

**Historic Context Study
of
Waterfowl Hunting Camps and Related Properties
within
Assateague Island National Seashore,
Maryland and Virginia**

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ABSTRACT

The institution of the waterfowl hunting club is uniquely American. These clubs have played an important part in the conservation of American waterfowl. They were the first to impose bag limits, bar automatic guns, limit shooting seasons and shooting hours, and the first to create waterfowl rest areas and waterfowl rest days.

Waterfowl hunting was and still is a major form of recreation along the Mid-Atlantic seaboard from the Canadian Maritime Provinces to the Everglades of Florida. Starting as subsistence hunting and commercial or “market gunning,” it reached its peak as a recreational sport in 1939 with over 44,000 waterfowl sportsmen and nearly 3,000 waterfowl hunting clubs and privately owned hunting marshes.

Waterfowling evolved from subsistence to sport after the Civil War brought prosperity and affluence to broad segments of the Northern population. The cities of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia became centers of commerce and finance. Wild waterfowl, considered a delicacy by many, was in great demand in the finer restaurants. With the rapid expansion of the industrial North, increasing numbers of people found themselves with the means and leisure to engage in waterfowling as recreation. The construction of the railroads made the transportation of waterfowl to northern markets faster; while at the same time made travel for sport hunters easier. Market gunners and guides welcomed and needed the additional income provided by the arrival of the northern sportsmen.

Many local families of limited means depended upon work related to sport hunting for seasonal employment. Entire families were often employed; sometimes over several generations. Individuals were needed to guide, carve decoys, pick feathers, cook, clean and do laundry, build boats, provide transportation to and from blinds, and maintain and manage the lodges and clubs.

Sadly, waterfowl populations were decimated by market gunners and sportsmen using live decoys, bait, battery guns, spotlights, sink boxes and sneak boxes. The Federal Migratory Bird Act of 1918 outlawed market hunting and helped to regulate the sport hunter as well. Federal Regulations in 1937 prohibited sink boxes, bait, live decoys, and limited repeating guns to 3 shells. The loss of eelgrass due to blight in the 1920s, the Great Depression, and severe storms along the Mid-Atlantic in the 1930s also contributed to the decline of traditional waterfowl hunting and their associated clubs and lodges.

Most sport hunting clubs were private membership entities owned by the wealthy. Other establishments were commercial lodges available to the more modest hunter. The eleven Assateague Island “hunting lodges” identified in this historic context study can be separated into three distinct groups: 1) private hunting membership clubs and commercial lodges 2) private non-membership residences where hunting was practiced and 3) private beach houses where hunting was rarely if ever conducted. The George Gibb’s “hunting shack,” not identified for this study should be included in this inventory as it was used for waterfowl hunting purposes. These resources are so grouped below:

Private Hunting Membership Clubs and Commercial Lodges

- Bob-O-Del Gun Club (corporate)
- Bunting's Gunning Lodge
- Green Run Lodge (Jackson Brothers)
- High Winds Gun Club (partnership)
- Pope's Island Gun Club (Black Duck)

Private Non-membership Residences Where Hunting Was Practiced

- Gibb's Shack (now naturalist's shack)
- Hungerford's
- People & Lynch
- Valentine's

Private Beach Houses Where Hunting Was Rarely If Ever Conducted.

- Clements' Beach House
- Clements' Boat House
- Musser's

The significance of shantyboats to waterfowl hunting has been largely overlooked. All five gunning lodges on Assateague Island that are a part of this study either began as and/or incorporated shantyboats into their construction. At Bob-O-Del Gun Club and High Winds Gun Club shantyboats were brought up on dry land, expanded, and used as lodging for waterfowl gunning parties. Bunting's Gunning Lodge, Green Run Lodge, Pope's Island Gun Club, and Egging Beach Gunning Club started by using floating shantyboats before land based club houses were built. A shantyboat was also incorporated into the first land-based lodge built at Green Run Lodge.

*Gunning clubs were an important part of the American sporting scene from the late 1850s until the later 1950s. The role of these clubs in sustaining waterfowl populations, preserving critical areas of coastal beach and marshland, and continuing the traditions of decoy making and waterfowl hunting deserves recognition.*¹

INTRODUCTION

Project Background

Assateague Island National Seashore possesses numerous cultural resources. Among them are eleven identified standing “waterfowl hunting camps.” To help determine the significance of these resources, and as part of a larger Determination of Eligibility Study, Eshelman & Associates was contracted to complete a Historic Context Study. A four-phase plan was undertaken to complete this project: a) research, b) field work, c) preliminary draft and review and, d) revision and submission of final historic context study.²

a) Research: The team first gathered known material from sources including books, newspaper articles, oral history transcripts, photographs, and diaries which contained information related to waterfowl hunting camps in the Mid-Atlantic region but with special attention to the eleven resources identified by the National Park Service on Assateague Island. The team visited libraries, archives, museums, and other holdings within the region where material might be expected to exist. These explored resources are listed in the acknowledgments.

b) Field Work: The team conducted oral history interviews with individuals identified during the research phase. Many of these individuals were already identified through the Shantyboat Documentation Project.³ Each identified hunting camp was also visited.

c) Preliminary Draft: A working draft was submitted for review and comments.

d) Final Historic Context Statement: The revised statement was submitted by the established deadline.

¹ Samuel Dyke, “Introduction,” in Julie Moser, *Gunning Clubs & Their Decoys*, no date, no publisher given. This same quote is used by the Ward Foundation Museum in its introductory text.

² For understanding of Historic Contexts see Susan L. Henry Renaud, “Whither Historic Contexts?: Their Role in 21st-Century Planning,” *Cultural Resource Management* (Volume 23, number 7, 2000), pp. 45-48.

³ The Shantyboat Documentation Project was carried out under the direction of Patricia Russell in 2000 with support from the Maryland Historical Trust. It consisted of oral history interviews and archival research on shantyboats, how they were built, used and by whom.

Waterfowl hunting consists of the hunting of water birds, particularly those that swim. Therefore while other wildfowl such as gulls and shore wading birds were hunted on Assateague Island, this portion of the hunting history is not included here. Likewise, while deer hunting and other small game hunting took place on Assateague Island, this is also outside the scope of work for this project.

Clubs and Lodges

Clubs and lodges have been a part of American history dating from at least the colonial era. In Maryland, the South River Club, a gentlemen's social club, was established at least by 1739 and possibly as early as circa 1700. The second and extant South River clubhouse dates from 1742. Possibly "The Oldest Continuously Active Social Club in the "English-Speaking World" was the State in Schuylkill, a social fishing club founded in 1732 at Philadelphia. Another Maryland colonial club was the Forensic Club of Annapolis which existed between 1760 and 1767.⁴

During the 1870s and 1880s hundreds of sporting clubs and lodges were founded in the United States. By 1939 there were nearly 3,000 clubs and privately owned hunting marshes. While this study is restricted specifically to waterfowl hunting lodges and clubs a brief review of other clubs and lodges listed on the National Register of Historic Places is included to provide a context of existing resources. Such a search is difficult as a "dude ranch" might also include hunting activities. Mining camps or pioneer homes may have been readapted into hunting clubs and lodges when tourism became the region's economic mainstay. Camp Hoover (Rapidan Camp), the presidential camp in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia was originally a fishing camp. Several waterfowl hunting clubs and lodges in Maryland began as simple farm houses. Sagamore and Santanoni, two Adirondack Camps in New York, have been nominated as National Historic Landmarks; a designation is already held by Camp Hoover at Shenandoah National Park.⁵

There are a total of 332 clubs listed on the National Register of Historic Places ranging from golf clubs, community clubs, military officers' clubs, athletic clubs, fraternal clubs such as Elks and Knights of Columbus, women's clubs, country clubs, tennis clubs, yacht and boat clubs, beach clubs, cricket clubs, casino clubs, university clubs, farmers clubs and at least one each garden club, girls club, boys club, faculty club, racquet club, literary club, art club, bicycle club, 4-H

⁴*The Ancient South River Club: A Brief History by the Historical Committee of the Club*, privately printed, 1952; Ron Avery, "Old Clubs That Defy The Years But They're Not For Party Animals," *Philadelphia Daily News*, February 8, 1995; Ron Avery, "The King Of All The Clubs Just 30 On Roll In Fish House," *Philadelphia Daily News*, June 5, 1991; and Lita Solis-Cohen, "See How Fishing Has, With Sport And Substance, Long Lured Philadelphians," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 19, 1987. The State of Schuylkill has also been called the "oldest social club in America" and the first fishing club in the English-speaking world."

⁵ Van Campen Heilner, *A Book On Duck Shooting* (Philadelphia: Penn Publishing Company, 1939), pp. 489 and 493; Cynthia Ott, "A Sportman's Paradise: The Woodmont Rod and Gun Club," *Maryland Historical Magazine* (vol. 92, no. 2, Summer 1997), p. 220; Beth Boland email to Jennifer Perunko, dated April 11, 2003; Susan Escherich email to Jennifer Perunko, dated April 14, 2003; and Gary Scott email to Jennifer Perunko, dated April 14, 2003; all forwarded to Ralph Eshelman, April 24, 2003. South River Club has been documented by Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS).

club and camp, and canoe club. The following sportsmen and hunting clubs are listed: Tuna Club, Avalon, California; Tansy Island Hunting Club Camp Site and Clubhouse, Woodville, Mississippi; Fish and Fur Club, Nelsonville, New York; Southside Sportsmens Club, Great River, New York; Currituck Shooting Club, Corolla, North Carolina; Lake Oswego Hunt Club Ensemble, Lake Oswego, Oregon; South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club, St. Michael, Pennsylvania; Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club, Franklinville, Pennsylvania; Issaquah Sportsmen's Club, Iaasquah, Washington; and Woodbrook Hunt Club, Lakewood, Washington.⁶

There are a total of 282 lodges listed on the National Register ranging from State and National Park lodges, resort lodges, fraternal lodges such as Elks, Masonic Temple, Knights of Pythias Lodge, and Order of Odd Fellows, Izaak Walter League lodges, and at least one dude ranch lodge, Girl Scout lodge and ski lodge. Osgood Gamekeeper's Lodge, Redstone, Colorado, was part of a large game preserve and not used for waterfowl hunting purposes. Plant, Morton, Freeman Hunting Lodge, East Lyme, Connecticut, was built in 1908 and was originally part of a 2400-acre wild game bird preserve. Hunting Lodge Farm, Oxford, Ohio, was built between 1832 and 1839 as a hunting lodge and used mainly for turkey hunting. In 1840 the lodge was converted into a residence.⁷

Of the 614 clubs and lodges listed on the National Register of Historic Places, only two are known to be associated with waterfowl hunting; one in North Carolina located along the Atlantic Flyway and the other in Minnesota located along the Mississippi Flyway, representing two of the four major waterfowl flyways of North America:

Currituck Shooting Club was built in 1857 as the first grand shooting club on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The original clubhouse was rebuilt in 1879. The cedar shingle sided clubhouse and outbuildings were preserved on a 15-acre preserve at the south end of the Currituck Club, now a golf club.⁸ Unfortunately, the club house burned down in early October of 2003.

Larson's Hunters Resort in Minnesota was opened for business in the late 1890s when the railroads brought sportsmen to the area in search of mallards, geese, grouse, cranes and other game birds. The resort's 14-room main brick house and five cabins and tents could accommodate 50 to 60 hunters at a time. The resort served as a commercial business until 1979.⁹

⁶ National Register listing using "club" search, dated April 2003. No attempt was made to read each nomination so it is possible other clubs that specifically did not use the term hunting or gunning might have had such use. Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) lists three clubs -- two fox hunting clubs (Keswick Hunt Club, Albermarle County, Virginia and Chagrin Valley Hunt Club, Cuyahoga County, Ohio), and one fishing club (Belmar Fishing Club, Monmouth County, New Jersey).

⁷ National Register listing using "lodge" search, dated April 2003. No attempt was made to read each nomination so it is possible other clubs that specifically did not use the term hunting or gunning might have had such use. A search using "hunting" did not turn up anything not already listed under lodge and club. For information on Hunting Farm Lodge see http://dbs.ohiohistory.org/hp/dsp_statement.cfm?ID=82001361.

⁸ www.thecurrituckgolfclub.com/golf/the_currituck_club_legacy.htm.

⁹ http://nrhp.mnhs.org/property_overview.cfm?propertyID=69.

This inventory does not include non-National Register listed clubs such as Maryland's famous Woodmont Rod and Gun Club, located near Hancock, which operated from 1881 until 1995 when it was taken over by the State of Maryland. However, it was never used for waterfowl hunting purposes¹⁰

Definitions

BLINDS - Blinds are any sort of artificial concealment placed at an advantageous location either on shore or in the water. They are generally made with wooden frames and thoroughly covered with pine branches, young pine-trees and or marsh plants such as cattails. Typically rectangular box in shape, blinds are approximately four feet wide, fitted with a seat(s), and capable of containing three to four persons and a couple of dogs.¹¹ A *shore blind* is built along the shore and an *offshore blind* is built in the water, usually on wooden piles. Due to ice and exposure to harsh conditions blinds are usually reconstructed every year though the pile foundations may be used from year to year. *Portable blinds* are small floating platforms on which a blind can be built and moved from position to position in the water. On land a shallow depression, sometimes lined with wood or even cement, similarly allows the hunter to lie horizontally until a good shot is available.

BOATS - There were several types of small boats used in waterfowl hunting. A *sink box* is a boat which looks like a coffin and floats just above the surface of the water. One or two hunters would lie down in the box to remain invisible to the waterfowl and rise only when they appeared to shoot them. Wooden wings known as platforms, covered with burlap or canvas, surrounded the box to squelch waves from flooding the box. The *sneakbox* (also called a sneak boat or bushwhack boat) was a small boat, some with sharp bows, others more punt-like, which were often camouflaged to conceal the hunter(s). These could be paddled or sculled (sometimes even towed if the distance was great) to desired hunting locations.

CLUBHOUSE, CAMP, LODGE - A club is "a group of people associated for a common purpose, usually in an organization that meets regularly." A *clubhouse* is "the building occupied by a club." A *camp* is "a tent, cabin, or the like, used for outings or vacations." A *lodge* is "a temporary habitation . . . a small house . . . for use during a special season; as . . . a hunting lodge." Thus a hunting club, hunting lodge, or hunting camp could mean essentially the same thing. However, a club is usually a private membership type hunting facility while a lodge is usually open to clients for a fee. While a camp could be a cabin or permanent structure it could also be a temporary shelter such as a tent. Therefore, camp is not generally used in this study, and lodge generally refers to a facility commercially available to paying clients, while a club is generally restricted to private members. It must be pointed out, however, that the names of some lodges and clubs do not technically conform to these definitions.

WATERFOWL VERSUS WILDFOWL - A *waterfowl* is "a water bird; especially one that swims" while

¹⁰ Ott, p. 219.

¹¹ William, M. Laffan, "Canvas-back and Terrapin," *Scribner's Monthly* (volume 15, number 1, November 1877).

wildfowl are “wild birds; especially, game birds, as wild ducks, wild geese, partridges, pheasants, quail, etc.”¹² Thus waterfowl are restricted to water birds such as ducks and geese while wildfowl may include any wild bird including ducks and geese but also land game birds such as partridges and quail. Therefore this study is restricted to hunting camps, clubs and lodges which specialized in waterfowl hunting. Thus gun clubs which specialized in railbirds for example, though railbirds live in marshes, are excluded as they do not swim.¹³

Regional Context

Native Americans have hunted waterfowl for thousands of years. Bones of ducks and geese have been recovered from numerous archeological midden sites. In 1924 a cache of thirteen Native American drake canvasback decoys was discovered in Lovelock Cave, Nevada. These circa eighteen-hundred-year-old reed decoys, are the oldest known in the world. Samuel de Champlain observed Native Americans using decoys along the shores of Lake Champlain. Giovanni da Verrazano, who landed on or near Assateague Island in 1524, mentioned birds, probably waterfowl, which were used for food. Thomas Hariot wrote in 1588 about the waterfowl of what today is called North Carolina, mentioning, “. . . Cranes: Hernes [herons]: & in winter great store of Swannes [sic] & Geese.” Captain John Smith in 1608 wrote about the waterfowl of the Chesapeake Bay, stating, “In Winter there are great plentie [sic] of Swans, Cranes, Herons, Geese, Brants, Ducks, Wigeon . . . Of all these sorts great abundance, and some other strange kinds, to us unknown” Flocks of waterfowl seven miles long were reported to stretch over the Chesapeake. John Smith reported he killed 148 waterfowl with three shots. Lord Baltimore’s colonists were instructed to bring “Fowling-pieces.” With the provincial charter of Maryland, the Calvert dynasty immediately extolled the profusion of waterfowl in the colony. In 1621 a book was published on “Hunger Prevention: Or the Whole Arte Of Fowling By Water and Land.” Colonel Henry Norwood, sailing on the *Virginia Merchant* in January of 1650, landed on Assateague Island and reported that “the shore swarm’d with fowl.” In 1667 Richard Bennett, Jr., of Greenbury Point, near Annapolis, drowned while hunting ducks. However, these examples of waterfowl sightings and hunting were not regarded as a sport, but as a means of obtaining food. While sport hunting can be traced as far back as A.D. 818 in Belgium, the beginning of waterfowl sport hunting in American began in the 1750s, but did not become popular until the early 1800s.¹⁴

¹² Webster’s *New Universal Unabridged Dictionary*, Deluxe Second Edition, Based upon the Broad Foundation Laid Down By Noah Webster (New York, Simon & Schuster, 1983 edition).

¹³ Railbird hunting was a very popular sport along the marshes of New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. Hunting clubs which specialized in railbirding were formed. The Glebe (“French”) Club, Italian Hunt Club, and Jackson (McClure’s) Hunt Club, which thrived from the late 1890s into the 1940s still stand along Maryland’s Patuxent River. Alonzo Decker of Black & Decker tool company continued to hunt railbirds from his 83-foot yacht into the 1960s. However, railbird hunting is not covered in this study as it is not known to have occurred on Assateague Island.

