leaders to plan actively for a new state

¹ Star-Democrat. (1944, January, 14). Fire destroys Hotel Avon on Monday last.

² Dill, 2003.

³ Mulliken, J.C. (1962).

⁴ "Charlie Crane, Chairman of Baltimore, Gas, and Electric arranged for the speaker, Mr. Peterson (?) from Baltimore, the head of the Merchandising Group for the state." Personal Recollection of Polly Shannahan, 06/09/06.

⁵ Star-Democrat. (1946, June 21). New hotel on its way.

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of the art hotel—one that would maintain the integrity of the site as a premier lodging facility. The Maryland Credit Finance Corporation, headed by Easton business leader Barclay H. Trippe, purchased the site to secure it until a suitable developer capable of building a fireproof hotel with a minimum of 50 rooms could be contracted to purchase the property. The terms of sale included a two-year period for project completion in consideration of war-related materials shortages. As of June, 1946 no qualified developer had emerged.⁶

A. Johnson Grymes, Jr.—a prominent local civic leader with shipbuilding interests in New York—agreed to develop the site and operate the hotel, provided that liquor ordinances and local blue laws prohibiting sales of mixed drinks be amended to exclude sizable hotels.⁷

The year 1947 was pivotal in county history. Television arrived along with demand for Sunday movies. Daylight savings time was adopted in Easton but rejected in the rural county, highlighting a growing urban influence on the town.⁸ Tomato canneries gave way to corn; nylon stockings replaced silk and consequently, Easton lost a mill.⁹ Planning started for an architecturally controversial addition to the Talbot County courthouse. The Federal era courthouse was one of the inspirations for the Inn's design. Residential construction boomed and the local economy attracted the attention of the *New York Times*. Means and routes of transportation were changing forever.

Work began on the Easton Bypass (completed in 1948; now US Route 50), and on sections of the highway connecting Easton to Wye Mills and Cambridge.¹⁰ The road work was to create “a north-south express highway equal to any built in Maryland since the war.”¹¹ Planning for new routes into downtown began that resulted in Dover Street becoming one of the major connectors to Route 50. State planning began for the William Preston Lane, Jr., Memorial Bridge (Chesapeake Bay Bridge), which opened a floodgate of newcomers and beach travelers when completed in 1952. Airport service between Easton, Washington, DC, and Baltimore entered its second year under the post-war management of Cities Service Corporation.

Despite such regional progress, circumstances unique to the time and place affected hotel construction. In late 1946, there were several rounds of materials-related rejections—primarily involving restrictions on copper¹²--from the federal Civilian Production Agency (CPA).¹³ In its first editorial of 1947, the

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Personal recollections of Polly Shannahan and Arlene Baybutt.

⁸ Preston. (1989). 311-325.

⁹ Brugger, R.J. (1988). 264.

¹⁰ Dill. (2003).

¹¹ Star-Democrat. (1947, January 24). State to speed

¹² CPA correspondence to Grymes. Tidewater Inn archive folder.

¹³ Star-Democrat. (1947, January 3). Hotel permit still pending in Washington.

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Star-Democrat called for the CPA to “heed citizen pleas” to recognize the urgency of building the hotel. The Easton Business Men's Association and other key civic leaders, lobbied for Senator Millard E. Tydings to advocate the required construction approval with CPA. Tydings intervened in early January 1947 and succeeded in elevating the project from “borderline” to “priority.”¹⁴

Easton's town-owned utility drilled two wells in order to supply the hotel with the 250 gallon-per-minute demand needed for central air conditioning.¹⁵ Easton Utilities—which produces its own power and gas—installed a customized underground electrical delivery system. Ground was broken for “Hotel Talbot”¹⁶ on January 27, 1947.¹⁷ No other Maryland town was in a position to build a hotel of equal magnitude in 1947. The motivated business community and the town-owned utility were both essential to the project.

Anticipating a need to control accelerated growth in the wake of the hotel project, Easton enacted a Subdivision Regulation and Planning and Zoning ordinance the following month—the first Eastern Shore community to take such action and the first municipality in Maryland to impose extraterritorial zoning control of land within a mile of its incorporated perimeter. The ordinance called for a master plan to control suburban development. Easton laid plans for controlled growth, which its Town Engineer, Bill Corchran, called “the wall of quality.” Talbot County did not adopt zoning regulations until May, 1953.¹⁸

The 95-room Tidewater Inn opened on September 9, 1949, preceded by an open house drawing more than 4,000 persons.¹⁹ Each room featured the latest amenities: television, piped in radio, central air conditioning, and private baths. A subscription dinner on September 30th listed a Who's Who of prominent leaders, including: Cities Service Corporation President, W. Alton Jones, whose philanthropic foundation financed many later projects in Easton in the Colonial Revival style, including the YMCA and St. Mark's Village.²⁰

Eulogizing Grymes in 1963, local news editor Harrington noted his “immeasurable” contribution to the community welfare, affirming the same paper's 1949 editorial: “For years to come, the Tidewater Inn cannot fail to provide adrenaline to the heart of Easton and cause it to flourish in keeping with the high standards set by this structure.”²¹

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ *Star-Democrat*. (1947, January 3). Hotel permit still pending in Washington.

¹⁶ Renamed The Tidewater Inn before opening.

¹⁷ *Star-Democrat*. (1947, January 31). Ground Broken for new hotel.

¹⁸ Preston. (1989). 311-325

¹⁹ Compared to 1950 Easton population of 4,494 <http://www.town-eastonmd.com/Plan%20Background.htm>

²⁰ Harrington, N. (1986). 263-265

²¹ *Star-Democrat*. (1963, April). Editorial: Arthur Johnson Grymes, Jr.