¹⁴ Hariot, Thomas, *A Brief and True Report of The New Found Land of Virginia*, Facsimile Edition of the 1588 Quarto (New York: The History Book Club, Inc., 1951)[North Carolina was then considered Virginia]; Robert Elman, *A Portrait of Wildlife and Man on One of the World’s Great Migratory Corridors: The Atlantic Flyway* (Tulsa Oklahoma, Winchester Press, 1980), p. 152; Brewington, M. V., *Chesapeake Bay: A Pictorial Maritime History* (New York: Bonanza Books, 1963), pp. 222-3; Barnes, Brooks Miles and Barry R. Truitt, *Seashore Chronicles: Three Centuries of the Virginia Barrier Islands* (Charlottesville, Virginia: University Press of Virginia,

By the beginning of the 19th century the plethora of waterfowl along the marshes of the mid-Atlantic coast began to attract sport hunters from major east coast cities. These were usually wealthy individuals, who lived outside the region where they hunted. Soon the local businesses of providing guides, decoys, dogs, transportation, and hunting related equipment developed. However, market hunting, the commercial killing of waterfowl, began to decrease the huge flocks of birds, which had up to that time been believed to be inexhaustible. Market hunters used traps, nets, blinds and sink boxes, breech-loading shotguns, battery guns, and huge puntguns. They also used bait such as corn, live decoys and even hunted at night with lights. Fourteen hundred least terns were killed on Virginia's barrier Cobb's Island in a single day for milliners in New York.¹⁵ Chesapeake Bay area market hunters sold ducks in towns along the shore or shipped them to markets in Baltimore and New York. Gizzards, livers, and hearts were sold for 25 cents a bucket. In 1918 Federal protective legislation was passed to regulate hunting, establish hunting seasons, restrict the kinds of firearms permissible, impose bag limits and even govern methods of hunting. Hunters could no longer just stroll down to the shoreline and shoot waterfowl as they pleased. With the Federal Regulation of 1935 that prohibited the use of live decoys and baiting, hunters, more than ever, needed additional means to attract waterfowl. They had already borrowed the use of decoys first developed by Native Indians, but decoys now became even more necessary. By 1814 hunters were using, ". . . wooden figures, cut and painted so as to represent ducks. . . ." At one time there were fourteen professional decoy carvers in Havre de Grace, Maryland, alone. The decoy, which during the years of unrestricted waterfowl shooting had been plentiful and cheap, was elevated to a more important spot in the sport of duck shooting. The best decoys were purchased by the more wealthy hunters who usually belonged to clubs. Many of the larger hotels also provided better decoys along with the best food, guides, and accommodations. Local guides who could not afford the more expensive decoys often made their own more primitive ones. Soon dogs were trained to retrieve shot waterfowl. The world famous Chesapeake Bay Retriever was produced when a pair of Newfoundland dogs saved in a shipwreck were brought to Maryland in 1807 and bred to water spaniels.¹⁶

1997), p. 18; *Hunger Prevention: Or the Whole Arte Of Fowling By Water and Land* (London: 1621); and Archie Johnson and Bud Coppedge, *Gun Clubs and Decoys of Back Bay & Currituck Sound* (Virginia Beach, Virginia: CurBac Press, 1991), p. 7.

¹⁵ The wildfowl of Cobb's Island was so well known that the first group habitat exhibit in the United States consisted of birds collected from Cobb's Island and installed in the American Museum of Natural History in 1902; see Douglas J. Preston, *Dinosaurs in the Attic: An Excursion into the American Museum of Natural History* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1986), p. 168.

¹⁶ Barnes and Truitt, p. 12; and David Kimball and Jim Kimball, *The Market Hunter* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Dillon Press, Inc., 1969), p. 23.

WATERFOWL HUNTING ON THE ATLANTIC COAST

The sport of waterfowl hunting is known along on the Atlantic Coast from the Canadian Maritime Provinces to the Everglades of South Florida.

*The Atlantic [sic] coasts of the United States, with the deep bays and indentures of their shores, the estuaries of their noble rivers, the wide extent of salt marshes and meadows, interspersed with shallow land-locked washes and lagoons, abound, perhaps, more than any other region of the world, in which man and cultivation exist, with all the various tribes of waterfowl and waders, which can minister to the amusement of the sportsman. For the magnificent and stately Swan, down to the minute Sandpiper, every species of aquatic birds abound in their appropriate latitude, and in their peculiar season.*¹⁷

Delaware North to New York

The marshlands along the Long Island Sound side of Long Island, New York, had hundreds of “bay houses,” dating from the 1700s. Bay houses were used by fishermen, baymen, and duck hunters for shelter. The use of such shelters allowed them to work longer by reducing travel time between home and work. In the 1830s it was reported that a typical day’s hunt on Great South Beach could include twenty scoters, one fox, 54 brant, seven Canada geese, five widgeons, three oldsquaw, a cormorant, and a snowy owl. Even after 1900 one sportsman supposedly shot 350 bluebills (scaup ducks) in a neighboring bay. Fulton Market in New York City sent a wagon through the countryside of Long Island paying over forty cents for a duck which was then sold for profit in the city. There are recipes for “Long Island Duck.” Between the 1940s and 1960s bay houses were built as weekend getaways. By 1965, over 200 bay houses existed but many were removed to preserve the sensitive wetlands so that by the 1990s only 34 such houses remained. Some were called “gunnin’ shacks” while others were “bungalows” or “bay shacks.” Those that remain date from 1870 to 1950. Many were, and still are, passed from one generation to another; they became a way of life. The marshlands owned by Brookhaven Town are unique in that any bona fide voting resident may join the Pattersquash Gunners Association, Inc. for \$10 a year and then is qualified to hunt on town hunting lands. One popular Long Island hunting lodge was Oakdale, operated by Liff Snedecor during the first half of the nineteenth century.¹⁸

¹⁷ Henry William Herbert, *Frank Forester’s Field Sports* (New York: W. A. Townsend & Adams, 1868; reprinted in Miller, p. 77.

¹⁸ “Bay House Tour” Maritime Programs, www.longislandtraditions.org; “Bay House Tour June 30th,” *Long Island Traditions Newsletter*, volume 9, number 2, (Spring, 2002), p. 1; Robert Cushman Murphy, *Fish-Shape Paumanok: Nature and Man on Long Island* (Great Falls, Virginia: Virginia, 1991), pp. 45-7; *A Rare Blend: Traditional Dutch & Seafood Recipes of the W. Sayville Area* (West Sayville, New York: Suffolk Marine Museum, 1982), p. 9; Nancy Solomon, “Voices of the Bay: Mary Koelbel Carson,” www.esturay.cog.ny.us/NL/97ss/spring98a6.html; Nancy Solomon, *On The Bay: Bay Houses and Maritime Culture on Long Island’s Marshlands* (Syosset, New York: Friends for Long Island Heritage, 1992); Robert B. Mackay, Anthony K. Baker and Carol A. Traynor, editors, *Long Island Country Houses and Their Architects, 1860-1940*, W.W. Norton & Company, 1997), p. 23; and Eugene V. Connett, editor, *Duck Shooting Along the Atlantic Tidewater* (New York: Bonanza Books, 1947), p. 87. Solomon, p. 5 states that the land for bay houses were leased from local townships ranging from \$5 in 1890 to \$1,050 in 1991.

Among the best, if not the best, waterfowl gunning area of New Jersey is Barnegat Bay, famous for its Barnegat Bay sneakbox, which dates from about 1836, and distinctive decoys designed specifically for the conditions of that bay. Here are located the best “shooting points” of Lovelady and Sandy Islands. One late 19th century writer called Barnegat Bay “the headquarters for gunning,” where sporthunters arriving in winter and spring expected a bountiful supply of teal, broadbills, black ducks, and redhead ducks. Sportsmen traveled to Barnegat Bay by boat or stagecoach. By the early 1870s rail connections with New York and Philadelphia made travel easier and hunter numbers increased correspondingly. Some locals who served as guides also maintained small lodges for their own use. Milton R. Cranmer of Manahawkin, a guide from 1943 to 1957, leased the Flat Creek meadows near Marsh Elder Island for hunting where his father had built a small facility nicknamed “Cream Puff Castle.” Boarding houses, hotels, and inns such, as Chadwick House near Mantoloking and the Harvey Cedars on Long Beach Island, provided accommodations. Marsh Elder Gunning Club, Manahawkin Gunning Club and Peahala Club provided private facilities for the more wealthy. Ed Hazelton, a local carver, noted that “one went into a resort hotel, got the finest guides, the finest sneakboxes, and obtained the best birds made by the best carvers in the area.” At one business, a menhaden fish processing plant, maintained its own hunting lodge. George Heinrichs, who worked there, sometimes acted as a hunting guide. “We’d take them out for anywhere from a day to a week. They’d sleep at the lodge. We had a cook for the meals . . . I went there in 1959 as a hunting guide, and I left in 1964-5. The lodge was torn down then.” *Appleton’s Magazine* in 1871 and 1872 provided wonderful illustrations of New Jersey coast shooting scenes.¹⁹

The last great gunning club on Barnegat Bay was located on Great Sedge Island where gunning clubs and commercial hunting parties have been coming to shoot waterfowl since the 1800s. Sedge House was built in 1919 by Margaret Reid on the site of the 1880s Leonard Warner lodge. The one-story structure has a kitchen in the back fitted with a large stove. A bunk bed off the kitchen served the cook. Up to 20 guests could sit at the trestle table in the long dining room to the rear of the living room. Between the kitchen and living room were seven bedrooms with a total of fourteen bunk beds. The house was heated by a large potbelly stove in the living room, which burned wood and coal brought over from the mainland by boat. The stove was converted to propane gas in 1959. Electricity was produced by a gasoline generator. Flashlights were issued for those wishing to read after the generator was turned off. No television was allowed except in later years for Super Bowl Sunday. Poker, gin rummy, and darts were evening entertainment; in later years a pool table was installed. Bud Thomas, who served as guide, was also the “houseman.”²⁰

The first Jersey Shore resort was on Tucker’s Island in the late 1700s. Reuben Tucker’s “one-story house with a hipped roof and front piazza” served fishermen and game-bird hunters from

They began to be removed for environmental reasons in 1993.

¹⁹ Gustav Kobbe, *The New Jersey Coast and Pines* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1970); reprint of original 1889); Rita Zorn Moonsammy, David Steven Cohen and Lorraine E. Williams, editors, *Pinelands Folklife* (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1987), pp. 32, 185 and 187-88; and *Appleton’s Magazine* (September 30, 1871 and March 2, 1872).

²⁰ Pauline S. Miller, *The Great Sedges* (Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission, 1994), pp. 69-70.

Philadelphia who took stagecoaches to Tuckerton and then sailed to the beach. This establishment operated later as Mammy Tucker's Inn. Joseph Horner opened a boardinghouse in 1815, which later was remodeled into a "first class seaside hotel" known as the Philadelphia Company House (later called Bond's Long Beach House). Long Beach House was the most celebrated hotel for fall and spring shooting. This was followed by a resort known as Beach Haven and another known as Great Swamp Long Beach Company at what is now Surf City. The Mansion of Health, nicknamed "Buzby's Place," opened in 1822. Harvey Cedars opened in 1847. Many wealthy men favored the thrill of the frontier yet lavished the experience of these comfortable establishments while sport hunting. President Grover Cleveland stayed at the Chadwick Hotel on Chadwick Beach when he hunted Barnegat Bay. The first sporting club was probably the Fowling and Fishing Association of Upper Township, Cape May County, founded in 1813. Private gunning clubs proliferated along Long Beach Island during the 19th and early 20th centuries.²¹

Many Philadelphians became avid waterfowl sportsmen. The Cohorts Gun Club of Philadelphia was founded in 1925. In 1966 a set of commemorative plates were issued by the club.²²

The Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad Company published a booklet in 1883 entitled *A Paradise for Gunner and Anglers*. It contains information on hunting and fishing opportunities in the Delmarva Peninsula. Chapters include "Wild Fowl of the Peninsula," "General Game Directory for the Peninsula" with hotel facilities and fishing and hunting opportunities listed by town, and "General Remark about Duck-Shooting."²³

Maryland

John James Audubon stated that "The Chesapeake Bay with its tributary streams, has from its discovery, been known as the greatest resort of waterfowl in the United States." Waterfowl hunting is known to have taken place on "The Necks" of the upper Chesapeake during the colonial period. These peninsulas or necks were located close to Baltimore and Philadelphia. Along these hunting shores hunting clubs soon developed. One hunting shore, "Colegate's Fowling Ground," was sold in 1814 to a group of hunters. The "Susquehanna Flats" at the head of the Chesapeake Bay was another popular waterfowl hunting region. Immense numbers of ducks frequented this region due to the extensive shallow waters with rich wild celery and other

²¹ H.C. Woolman, and T.F. Rose, *Historical and Biographical Atlas of the New Jersey Coast* (Philadelphia: Woolman and Rose, 1878); Harold F. Wilson, *The Jersey Shore*, 3 volumes (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1953); Sarah Allaback, editor, "Resorts & Recreation; an Historic Theme Study of the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route: The Atlantic Shore: Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Burlington, Atlantic, and Cape May Counties," (Mauricetown, New Jersey: The Sandy Hook Foundation, Inc., and National Park Service [1995]); John Fanning Watson, *Annals of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania of the Olden Time*, in "End of the Line for 'Mansion,'" *The Sandpiper* (June 13, 1900); John Bailey Lloyd, *Eighteen Miles of History on Long Beach Island* (Surf City, New Jersey: Down the Shore Publishing and the Sandpaper, Inc., 1986); Connett, p.107; Elman, p. 152; and "Gun Clubs," p. 30.

²² "Gun Clubs," p. 7.

²³ *A Paradise for Gunners and Anglers*.

plants which attracted them. In 1893 an estimated 5,000 ducks were killed on opening day; more would have been killed except wind conditions were calm making waterfowl reluctant to fly.²⁴ The “flats,” as they were called, were also geographically located near the large metropolitan cities such as Philadelphia and Baltimore with comparatively excellent transportation to the region by boat, rail and road. In contrast Assateague Island was more difficult to visit until better roads, rail, steamer, and ferry service and later the Verrazano Bridge made hunting relatively easy on this once rather remote barrier island.

In 1889 it was stated:

*A Glance at a map of the country between Baltimore and the east side of the Susquehanna River, and from Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad south to the Chesapeake Bay, will show the waters where the sportsmen kill thousands of ducks each season. Almost every foot of available land bordering on the waters where the ducks feed is either in possession of some sportsman, who uses it for his own shooting, or is owned by a ducking club.*²⁵

One of the earliest ducking clubs in Maryland was Marshy Point, dating from the 1850s and located on the Saltpeter and Dundee creeks of the upper Bay. Some of the more famous early (pre-1889) waterfowl hunting clubs in Maryland included what were called the “swell clubs,” located in “The Necks” of the upper Chesapeake Bay including Carroll’s Island, Miller’s Island, Benjie’s, and Grace’s Quarters. Individuals paid as much as \$8,000 for a share of a “crack club.” “Carroll’s Island,” located northeast of Baltimore near the west mouth of Gunpowder River, was a stock club company, the shares distributed among twenty members; each original price per share was \$7,500. It was claimed a team of oxen were sometimes required to carry the ducks back to the clubhouse. “Benjie’s,” located on the shore of the mainland near Carroll Island, was made famous in 1889 when President Benjamin Harrison visited. Along the Gunpowder River is Grace’s Quarters which in the 1880s was considered among the nicest duck hunting areas in Maryland. The five shares in the club were reported to have been sold for \$60,000. The clubhouse was said to be “finely appointed” and its members entertained “many celebrities.” “Gunners’ Paradise,” located on Maxwell Point, on the east side of the Gunpowder River, now part of Aberdeen Proving Ground Military Reservation, was owned by John Cadwalader who made an income of \$2,000 per year from hunting rights. The clubhouse was described as a “grand old structure about 80 feet square.” At the mouth of Kings Creek on the west side of Bush River, below Lauderick Creek, now also part of the Aberdeen Proving Ground Military Reservation, was the location of the Philadelphia Ducking Club. The Tyding property on Taylor’s Creek, near the Bush River [possibly what is called Little Romney Creek today] was considered a “first-class shooting” shore; the club operated a steam yacht named *Comfort*, regarded as a “model craft for gunning purposes.” Seneca River and Miller’s Island (Miller

²⁴ Audubon quote from *Birds of American*, 1840 [1842] reprinted in Brook Meanley, *Waterfowl of the Chesapeake Bay Country* (Centreville, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1982), p. 171; C. John Sullivan, *Waterfowling: The Upper Chesapeake’s Legacy*, p. 33; and “The Season Opened on the Flats at the Susquehanna River, Five Thousand Birds Killed,” *Baltimore Sun*, November 2, 1893.

²⁵ Bearss, p. 96; and “Maryland Ducking Clubs.”

Island Ducking Club established circa 1900) also had “old ducking clubs of note.” Other clubs included the Baltimore Gun Club and Maryland Club.²⁶

Typical Duck Hunting Excursion on Bush River, upper Chesapeake Bay, in 1877:

. . . left Baltimore in the afternoon . . . two hours and a half . . . brought us to the ducking shore on the Bush River We drew out shortly into a clearing, on the other side of which was a house The barking of innumerable dogs welcomed our approach, and, as we pulled up in front of the door, the river, about four hundred yards in width, came into view just in the rear. It was evidently the establishment of a plain, comfortable farmer, whose guardianship of the ducking and fishing doubtless greatly diminished the annual rental We had one large room containing six small and well-kept beds, and at one end a capacious fire-place, on which a great pile of hickory logs was burning and diffusing a genial glow and the not disagreeable odor . . . while around the walls were gun-racks, clothing, and hunting paraphernalia in profusion. At seven o'clock a substantial and well-cooked dinner or supper was served in the adjoining kitchen After a half an hour spent in selecting guns, filling cartridge-belts and satchels, and in other preparations we turned in at nine o'clock At three o'clock our farmer came in and called us and lit the lamp. Breakfast – beefsteak, rashers of bacon, eggs and coffee – was already sputtering and crackling in the kitchen. A hasty douse of water with an eighth of an inch of ice on its surface, and a liberal “nip” of whisky, – the later insisted upon for sanitary reasons of obscure origin but evidently great weight It was but a few yards from the house to the water, and we had a row of a mile and half to the “blind.” We got into a good steady, flat-bottomed boat, in which two dogs, whom no one had called, took their places in perfunctory and solemn fashion, and we shoved off, while about a dozen hounds and yard-dogs howled About a quarter of an inch of ice had formed, and as we crashed steadily through it, odd and fantastic echoes came from the gloomy and silent shores As we reached the broader water nearer the mouth of the creek the ice disappeared Suddenly . . . stopped, seized his gun and loaded it In a moment there was a most astonishing and startling noise, and I saw, about five hundred yards to the right, a long line of bright silver breaks upon the water. Thousands of ducks that had made a great “bed” in the creek during the night had been startled and were taking wind simultaneously, and the noise made by their splashing as they rose was tremendous Presently as the last duck lifted into the air, it ceased and all was as silent as before. Not a duck could be seen, but my two friends had their guns cocked and were apparently listening intently. In a minute I heard a curious whistling sound. It grew louder and seemed to approach, but I could see nothing whatever. As I looked, both my companions brought up their guns and fired both barrels almost simultaneously overhead I heard the splashes, and as the birds falling broke the water it faintly

²⁶ Meanley, p. 176; “Swell Duck Club Etiquette,” *Forest And Stream*, April 14, 1887; “The Canvasbacks,” *Forest And Stream*, October 27, 1887, p. 266; “Maryland Ducking Clubs”; and Swepson Earle, *Chesapeake Bay Country* (Baltimore: Remington-Putman, 1938), p. 263. For more information on these clubs see George Bird Grinnel, *American Duck Shooting* (New York: Forest And Stream, 1901), pp. 472-89. For information on Miller’s Island Ducking Club see Percy Thayer Blogg, *There Are No Dull Dark Days* (Baltimore, Maryland: H.G. Roebuck & Sons, 1944), p. 81.

caught up the moonlight and we could see three ducks struggling not one hundred yards off; the same moment both dogs, without an order from any one, disappeared overboard . . . ducks, on rising, had wheeled around, making a semicircle of half a mile, and as my friends' experience led them to expect, had come directly down the river. There were thousands of them in the air and the whistling sound was made by their wings. In the meantime both dogs came up to the side to be taken in. Each had red-head [duck] in his mouth . A further pull of some ten minutes brought us to the blind, inside of which we found Joe, the darkey, who had put out the decoys during the night. He was fast asleep in the straw, though the thermometer was below freezing-point. He took our boat and rowed it away out of sight around the nearest point, and then returning, lay down by the dogs and went a sleep again. We seated ourselves to wait for day-break and ducks; and I endeavored to persuade myself that I was not cold The gray light grew brighter, and a blue hazy "smoke" seemed to creep up the river as day dawned over the cold water . . . a bunch of canvas-backs . . . flying within a foot or two of the water, came . . . All three stood up, and as the ducks hung fluttering, six barrels were poured into them, and . . . ducks tumbled into the water and splashed and floundered around in their death agonies . . . By nine o'clock we had ninety-six fine ducks in our blind After that hour the ducks ceased "trading," as flying from one point to another is termed, and began to form great beds of countless thousands out in the open water. As far as the eye could reach, the middle of the stream and the broad water of the river below were covered with them. There were literally acres of ducks, of all kinds, but "trading" was at an end, and shooting, except of an occasional single or stray duck, was temporarily suspended.²⁷

In 1894 a probably prejudicial reference was made comparing the taste of ducks from the Chesapeake Bay region:

There are a hundred first-rate shooting grounds in the Chesapeake, where the sportsman, who merely wants to kill ducks, regardless of variety of flavor, may find good sport. Such places are Deals island, Tangier island, Hog island, and Cape Charles. The small bays on the ocean side of the Maryland-Virginia peninsula [Chincoteague and Sinepuxent bays] will usually furnish some good shooting. The difference between these localities and the territory about the mouth of the Susquehanna is entirely in the flavor of the ducks. But the real greatness of this difference may be seen in the fact that redheads killed in the Synepuxent [Sinepuxent] bay, or Pocomoke sound sell regularly for fifty cents a pair, while the same ducks if killed on the Susquehanna flats would readily bring four or five dollars a pair, and in the case of canvasbacks the difference is even greater . . . the distinguishing feature of the territory thus indicated is the abundant growth in its waters of . . . wild celery . . . the redhead and canvasback abandon a fish diet to feed on the tender roots and stalks. The aristocratic pretension of these two ducks are due entirely to the flavor which they thus acquire . . . and which must be tasted in order to be appreciated, or even to be imagined . . . a ten days' residence in certain parts of the Chesapeake will . . . cause the redhead and canvasback to develop qualities of flavor,

²⁷ "Canvas-back and Terrapin." See also Bennett A. Keen, "I remember . . . Shooting Ducks from Sinkboxes (Baltimore *Sunday Sun*, January 20, 1952) for description of sinkbox hunting near Havre de Grace.

*which distinguish them from all other ducks in the world. This is peculiarly true of the headwaters of the Chesapeake.*²⁸

The Rennert Hotel in Baltimore had on its menu canvasback duck for \$3.00; redhead duck for \$2.50, black duck for \$1.50, and mallard for \$1.50. An order consisted of half a duck with wing and leg attached, with a large helping of hominy. If you wanted, the carcass would be pressed in the kitchen and the juices and gravy poured over the hominy.²⁹

The Eastern Shore of Maryland has been called the “finest waterfowl hunting area in the country.” One writer stated that “Living on the Eastern Shore without a shotgun is like living in Florida without a bathing suit.”³⁰ The Tidewater Inn in Easton, Maryland, caters to goose hunters. Successful hunters take their geese to the kitchen for picking and cooking for dinner that night. The hotel is booked seasons in advance including repeat hunting guests from Europe and South America. The Robert Morris Inn in Oxford, Maryland, catered to goose hunters in the 1966-67 season. They offered what they called “Goose Hunting A’La Cree,” boasting that their Cree Indian guides possessed the “incredible” ability to call geese.³¹

A large two-story waterfowl hunting club was built at Bishop’s Head Point, Hooper Strait area of Chesapeake Bay near Crocherson, Dorchester County. The house was built in the 1870s for a waterman with additions made in the 1890s. The Phillips Packing Company of Cambridge bought the house and property in 1930 for use as a hunting lodge. It was later acquired by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and is now used as an education center. The lodge has a large room with fireplace, a locker room with corresponding numbers to the second level dorm style rooms. There is also a separate manager’s house, kennels and a boat dock. Bishops Head has been described as “the last of the great hunting clubs.”³²

Duck hunting became so popular that thousands of duck blinds were constructed all along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Some blinds were built in navigable waters impeding the safety of navigation in some instances. The River and Harbor Act of March 3, 1899, restricted the locations and water depths for the construction of duck blinds. Around 1940 1,100 duck blinds were constructed along the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. In 1938 over 18,500 hunting permits were issued with 32,000 ducks killed in Maryland alone. However, by

²⁸ D.B. Fitzgerald, “Duck Shooting In Maryland,” *Cosmopolitan* (November 1894); see also “Canvas-back and Terrapin,” p. 2 for a similar comparison.

²⁹ Connett, p. 127.

³⁰ “Shore Called Finest Hunting Area,” *Easton Star-Democrat*, May 1967; and Vaughan, p. 20. Baltimore *Sunday Sun* photographer A. Aubrey Bodine made a series of waterfowl hunting photographs at Fox Island, Chesapeake Bay, Accomack County; the originals are housed at the Mariners’ Museum, Newport News, Virginia.

³¹ Vaughan, pp. 20 and 24; and “Goose Hunting A’La Cree,” brochure.

³² “Farewell to old hunting lodges: Bishops Head and High Winds lodges bound for different futures,” *Salisbury Daily Times*, May 9, 1993; and George Anthony Purnell interview transcript by Lisa Jo Frech, November 2, 2000, Shantyboat Documentation Project, pp. 22-23.

1992 “many hunters who once made the fall pilgrimage to the Eastern Shore are now going to Texas [for goose hunting], where the seasons are less restrictive.”³³

With the establishment of steamboat service in the middle 19th century and construction of the railroad through Snow Hill on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in the 1870s, Assateague Island and the region surrounding it became a Mecca for waterfowl hunting attracting hunters from the Mid-Atlantic States. Hunting clubs or lodges near but outside Assateague Island proper include the 1908-9 William Walker hunting lodge which was built on lot 12, block 20 at Baltimore Avenue and Seventh Street, Ocean City. In 1910 this one-room, small “hunting lodge,” actually a decoy storage shed, was incorporated into Romarletta Cottage, which still stands. It is hard to image waterfowl hunting at Ocean City today but during the turn of the 19th century this area was still relatively open and undeveloped. A hunting shanty was located on Great Bay Point, west across the Chincoteague Bay from Bob-O-Del Gun Club.³⁴

Scott’s Ocean House is an example of a facility once used by hunters on Assateague Island but which is no longer extant. It was built on the bay side of the island in the 1870s at Green Run Inlet. This hotel consisted of a large two-story structure with a lobby, bar, dance hall, kitchen, and privies on the first floor and about twenty bedrooms on the second floor. By the 1880s the hotel was so popular that reservations for rooms were required. Musicians performed nightly. Patrons from Charleston, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Washington, and Baltimore arrived by stagecoach in the earliest years, but by 1876 by railroad to Snow Hill. A liveryman then took the hunters to Spence Landing (Public Landing) on Sinepuxent Bay and finally by the sloop *Fairfield* to Scott’s Landing on Green Run Bay near the hotel. The hotel closed about 1913. Another long gone Assateague Island lodge was “Hen Peck Lodge” located just east of Bob-O-Del Gun Club.³⁵

Virginia

Before the eelgrass disappeared from Chesapeake Bay, Chincoteague Bay and Sinepuxent Bay in the late 1920s, thousands of waterfowl wintered in these waters. One source claims that the Chincoteague area has been consistently used by snow geese “for a longer period of time each

³³ E. Lee LeCompte, “Federal Regulations for the Erection of Ducking Blinds on the Waters of Maryland;” Piepe, J. Creighton, Jr., “Fall March to the Marshes,” undated [1940?] unknown newspaper, duck hunting Maryland vertical file, Enoch Pratt Public Library, Baltimore; and Ray Marshall, *Baltimore Sun* (November 1, 1992), p. 25C.

³⁴ Frederick N. Rasmussen, “Discovery reveals Ocean City history Way Back When,” *Baltimore Sun* (June 9, 2001); George Anthony Purnell interview, p. 17; Sullivan, *Old Ocean City*, pp. 7-9; and Charles R. “Buddy” Jenkins interview transcript by Lisa Jo Frech, February 15, 2000, Shantyboat Document Project, pp. 3 and 40-41.

³⁵ Bearss, pp. 82-83; Edwin C. Bearss personal interview with Judge Walter Price, December 12, 1968; Reginald V. Truitt and Millard G. Les Callette, *Worcester County, Maryland’s Arcadia*, Bicentennial Edition, Worcester County Historical Society (Snow Hill, Maryland: Waverly Press, 1977), p. 76; “Old Days At Scott’s Beach: Recollections Of The Time When Scott’s Ocean House Was on the Boom,” *Democratic Messenger* (August 18, 1906); and Dennard Conwell “Connie” Purnell, interview by Sharon Ofenstein, July 26, 2000, summary of interview in “Background Info,” file, Assateague Island National Seashore Headquarters. Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum has two photographs (853.148/149) titled “The old hotel on Assateague Island when the ferry ran from south point,” dated 1952; could this be Scott’s Hotel?

winter than any other known area between Fortescue [New Jersey] and Pea Island in North Carolina.” In 1876 the barrier islands of Virginia were described as, “perhaps, no portion of the country presenting greater attraction to the sportsman in quest of . . . water-fowl, than this little strip of land.” Chincoteague in 1877 was reported as “rapidly becoming a favorite resort for sportsmen not only from Washington, but from New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore.” By 1915 at least 53 hunting blinds were located on Chincoteague Bay between Chincoteague Island and Greenbackville on the mainland. Close to a hundred ducks a day could be killed by a single hunter. There were several market hunters from Chincoteague including “Squealer Dan” Whealton (1858-1943), Charles Jester (1876-1952) and Tomas J. Reed (1901-1993) who quit school at age 11 to become a market hunter. When the interstate sale of waterfowl was made illegal in 1918 many of these men who depended on market hunting became “outlaw gunners.” Others became hunting guides like David Watson (1851-1938) and Charles Clark (1869-1947) and Doug Jester (1876-1951). Jester carved decoys for the commercial market, supplying individuals as well as gunning clubs. Clark guided the clients of the Atlantic Hotel located on Chincoteague Island.³⁶

With the opening of the Worcester Rail Road in 1876, the fifty-two room Atlantic Hotel opened the same year. It was the largest building on Chincoteague Island, able to accommodate “some 400 guests,” located on the east side of Main Street where the movie theater now stands. It was stated in 1876 that the hotel was “largely patronized by visitors from Baltimore and Philadelphia, who prefer it to Cape May and Atlantic City.” An 1888 ad stated that, “The table is provided with wildfowl, terrapin, fish, oysters, crabs, and all the luxuries of the season. Pleasure boats of all kinds, guides, fishing lines, decoys, ponies, etc., always ready for the use of guests . . .” Guests in 1906 came from New York City, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Baltimore, Richmond, and Norfolk. The Hygeia Hotel at Old Point Comfort, near Hampton, was a favorite stopping place for sportsmen on their way north or south as they followed the migration of wildfowl.³⁷

Cobb’s Island, originally called Great Sand Shoal Island, is named for the Cobb family which purchased the island in 1839. They hunted waterfowl and shorebirds for the New York restaurant and millinery markets, but this was replaced by guiding services after the Civil War. By the 1860s and 1870s, when the Cobb’s Island Hotel for sportsmen was established, waterfowl hunting had reached its prime. Between the hotel and its cottages they could accommodate more than a hundred guests. Separate buildings such as “Baltimore Building,” built by citizens of Baltimore, and “Virginia Building,” built by citizens of Virginia, were already in existence by 1877. Between 1874 and 1882 the guest register recorded visitors from every Atlantic coast state

³⁶ William H. Wroten, Jr., *Assateague* (Centreville, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1995), p. 4; “The Eastern Shore of Virginia,” *Forest And Stream*, November 16, 1876, p. 232; “Our Washington Letter,” *Forest And Stream*, September 13, 1877; and Kirk Mariner, *Once Upon An Island: The History of Chincoteague* (New Church, Virginia: Miona Publications, 1996), pp. 122-4 and 174. William N. Smith, *Marsh Tales: Market Hunting, Duck Trapping, and Gunning* (Centreville, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1985), pp. 154-73 has a chapter on Thomas Reed, Jr. Though not a hunting club, the Old Dominion Fishing Club clubhouse still stands and is used as a club house for the Tom’s Cove Park camping ground located on the Assateague channel. The camp ground is located at the intersection of Beebe and Ridge roads.

³⁷ Barnes and Truitt, p. 10; Mariner, pp. 68-70; “Goosing On Sinepuxent Bay,” *Forest And Stream*, November 23, 1876, p. 249; and “On The Virginia Broadwater,” *Forest And Stream*, December 27, 1886.

except New Hampshire, as well as visitors from France and England. Many were leading bankers, businessmen, politicians, and judges. In 1895 the hotel provided hunting blinds for brant on nearby Gull Island; hunting was also carried out at Bone Island (also called Wreck and Ship Shoal island) about two miles distant. Many members of the Cobb family became either decoy carvers and/or guides; they included Elkanah Cobb, Arthur Cobb, George Cobb, and Nathan Cobb, Jr. Examples of their work are on exhibit at the Ward Wildfowl Museum. One of Nathan's goose decoys sold at auction in 1986 for \$34,000. Other guides included Tom Spady. One Virginian described the Cobb's Island Hotel as the most famous hunting and fishing resort in the Americas; one Marylander in 1877 described the island as "a grand place, and should be the Summer Resort of the Atlantic Coast." A letter in 1883 stated the island is, "a place where good fishing and shooting can be had, and where a millionaire's pocketbook is not required to pay expenses." The hotel was destroyed in a hurricane in 1893.³⁸

Other hunting lodges or clubs were located on these barrier islands as well. The Broadwater Club was established on Hog Island by a group of Philadelphians in 1889. Schaeffer Cottage and Ferrell Cottage, both private hunting clubs, were located on Hog Island. President Grover Cleveland stayed at Ferrell Cottage during his hunting trip to Hog Island in 1892. It was described as having "all the modern conveniences as to steam-heating, lighting, water, etc."³⁹ The Broadwater Club provided the President with "the best and most experienced guides." One hunter described Hog Island in 1905 where "there were immense flocks of brant all around the place . . . I . . . saw Machipongo Inlet [now Quinby Inlet] black with wild fowl." Revel's Island Shooting Club was founded by a group of Washingtonians and operated on the bay side of the southern tip of Paramore Island from 1884 to the 1940s. One of the members was Congressman George Shiras who introduced the original Federal Migratory Bird Bill which prohibited market hunting and set seasons and bag limits for sportsmen. Shiras first joined the club in 1894. He stated that:

*many geese, brant, and broadbills [scaups], with occasional flocks of redheads, and a fair number of goldeneyes and buffleheads, or butter balls, frequented the region. The club [Revel's Island Shooting Club] was the first, I believe, to introduce floating blinds made of green cedar boughs stuck in buoyant wooden frames large enough to admit a ducking boat. Within these floating blinds a narrow, flat-bottomed scow was sometimes left during the shooting season for the use of the sportsmen.*⁴⁰

The Accomack Club located on the mainland west of Paramore Island was established by a group of New Yorkers and flourished from circa 1890 to the early 1900s when the railroad was completed on the Virginia Eastern Shore. Sportsmen from all over the East Coast came to this

³⁸ Curtis J. Badger and Rick Kellam, *The Barrier Islands: A Photographic History of the Life on Hog, Cobb, Smith, Cedar, Parramore, Metompkin, & Assateague* (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: Stackpole Books, 1989), pp. 2-5 and 236-7; *The Huntsman in the South*, vol. 1, Virginia and North Carolina (New York and Washington, D.C.:Neale, 1908), pp. 300-14; Barnes and Truitt, pp. 75-6 and 125; letter to editor *Forest And Stream Magazine*, July 26, 1883; and "Gun Clubs," p. 24.

³⁹ "Grover A Good Shot," *Richmond Dispatch*, November 26, 1892, p. 1.

⁴⁰ Badger and Kellam, p. 36; and Barnes and Truitt, pp. 11, 143 and 166.

opulent club to hunt on the nearby barrier islands. The Island House Hotel located on Cedar Island was constructed in 1902 and destroyed by fire in 1978. It was a more modest facility. The Wallops Island Clubhouse on Wallops Island operated from 1886 until the 1930s. This two-story clubhouse with veranda also contained guest cottages, cookhouse, icehouse, and a steam launch. Benjamin Franklin Scott (1838-1944) was the manager of the clubhouse from 1895 until 1906 when his son Clarence “Bud” took over. Assateague, Chincoteague, Metompkin, Skidmore, and Mockhorn islands also supported lodges. The lodge on Mockhorn Island was started by Nathan Cobb, Jr., in 1852 and was purchased and enlarged by the Cushman family of New York in 1902. The Cushmans sold the island and lodge to T.A.D. Jones, a government contractor, who entertained military and political leaders there after WWII. Generals would fly in by helicopter for fishing and hunting. Other hunting clubs included Man and Boy Chanel Gunning Club off Sand Shoal Channel near Oyster (circa 1918-20). Running Channel Club was owned by Joe Crumb (circa 1920s).⁴¹

North Carolina South to Georgia

The rice fields and marshes of the southeast, often interconnected by canals and creeks, attracted thousands of ducks and hunters, especially after the Civil War when many of the rice fields had been abandoned and before hunting regulations were passed. Market hunters, both African-American and white, earned a seasonal living by supplying local restaurants and markets with fowl. One market hunter lived on a houseboat on the Savannah River. President Grover Cleveland often hunted in the Carolina-Georgia marshes. He owned a duck boat built by W.T. Dixon of Savannah.⁴²

North Carolina’s Currituck Sound became a prime waterfowling area when the Corolla Inlet closed in 1824, changing the embayment into a freshwater sound. One of the most opulent, if not the most opulent, hunting lodges extant, is Whalehead Club, situated at Corolla, near the Currituck Beach Lighthouse. The Lighthouse Club Company formed in 1874 with six members from New York. This club was different from most of the other Currituck clubs in that they led a grandiose style of living with more attention to social aspects of “the good life.” Edwards Collins Knight, Jr., of Middleton, Rhode Island, and Philadelphia, was a guest of the club. His wife was an avid hunter but club rules prohibited women. Therefore Knight purchased the property and built a 21,000 square-foot, five chimney, three-story building on an island dredged for that purpose. The 20-room house is fitted with ten baths, Tiffany light fixtures, corduroy walls and cork flooring. The house was completed in 1925 and included the first basement, elevator, and swimming pool on the Outer Banks. He named the island Corolla and the house and lodge the Whalehead Shooting Club. The Knights only lived there for nine winters. Currituck County purchased the lodge in the 1990s and began restoration in 1999. At the other

⁴¹ Badger and Kellam, pp. 98-9, 105, 108, 110, 116, 119, 121-2, 126, and 139-40; Barnes and Truitt, p. 140; and Mariner, p. 176. Note that Barnes and Truitt, p. 205, state Mockhorn Island was purchased by Larrimore Cushman in 1925, not 1902 as cited by Badger and Kellam, p. 140.