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The completion of the Delaware Memorial Bridge on August 16, 1951,²² opened the region to Philadelphia and to winter travelers and salespersons on the New York to Florida routes. The Chesapeake Bay Bridge opened on July 30, 1952. By May, 1953, the Tidewater had served more than 100,000 overnight guests and was often at capacity. An addition to the northeastern wing was completed on May 22, 1953, and added 28 rooms and conference space for 300 in the Gold Room. By 1955 the *New York Times* recommended Easton as the "picturesque little city with excellent accommodation for a two- or three-day stay."²³ Dedication of local leaders in the context of planning and development ensured the Inn's success as commemorated by a 1955 bronze compass embedded in the sidewalk in tribute to the Rotarians.²⁴

The building's Colonial Revival design was no accident. Architect Clarence B. Litchfield²⁵ and site architect Frank W. Bower, Jr., carefully instructed Grymes and local Garden Club members on the Federal character of Easton's historic buildings. The firm possessed expertise for designing in the Colonial Revival style, notably including Bowditch Hall and 20 additional buildings of the New London Connecticut Naval Undersea Warfare Center.²⁶ The local community was captivated by ongoing restoration of Old Wye Church²⁷ and had been heavily influenced by Colonial Williamsburg and the College of William and Mary.²⁸ Early examples of the Colonial Revival influence in Easton are the reconfiguration of the late 19th century Music Hall to a column-fronted library and a similar reconfiguration of the courthouse entrance in the early 20th century.²⁹ The Dover Street Post Office, completed in 1936, which faces the Tidewater Inn from the south side of the street (and to the east), is built in the Colonial Revival style.

Careful community planning for the look and feel of this hostelry ensured the broader category of Colonial Revival as the predominant local building style for the second half of the 20th century and furthered the community's zeal for "colonialization" as a source of civic pride and economic development in the 1950s and early 1960s.³⁰ The building retains a high level of period design integrity, offering insight into the architecture and social history of the region as well as the community planning and development of the town after World War II. The SunTrust Bank building at Goldsborough and

²² <http://www.phillyroads.com/crossings/delaware-memorial/>

²³ NYT, 01/02/1955

²⁴ Harrington, N. (1986). Op. cit. 260.

²⁵ Principal of Alfred Hopkins and Associates, 415 Lexington Ave. New York

²⁶ New London Development Corporation. (2004). Fort Trumball Progress. Retrieved July 1st, 2005 from <http://www.nldc.org/aboutus/documents/092004.PDF#search='bowditch%20hall%20and%20hopkins'>

²⁷ Maryland Inventory, T-55.

²⁸ Personal recollections of Polly Shannahan of conversations with A. J. Grymes are that the arcade at the Tidewater entrance draws from both the College of William and Mary and the Williamsburg Inn.

²⁹ Easton Survey Projects, Pricilla Morris, 06/30/2006

³⁰ Preston, D. (1989). Op. cit. ; Harrington, N. (2006). 230; Olson, J. (2003). 72.

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Harrison Streets, the Synagogue on Adkins Avenue, the YMCA, St. Mark's Church, the Elk's Club, the C& P Telephone building, the Health Department, and William Hill Manor are public facilities demonstrating the architectural influence of the Tidewater Inn on the town of Easton. In a massive trend, between 1949 and 1964, fifty-seven commercial structures and 499 residential structures swelled Easton's built environment by 29 percent—mostly in the Colonial Revival Style. The Tidewater Inn's local builder—Howard Eley—went on to build many of these structures.³¹

By the time of the 1954 addition, the Tidewater Inn was billing itself as "the pride of the Eastern Shore" in the heart of "the colonial capital of the Eastern Shore." Architectural historian Henry Chandlee Foreman published his widely-reproduced sketch of Easton's courthouse square as it might have appeared in 1800. Prominent business leaders under the direction of chairman John W. Noble (a Grymes friend and associate) formed "A Citizen's Committee for the Colonial Restoration of Easton" in October, 1954. Easton National Bank offered preferred interest rates to businesses willing to incorporate "colonialism" in their storefronts in keeping with Dr. Forman's rendering. The town engineer saw that colonial projects received fast approval and that modern projects were returned to the drawing board for revisions.³²

Talbottown, opened in 1957, was the Eastern Shore's first shopping center. Developer James W. Rouse insisted that the glass and steel complex anchor the north end of Harrison Street just two blocks from the arcade shops at the Tidewater Inn. He felt that a highway location on the Route 50 bypass would devitalize downtown business. After presenting his architect's modern design for Talbottown in 1954 he was escorted to a meeting at the Tidewater Inn by a group of Garden Club members and business leaders. They indoctrinated him to the town's design aesthetic. Following a tour of true colonial era properties, he revised the plans for Talbottown to brick with a shake roof overhang inspired by Crooked Intention, circa 1720.³³ Rouse, an Easton native, was shaken by the intensity of Easton citizens' response and by their commitment to the colonial motif. After Talbottown, he insisted on "humanness" in design that put clients' interest ahead of architectural vision.

The significant influence of the Tidewater Inn on the Colonial Revival trend in Easton owes much to the strongly held associations of locals and visitors to the Inn as the iconic core of the town. Because of local liquor laws and weak television reception, the Inn instantly claimed its place as the center of Mid-Shore social life. Robert Mitchum frequented the bar. Big band dances were held every weekend and important wedding receptions created lasting emotional ties to the facility. The world premier party for

³¹ An entire neighborhood of single family dwellings west of Route 50, north of Goldsborough Street and east of the Railroad tracks is locally known as "Eleyville."

³² Preston, Harrington; Olson. Op. Cit.

³³ Maryland Inventory T-48 Recollection of Polly Shannahan present at Tidewater Inn meeting and Preston, p.327.

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Hit the Deck starring Jane Powell, Debbie Reynolds and Tony Martin was held at the Tidewater in 1955, benefiting the local Mental Health Association, followed by the first screening across the intersection at the Avalon Theatre. Such associations from the period's social history created enduring emotional connections to the building, connections which are still conveyed by the building's appointments and facilities.

Business and government leaders convening at the Inn also established strong associations to the Tidewater as a modern facility with a relaxing plantation feel and old-fashioned southern hospitality. As post-war bridge and highway development opened the long-isolated Delmarva Peninsula, the Tidewater Inn was the primary destination for urban travelers and conventioners. It was the largest bayside hotel on the Eastern Shore and it featured a world-class restaurant specializing in local game and seafood. As such, it attracted visitors from Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia, New York, and beyond.

For example, the National Academy of Sciences held an international conference there in 1958 attended by 80 scientists from nine countries, including nine scholars from the Soviet Union.³⁴ Then-U.S. Senator John F. Kennedy campaigned from the Gold Room³⁵ on May 14, 1960, and opted to make an unplanned overnight stay at the Tidewater Inn. Because of a Maryland Truckers Convention and tourists "visiting the county's colonial garden spots" for the House and Garden Pilgrimage, the Inn was full. The Republican hotel executive extended Kennedy the use of his personal quarters and five days later Kennedy claimed 72% of Talbot's Democratic primary vote.³⁶

The feel of the Inn was inspired by the Williamsburg Inn (hence the change of name from Hotel Talbot to the Tidewater Inn). It combined a high-style plantation aesthetic with the more relaxed rural hospitality of local estates such as Wye House, which was notably on the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage in 1949 and many times again during the following years. Guests could expect solicitous service but could also board their hunting dogs in hotel kennels (or keep them in their rooms). The hotel still reflects this dialectical tension between modern and traditional aesthetics, urban and rural pacing, and the southern and northern views of a border state.

The geographic isolation of the Eastern Shore prior to World War II from nearby urban centers of the Mid-Atlantic held old social values intact. Even though religious diversity characterized its period of early settlement, an agricultural economy reliant on the slaveholding system caused a strong Confederate sentiment that lingered into the Civil Rights era during the Tidewater Inn's period of significance.³⁷ Tensions resultant from opening of the shore to "outsiders" were acutely felt in the

³⁴ New York Times. (1958, February 25). Sea ice held strong as fresh water ice.

³⁵ The location of the 1960 photograph of JFK is identifiable today from the Gold Room's wall sconce.

³⁶ Star-Democrat. (1960, May 20). Kennedy finds Easton hotel space scarce. Star-Democrat. (1960, May 20). Editorial.

³⁷ Preston, Harrington & Levy.

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Tidewater Inn

Name of Property

Talbot County, MD

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Section 8 Page 7

context of Civil Rights. The completion of Route 50, wholly dualized through Talbot County by 1962 and connected to Cambridge via the Emerson C. Harrington Bridge over the Choptank River, put Cambridge (formerly a half day trip) within a twenty-minute drive of Easton and only two hours from Washington, DC.

The area's entrenched reliance on Jim Crow segregation and newly created accessibility from the major Mid-Atlantic cities left it ripe for Freedom Riders wishing to bring equal access complaints to the forefront near the nation's capital. The provincialism of the Eastern Shore provided an arena for protests in the backyard of the nation's capital—a strategic advantage over the deep south for activists seeking federal intervention on Civil Rights issues.

A hate crime in September, 1957, involved the headwaiter at the Tidewater Inn, Mr. Sessions Boyd. Boyd and his family narrowly escaped injury as they prepared for school: ten sticks of dynamite planted 10 feet from the house failed to detonate due to a fusing error. Army and FBI investigators reported that the bomb was strong enough to destroy three or four of the adjoining frame duplexes, but the fuses were old. The bomb was attributed to the recent integration of his sons, aged 6 and 7, into the Hanson Street Primary School;³⁸ the targeting of Boyd over other African-American parents was attributed to his prominence at the Tidewater Inn.³⁹ A week after the thwarted bombing, Mr. Boyd received a scrawled postcard addressed to the hotel threatening more violence. The Rotary Club met at the Tidewater in the Gold Room and raised a cash reward to assist the Easton Police and the FBI to develop leads in the investigation.⁴⁰

The Tidewater Inn's role in Civil Rights history was locally significant, although mixed in nature, from the time it was built in 1949 until the adoption of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Nationally the Inn was significant for its response to the public accommodations protests during the Kennedy administration which helped distinguish Talbot County from Cambridge, then under martial law. Talbot County never experienced the violence that broke out in Cambridge between 1962 and 1964 when the Freedom Riders arrived, in no small part because of the stature and leadership of the Tidewater Inn.

While the Tidewater catered to a cosmopolitan clientele, it also depended on a plantation ethos for its hospitality standard. The southern colonial era standard of service inspired by the success of Colonial Williamsburg was part of the product being marketed to northern guests as an early example of the experience-based economy. This translated to a planned reliance on African-American staffing for service-level positions. In 1946, when architectural plans were developed for the Tidewater, a "Colored

³⁸ AP. (1957, September 14). Bomb fuse fizzles out at Maryland negro's home. New York Times. September 15, 1957.

³⁹ Personal recollection of Polly Shannahan, July 9th, 2006.

⁴⁰ Star-Democrat. (1957, October 4). Boyd gets postcard threat of further bomb.; Star-Democrat. (1957, October 11). \$500.00 reward is being offered in Easton bomb case.

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T-1160
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Talbot County, MD

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Help Dining Area" was included at the basement level, reflecting a business plan that racially segregated employees. There was no need for segregated service staff dining areas because *only* African-Americans were hired for service-level positions. European-American employees occupying desk level and professional jobs dined in the public restaurant facilities.⁴¹

In 1956, the Sidney Hollander Foundation awarded the Tidewater Inn "an Honorable Mention for its 'demonstration of hospitality extended without discrimination.'"⁴² Despite these early steps, integrated service for patrons was not the norm at the site until the Maryland Public Accommodations Act of 1963. In a nationally covered protest on January 6, 1962, the AP wire reported: "About fifty Negro and White demonstrators protesting racial segregation in Maryland restaurants were served today at the fashionable Tidewater Inn in this historic seat of Talbot County."⁴³ Similar tests in February, and again in July, 1962, produced consistent service.

The Tidewater Inn's response to public accommodations tests was significant for several reasons. First, the Inn not only served high-profile protesters, it also served three local African-American patrons in its restaurant later in the day on January 6, 1962.⁴⁴ Second, the February 1962 protests included members of Civic Interest Group (CIG) and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) from Baltimore who were purposely testing the Eastern Shore after incidents embarrassing to the Kennedy administration on Route 40 where African dignitaries were refused service en route from New York to Washington.⁴⁵ Third, owner-operator Grymes took a proactive stance at a meeting of the Easton Restaurant Association where a decision was made that each restaurant would react to the protests as its owner chose.

As the leading area restaurateur, Grymes was asked what he would do if the Tidewater was protested. His unhesitating response—that the Tidewater would serve anyone seeking a meal—created a climate where all but one drug-store counter in Talbottown provided public accommodations. St. Michaels' establishments also served patrons equally,⁴⁶ although Mills, a CIG activist at the time, characterized the Tidewater's stance a "curious exception" to the status quo.⁴⁷ Easton's mayor Sherwood Hubbard and several prominent citizens responded to these events by attempting to form a state-level bi-racial committee, although it took another year to establish.⁴⁸ Easton lawyer William H. Adkins II joined the federal bi-racial commission and worked toward voluntary adoption of open public accommodations.⁴⁹

⁴¹ Personal recollection of Joann Asparagus, Easton lawyer, long-standing board of education member, and Tidewater Inn wait-person at the time.