⁴² Rusty Fleetwood, *Tidecraft: An introductory look at boats of lower South Carolina, Georgia, and northeastern Florida: 1650-1950* (Savannah, Georgia: Coastal Heritage Society, 1982), pp. 157-58; see also Jay Cay, *Ward Allen: Savannah River Market Hunter* (Savannah, Georgia: Pigeonhole Press, 1958) for the life of a market hunter in Georgia.

extreme in nearby Kill Devil Hills stands the small 1940s Cypress House Inn, originally a private hunting and fishing lodge, now a Bed and Breakfast.⁴³

The Currituck Shooting Club, located at Poplar Branch, North Carolina, was established in 1857. By 1879 a second clubhouse was built to accommodate the 21 members. It was among the first clubs to employ marsh guards who lived in shanties situated every half mile along the club property to keep out poachers. The Swan Island Club, located on Currituck Sound, North Carolina, was founded in 1872 by a group of wealthy New York sportsmen. This club began when their yacht *Anonyana* ran aground. The owners returned several seasons to hunt while living aboard their grounded yacht. In 1879 a membership association known as the Crow Island Club, founded in 1876, purchased Swan Island and built a clubhouse. They soon changed their club name to Swan Island Club. Membership was limited by high initiation fees and member control. Between 1880 and 1914 three clubhouses were built, the first two were destroyed by fire; the last clubhouse was standing as of 1986. Swan Club in 1908 built a tripod on the top of the clubhouse on which was mounted a pivoted rifle so it could be directed and fired at poachers. Swan Island Club is one of the oldest and largest clubs on Currituck Sound. The Dews Island Club at Jarvisburg, North Carolina, was owned by George Eyer of New York who sold it in 1945 to Congressman Thurmond Chatham. It was still in use as a retreat as late as 1986. The Pine Island Club on Currituck Sound was first known as the Palmer Island Club in 1906 before the island was renamed Pine Island in 1910. The original clubhouse was destroyed by fire in 1913 and the present structure was built in 1914. There was also the “Pud” White’s Lodge, Corey Lodge, and Flyway Club, all located on Knott’s Island in the 1920s, and Duck Island Club located at Oregon Inlet in operation in the 1980s. William E. Corey, President of US Steel owned Corey Lodge. During twenty-three days of shooting at Monkey Isle Club in 1875 1,489 ducks were killed.⁴⁴

The Santee Club, at Santee, near Charleston, South Carolina, was formed in 1898 by Captain Hugh R. Garden and was purchased by a group of northern sportsmen in 1900. The clubhouse was built in 1902 and could hold approximately 10 hunters at a time. This club was still in operation as late as 1986.⁴⁵

Assateague Island

⁴³ Elman, p. 153; “Gun Clubs,” pp. 13 and 22; “Whalehead Club,” <http://entertainment.sunspot.net/top/1,1419,p-artslife-baybeach-!PlaceDetail-7080,00.html>; and “The Cypress House Inn,” www.cypresshouseinn.com/.

⁴⁴ “Gun Clubs,” Museum of the Historical Society of Talbot County, Easton, Maryland, November, 1986- January 1987, a catalog of an exhibit, pp. 4, 6, 9, 25 and 3; Johnson and Coppedge, p. 4, show 49 clubs and lodges on Currituck Sound, North Carolina alone; and “Duck Shooting At Currituck,” *Forest And Stream*, December 30, 1875, p. 325. A good narrative of waterfowling hunting on Currituck Sound is found in “Swan Shooting,” *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper*, February 26, 1876. T. Edward Nickens, “Old Currituck,” *Coastwatch*, Spring 1999, pp. 6-13 points out that the completion of the Chesapeake and Albemarle Canal in 1859 opened up steamboat service between the Carolina sounds and Norfolk expanding the market for the market hunter and easing sportsmen’s travel to southern waterfowling areas.

⁴⁵ “Gun Clubs,” pp. 5, 10-11, 13-14 and 18.

Names like “Great Egging Beach,” “Little Egging Beach,” and “Goose Point” suggest the numbers of wildfowl which once populated Assateague Island and the smaller surrounding islands and marshes in Chincoteague Bay and Sinepuxent Bay.⁴⁶ A survey dated 1772 mentions “Egg Beach.” Philco Radio Corporation once owned this property which they first used as a private club and later as a gunning club, operating from shantyboats.

Whereas hunting is strictly prohibited in most units of the National Park System, certain areas were “explicitly permitted by law” for hunting on Assateague Island National Seashore which “in effect recognized the longstanding existence of this use of the island, which supported several hunting camps and gun clubs.”⁴⁷ When the Federal government began buying private property there were several owners who retained property rights for up to twenty-five years. Some such as the Clements’ property retained exclusive rights while others only retained hunting season rights. For some properties that did not retain any rights, they were immediately made available for public hunting based on a lottery system. Inevitably some conflicts developed between the general public hunters and property rights holders. Waterfowl hunting on Assateague Island increased 17 percent from 1970-71 but remained essentially the same in 1974-75 and 1979-80. By 1982, with an increase of visitors preferring swimming, beach combing, bird watching, hiking, picnicking, fishing, and bicycling, just less than one percent of the visitors using Assateague Island National Seashore conducted recreational hunting, and most of that was deer hunting. Still, about 1,500 visitors hunted waterfowl in 1979-80. Most of the prime waterfowl hunting areas were still retained by former owners and not available to the general public until the retention use rights expired in the late 1990s.⁴⁸

One individual stated that there are no hunting clubs left in Virginia due to the disappearance of the eelgrass, the Depression, and the hurricane of 1933 (while there may be fewer clubs there are still clubs operating in the coastal bays of Virginia). Another stated that there are more clubs and lodges in the Maryland section of what today is the National Seashore because Virginia owned most of the wetlands whereas in Maryland one could patent new marshland. Some clubs such as High Winds Gun Club and Peoples & Lynch began by patenting land in Maryland but in Virginia another method was used. Oyster watch houses could be built on leased oyster grounds to protect one’s oyster beds. This loop in the law allowed many individuals to lease oyster grounds for the sole purpose of erecting an oyster watch house which was really only used for

⁴⁶ Egging apparently dates from the 18th century. Picnics were held in the 1890s for gathering eggs of marsh and sea birds, largely on Great Egging Beach and Little Egging Beach though other areas such as Green Run Beach and North Beach were also egged. Great and Little Egging Beach are located just off the old ferry landing of Assateague Island. Howard Pyle in 1879 noted the marshes around Hog and Cedar islands were stocked with plentiful eggs. “None but those who have tasted can judge what a delicate morsel a spotted marsh-hen’s egg is, or how savory that of the gull . . . or the sharp pointed egg of the willet,” see Barnes and Truitt, p. 88. Most eggs were from gulls, not waterfowl. Gunning Club Lane on the west side of Sinepuxent Bay is named for the Marshall Creek Gunning Club, a deer hunting club.

⁴⁷ Mackintosh, pp. 135-6. The “Hunting Heritage Protection Act,” of the 106th Congress recognizes the hunting heritage and provides opportunities for continued hunting on public land.

⁴⁸ “General Management Plan, Assateague Island National Seashore/ Maryland-Virginia,” p. 35, table 1 and pp. 37-8; and Harry J. Trimble interview transcript by Patricia Russell, April 30, 2003, NPS.HJT, pp. 5-6. Vaughn, p. 20 reports that Maryland sold an average of 65,000 waterfowl hunting stamps to hunters each year during the 1980s.

hunting or recreation purposes. Purnell's is an oyster watch house which is playfully named "Popes Island Oyster Company." The oyster watch house on Tom's Cove is purely a recreational, non-hunting property. Watch houses could be sold but the land on which they stood could only be leased. When watch houses were no longer permitted to be built, hunters began to place trailer homes on oyster scows which were towed to prime hunting areas and used for accommodations. Scows were easy to come by with the decline in the oyster industry. At least five such trailers were so employed in Chincoteague Bay. These were also outlawed due to lack of sewage treatment. One abandoned and ruined house trailer is visible from Bob-O-Del Gun Club.⁴⁹

⁴⁹ Donald Leonard interview by Ralph Eshelman, April 15, 2003; Mel Olsen interview by Ralph Eshelman, May 15, 2003; William Teaf Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 20, 2003, p. 15; and Barry Truitt interview by Sharon Ofenstein, August 4, 2000, summary of interview in files, Assateague Island National Seashore headquarters.

WATERFOWL HUNTING CLUBS AND LODGES

In 1939 it was reported that there were 2,852 duck hunting clubs and private marsh owners in the United States. In the same year only Illinois issued more Federal migratory waterfowl hunting area permits than Maryland and Virginia.⁵⁰

Who were the owners, members and guests at waterfowl hunting lodges and clubs? What role did women and ethnic groups play in the use of or operation of these facilities? Who were the guides and what role did they play? Why did sportsmen hunt? What were the food and accommodations like at a lodge or club? What was the physical setting of the lodge or club? How did hunters justify hunting practices? Were hunters conservationists or exploiters? These questions are addressed in this section, with particular emphasis on lodges and clubs in the Chesapeake Bay and coastal bay areas of Maryland and Virginia.

In 1877 sport hunting clubs on Long Island, New York, were described as follows,

*Some . . . loosely bound by friendship and mutual fondness for hunting. Others were legally incorporated with constitutions, bylaws, dues, and initiation fees. Exclusiveness was the hallmark of some of these clubs with roots to the middle of the nineteenth century and membership representing the well-born and those who have achieved. At the other end of the continuum were a host of smaller clubs, some sponsored by townships and open to local residents . . .*⁵¹

Waterfowl hunting lodges and clubs can be grouped into five types: 1) corporation clubs; 2) partnership clubs; 3) single ownership clubs; 4) sporting lodges and; 5) friends lease/rent clubs.

Stock or corporate clubs were usually owned by 10 to 20 wealthy original members who owned thousands of hunting acres. They operated as corporations with elected boards of directors and officers. Employees were hired to manage the club and its holdings. Guides were usually local fishermen or farmers, often former market hunters, who sought winter employment. Currituck Shooting Club, founded in 1857, was a stock club. Its last accepted member paid an initiation fee of \$75,000 to join in 1969.

A partnership club was a small group of friends who formed a partnership and purchased hunting land outright. They usually hired a caretaker/guide to operate and maintain the club for them. A single ownership club was owned by a single individual or family. The owner could operate the club as he or she (rarely women) pleased. It also provided a home away from home. Valentine's, on Assateague Island, is an example of this type club. The sporting or boarding lodge was owned or operated by market gunners, farmers, fisherman, or individuals who owned

⁵⁰ Heilner, p. 494.

⁵¹ *The Sportsman's Gazetteer* 1877, reprinted in Johnson and Coppedge, pp.7-8.

good hunting lands and built rather rustic facilities open to the general public. They catered to the less wealthy average sportsmen. They often advertised in magazines such as *Forest And Stream* or newspapers. Such lodges usually could accommodate 3 to 6 hunters. Owners usually maintained the lodge themselves; they and their family made the decoys, cooked, cleaned, and guided. Cobb's Island first operated this way until it grew to the point that they hired additional help. These kinds of operations were the first to appear and the last to disappear. The last type club is a group of friends who leased or rented property. They supplied their own boats, decoys, built their own blinds and sometimes had a small cabin or trailer located on the property. The Monkey Island Club in North Carolina only had four members in 1914.⁵²

Whether land based or water based, most lodges and clubs were located in isolated locations either on the bay side of barrier islands, the waterside of the mainland, or on the smaller islands between the barrier island and the mainland.

Land-Based Facilities

These land facilities were located near where great concentrations of waterfowl were common, usually shallow marshy areas. Water access by boat was often necessary though some lodges and clubs were accessible by vehicle. Most camps were simple wood frame, one-story shanties. A typical shanty consisted of a central gathering room with a large table and chairs for eating and entertaining outfitted with a stove for heating and cooking and often surrounded by bunk beds. Occasionally, bedrooms were located off the main room. Other facilities included an outhouse, dog pens, and decoy storage shed. In larger facilities the kitchen and guiding staff had separate accommodations and guests had individual bedrooms. A mud or boot room usually opened into the main dining/recreation room. Indoor bathrooms, not necessarily connected with plumbing, were common but many still used outhouses. In addition, each lodge or club would typically have an assortment of boats, docks and duck blinds. Highly desirable points for the building of duck blinds were sometimes rented if the property was not already owned. The more elaborate lodges and clubs had indoor plumbing, boat houses, and even separate cottages for the hunters.

“Gun Club House Plans” were published in *Forest And Stream* in 1912. They ranged in price from \$100 to \$1,300 “complete.” The plans were sent free to any club upon request. The plans were published courtesy of E.I du Point de Nemours Powder Co. “They are from designs by architects expert in gun club house building, and have been made up from the best features found in club houses now in existence . . .”⁵³

A “shanty” near the mouth of Elk River in Maryland in 1887 was described as “a board structure 15X30ft. and 20ft. high. It contains a large bunk, 4ft. from the floor, stretching the width of the house, and 7ft. wide, a large stove, table, cupboard, chairs, and really all the necessities of a well-regulated shooting box.” This was quite a contrast from the Accomack Club where Persian

⁵² Johnson and Coppedge, pp. 8-9; Dyke, pp. 3 and 5; and Alex Hunter, “A Real Southern Duck Shooting Story: Among the Currituck Bay Birds –II, *Forest And Stream*, December 12, 1914.

⁵³ “Gun House Plans” *Forest And Stream*, April 6, 1912, p. 446; and “Gun Club House Plans,” *Forest And Stream*, April 20, 1912, p. 510.

carpets covered the floor, and varnished tongue-and-groove paneling covered the walls and ceilings. The dining area consisted of a long wooden table covered with a white table cloth and china settings, an oil lamp hung from ceiling and shotguns stood in a rack along one wall.⁵⁴

The San Domingo clubhouse, on the upper Chesapeake Bay, was described in the early 1920s as follows:

*The three-story frame building contained many large rooms with very high ceilings and large open fireplaces with fancy mantels. The floors throughout were heavily carpeted with imported coverings. Scatter rugs made from the skins of wild animals were much in evidence, as were also mounted animals and birds. The house was furnished with antique furniture and there were many oil paintings and old chests of Colonial silver. Two of the rooms were filled with guns in racks and cabinets. There was also a two-story stone house, a large bank barn, carriage and boat houses, and, in addition, a kennel of Chesapeake Bay retrievers and many fines spans of horses.*⁵⁵

A brochure believed to be dated 1949-50 describes the Green Run Lodge, on Assateague Island, as follows:

*accommodations for 28 persons and facilities have been installed for men and women . . . inside showers and toilets, recreational rooms, with fire-place; billiard and card tables . . . large Electric Plant for light and power . . . Bed lights for night reading with press button in each room for service to guests . . . modern sanitary sewerage system . . . the superintendent and his wife, guides and porters cater to the pleasure of guests. The Club also has a chef that knows Maryland cooking and how good food should be served . . . prepares and packs hot lunches for the Gunners . . . Porter Service is maintained at the Lodge, and not one item of service is missing . . . Guides are all experienced . . . have followed the hunting business all their lives. . . . All Guides and employees are housed and roomed separately, hence their early morning preparations to go to the Blinds do not disturb the guests until breakfast call is made . . . The Lodge has over 500 wooden Geese and Duck decoys; several motor boats, out-board motor boats, and several skiffs to haul decoys to the blinds. The Lodge also has one light draft motor boat, which has a covered cabin with a very light draught [sic], built just for going to and from the shore and island blinds. . . Green Run Lodge has some 32 shooting blinds . . . We have Chesapeake Bay Retrievers at our Lodge . . .*⁵⁶

⁵⁴ "Duck Shooting On The Chesapeake," *Forest And Stream*, December 19, 1887, p. 447; the Accomack scene is based on a photograph (CBMM 79-30-1) in the collections of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.

⁵⁵ Captain Harry W. Spraker, *The Story of Gunpowder Neck*, copied in C. John Sullivan, *Waterfowling: The Upper Chesapeake's Legacy* (Bel Air, Maryland: Stockson Printing Co., 1983), p. 51.

⁵⁶ "Green Run Lodge: Sportsmans Paradise, Ocean City Maryland, 'One of the Finest Commercial Clubs in the Country,'" undated [1949-50?] brochure, original in "Clubs - Green Run Lodge" history vertical file, Maryland Room, Enoch Pratt Public Library, Baltimore.

Water-Based Facilities

Not all waterfowl hunting was done from shore or in blinds. Boats also served as gunning platforms as well as accommodations.

The yachts *Palmer*, *Ibis*, *Dauntless*, *Ideal* and *Vindex* annually visited Cobb's Island to shoot waterfowl. The sailing vessels *Reckless*, *Rough-Ashler*, *Twilight*, *Nautilus*, *Susquehanna* (sailing scow), *Jenine F. Moore*, *Elsie* (sailing scow), *Canvasback* (sailing scow), *Blue Wing*, *John A. Russell*, *Blooming Lilly*, *Grace* and *Widgeon* operated in the upper Chesapeake Bay. They were outfitted for sportsmen, usually with a cook and sleeping quarters for crew and guests. A business card of Captain James A. Doughty, of Capeville, Northampton, Virginia, advertised "Good goose and wildfowl shooting over live decoys - Good accommodations ashore and good comfortable sloop to gun and fish from. Guides and live decoys \$3.00 per day."⁵⁷

An 1850s description of one of these upper Chesapeake Bay hunting scows follows:

*. . . a new scow which he had built and equipped after the most approved manner, especially to kill duck in the Susquehanna and the upper bay. She was wall-side and flat-bottomed, forty feet long and nine feet beam. She carried a jib and a large fore and aft mainsail. A space barely sufficient for a tall man to lie at length, was decked off forward, and contained three or four bunks and a small stove, besides the stooling guns, several bags of heavy shot and kegs of ducking power, not to speak of a quart coffee-pot and two large baskets of provender. This was the hardy duck-shooter's cabin; it was well pitched so as to be watertight, and was entered by a small scuttle with a slide; here he cooked, eat, slept, kept tally of his game, manufactured the heads and necks of decoys, cut his gun-wads, spun his yarns, drank his grog or coffee, and kept care outside from October until April during the severest season of the year.*⁵⁸

The sailing scow *Elsie*, built in Philadelphia, was owned by Captain Charles Palmar of Havre de Grace. He used the scow for hauling freight in spring, summer and early fall and for taking out waterfowl hunting parties in the winter. Four ads in the November 19, 1885, issue of *Forest And Stream* included reference to "boat houses," "scow" or "sloop." Excerpts include: "FOR SALE – COMPLETE CHESAPEAKE BAY gunning outfit: Sloop about 56ft. Long by 15ft. Beam, sails, rigging and tackle all in good order; after cabin has sleeping accommodations for five and is fully furnished; cabin for crew forward. One double and one single sinkbox (two boats), about 600 decoys and two 10-bore Greener breech-loaders. Outfit is at Havre de Grace." Another: "FOR SALE. – HAVRE DE GRACE DUCKING scow, double and single sinkbox, 500 decoys;

⁵⁷ "Cobb's Island in Summer," *Forest And Stream*, August 31, 1876, pp. 49-50; C. John Sullivan, *Waterfowling.*, p. 6; and business card in the collections of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Barrier Island Center; it is undated but circa late 19th century.

⁵⁸ H. Milnor Klapp, ed., *Krider's Sporting Anecdotes* (Philadelphia: A. Hart, Late Cary & Hart, 1853), reprinted in Stephen M. Miller, *Early American Waterfowling 1700's - 1930* (Piscataway, New Jersey: Winchester Press: An Imprint of New Century Publications, Inc. 1986), p. 103.

outfit complete.” Another: FOR CHARTER BY THE DAY. – A DUCKING scow, fully found, with double and single sink boxes, decoys, etc. . .Havre de Grace.” Still another: “DUCK SHOOTING. For Sale – One-quarter of the famous Monkey Island property, so called, situated in Currituck Sound, North Carolina. . .with nearly new club house, outbuildings, boat houses, boats, decoys, etc. To all lovers of wild-fowl shooting this opportunity is a rare one.”⁵⁹

The sailing yacht *Anoyone*, when grounded by low tide, was left and used for hunting accommodations in 1870, forming the first clubhouse on Crown Island, North Carolina. In one case, the cabin off a sailing ship was moved by barge to Back Bay, Virginia, and used as a hunting club called Ship Cabin Club.⁶⁰

The Philadelphia Duck Club located on the upper Chesapeake Bay owned the steam yacht *Comfort* which was “a model craft for gunning purposes.”⁶¹

*Gentlemen of means have their private sailing smacks fitted with decoys, skiffs, and all the appliances for pursuing their vocation, in which they cruise about the bay [Sinepuxent], taking the upland, beach, and bay shooting at pleasure. This is a luxurious and engaging method to those who can afford the time and money.*⁶²

Shanty means “a hut or shabby dwelling; a temporary building.” Therefore a floating shanty or shantyboat is a vessel with a hut, shabby dwelling or temporary structure. The first shantyboats apparently were crude temporary affairs affixed to shallow flatboats which took goods down navigable rivers by floating with the currents. Once the shantyboat reached its destination it was either sold or dismantled and sold for the lumber (eg. arks on Susquehanna River). Over the years the term “shantyboat” has been used to describe moored floating homes (houseboats), recreation houseboats, and floating fishing, trapping or gunning shanties. Shantyboats were used on the Mississippi River basin, rivers and bays of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. Baymen in New Jersey and Delaware would build a small house on their garvey boats (a scow-shaped boat) just big enough to live in for the duck season. Along the Mississippi and the southern waterways of the country such a craft was called a “cabin johnboat.” In the Chesapeake Bay area shantyboats were often called “arks” or “scows.” Oystermen, fishermen, and trappers would place shantyboats in protected waters near their work where they could sleep, eat and get out of the weather. Shantyboats also shortened travel time to and from home. Shantyboats were used throughout the Chesapeake Bay region including the Potomac River, Kent Island, mouth of the Sassafras River, and the Chester River. A barge with a shanty on top named *U.S. Pungo* was used for railroad working crews on the Norfolk and Southern railroad line from Norfolk to Munden Point around 1900.⁶³

⁵⁹ *Forest And Stream*, November 19, 1885. The *Reckless* was advertized for sale in the May issue of *Rudder*.

⁶⁰ Johnson and Coppedge, pp. 48 and 87.

⁶¹ “Maryland Ducking Clubs,” *Forest And Stream*, November 28, 1889, p. 367.

⁶² “Goosing On Sinepuxent Bay,” *Forest And Stream*, November 23, 1876, p. 249.

⁶³ Harlan Hubbard, *Shantyboat: A River Way of Life* (Lexington, Kentucky: University Press of Kentucky, 1953), p.

Gunning shantyboats were popular in the Mid-Atlantic region from the 1880s to the turn of the 20th century. One account claims that when he was a boy, “every marsh was dotted with little houseboats. . . Every waterfowler worth the name had his houseboat tucked up some creek or thoroughfare. He'd hold up in the ducking area for days at a time.” These shallow draft, flat-bottom boats served as floating gunning platforms and accommodations for hunters. Hunting waterfowl required hunters to get up early in the morning and hunting grounds were usually far from decent accommodations. Thus shantyboats were a practical means for staying out in the marshes for several days or even a week at a time. They resembled house trailers or mobile homes with their distinctive slightly arched roofs and rectangular frame structures; they measured approximately fifteen by thirty feet. They were built on scows also called monitors. In later years some were coppered on their bottoms to make them drier, and to protect them from ice. These vessels were towed from hunting site to hunting site as needed. At least four or five shantyboats operated out of Havre de Grace on the Susquehanna “flats” in the late 19th century. A gunning shantyboat was located at Love Point, the northern tip of Kent Island, Chesapeake Bay. The two shantyboats which were incorporated into the Bob-O-Del Gun Club on Assateague Island were originally used as floating oyster watch houses to protect private oyster beds from oyster poachers. In the 1950s and 1960s the Hudson family built oyster scows called the Hudson scow which competed with the Jester scow of Chincoteague (Chincoteague scow). These scow designs are probably derivatives of the earlier monitors, floating oyster watch houses, and shantyboats. They typically had tar and roll tar-paper roofs supported by iron or wooden posts with interior walls and ceilings covered with tongue-and-groove paneling.⁶⁴

Charles R. “Buddy” Jenkins described a gunning shantyboat as follows:

1-2; Zach Taylor, *Successful Waterfowling* (New York: Crown Publishers, Inc., 1974), p. 121; Marty King, “Shanty Boats of Kent County, Maryland,” *The Weather Gauge* (volume 32, number 1, Spring 1996), p. 24; Joe Liener interview transcript by Marty King, January 1996; Craig S. Malloy, “Commercial Houseboats,” ms dated December 8, 1987, p. 2; and Johnson and Coppedge, p. 56. Recreational houseboats have been popular in England and France for over a century, see Albert Bradlee Hunt, *Houseboats and Houseboating* (New York: Forest And Stream Publishing Company, 1905), p. 1 and 6. For information on Chesapeake Bay fishing shantyboats see Harris, Evelyn, “Remember . . . A ‘Town’ of Fisherman’s Scows,” *Sun Magazine*, June 18, 1961. A small shantyboat is preserved at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels and a small fisherman’s shanty at Rock Hall, a third example had been brought on land for preservation but a tree fell and destroyed it in Kent County; see also Gilbert Byron, “Arks: Noah’s heritage on the Shore,” *Evening Sun*, January 16, 1986. See Natalie Peters, “Floating Cabins: Life on the River,” Port Penn Area Historical Society, Inc. and Delaware Folklife Program, Division of Parks and Recreation, Dover, Delaware [1993?], brochure for information on Delaware shantyboats.

⁶⁴ Taylor, p. 113-4; Paul Touart, *Along the Seaboard Side: The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland* (Crownsville, Maryland: Maryland Historical Trust Press, 1994), p. 306; Paul Touart, “High Winds,” unapproved draft National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1994; Dorothy Pruitt Hudson interview transcript by Lisa Jo Frech, May 25, 2000, p. 21; George Bertrand Cropper interview transcript by Lisa Jo Frech, October 18, 2000, Shantyboat Documentation Project, p. 4; George Anthony Purnell interview, p. 25; Roland Earl “Fish” Powell rough interview, p. 5; Turner P. Cropper interview, pp. 10 and 39; Hugh Cropper, III, interview, p. 5; Francis J. Townsend interview, p. 31; Aubrey Bishop interview transcript by Lisa Jo Frech, April 24, 2000, SB.AB.4-00.5, Shantyboat Documentation Project, pp. 14, 17 and 29; Craig S. Malloy, “Commercial Houseboats,” ms dated December 8, 1987, p. 21; Charles R. “Buddy” Jenkins interview, pp. 5 and 12-13; and Dorothy Pruitt Hudson interview, p. 7.

. . . We had two boats in the early times. One boat was used for the help, the guides, the cook, and that boat had, when you walked in the front portion of the boat . . . the bow . . . a cloak room where you would take off your boots . . . and . . . some storage area. And then you'd go down a step or two, and you would be in . . . the kitchen area. And then you'd go through a door, and there would be the dining room. And then beyond that would be the bunk beds . . . all the interiors were out of tongue-and-groove. Then the boat that would be laying next to it would be where the owners or guests were. And they would have their individual rooms, small but individual rooms with single bed. And they'd have a larger area which is where they would have the poker games set.

*So if you wanted to eat, you would walk out and go across a plank and go to the guide's [boat] . . . in the old days, they had coal . . . coal stove, and potbelly . . . later on, you had the typical old oil burner . . . one oil burner in the dining area, and one oil burner in the living room area. And, of course, the fireplace burned all the time . . . we used to bring over supplies, to bring over oil, to bring over wood, to bring bushing for the blinds . . .*⁶⁵

Roland Earl "Fish" Powell described shantyboats as follows:

*. . . the shantyboat . . . most of them were pretty well laid out the same way . . . the bow was usually built like a scow. It just tapered up so when you towed it, the waves didn't come all over you. It wasn't a box, it had a little bit of a curvature. They were a flat, very flat bottom built on what we call a monitor which is a barge, a flat bottom barge . . . a lot of time they would simply take that barge and build a house on it which was just a rectangular, certainly no beauty. Most of them were . . . flat roof on it. Some of them may have had a little bit of a, they called it a carvel, a little tiny bit of roundness were the water would get off of it. But most of them was rectangular shanty building built on a monitor . . . your entry to it was from the stern end of the boat. And, some of them had an outside privy on the very stern which was nothing but an outside privy except your waste is simply dropped down in the water. And they would maybe have a storage room or something maybe some . . . coal if they didn't have shore buildings . . . you heated them with mainly wood or coal. Later on, I guess they got some oil. The ones that I was actually a guide on, once you opened the doors . . . we went immediately into a larger room with a small room off to one side of it for the kitchen cook. That was his quarters – wasn't very big. And the dining room . . . and kitchen was all one room from one side of the shanty pretty well to the other. Maybe, a 10 by 12 something like that. And then you had a little hallway and on each side you had little tiny bedrooms. Maybe some of them would have bunk beds, some of them were single. They wasn't very big, just big enough to get into.*⁶⁶

Water for use on the shantyboats was collected from the roof into a "big wooden tank" or barrels fitted with a screen to keep out insects, feathers, leaves, etc. The tank or barrels were kept high

⁶⁵ Charles R. "Buddy" Jenkins interview, pp. 19-21; see also Hugh Cropper, III interview, p. 7 for description of a shantyboat.

⁶⁶ Roland Earl "Fish" Powell rough interview, p. 6. Powell was describing principally Bob-O-Del's shantyboat.

so as to afford gravity feed into the shantyboat.⁶⁷

A less elaborate shantyboat was built by Crawford Oliver Savage around the 1920s. It was described by his son as “about 25 or 30 feet long and probably 8 to 12 feet wide . . . maybe a seven foot high . . . ceiling so a man could walk in there and a wood stove for cooking and heat and then just built in bunks on the side and you sat on the bunks and put boards together for a table to eat.”⁶⁸

Ducking from a “houseboat blind” on Lake Champlain was described in 1901 as, “the very acme of comfort in this oftentimes arduous pursuit. Blow high, blow low, you have your cozy cabin, and pleasant it is to sit within, puffing a quiet pipe and listening to the pouring rain while the storm rages.” This “houseboat blind” was described as a “a flat-bottomed boat with a house thereon, covering three-quarters of its length and hidden entirely in cedar boughs, top, sides and all around . . . the interior . . . is a veritable snugery . . .”⁶⁹ Other than the cedar boughs this appears to be very similar to what is called a shantyboat on Assateague Island.

Miles Hancock of Chincoteague became a decoy carver in the late 1920s but also guided hunting parties aboard his shanty boat/gunning houseboat *Tarry Awhile*. The vessel was completely self-sufficient with a galley, several bunks and a lounge. Hancock often spent the entire hunting season aboard.⁷⁰

At the beginning and end of each season the shantyboats, which lacked any means of power, were towed by power boats. At the end of the season many of the shantyboats were taken to Herring Creek, off Isle of Wight Bay, west of Ocean City, for repairs. Turner Francis Cropper (1881-1967) served as a hunting guide for fifty years. His pound boat *Dixie* was used to tow many shantyboats.⁷¹

Russ Orme drew the plans of a shantyboat in 2000 based on descriptions by Marcus W. Acworth, based on his recollections from the 1930s and 40s. It shows a blind covered with pine boughs located on the stern. It was very convenient to get up in the morning, eat, dress, and simply walk outside into the blind located on the floating shantyboat. On the opposite end of the vessel was an open deck with a coal bin located in one corner. Inside the shantyboat the cabin consisted of one large room with four windows located on each side, a Brooder’s stove in one corner, benches on each side and wooden crate seats on the floor. The Bob-O-Del Gun Club which is

⁶⁷ Harold Jackson Rayne, Jr., interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 8, 2003, p. 8.

⁶⁸ William C. Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 6, 2003, p. 10.

⁶⁹ George Bird Grinnell, *American Duck Shooting* (Forest And Stream Publishing Company, 1901), pp. 441-2.

⁷⁰ Mariner, p. 123; Roland Earl “Fish” Powell rough interview, p. 7; and Nan DeVincent-Hayes and Bo Bennett, *Images of America: Chincoteague and Assateague Islands* (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2000), p. 96.

⁷¹ Patricia Russell, “Shantyboats: A Collection of Oral Histories and Photographs,” George Anthony Purnell interview, p. 19; and Dorothy Pruitt Hudson interview, p. 4.

constructed partially from two shantyboats retains much of this original shantyboat fabric including the tongue-in-groove wall paneling, four cross panel wooden doors with porcelain door knobs, pivoted louvers over each door, and exposed ceiling beams.⁷²

Perhaps the best known guide who hunted from his own shantyboat was Captain John Wesley “Dick” Quillin. He operated out of Ocean City, Maryland, during the first quarter of the twentieth century, retiring as a guide in 1929 when using live decoys was outlawed. Quillin is mentioned in a 1912 article in *Forest And Stream* about duck hunting stating he would take clients “down the beach in his launch to get away from the city and find birds.” Quillin bought his first shantyboat in 1904. He eventually owned two, one used for the hunters and the second for the guide and cook.⁷³ Joshua T. Bowden offered black duck, redhead, and geese hunting from point blinds, “living in house boat” near Ocean City.⁷⁴

At least five gunning lodges on Assateague Island either began as and/or incorporated shantyboats into their construction. At Bob-O-Del Gun Club and High Winds Gun Club two shantyboats were brought up on dry land (High Winds may have been more than two shantyboats), placed on pilings and used as lodging for gunning parties. Bunting’s Gunning Lodge started as a shantyboat but it was removed by circa 1942 and replaced by a non-shantyboat structure. Green Run Lodge used shantyboats early in its development and incorporated one into the first land based lodge. Similarly Egging Beach Gunning Club started by used floating shantyboats before a land-based club house was built. Other gunning shantyboats were known to have existed at

Great Bay Point west across the bay from Bob-O-Del Gun Club, and one was owned by Dr. Francis Townsend at Devil’s Island, on the east side of Assawomen Bay, bay side of Ocean City near 90th Street near the Isle of Wight Bay Coast Guard Station. A shanty (not a shantyboat) also was apparently located on Devil’s Island. Numerous non-gunning shantyboats for poor folks and/or pound fishermen also were located in West Ocean City near where the old railroad bridge (destroyed in the 1933 hurricane) was located at Division Street, as well as an area then called Cabbage Patch, now called ironically Shanty Town, near the White Marlin Fishing Center.

SHORE BIRD SHOOTING
FISHING OR SAILING
WHILE AT OCEAN CITY– SEE
Capt. J.W. Quillin
“The Guide that Gets the Game”
[image of two men with shotguns and dog onboard shanty with ducks
hanging from roof]
I ALSO TAKE OUT–
Shooting Parties During Winter Season
FOR WILD GEESE AND DUCKS
A card will be promptly answered or see me at
JARVIS Wharf, West of pier and Ry. Sta. On
the Bay
Capt. J.W. Quillin
OCEAN CITY MARYLAND

⁷² Patricia Russell, “Shantyboats: A Collection of Oral Histories and Photographs.”

⁷³ Patricia Russell, “Shantyboats: A Collection of Oral Histories and Photographs;” and “Maryland” *Forest And Stream*, November 9, 1912, p. 599.

⁷⁴ C. John Sullivan, *Old Ocean City: A Journal and Photographs of Robert Craighead Walter, 1904-1916* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001), photo of his houseboat can be found on page 41.

Another was located near the old American Legion building on Dorchester Street.⁷⁵ Roland Earl “Fish” Powell remembers that the area between North Division and nearly to Baltimore Avenue and the bay on the north side of Ocean City, “was lined with shantyboats that had – they had brought them up and jacked them up – blocked them up – and people lived there as homes . . . some . . . people actually lived in floating, we called them floating shanties. So they were used, I mean, by a lot of people.”⁷⁶

⁷⁵ Charles R. “Buddy” Jenkins interview, pp. 5 and 40-41; Francis J. Townsend interview, pp. 4, 6 and 22; Aubrey Bishop interview, pp. 5, 7 and 9; Turner P. Cropper interview, pp. 9-10 and 23; Roland Earl “Fish” Powell interview, pp. 2 and 3; George Bertrand Cropper interview transcript by Lisa Jo Frech, October 18, 2000, Shantyboat Documentation Project, p. 4; Dorothy Pruitt Hudson interview, p. 13; Harold Jackson Rayne, Jr., interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 8, 2003, p. 30; J.D. Quillin and Shel Chandler III interview by Agnes Terry, February 24, 1987, Assateague Island Seashore Oral History Project, p. 1; Kennedy p. C-3; and Dennard Conwell “Connie Purnell,” interview, p. 11. Hudson p. 26 mentions a shantyboat was located on Gum Point Road next to a motel but this location is unclear. “Goosing On Sinepuxent Bay,” *Forest And Stream*, November 23, 1876, p. 249 mentions a shore shanty at Hammock Point opposite Ocean City which may be the same as Devil’s Island?