⁴² Mills, B. (2002).

⁴³ New York Times. (1962, January 7). Negroes served at inn.

⁴⁴ Truver thesis. p.48

⁴⁵ Levy, P.B. (2003).

⁴⁶ Personal recollection of Polly Shannahan 06/09/06; New York Times, (1962, January 7).

⁴⁷ Mills, B.(2002). p. 156

⁴⁸ Levy, P.B. (2003). Op.cit.

⁴⁹ Truver, (1994). P 49. Also personal collection of Philip Carey Foster whose father served on the Mayor's bi-racial committee.

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T-1160
Tidewater Inn

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While the Tidewater's race relations in both employment policy and public accommodations were motivated by public relations, the profit motive attached to its actions facilitated a peaceful transition countywide to the terms of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, in stark contrast to Cambridge. Just over the Choptank River, Cambridge endured many incidents of violence and remained under martial law for a full year, involving U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy directly in a 1963 negotiated solution that only held after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Today the Tidewater Inn still evokes the high style of a plantation-era inn. Its Colonial Revival structure retains the form and orientation to its setting of its period of significance. It continues to anchor the downtown business district from the primary gateways into Easton from U.S. Route 50: Dover Street and Goldsborough Street by way of Harrison Street. The "reach the beach" traffic on Route 50 has intensified from a second Chesapeake Bay Bridge span opened in June 1973, sustaining a continual stream of visitors to Easton's landmark hotel and the Avalon theatre on its opposing intersection.

Both the Tidewater Inn and its historic setting have a high degree of integrity in appearance and feel of the built environment from the period of significance. The exterior of the hotel has experienced only minor changes since it was first constructed. The interiors of the shop spaces facing the street have all been altered, some significantly, but the main public spaces have had only decorative changes (e.g., paint, wallpaper, and, in some areas, carpet). The downtown is little changed from the date of construction and in the adjoining blocks the Post Office, Bullitt House and Avalon Theater all have had no major exterior changes since the hotel was constructed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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T-1160
Tidewater Inn

Name of Property

Talbot County, MD

County and State

Section 9 Page 1

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Architectural Drawings:

Alfred Hopkins & Associates, Architects, Clarence B. Litchfield, Architect, "Hotel and Store Building for Hotel Talbot Corp". Maryland Room at Easton Public Library, Easton, MD.

| Date | Number | Title |
|---------|--------|---|
| 4/14/47 | A-1 | Plot Plan |
| 4/14/47 | A-2 | Cellar Plan |
| 4/14/47 | A-3 | First Floor Plan |
| 4/14/47 | A-4 | Second Floor Plan |
| 4/14/47 | A-5 | Third Floor Plan |
| 4/14/47 | A-6 | Fourth Floor Plan |
| 4/14/47 | A-7 | Attic Floor Plan |
| 4/14/47 | A-8 | Front, Rear Elevations |
| 4/14/47 | A-9 | End Elevations |
| 4/14/47 | A-10 | Exterior Elevations |
| 4/14/47 | A-11 | Window Details |
| 4/14/47 | A-12 | Door Details & Bucks |
| 4/14/47 | A-13 | Stair Details |
| 4/14/47 | A-14 | Sections and Misc. Det.'s |
| 4/14/47 | A-15 | Interior Misc. Details |
| 4/14/47 | A-16 | First Floor Plan 1/4" |
| 4/3/47 | A-216 | F. S. Detail - Ground Brick Arches |
| 1/26/48 | A-227 | Detail Circular Stair |
| 2/3/48 | A-230 | Detail of Folding Partition & Dining Room 122 |
| 2/9/48 | A-233 | Room Details & Full Sizes |
| 8/26/47 | PHE-1 | Basement Composite Plan |

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T-1160
Tidewater Inn

Talbot County, MD

Section 9 Page 2

Undated Window Trim Schedule

Alfred Hopkins & Associates, Architects, W. Frank Bower, Architect, "Addition & Alteration to Tidewater Inn Easton Maryland". Maryland Room at Easton Public Library, Easton, MD.

| Date | Number | Title |
|---------|--------|-------------------------------|
| 9/19/52 | A-1 | Cellar Plan |
| Undated | A-2 | First Floor Plan |
| 9/19/52 | A-3 | Second & Third Floor Plans |
| 9/19/52 | A-4 | Roof & Penthouse Plan |
| 9/19/52 | A-5 | Elevations & Details |
| 9/19/52 | A-6 | Window Details & Misc Details |
| 9/19/52 | A-7 | Wall Sections & Details |
| 9/19/52 | S-1 | Foundation Plan |

Frey & Son, W. Ellis Preston, AIA, "Alterations for Cocktail Lounge". Maryland Room at Easton Public Library, Easton, MD.

| Date | Number | Title |
|---------|--------|--|
| 7/17/68 | 2 | Northern Half, Floor Plan w/ Elevations & Showing Clg. Beams |
| 8/27/68 | 4 | Elevations for Floor Plan on Dwg 3 |
| 7/16/68 | 6 | Wood Door Jambs & Trim |
| 7/22/68 | 7 | Ply Paneling for Office |

Georgia Marble Company, "Hotel and Store Building for Hotel Talbot Corp". Maryland Room at Easton Public Library, Easton, MD.

| Date | Number | Title |
|---------|--------|----------|
| 5/26/47 | 1 | Untitled |
| 5/26/47 | 2 | Untitled |

Tidewater Inn (T-1160)
Name of Property

Talbot County, MD
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .981 acre (Easton, MD USGS quadrangle map)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---|---|---------|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 2 |
| | Zone | | | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |
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| 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Zone | | | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ward Bucher, AIA
Organization Bucher/Borges Group PLLC date October 25, 2006
street & number 3408 Wisconsin Ave NW, Suite 200 telephone (202) 364-8855
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Eastern Shore Concessions, LLC
street & number 18330 Village Centre Drive telephone 240-779-8000
city or town Olney state MD zip code 20830

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

T-1160
Tidewater Inn

Name of Property

Talbot County, MD

County and State

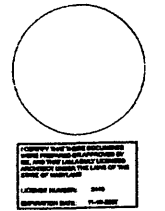
Section 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is described in the Land Records of Talbot County Maryland in Liber MAS 1402, Folio 458. The nominated property is shown as Parcel 1195 on Talbot County Tax Map 104.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property, .981 acres, comprises the entire parcel historically associated with the resource.