⁷⁶ Roland Earl “Fish” Powell interview, p. 3; Maxwell “Mac” O. Simpson interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 24, p. 2 states that a shantyboat may still survive near 32nd Street in Ocean City, see also p. 13.

TYPICAL DAY AT A WATERFOWL HUNTING CLUB ⁷⁷

The following is from a 1939 account:

In the larger clubs . . . in the late afternoon the members commence arriving. (It might be early morning and they have been on the train overnight.) Some motor down, others arrive by train. If it is a large club of 20 members or so, probably only half a dozen arrive. The entire membership is almost never there at once. The largest gathering is likely to be on the opening day. The club is generally some distance from the railroad station or where the cars are left, and the members are generally met at the dock by the Superintendent with a launch. In some clubs it is possible to motor directly to the door, but this is the exception rather than the rule. Each member has his own room or doubles up with someone else and after unpacking his belongings, repairs to the living room where in front of a roaring fire the "fire water" is uncorked and plans discussed for the morrow. In two clubs I have visited, it is customary to repair to a different member's room each evening before dinner for the cup that cheers. Great discussion takes place. The Superintendent is consulted as to where the birds have been using and what he thinks the weather will be like on the morrow, for everything depends on the wind. Blinds that are good in some winds are useless in others. He states that he's observed a lot of fowl working lately on Caesar's Flats or the Glory Hole or Doc's Point or some such name, and these localities instantly become the favorites for the morning.

About this time the dinner bell rings and everyone troops in to dinner. As likely as not it's a long table and at the head sits the senior member of the club in point of years of membership. He started with the club when most of the members present were still youngsters and although the shooting today is nothing compared to what it was in the good old days, what with these crazy regulations and one thing and another, he still retains his membership because it's become a habit with him and because it's the one place where his family can't get at him. He knows the club and the marsh, too, like no one else, and everyone defers to his judgment and listens to what he has to say because he really knows.

Along about dessert time the blinds are drawn for. This is done either by shaking numbers out of a leather bottle for order of choice or the names of the blinds themselves are written on slips of paper and drawn from a hat. The former is generally the proceeding, because the wind may shift during the night and you will not want to decide until morning just where you want to go.

If it is the opening day most everyone is too excited to go to bed early and all stay up

⁷⁷ Taken directly from Heilner, pp. 490-92.

quite late. If the season is advanced everyone is so generally exhausted from their day on the marsh that they fall into bed almost immediately after supper.

Around 6 A. M. in the majority of clubs, everyone is awakened and goes in to a breakfast big enough to free Ireland. Pancakes, bacon and eggs, and coffee and toast in limitless quantities are wolfed down and each member states which blind he has chosen, and this is generally posted on a bulletin board for the benefit of any members who might come down during the morning and wish to see what blinds are occupied. If the member is intent only on getting his limit he is back in the club as a rule before lunch and takes a nap in the afternoon or goes back to town. If he enjoys Nature a lot or is down for a week or so of it, he probably stays out all day, picks his shots, takes photographs and walks all over the marsh doing nothing much in particular. Around five he is back at the club and the whole performance starts over again.

There are thousands of less pretentious clubs than this of course. The writer belongs to one now where he does his own cooking and dish washing and propels his own boat. There's a great deal of satisfaction in being "on your own" from start to finish and the fowl you get in this manner are perhaps more appreciated. . .

Then of course there is the "commercial" duck club. This bears about the same relationship to a regular duck club as a night club does to a country club. It's a pay-as-you-go proposition and sometimes a great many people pay, much to the detriment of the ducks. Much of the criticism aimed at duck clubs has been aimed at the commercials, principally in the Mississippi Flyway and in California. Certainly natives are entitled to make a living by taking sportsmen duck shooting and in many instances it is the only duck shooting that a non club member has access to, but there is no doubt that in a great many cases the privilege has been greatly abused. The consensus of opinion seems to be there should be some sort of regulation in regard to them. The writer has given the matter considerable thought and the only plan he has in mind which might work is to limit the number of guns which might shoot on such a club during the season. There are several instances of gunners waiting at such clubs, in line so to speak, and as soon as the gunners in the blind ahead of them got their limit, stepping in and taking their places. In many, many cases if they failed to get their limit, it was furnished to them by the proprietor! Legitimate duck clubs limit their membership and limit the number of guests, so why not the commercials?

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF WATERFOWL HUNTING CLUBS AND LODGES

It was stated in 1882 that there is not “a gentlemen who comes from Boston, New York or Philadelphia to this shooting place on the Chesapeake or its tributaries who does not spend five dollars a piece for every duck he kills.”⁷⁸ Waterfowl hunting was and still can be very expensive. Only the wealthy could afford the expense and time it took to travel to the best hunting areas before the early 20th century. Today a gunning trip can cost several thousand dollars and a bird can cost \$500 to \$800 each “not counting the cost of the weapons, the travel expenses, money their spouses spend in the local shops while they are in the blind, or the \$200 waxed-cotton hunter’s jacket that was made in England.” A custom-fitted Purdy’s shotgun can cost \$10,000.⁷⁹

*He [sportsmen] is generally a wealthy city gentleman, who can afford to indulge his love of sport, and who finds diversion from business cares at the shores [hunting areas]. He is equipped with all the paraphernalia necessary to make his shooting a success. His clothing is of the warmest kind, and frequently there is an attendant who carries the club members’ gun and ammunition, and who brings in the ducks slaughtered by the aforesaid club man, who remains in a dry blind or tub. For him the sport loses all its uncomfortable features.*⁸⁰

The cost of waterfowl hunting was reported in 1894 as follows:

*The state and county laws, covering the best territory in the Chesapeake and its tributaries are so stringent that duck shooting has passed almost exclusively into the hands of two classes of men. – professional gunners and rich sportsmen from Philadelphia, New York, and New England. At the present day, duck shooting is peculiarly a rich man’s sport. It is invested with the accessories of club-houses, arsenals of shotguns, retinues of retainers, Havana cigars, and unlimited champagne. Nearly, or quite, a million of dollars are invested in club-houses located at favorable points on the Maryland shooting-grounds. An acute arithmetician has estimated that, on the basis of the capital invested, the members of these clubs pay seventy-five dollars for each and every duck they kill.*⁸¹

⁷⁸ “Carroll’s Island Duck-Shooting,” *Forest And Stream*, April 18, 1882, p. 208.

⁷⁹ Roger Vaughan, “The Guns of December,” *Washington Post Magazine*, December 14, 1986, p. 20; and Maxwell “Mac” O. Simpson interview, p. 38.

⁸⁰ “Maryland Ducking Clubs,” *Forest And Stream*, November 28, 1889, p. 367.

⁸¹ Fitzgerald, D.B., “Duck Shooting In Maryland,” *Cosmopolitan* (November, 1894).

The increase of sportsmen traveling to the rich waterfowl hunting areas of the mid-Atlantic coast closely followed the establishment of steamboat service and the development of the railroad. Coach and boat travel was still often required to reach the final destination but the total travel time was greatly reduced by steamer and rail service as they expanded along the coast. Just as great hotels were built in tourist destinations served by rail such as Atlantic City, New Jersey, and Banff and Jasper, Canada, railroad tycoons partnered with or even built sportsmen hotels catering to waterfowl hunting. Joseph L. Ferrel of the Pennsylvania Railroad attempted to build a resort on Hog Island in the late 1880s, however, with minimal success. Railroads such as Old Dominion Line placed ads which proclaimed that “The Steamers of this Line reach some of the finest waterfowl and upland shooting sections in the county, connecting direct for Chincoteague, Cobb’s Island. . .” The Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad Company in the 1880s published booklets and offered specially designed vacations for fishermen and hunters. The wealthy sportsmen helped make the railroads prosper while the railroad opened hunting opportunities to more sportsmen.⁸²

The Eastern Shore of Virginia [in 1876] . . . is within easy access of Baltimore by a line of steamers, one of which leaves South street wharf, in that city [Baltimore], every day at 5 o’clock p.m., except Saturday. The upper portion of the peninsula can be reached daily by rail from Philadelphia, the terminus being Greenbackville, on the sea side opposite to Chincoteague Island; and distant from it about five miles. A steam ferry boat convey [sic] passengers from the depot to the island.⁸³

. . . how to reach Cobb’s Island [in 1876] . . . Take Old Dominion steamer from New York to Norfolk, thence across the Chesapeake to Cherrystone by steamer; thence five miles by stage to the Bay, and ten miles by steamer to Cobb’s. There is also a steamer from Washington.⁸⁴

Waterfowl hunting was highly regarded as a social outing; oftentimes among businessmen. It has been said as many business deals have been made during a goose hunting trip as had been made on the golf course. One hunting trip at High Winds Gun Club on Assateague Island in 1991 was described as follows: “we spent the day talking, telling jokes, watching my former boss fall in the water and generally relaxing.”⁸⁵

Most of these lodges and clubs were only seasonally used. During the off season when hunting was illegal the lodges or clubs might be used for occasional recreational activity but this was not the norm. After each season the lodges and clubs needed to be cleaned and closed for the season.

⁸² *Forest And Stream*, October 18, 1883; and *A Paradise for Gunners and Anglers* (Passenger Department, Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad Company, Philadelphia: Allen, Lane & Scott, 1883).

⁸³ “The Eastern Shore of Virginia,” *Forest And Stream*, November 16, 1876, p. 232.

⁸⁴ “Cobb’s Island in Summer,” *Forest And Stream*, August 31, 1876, p. 50; The president of the Old Dominion steamboat line was an avid sportsmen.

⁸⁵ Peter McLain, “Old hunting clubs should be saved,” *Asbury Park Press* (January 13, 1991).

In early fall the manager or caretakers would arrive to open and prepare the clubhouses and lodges for the hunters. Duck blinds needed to be repaired and covered with pine boughs for concealment. Boats and engines were readied. Wood and/or oil for heating and food needed to be stocked. Decoys were checked and dogs readied. A general cleaning was also necessary. When the hunters arrived cooks, guides and manager made sure everything ran smoothly. It was not unusual for family members to parcel out many of the jobs required. Children and wives often cleaned and picked birds. Husbands, brothers, and older sons often guided, ran the boats, cooked, and served as caretakers. Families undertook this seasonal work often times generation after generation. The early operation of Ocean House on Cobb's Island, Virginia, is an example of this seasonal, generational work.

Waterfowl hunting in 1939 provided an estimated year round employment to 2,470 people and seasonal employment to another 6,523 people, totaling nearly three million dollars. These seasonal jobs provided income for a diverse group of people, usually of moderate means, living in the immediate area. Guides, decoy carvers, fowl pickers, cooks, laundresses, caretakers, boatbuilders and boatmen were needed. Often several family members provided these services, sometimes over several generations. Many of these folks first depended on wildfowl for subsistence but quickly moved into market hunting when duck and goose were considered a delicacy and milliners sought feathers for then fashionable hats and clothes. A waterman who crabbed or fished in the spring, summer and fall filled in the winter by hunting and guiding. "‘Duckin’ was as much a part of the waterman's life and income as crabbing and ‘tonging’ or ‘dredging’ for oysters." "Wildfowling was part of our way of life." Many carved decoys in their spare time to help make ends meet. It was not uncommon for the affluent businessmen to leave their boots, coats or other apparel and equipment to a well liked guide. Tips were most welcomed. Oftentimes the women and children of the guides or caretakers would pick the feathers of the fowl before cooking. Cooks often helped clean and make up the beds. One guide stated that in addition to his guide duties he also helped cook, clean, and wash the dishes, shuck clams or oysters as needed, and clean the clients' guns. Those who were both cook and guide usually preferred to cook so they could stay warm inside. At the smaller, more family type camps or lease properties, the hunters cooked for themselves.⁸⁶

Fulton Jeffers wrote in 1995 that hunting clubs (specifically High Winds Gun Club) are:

a shining example of the important role that the out-of-doors lifestyle played for those of us blessed to be born or reside on this wonderful Eastern Shore. . . For several

⁸⁶ Heilner, pp. 497; Dennard Conwell "Connie" Purnell interview by Sharon Ofenstein, July 26, 2000, summary of interview in "Background Info,"file, Assateague Island National Seashore headquarters; Turner P. Cropper, interview transcript by Lisa Jo Frech, January 24, 2000, p. 27; Charles R. "Buddy" Jenkins interview, p. 36; Roland Earl "Fish" Powell, rough interview transcript by Lisa Jo Frech, September 18, 2000, Shantyboat Documentation Project, p. 20; 'duckin' quote from David Kimball and Jim Kimball, p. 8; "our way of life" quote in Harry M. Walsh, *The Outlaw Gunner* (Centreville, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1971), p. 1; William C. Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 6, 2003, p. 19; George Anthony Purnell interview, p. 8; and Hugh Cropper, III, interview transcript by Lisa Jo Frech, June 27, 2000, Shantyboat Documentation Project, p. 9. An ad for chef "in some sporting camp or club" appeared in "Chef Wants Position for Winter," *Forest And Stream*, October 26, 1912, p. 546. William C. Savage interview transcript, p. 6 and Harold Jackson Rayne, Jr., interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 8, 2003, p. 5. both mention the seasonality of waterfowling work.

*generations the pursuit of fish, crabs and other seafood in the summer and ducks, geese, brant and other wildfowl in the winter, was a way of life to which many of us were and still try to be dedicated. It is, however, a fast fading lifestyle.*⁸⁷

Small villages such Green Run, Pope's Island and North Beach, all once located on Assateague Island, were dependent upon the seasonal harvesting of local natural resources including oysters, clams, terrapin, and wildfowl and fish. Market hunting and guiding was the only local means to earn a living during the winter. When the Naval Air Station closed in the late 1940s, it caused, "many employed there to return to the water to make a living by hunting and duck trapping." It was noted that illegal hunting activities increased as a result of this base closing and advocated additional patrols for illegal hunting.⁸⁸

Membership in waterfowl hunting clubs and lodges was, and still can be expensive, especially for the more opulent better known clubs. Harry Aydelotte Jarvis, president and CEO of the oil producing section of Esso (now Exxon) in Venezuela, brought his servant Father Gill along with him when he hunted at High Winds Gun Club on Assateague Island. Jarvis would summon him from the dining room with a buzzer. As much as \$10,000 was paid for a share in a stock club in the late 19th century. It was reported that five shares in Grace's Quarters Club sold for \$60,000. In 1969 an accepted member of the Currituck Shooting Club paid an initiation fee of \$75,000. One source claims the initiation fee for an Ontario shore gun club near Buffalo was \$100,000 in the 1940s. The average cost of membership was estimated at \$1,000 in 1939.⁸⁹ The cost of building and maintaining the clubs and lodges was also expensive.

*Thousands of dollars have been spent on many of the shores and the clubhouses are as comfortable as money can make them. They are well constructed, and many are handsomely furnished – gas, heat, hot and cold water being supplied in some.*⁹⁰

Farmers were always looking for winter income and the leasing of hunting lands also generated great amounts. A 261-acre farm with "great waterfowling" in the upper Chesapeake Bay area fetched \$10,000 in 1887. This was cheap when one considers that many hunting shores in the same area leased for as much as \$2,000 a season. Hunting rights on U.S. farmland rose from \$3 million to \$97 million in nine years during the late 1950s and 1960s. One farm near Trappe, Maryland, rented for \$20,000 a season in 1986 though the average was only \$5,000 to \$10,000.

⁸⁷ Roland Earl "Fish" Powell, rough interview, pp. 2 and 5; and Fulton P. Jeffers letter to J. Rodney Little, September 18, 1995; and Edwin C. Bearss, "General Background Study and Historical Base Map: Assateague Island National Seashore Maryland-Virginia," Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, 1968, p. 91.

⁸⁸ Truitt and Les Callette, p. 75; and Chincoteague Refuge Narrative Report, January 1 to April 30, 1950, p. 5.

⁸⁹ Townsend, interview, p. 32; "Maryland Ducking Clubs," *Forest And Stream*, November 28, 1889, p. 367; George Kennedy, "Ducks On The Wing," *Sunday Sun*, January 5, 1947, p. C-3; and Heilner, p. 489 [unclear whether this is Canadian or American dollars).

⁹⁰ "Maryland Ducking Clubs," *Forest And Stream* (November 28, 1889), p. 367, reprinted in *Maryland Conservationist*, Spring 1942.

One newspaper report stated “the real economic value” of some farmland was hunting rights caused by the recent boom of sport fishing and hunting. In 1939 an estimated \$76,397,990 was invested in wildfowl shooting properties. In 1965 over 33,000 people spent over \$4,000,000 in hunting related costs. Maryland reported hunting related revenue in the 1980s in excess of \$40 million annually.⁹¹

One hunting club, the Bolsa Chica Club, near Los Angeles, struck oil on its property and its members made fortunes.⁹²

Owners

Joseph L. Ferrell, of the Pennsylvania Railroad, began to buy land for a resort on Hog Island in 1886. His grand dream never materialized though his fancy Ferrell Cottage did cater to sportsmen. It was outfitted with “all the modern conveniences as to steam-heating, lighting, water, etc.” Companies and corporations sometimes bought hunting lands for corporate and client use. Philco Radio Corporation once owned Egging Beach, now part of Assateague Island National Seashore. Executives of General Motors started Bob-O-Del Gun Club still standing on Assateague Island. Thomas B. McCabe, who later became President and then Chairman of the Board of Scott Paper Company, once owned High Winds Gun Club on Assateague Island. Valentine, who owned Whittington Point on Assateague Island, was said to be owner of Piper Aircraft Corporation in Pennsylvania. The Horne Point Club, of North Bay, Virginia, was founded by George Eastman of Eastman Kodak fame and George Bonbright in 1907. William E. Corey, President of US Steel, owned Corey Lodge on Knott’s Island, North Carolina. Dews Island Club at Jarvisburg, North Carolina, was owned by Congressmen Thurmond Chatham. Most lodge and club owners were upper middle income or higher businessmen, attorneys, lawyers, or similar professionals.⁹³

Members

In 1889 a typical “club gunner” was a wealthy city gentlemen who could afford to indulge in the sport. New York Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt paid his \$500 membership fee circa 1930 at Jefferson Island Club in Chesapeake Bay. Harry Aydelotte Jarvis, President and CEO of the oil producing section of Esso (now Exxon) in Venezuela spent six to eight weeks at High Winds Gun Club, Assateague Island, hunting each season. J. Pierpont Morgan, the famous financier was a member of the opulent Spesutie Island Rod and Gun Club. At least one club, the Accomac Club, elected members by use of black and white balls, “A black ball rejecting a candidate.”⁹⁴

⁹¹ Sullivan, *Waterfowling*, pp. 39 and 55; Vaughan, pp. 20 and 24-45; Heilner, p. 496; and “Shore Called Finest Hunting Area,” *Easton Star-Democrat*, May 1967.

⁹² Heilner, p. 489.

⁹³ Harry J. Trimble interview transcript by Patricia Russell, April 30, 2003, p. 10. Trimble called it Cherokee Airplane Corporation but Cherokee was apparently a model of Piper.

⁹⁴ “Maryland Ducking Clubs;” Francis J. Townsend interview, p. 32; Roland Earl “Fish” Powell rough interview, p. 11; C. John Sullivan, *Waterfowling*, p. 22; and “The By-laws of The Accomac Club,” collections of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels, Maryland.

Guests: the Rich and Famous

J. Pierpont Morgan and George M. Pullman were among the well known men of wealth who visited the more fashionable hunting lodges. Several U.S. presidents were avid hunters. President Grover Cleveland hunted at Broadwater Club, Hog Island, in 1892 and 1893. The magazine *Once A Week* popularized the visit by inserting a special color supplement in the December 2, 1892 issue complete with illustrations of the elaborate Broadwater Clubhouse and Hog Island. Cleveland also hunted at Bowley's Quarter, upper Chesapeake Bay circa 1892 and Back Bay Gunning Club, Virginia, circa 1893. Cleveland was such an avid hunter he even had a ducking boat built for him in Savannah. Some of the most frequent visitors to the San Domingo Club on the upper Chesapeake Bay were Cleveland and Governor David B. Hill of New York. General George C. Scott, and Daniel Webster are known to have visited Maxwell's Point, also on the upper Chesapeake. President Benjamin Harris often hunted at Benjie's Hunting Club on the upper Chesapeake Bay. The Chinese Ambassador was feted at the Maryland Club, upper Chesapeake Bay area. President William Howard Taft visited Pocahontas Fowling Club, Back Bay. Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, and his wife, stayed at Cobb's Island. Johnny Unitas, star quarterback for the Baltimore Colts, hunted at Bob-O-Del Gun Club on Assateague Island. Mickey Cochran, Hall of Fame baseball player, hunted at Egging Beach Gunning Club in the 1920s on Assateague Island. Al Decker of Black and Decker hunted at Pope's Island Gun Club on Assateague. ". . . politicians to businessmen . . . astronauts, . . . diamond brokers . . . people from American's Cup" were all guests at Valentine's on Assateague Island. The diamond broker paid to have a phone line put in at Valentine's so he could hunt while carrying out his million dollars diamond deals. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was a guest of Bob Clements at his Assateague Island house but apparently did not hunt. General John Knight Waters who married General George S. Patton's daughter and General George S. Patton, Jr., hunted in the Chincoteague area. Walter Cronkite was scheduled to hunt there as well, but went on assignment and had to cancel. King Mahendra and Queen Ratna Rajya Laxmi of Nepal hunted geese on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Frederick Remington shot geese in the Tidewater area. Curt Gowdy, Bing Crosby and Phil Harris did a television segment for "American Sportsman" on goose hunting on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.⁹⁵

Gender

Many believe waterfowl hunting was and is a "man's" sport. Some clubs such as the Lighthouse Club Company at Corolla, North Carolina, specifically prohibited women. The first rule of the

⁹⁵ Robert Elman, *A Portrait of Wildlife and Man on One of the World's Great Migratory Corridors: The Atlantic Flyway* (Tulsa, Oklahoma: Winchester Press, 1980), p. 155; "Grover A Good Shot," *Richmond Dispatch*, November 26, 1892, p. 1; C. John Sullivan, *Waterfowling*, p. 61; Eugene V. Connett, editor, *Duck Shooting Along the Atlantic Tidewater* (New York: Bonanza Books, 1947), p. 126; William Teaf Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 20, 2003, p. 38; William C. Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 6, 2003, p. 23; David Cropper interview by Patricia Russell, June 9, 2002, pp. 29 and 31-32; Thomas Earl Reed, Jr. oral interview by Ralph Eshelman, May 15, 2003, summary of interview in project files; Harry J. Trimble interview transcript by Patricia Russell, April 30, 2003, p. 7; and Vaughan, p. 24. The Woodmont Rod and Gun Club, though not a waterfowl hunting club, proudly displays its "President's Chair," which has six attached metal plates, each inscribed with the name and date of a presidential visit, see Ott, pp. 232-3.

“Act to Incorporate the Woodmont Rod and Gun Club,” of Hancock area, Maryland, stated that “no one shall be entertained on the premises except members, associate members, and their male guests.” While it is true most hunters were male, women also hunted and were welcome in some clubs. Green Run Lodge on Assateague Island boasted “facilities have been installed for men and women.” Mabel Hungerford was an avid hunter who hunted along side her husband at their place on Assateague Island. Still, most women who visited the lodges, usually with their husbands, remained indoors and did not actually hunt. William C. Savage stated that at Egging Beach Gunning Club on Assateague Island, the owners would “sometimes. . .bring their wives with them. Although they didn’t do too much hunting. . .They would go down to the duck blinds sometimes and observe. But they did very little shooting.” Thomas Reed mentions a hunter who brought his wife on most trips. She liked to hunt but the other men were “most uncomfortable with having her there because we couldn’t talk freely.” Another account by Harry Birch states that a group of Texas cattlemen and their wives came to hunt at Valentine’s, also on Assateague Island. The wives rarely hunted but Ann Haynes hunted one morning until the first duck was shot. “It threw its head on the ice and died.” She was so disgusted by the incident she never hunted again. Thomas Reed, Jr. stated that he guided with a group of wives who hunted with their husbands. They were not very familiar with guns and accidentally fired their guns off a few times. Tom stated he was afraid to go out and pickup the shot ducks for fear he would get shot. William T. Savage states that the wives of several hunters at Pope’s Island Gun Club, now part of Assateague Island National Seashore, dressed in evening gowns to look nice for their husbands during diner. At least one wife hunted here as well. Novice women were often selected for the snipe hunts. Though not waterfowl, one report states “Sportswomen” hunted shorebirds “with the same enthusiasm as their male counterparts.”⁹⁶

*A few [clubs] are especially fitted with a view to the comfort of the members’ wives and families. It is rare that the ladies try their hands at duck shooting. They usually remain indoors while their husbands slaughter the ducks.*⁹⁷

Cooks, both African-American and white, at Assateague Island lodges and clubs were usually male, though two women, one African-American and one white, are known to have cooked at Pope’s Island Gun Club.⁹⁸

⁹⁶ “Gun Clubs,” p. 13; Ott, p. 222; Harold Jackson Rayne, Jr., interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 8, 2003, p. 21; “Green Run Lodge: Sportsmans Paradise, Ocean City, Maryland, ‘One of the Finest Commercial Clubs in the Country,’” undated [1949-50?] brochure; “Maryland Ducking Clubs;” Charles R. “Buddy” Jenkins interview, pp. 15 and 18; Francis J. Townsend, interview, p. 19; Harry J. Trimble interview transcript by Patricia Russell, April 30, 2003, p. 13; William C. Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 6, 2003, p. 12; Thomas Earl Reed, Jr. oral interview by Ralph Eshelman, May 15, 2003, summary of interview in project files; Harry Birch interview by Ralph Eshelman, April 15, 2003, summary of interview in project files; William Teaf Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 20, 2003, pp. 39-40; and C. John Sullivan, *Old Ocean City*, p. 49.

⁹⁷ “Maryland Ducking Clubs,” *Forest And Stream* (November 28, 1889), p. 367, reprinted in *Maryland Conservationist*, Spring 1942.

⁹⁸ Dennard Conwell “Connie Purnell,” interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 1, 2003, p. 54; and William Teaf Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 20, 2003, pp. 9 and 56.

Guides

Guides are “the most important of all considerations to one about to visit the wilderness. . .like a good wife, [he] is indispensable on ones success, pleasure, and peace.”⁹⁹

*The guide is a visitor’s ticket to the hunt. A local man who has been shooting here all his life, the guide rents land from farmers, prepares blinds, decoys, boats and motors, and charges up to \$150 per person per day [1980s], plus tip. The successful guide is also a practiced diplomat. Many are the greenhorns who must be handled firmly, but with tact. The hunter is paying, and he’ll shoot his own birds, damn it. Neither does he want to go home empty-handed. It’s a delicate business. The guide is dealing with the classic stuff of manhood – gun, the great outdoors, the hunt. The guide who can slip in a killing shot over the shoulder of his inept customer, tell him, “Nice shot, Mr. Jones,” and sell it, had entered the highest ranks.*¹⁰⁰

One guide noted that the first T-bone steak he ever saw was in a gunning club. He stated “I mean these people had money.” The guides sometimes did the cooking, waited on tables, and generally cleaned up and washed the dishes. The duties of the guides at Egging Beach Gunning Club on Assateague Island in the 1920s were described as “up at two o’clock in the morning and go to the blind, put the decoys out, in those days they were live decoys and wooden ones, and then they’d go back to the house and see that their guests had breakfast. . .all before daylight - and then they’d carry all their paraphernalia down to the. . .blind. . .then be watching for game to come in. . .when some were coming in, they’d turn around to the people in the blind and say, “well they’re close enough now you can get up and shoot” and then when they shot them if they killed anything, if they didn’t the guide would see that they did. . .then they’d go out and retrieve the dead birds. . .”¹⁰¹

One of more famous Chesapeake Bay guides was John Keen who guided Grover Cleveland and J. Pierpoint Morgan on the Susquehanna Flats of the upper Chesapeake. Maxwell “Mac” O. Simpson guided at Green Run Lodge, High Winds, and Bob-O-Del gun clubs, three of the more prominent water fowling establishments on Assateague Island.¹⁰² Guides at Valentine’s during the late 1960s were paid \$100 per day with tips usually about \$25.¹⁰³

Food

⁹⁹ William Murray quote in Ott, p. 234.

¹⁰⁰ Vaughan, p. 21.

¹⁰¹ Roland Earl “Fish” Powell rough interview, p. 11; and William C. Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 6, 2003, pp. 13-4.

¹⁰² Elman, p. 155; and Maxwell “Mac” O. Simpson interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 24, pp.4, 8 and 30-1.

¹⁰³ David Cropper interview transcript by Patricia Russell, June 9, 2003, p. 70.

A good cook and good hot food was a necessity for a good gunning operation. Typical menu at Bunting's Gunning Lodge was as follows: Breakfast of hot cakes, eggs, scrapple, and hot biscuits; lunch of soup; and a popular dinner consisted of roast duck and dumplings. At Egging Beach Gunning Club in the 1920s members would often return mid-morning for steamed oysters and clams. Fried oysters, soft crabs, and clam fritters were popular at Pope's Island Gun Club. Oysters were easily gathered and popular at Green Run Lodge. Meals were usually family style.¹⁰⁴ Goose shooting, appetite and food on Sinepuxent Bay were described as follows in 1876:

*Nothing like goose shooting to whet the appetite and woo sound slumber! What larder can excel that of Sinepuxent? Lucious oysters and fresh fish to alternate with roast goose and duck; fresh eggs, rich sausage, and potatoes from the farms?*¹⁰⁵

At the Cedars, located on the upper Chesapeake in the late 19th century, a telephone connected the hunting blind with the clubhouse so food could be ordered as desired:

*The club house is connected with the city by telephone, and there is also a telephone in the blinds so that the members can sit in the blind and order more ammunition, or solid or liquid refreshments. If the river fails to supply ducks a call through the telephone brings after a 25-minute wait, a hot roast canvasback from the well-supplied club kitchen.*¹⁰⁶

Yet, food was not always so luscious. In 1875 the food at Knott's Island where the hunters ate what the locals ate was described as "hog and hominy," fish are sometimes introduced; but the delicious canvas-back and other excellent ducks which are here in abundance never appear upon the table." At once posh High Winds Gun Club on Assateague Island, near the end of their property rights use, meals sometimes consisted of TV diners.¹⁰⁷ Many of the cooks employed at the Assateague Island lodges and clubs were cooks who worked in the hotels and resorts in Ocean City during the summer.

*My mother was in the hotel business and the rooming house business. . .had cooks in the summertime and sometimes they would employ them for winter work [waterfowl] clubs and lodges] which he was glad to get.*¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁴ Frank Hodgens interview, September 15, 2000, Shantyboat Documentation Project, p. 2; William C. Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 6, 2003, pp. 12-13; William Teaf Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 20, 2003, pp. 46-7 and 58; and Maxwell "Mac" O. Simpson interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 24, p. 10.

¹⁰⁵ "Goosing on Sinepuxent Bay," *Forest And Stream*, November 23, 1876, p. 249.

¹⁰⁶ "Maryland Ducking Clubs," *Forest And Stream*, November 28, 1889, p. 367.

¹⁰⁷ "Knott's Island And Currituck Sound," *Forest And Stream*, March 25, 1875, p. 99; and Harold Jackson Rayne, Jr., interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 8, 2003, p. 22.

¹⁰⁸ William C. Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 6, 2003, p. 19.

Dr. Francis Townsend stated that:

*local people . . . fished in the summertime, and in the wintertime, they had to get another kind of occupation to support themselves. And at that time, we had a lot of shanties [shantyboats], and a lot of people came down here and went hunting, and these men worked on those things, either as guides or cooks. They weren't the best cooks in the world, I'll tell you that. But we had a cook . . . one time we said . . . why are these hotcakes always cold when you have 'em? He said, well you fellows don't get up 'til 6:00, and I cook 'em at three*¹⁰⁹

Thrill of the Hunt

Hunters deal “with the classic stuff of manhood – gun, the great outdoors, the hunt.” For many, the sense of “roughing-it” was part of the experience. Sporthunters enjoy the change of pace; getting up before sunrise, dressing warmly against the cold, feeling the cold biting wind against their face on their boat ride to the blind, and then watching the brightening of the sky, often accompanied by a beautiful sunrise. The excitement of a flock of ducks or geese then flying toward them, the pumping of their heart as they raise their guns, the loud sound and smoke of their guns, the falling of killed and wounded waterfowl, the splash of the dogs retrieving their prey, all are a part of the sport. Grover Cleveland stated that “the duck hunter is born -- not made.”¹¹⁰

*It is hard, earnest, downright work, It requires a man, who not only can rough it, but who loved to rough it, for its own sake – who can endure cold, wet, fatigue, and the weariness of long waiting, not only with patience but with pleasure, and at least feel himself well rewarded if he make a good bag, and not altogether unrewarded, if he make a bad one.*¹¹¹

The elaborate resort hotels provided family relaxation and entertainment while the sporting club or lodge offered the opportunity “to match one’s predatorily skills against the wiles of nature.”¹¹²

The chase is a healthful and invigorating recreation, and its effects on the character of the sportsmen, the hardy physical habits, the quickness of eye, hand, and general movement, the dexterity in the arts of pursuit and destruction,. . .the courage and self-reliance, the half-military spirit, in short, which it infused, are important elements of

¹⁰⁹ Francis J. Townsend, interview transcript by Lisa Jo Frech, March 31, 2000, Shantyboat Documentation Project, p. 39.

¹¹⁰ Vaughan, p. 21; Francis J. Townsend interview, p. 56; George Anthony Purnell interview, p. 9; and Cleveland quote from Elman, p. 161.

¹¹¹ From Frank Forester’s *Manual for Young Sportsmen*, 1871, reprinted in Stephen M. Miller, *Early American Waterfowling 1700’s - 1930* (Piscataway, New York: Winchester Press: An Imprint of New Century Publications, Inc. 1986), pp. 3-4.

¹¹² Ott, p. 221.

*prosperity and strength in the bodily and mental constitution of a people.*¹¹³

Nature writings during the turn of the 19th century extolled the therapeutic value of outdoor activities such as camping and hunting. Works such as Ernest Thompson Seton's *Animal Heroes*, John Burrough's *Signs and Seasons* and Jack London's *Call of the Wild*, all written in 1904, are among the many celebrated works which portrayed the qualities of wilderness experiences that tested ones fortitude. Sportsmans clubs provided such experiences, though on a more pampered, less wild level.¹¹⁴

*The thrill of hearing the eerie call of passing geese or the sight of great skeins of ducks is deeply inborn into the very soul of the American gunner. So great is the interest in our great heritage, the love and ability to hunt, that to mention the word ducks at the proper time and place will cause the tired business executive to improvise some lame excuse for taking off a few days from his busy office, or the open-minded schoolboy for playing hooky from his classroom, the rest of us are inclined to apply the old adage, "When business interferes with ducking, forget business."*¹¹⁵

Fraternal Comradeship

Many clubs and lodges were founded by close friends. The hunting experience was almost like an annual fraternal gathering which was looked forward to by all. One hunter at Green Run Lodge stated it "was always both a wonderful place to shoot and the comradeship of all the people was just exceptional." The telling of stories, jokes, playing cards, and social drinking was as much a part of the sport as was the actual hunting. At High Winds Gun Club it was a tradition that the first night the hunters had hotdogs and beer for dinner.

Perhaps this comradeship was best stated by a former hunter:

*. . . it's a great relationship – sport to be in – whoever you are hunting with. You, know, it really is. I mean, it's not like going to a football game with somebody sitting there and yell and hoop and yell and go on. You go and sit in that blind with one other guy or two guys or something. You go there and sit the whole damn day with them. I mean, you gotta have a nice relationship with them otherwise you're not going to take 'em back again. So, when you can build up that relationship between people, I mean that to me that's the, that was the fun of waterfowling. . .*¹¹⁶

¹¹³ George Perkins Marsh, *Report, Made Under Authority of the Legislature of Vermont, on the Artificial Propagation of Fish* (Burlington, Vermont: 1857), pp. 8-9 quoted in Reiger, *American Sportsmen*, p. 44 and in Ott, p. 221.

¹¹⁴ Ott, pp. 224-5.

¹¹⁵ Howard, M. Salisbury, *Duck Guns, Shooting and Decoying* (Chicago: Paul, Richmond & Company, 1947), p. 9.

¹¹⁶ George Anthony Purnell interview, p. 31.