TIDEWATER INN EXPANSION AND RENOVATION

101 EAST DOVER ST
EASTON, MD 21801

EXISTING SURVEY

Table with columns for DATE, SCALE, DRAWN BY, CHECKED BY, DATE, SCALE, DRAWN BY, CHECKED BY, DATE, SCALE, DRAWN BY, CHECKED BY. Most cells are empty.

Table with columns for PROJECT NO., DATE, SCALE, DRAWN BY, PROJ. MGR. CAM. Values: PROJECT NO.: 2005228.00, DATE: 05/30/2008, SCALE: N/A, DRAWN BY: JDD, PROJ. MGR. CAM.

T-1160
TIDEWATER INN
Property Name
Talbot County
101 East Dover Street, Easton, MD 21601
Property Address

* THE IMPROVEMENTS SHOWN HEREON REFLECT ON-SITE CONDITIONS OBSERVED 12-01-08
* THE LAND SHOWN HEREON LIES WITHIN FLOOD ZONE "C" (AREA OF MINIMAL FLOODING), AS SHOWN ON F.E.M.A. COMMUNITY-PANEL MAP NO. 240007 0202 B.
* THIS ALTA/ACSM LAND TITLE SURVEY HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE LICENSEE EITHER PERSONALLY OR UNDER THEIR DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION AND COMPLIES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS AS SET FORTH IN REGULATION 12 OF THE MARYLAND MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR SURVEYORS.

TO: EASTERN SHORE CONCESSIONS, LLC, COMMONWEALTH LAND TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY AND TALBOT LAND TITLE COMPANY. THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THIS MAP OR PLAN AND THE SURVEY ON WHICH IT IS BASED WERE MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH "MINIMUM STANDARD DETAIL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALTA/ACSM LAND TITLE SURVEYS," JOINTLY ESTABLISHED AND ADOPTED BY ALTA, ACSM AND MIPB IN 1999, AND INCLUDES ITEMS 1 THROUGH 4, 8 THROUGH 10, 13 AND 14 OF TABLE A THEREOF, PURSUANT TO THE ACCURACY STANDARDS AS ADOPTED BY ALTA, MIPB AND ACSM AND IN EFFECT ON THE DATE OF THIS CERTIFICATION. UNDERSIGNED FURTHER CERTIFIES THAT THE SURVEY MEASUREMENTS WERE MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE "MINIMUM HOLE, DISTANCE AND CLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR SURVEY MEASUREMENTS WHICH CONTROL LAND BOUNDARIES FOR ALTA/ACSM LAND TITLE SURVEYS."

THOMAS D. LANE
LANE ENGINEERING, INC.
PROPERTY LINE SURVEYOR NO. 340

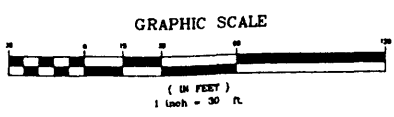
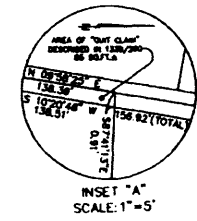
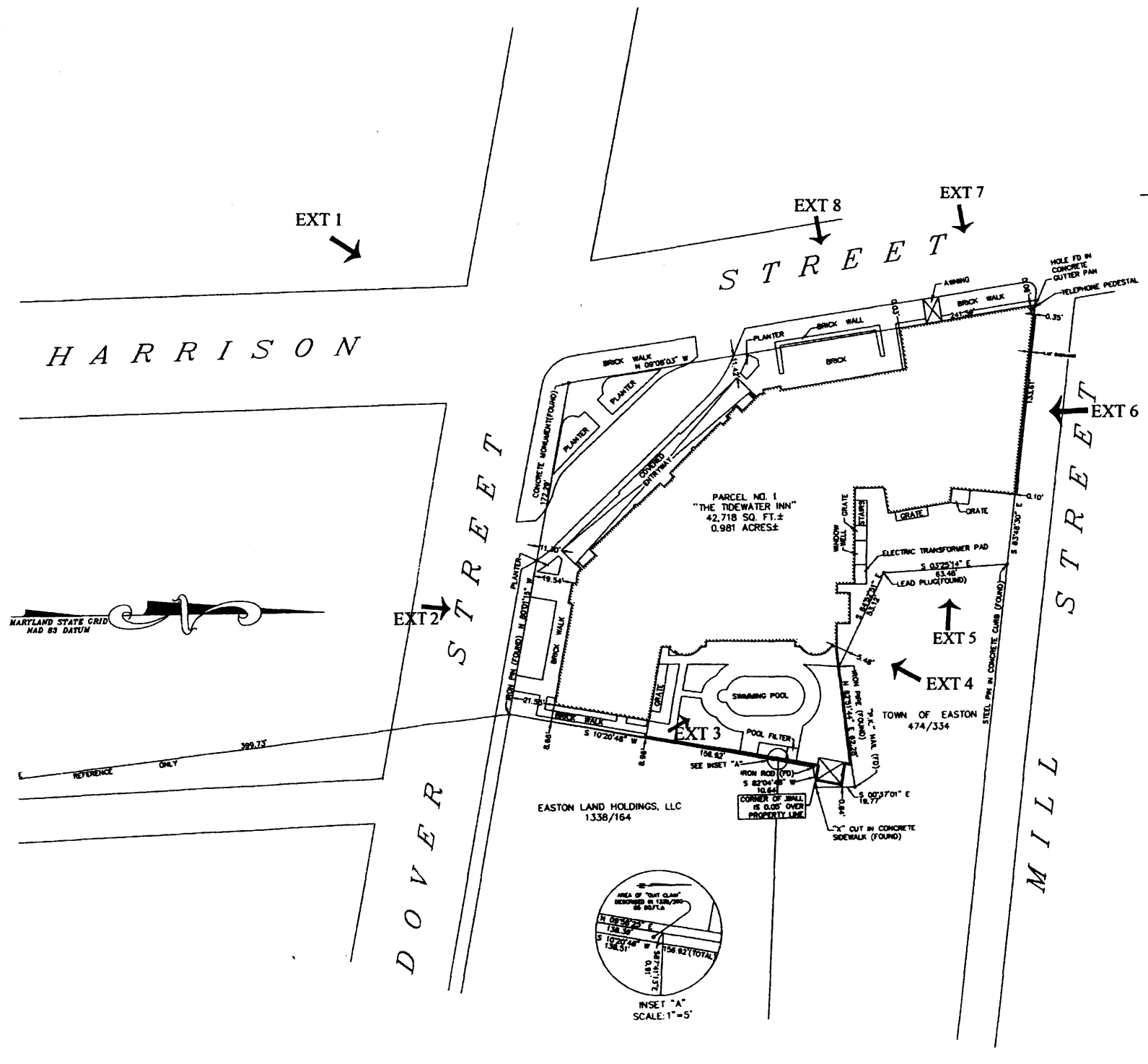


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Lane Engineering, Inc.
Civil Engineers - Land Planning - Land Surveyors
117 Bay St.
Easton, MD 21801 (410) 822-2024
15 Washington St.
Cambridge, MD 21613 (410) 822-2025
108 West Ridge St.
Crownsville, MD 21117 (410) 758-2026 FAX (410) 758-4422

ALTA/ACSM LAND TITLE SURVEY
THE LAND OF
T.I. PROPERTIES, LLC
IN THE TOWN OF EASTON
TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND
GRID EA PARCELS 1195 & 1536
TAX MAP 104
SHEET No. 1 OF 1
FILE No. 6935

T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

Property Name

Talbot County

101 East Dover Street, Easton, MD 21601

Property Address

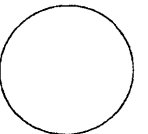
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309 S. Chesapeake Ave.
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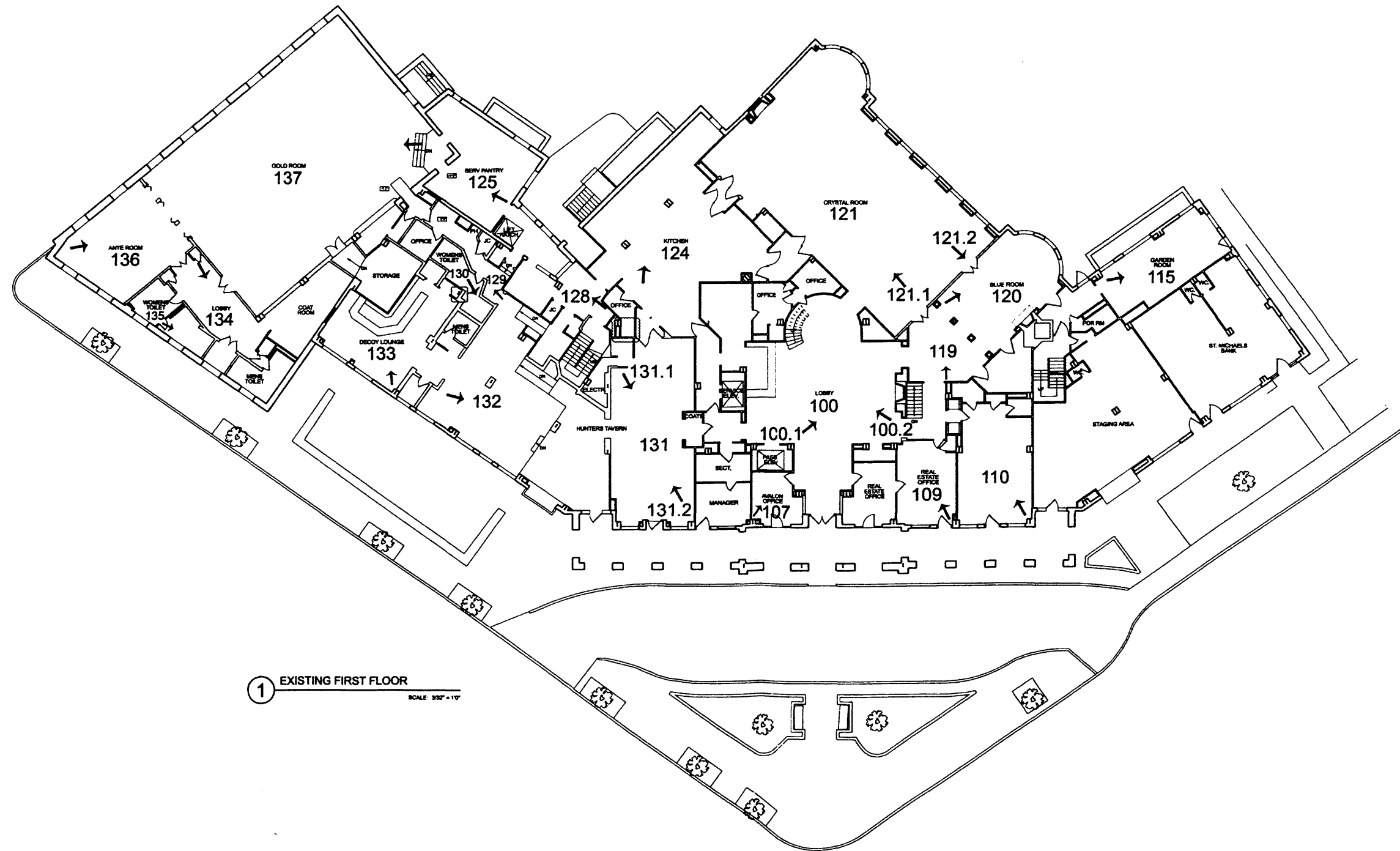


LEGEND
SYMBOLS TO BE USED TO IDENTIFY THE EXISTING AND PROPOSED WORK ON THIS PLAN
DATE: 05/03/2008
DRAWN BY: BGF
APPROVED BY: PL-2008

TIDEWATER INN
EXPANSION
AND
RENOVATION

101 EAST DOVER ST
EASTON, MD 21601

EXISTING FIRST
FLOOR PLAN



1 EXISTING FIRST FLOOR
SCALE 3/32" = 1'-0"

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DATE: 05/03/2008
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DRAWN BY: BGF PROJ MGR: CAM

AX101
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T-1160

T-1160

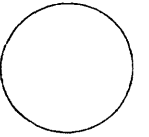
TIDEWATER INN
Property Name
Talbot County
101 East Dover Street, Easton, MD 21601
Property Address



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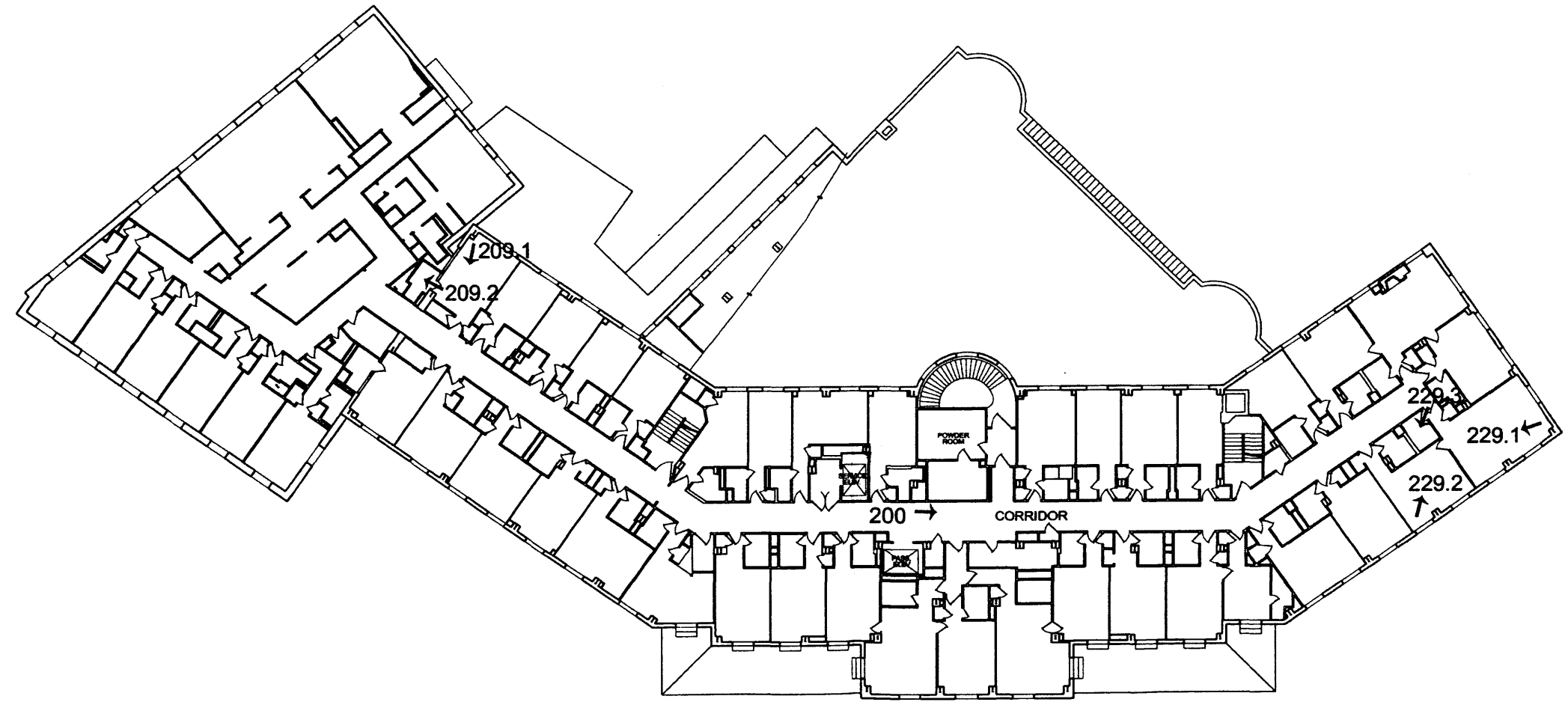


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PROJ. MGR: CMH

TIDEWATER INN
EXPANSION
AND
RENOVATION

101 EAST DOVER ST
EASTON, MD 21601

EXISTING SECOND
FLOOR PLAN



1 EXISTING SECOND FLOOR
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PROJECT NO: 2006238.02
DATE: 05/30/2008
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PROJ. MGR: CMH

AX102
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T-1160

T-1160

TIDEWATER INN

Property Name

Talbot County

101 East Dover Street, Easton, MD 21601

Property Address



ARCHITECTURE
ENGINEERING

Dover

109 S Orange Ave
Dover, DE 19904
302.734.7759

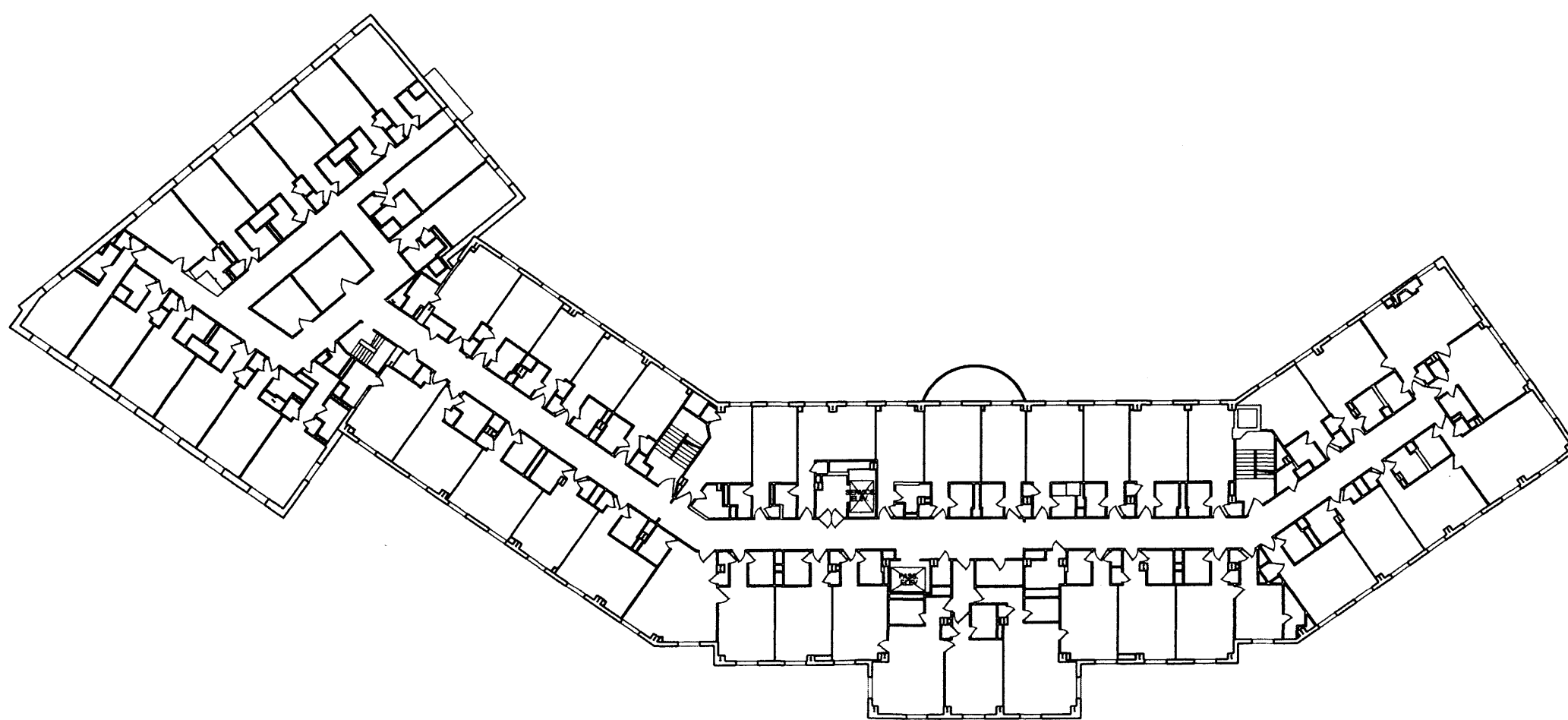
Salisbury

113 West Main St, Suite 100
Salisbury, MD 21801
410.546.9100

Wilmington

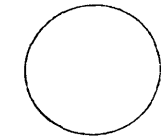
321 A Green
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1 EXISTING THIRD FLOOR
SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"

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TIDEWATER INN EXPANSION AND RENOVATION

101 EAST DOVER ST
EASTON, MD 21601

EXISTING THIRD FLOOR PLAN

| DATE | BY | REVISION |
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| PROJ MGR: | GM |

AX103

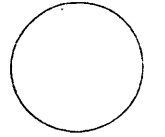
T-1160

T-1160
TIDEWATER INN
Property Name
Talbot County
101 East Dover Street, Easton, MD 21601
Property Address



ARCHITECTURE
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Dover
309 S. Crossman Ave
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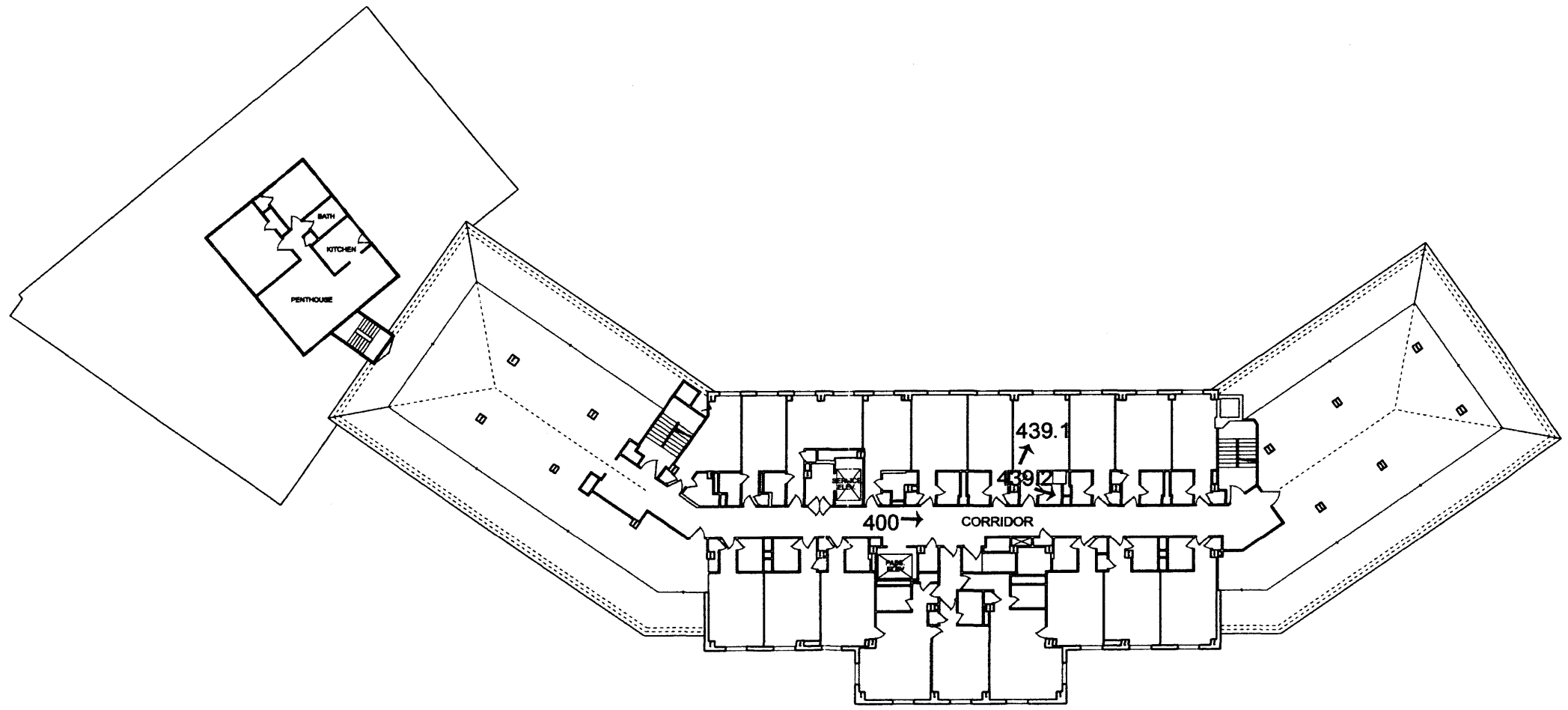


Professional Engineer Seal

TIDEWATER INN
EXPANSION
AND
RENOVATION

101 EAST DOVER ST
EASTON, MD 21601

EXISTING FOURTH
FLOOR PLAN



1 EXISTING FOURTH FLOOR
SCALE: 3/32" = 1'

| NO. | DATE | REVISION |
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PROJECT NO: 2005238.00
DATE: 05/30/2008
SCALE: 3/32" = 1'
DRAWN BY: BOF PROJ MGR: CAM

AX104