Examples of the kinds of pranks played during hunting trips include one guide taking a bear skin rug and placing it over himself when one hunter with his wife and dog returned to the lodge. The guide began to growl and the dog rippled the rug from underneath him as he ran as fast as he could in the opposite direction. When the hunters, guides and cook aboard a shantyboat got “drunked up” the hunters would take a dollar bill and tack it on top of one of the iron roof support post, grease it up with butter, and encourage the cook or guide to climb the pole to retrieve the dollar.¹¹⁷ Novices were taken on snipe hunts:

*If you got a greenhorn for a week to go gunning with you. . .the favorite trick would be. . .in the middle of the night, you'd go sniping. They get the guy, they'd get him on the meadows with a can in one hand and a burlap bag in the other. You'd say, "we're going to go down below and chase these snipe. You just go 'snipe, snipe, snipe' and they'll run into the bag." And the guy is sitting there for hours holding the can and the bag and the others guys go back to the shack.*¹¹⁸

Ethnicity of Support Staff

Little is written about race and ethnic background of sportsmen and club and lodge workers. It is known that many of the cooks, but not all, were African-American. Jackson Bunting, Caucasian, cooked at Green Run Lodge while African-Americans cooked at Green Run as well at High Winds, Bob-O-Del and Pope's Island Gun Clubs. “Pork Chops,” the African-American cook at Green Run, also dressed the ducks and “did everything, danced and sang. He was the entertainer in their clubhouse.” In the early days of hunting African-American servants were often brought along by the more wealthy sportsmen. An account of a waterfowl hunting trip on the upper Chesapeake in 1877 stated “inside [the blind]. . .we found Joe, the darkey, who had put out the decoys during the night.” Egging Beach Gunning Club on Assateague Island in the 1920s employed an African-American cook who slept in an outbuilding of the club house. Harry Aydelotte Jarvis, member of High Winds Gun Club, always brought his servant with him while he hunted. Mr. Bounds, an owner, always brought his “side kick,” an African-American man named “Cherry Blossom,” when he hunted at High Winds. The guides and cooks, regardless of color, usually sleep in separate buildings, floating shanties, or minimally in different areas of the clubhouse. This was not so much due to social status but due to the need of the guides and cooks to get to bed early as they needed to get up earlier to prepare meals, decoy rigs, dogs, etc. However, at least at Pope's Island Gun Club the guides seldom if ever used the inside bathroom; they used the outside outhouse. “Jack Pot Pie,” an African-American, operated the ferry to Assateague Island. Cree Indians developed the unique ability to attract geese orally without use of artificial means. “Their calling didn't sound much like a goose, but it brought the birds in every time.” At least one hotel on the Eastern Shore of Maryland boasted that it employed Cree Indian guides.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁷ Charles R. “Buddy” Jenkins interview, p. 18; and Francis J. Townsend interview, p. 19.

¹¹⁸ George Combs, Jr., interview January 18, 1989, quoted in Solomon, p. 30; Maxwell “Mac” O. Simpson interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 24, p. 50 and J.D. Quillin and Shel Chandler III interview by Agnes Terry, February 24, 1987, Assateague Island Seashore Oral History Project, p. 1 also describe snipe hunts.

¹¹⁹ Harold Jackson Rayne, Jr., interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 8, 2003, p. 11; Vaughan, p. 24;

Role in Conservation

In the late 19th century and first half of the 20th century there were no value conflicts between hunting and conservation.

*Animals are for man's use, and one of these uses is recreation, of which hunting is a wholesome form. So long as it does not interfere with the maintenance of a permanent breeding stock of any species this recreation is legitimate and praiseworthy.*¹²⁰

Some clubs, particularly the larger clubs and those in coastal North Carolina, raised and released ducks, often releasing more than they killed each season. Resting ponds or sanctuary ponds were designated to give waterfowl safe areas for feeding and resting. In 1939 an estimated 2,231 duck clubs had rest areas; 2,514 clubs restricted hunting to only a few days a week; and 1,706 clubs continued to feed waterfowl after the season had been completed so long as the wildfowl remained. Club managers realized that constant hunting pressure would not only lower population numbers but also drive waterfowl to other less pressured areas. For the very survival and enjoyment of these clubs, they recognized conservation was in their best interest for long term use. One farm on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in the mid-1930s built a "rehabilitation pen on a creek and put a few crippled geese in it." This of course also attracted other geese. The controversial practice of live baiting also provided feed for waterfowl during freeze-ups when food was especially scarce. Because the larger clubs were usually owned by wealthy individuals, they were able to acquire large prime waterfowl hunting areas which they maintained even in hard times such as during war and the Great Depression. Many of these holdings, protected from drainage channels and mosquito control ditching as well as other forms of destruction or development, later became the central holdings of wildlife refuges, and even national parks and seashores.¹²¹

Long before there were regulations many clubs had strictly regulated shooting hours. One club never permitted a gun to be fired before nine A.M. Nearly all clubs required shooting to stop by early afternoon. Due to these type restrictions, some hunters complained that all the waterfowl were located on private club property. The club members countered that this was a result of their protection efforts which were not practiced on public hunting lands.¹²²

Kennedy, p. C-3; M. Laffan William, "Canvas-back and Terrapin," *Scribner's Monthly* (volume 15, number 1, November 1877); Elman, p. 154; Maxwell "Mac" O. Simpson interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 24, pp. 11, 37 and 53; "Goose Hunting A'La Cree," brochure; William Teaf Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 20, 2003, p. 13, 16-17 and 25; and William C. Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 6, 2003, p. 18.

¹²⁰ George Bird Grinnell, quoted in Ott, p. 224.

¹²¹ Samuel Dyke "Introduction," in Julie Moser, *Gunning Clubs & Their Decoys* (no date, no publisher given), p. 3; Heilner, p. 498; and Vaughan, p. 21.

¹²² Heiler, p. 491 and 93.

Among the 1913 house and ground rules for the Accomack Club, which were in effect until at least 1929, were: number 14, “sailing up, or unnecessary disturbance of birds by guides, members or guests is prohibited at all times;” number 15, “Members are expected to limit the killing of Snipe or Ducks to not exceed twenty-five birds in any one day;” and number 16, “Pump or repeating shot guns are barred - except for retrieving crippled birds.”¹²³

*That the preservation of the duck clubs means the preservation of a majority of waterfowl and better shooting for every duck hunter in America, whether he belongs to a duck club or not That the duck clubs of America were the first individuals or organizations to impose on the duck shooter regulations of any kind. The first to impose bag limits and then reduce them, the first to bar automatic guns, the first to voluntarily stop spring shooting, the first to limit shooting hours, the first to have rest areas and rest days The duck clubs have played an important part in the conservation of American waterfowl*¹²⁴

President Grover Cleveland led the conservation movement, as least so far as waterfowl hunting was concerned. He deplored the practice of killing large numbers of duck condemning those that did. Cleveland’s rule was to shoot only as many birds as could be consumed by his family and friends. He wrote several sensitive articles in popular periodicals about hunting and fishing. Just two years before his death ten of these were published together in a 1906 book called *Fishing and Shooting Sketches*. He wrote in one of these sketches,

*. . . that, if the extermination of wild ducks is to be prevented, and if our grandchildren are to know anything about duck shooting, except as a matter of historical reading, stringent and intelligent laws for the preservation of this game must be supplemented and aided by an aggressive sentiment firmly held among decent ducking sportsmen, making it disgraceful to kill duck for the purpose of boasting of a big bag Those who hunt ducks with no better motives . . . merit the contempt of the present generation and the curses of generations yet to come.*¹²⁵

¹²³ “House and Ground Rules of the Accomack Club,” (New York: H.R. Elliot Co.), collections of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels, Maryland, catalog number CBMM 79-30-2B.

¹²⁴ Heilner, p. 496, 98-9.

¹²⁵ Grover Cleveland, *Fishing and Shooting Sketches* (Outing Publishing Company, 1906), quote reprinted in Elman, p. 160.

ASSATEAGUE ISLAND WATERFOWL HUNTING CLUBS AND LODGES¹²⁶

Sportsmen came to Assateague Island to hunt waterfowl at least by the 1920s and 30s. A number of hunting cabins and camps were built on Assateague Island and on the numerous smaller islands along the bay side, some of which are now part of the National Seashore. In addition to the eleven standing structures which form the focus of this study, there were several other now destroyed structures. Perhaps the most significant former lodge was Egging Beach Gunning Club. The land on which the lodge operated was acquired by Crawford Oliver Savage of Ocean City by filing for a land patent. Savage also owned the Majestic Hotel in Ocean City. Some called the lodge Savage Island. Savage took out parties for Philco Radio Corporation. The executives of the corporation liked the area so much they formed a stock corporation consisting of 12 men including Savage, who was the only member who did not pay for his share. They purchased the land in the 1920s and operated it until 1930 as the Egging Beach Gunning Club, Incorporated. As members died off, the non-sellable stocks eventually all reverted back to Savage who worked for the club. The lodge first consisted of two floating shantyboats moored in a "T" shape and then these were replaced by a land based clubhouse built on dredged material. The later clubhouse was a one-story structure which resembled a floating shanty but more elaborate consisting of a center hall with two bedrooms on each side with a common living room/dining room/kitchen, linoleum floors and fireplace on the north end. The fire place could accommodate four-foot-long logs. Each bedroom had two double bunks. There was a separate room for the guides and a front porch. The club house had its own electric generating plant. When the Philco Radio Corporation abandoned the club house in 1930 it was never used commercially thereafter. It was burned by the Park Service when the federal government bought the property.¹²⁷

Other former waterfowl hunting structures include a camp located on the west side of Middlemoor Island, north of the Virginia-Maryland state line essentially where the Green Run Inlet was located. Based on real estate files, the Middlemoor Camp Site [CHN-004H] was established as a hunting camp site in 1926. This property was leased to Bob-O-Del Gun Club in

¹²⁶ The natural and cultural resources of Assateague Island have been adequately covered elsewhere and need not be repeated here. For further information see the following: "General Management Plan, Assateague Island National Seashore/ Maryland-Virginia," Denver Service Center, National Park Service, US Department of the Interior, 1982, pp. 15-27; Bearss, 1968; April M. Fehr, Leslie McFaden, Eva Jeanne Harris, and R. Christopher Godwin with contributions by Antoniao Segovia, Ph.D., "Archeological Reconnaissance of the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Accomack County, Virginia and Worcester County, Maryland, Final Report," R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. for US Fish and Wildlife Service, 1989, pp. 4-15; and Susan B.M. Langley, "Archeological Overview and Assessment of Maritime Resources in Assateague Island National Seashore, Worcester County, Maryland & Accomack County, Virginia," Office of Archeology, Maryland Historical Trust for Assateague Island National Seashore, National Park Service, 2002, pp. 3-33.

¹²⁷ William C. Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 6, 2003, pp. 2-5, 11-12, 14, 16, 20 and 24; Dennard Conwell "Connie Purnell," interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 1, 2003, pp. 11-3, 22 and 36; and Harry J. Trimble interview transcript by Patricia Russell, April 30, 2003, p. 41.

1951. An appraisal dated 1952 described the camp as consisting of a camphouse and bunkhouse constructed of weather board with wood shingle roof, concrete block pillars, and a terra cotta tile chimney on top of the camphouse. The Chincoteague Yacht and Sportsman Club was once located on Tom's Cove, apparently just north of the Coast Guard Station. Waterfowl hunting was carried out here; the club owned its own decoy rig. It was salvaged and removed by 1950. Lem Barr and John Hitchens had a hunting lodge called Pine Tree Lodge south of High Winds Gun Club where they entertained business clients connected with their road construction company as well as Delaware state troopers. Pine Tree Lodge was a one-story low roofed structure which employed a cook and guide. It existed until 1966. Hen Pecked Lodge was operated by the Bunting family of Ocean City (separate from the Bunting's Gunning Lodge). It was located east of Bob-O-Del Gun Club where the Pope's Island Canoe Landing is now located. It was burned down by the Park Service. A waterfowl hunting structure was also located on the upper Pope's Island. A "gunning cabin" about 12 by 15 feet and located just south of where the Verrazano Bridge now crosses the island was used for hunting in the mid-1940s. Just south of this cabin was a second cabin located on Derrikson's Island. Other clubs were Tar Paper Shack, Boston (owned by Dr. Boston), Fox Hills, Eva Barr and Cedar Valley Club. Boston, Eva Barr and Valentine's were all burned by vandals. After Eva Barr burned down, members including Sheriff Calvin Hogg and Les Wright, then built Cedar Valley located at Big Levels. Archeological remains of another possible hunting camp [18WO155 (CHN-014H)] were located on the east side of Middlemoor Island. The exact number of hunting lodges and gun clubs which once existed on Assateague Island is unknown. The Great Depression, the hurricane of 1933, and storm of 1936 brought an end to many. Only seventeen were reported in 1982 after the great 1962 storm had destroyed many more.¹²⁸

¹²⁸ Fehr *et al.*, pp. 12, 68 and 71; see also figure 6, p. 15 which shows Middlemoor Island as indicated on Martenet's "Map of Maryland" (1855) and figure 37, p. 70 and figure 38, p. 72 for smaller scale location maps; Chincoteague Refuge Narrative Report, January 1 to April 30, 1950, pp. 8-9, refers to a clubhouse located "just north of the "Old [Coast Guard] Station;" Barnes and Truitt, p. 15; Harry Birch interview by Ralph Eshelman, April 15, 2003, summary of interview in project files; Maxwell "Mac" O. Simpson interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 24, pp. 9, 14-6 and 19; Dennard Conwell "Connie Purnell," interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 1, 2003, pp. 15-7, 23 and 39; Harry J. Trimble interview transcript by Patricia Russell, April 30, 2003, p. 8, 10-11, 19 and 21; and Mackintosh, pp. 9 and 155.

ASSOCIATED PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF HUNTING CAMPS AND RELATED PROPERTIES

What makes a waterfowl hunting lodge or clubhouse unique? What is the significance of such resources and why should they be preserved? Of the waterfowl hunting lodge and clubhouse resources extant on Assateague Island, which ones are significant? Which of these resources might justify the cost of restoration and future maintenance?

This historic context study addresses the significance and characteristics of these resources. Yet few such resources in the United States are listed on the National Register and the only such resource for the Mid-Atlantic Region is Currituck Shooting Club in North Carolina which unfortunately burned down in the fall of 2003. Not only are there none so listed for the Chesapeake Bay or coastal bays area of Maryland or Virginia, there is no waterfowl hunting lodge or clubhouse preserved and interpreted in this region. This is despite the fact that this region was among the most significant waterfowl hunting areas in the nation. Below are selected criteria which help define these resources:

1. Cultural Landscape—Whether a lodge or club, waterfowl hunting accommodations all have two things in common - water and marshes where large concentrations of ducks, swans and geese are attracted. This natural landscape is a vital component of the visual integrity of the resources. These settings were not only essential to being near the waterfowl but were also essential to the idealized wilderness experience.¹²⁹ Does the landscape retain its original integrity and reflect the typical association of land and water with a waterfowl hunting club or lodge? Can an uninformed visitor easily grasp the relationship of the waterfowl hunting facility with the land and water?

On Assateague Island all the lodges and clubhouses are located on the marshy bay side of the island. (Note that Hungerford's is located within a pine grove near the bayside marshes; Clements' is located near the beach so that a view of the ocean is possible. Clements' is not truly a hunting lodge or club and more correctly should be classified as a recreational cottage.) A few facilities are very exposed such as Bob-O-Del (this may be an artifact of storm grounding of shantyboats rather than selection of a deliberate building site), while the remaining lodges and clubs are located inside sloughs, points and other embayments where there was some protection from the elements. A few, such as Bob-O-Del Gun Club and Pope's Island Gun Club, are accessible only by water while the other resources are accessible by four-wheel drive vehicle (High Winds Gun Club can only be approached within about 0.4 miles by vehicle and must be walked including a jump over two collapsed culverts). The vistas from these lodges and clubs of open water, marshland, islets, and forest covered hummocks are usually expansive and impressive. The view shed from High Winds Gun Club, Valentine's, and Green Run Lodge is exceptional. The relationship of the lodges and clubhouses to the marsh and water remain intact

¹²⁹ Ott, p. 225.

at all the identified resources (excluding Clements' Beach House, Clements' Boat House, and Musser's which this study has determined are not waterfowl hunting related).¹³⁰

2. Design specific buildings and their physical arrangement—Does the club or lodge constitute the physical makeup of a typical waterfowling facility. In addition to the clubhouse or lodge, is the decoy shed, kennels, outhouse, other outbuilding and dock extant? For example, while some of the outbuildings are in poor condition, Pope's Island Gun Club constitutes one of the few remaining complete waterfowl hunting facilities in the region.

In general waterfowl hunting lodges and clubhouses consists of a main building where the hunters slept, ate and recreated after the hunt. Each lodge and club also had (some such as Green Run Lodge and Pope's Island Gun Club still have) ancillary structures such as decoy sheds, piers, dog kennels, outhouses, generator sheds, and storage structures. The main building was usually directly accessible from the water by a boardwalk. The decoy shed and sometimes a storage shed were often located at or near the dock. The other ancillary structures and dog kennels were usually behind and on the side of the main structure so as not to obstruct the water view.

All of the lodges and clubhouses were usually built of wood. On Assateague Island, as was customary for the region, the recycling and moving of structures over time was a consequence of creative resourcefulness and financial necessity. Shantyboats, life-saving station buildings and other structures were typically reused so that a hodge-podge appearance was not uncommon. Green Run Lodge especially exhibits this heterogeneous mixture, while Pope's Island Gun Club appears more homogenous.

All the identified resources on Assateague Island functioned as hunting lodges and clubhouses (excluding Clements' Beach House, Clements' Boat House, and Musser's which this study has determined are not waterfowl hunting related) throughout their use and were never adapted for a different use. Bob-O-Del Gun Club and Pope's Island Gun Club retain remarkable original fabric such as beaded tongue-and-grove paneling on the interior. Pope's Island even retains what appears to be original electrical wiring and fixtures. A few plastic decoys were still in the decoy shed at Bob-O-Del Gun Club and Pope's Island Gun Club. Some furniture remains in Pope's Island Gun Club including sofa, chairs and even a mounted fish and goose. The wall mounted gun racks are also still intact there.

3. Association With Significant Events—Assateague Island was considered up and down the Atlantic seaboard as a noted waterfowl hunting area. Did the club or lodge play a significant role in the waterfowl hunting history of the region. For example, Green Run Lodge was the largest waterfowl hunting lodge operating in the region from the 1940s to 1970s. Its "Sunday Brunch Fly In" was especially famous with patrons flying in from all over the Mid-Atlantic sector.

The effort of hunting lodges and clubs to maintain high quality hunting for its patrons meant that conservation of waterfowl was important to their survival. These efforts lead to the preservation of much of the marshes and waterfowl habitat on Assateague Island which eventually became

¹³⁰ Hau, and Eyring.

part of the National Seashore. It can therefore be argued that the waterfowl hunting industry on Assateague helped preserve and make easier the efforts to create Assateague Island National Seashore.

4. Association With Significant Persons—Did any famous person or persons own, become members or guests at any of these waterfowl hunting clubs or lodges? Yes, the popularity of waterfowl hunting on Assateague Island attracted the likes of Johnny Unitas, a star quarterback with the Baltimore Colts National Football League, who hunted at Bob-O-Del. Al Decker, of Black and Decker, hunted at Pope’s Island Gun Club.

5. Association with Design—The Waterfowl Hunting Lodge complex is a unique assemblage of building types and cultural landscape features. Thanks to the resourceful adapting of former historic structures, Bob-O-Del retains what is believed to be the best preserved shantyboats extant. The “kitchen” section of Green Run Lodge is believed to be part of the original Green Run Life-Saving Station.

6. Summary Significance—While each lodge and clubhouse does not embody all the associated physical characteristics as outlined in this context study, they all exhibit a majority of them (excluding Clements’ Beach House, Clements’ Boat House, and Musser’s which this study has determined are not waterfowl hunting related). Of the lodges and clubhouses on Assateague Island, Bob-O-Del Gun Club, Green Run Lodge and Pope’s Island Gun Club, not only best exhibit these qualities, but are exemplary for the Mid-Atlantic Region if not for the Atlantic Coast as a whole.

INVENTORY OF RESOURCES¹³¹

Eleven (11) hunting clubs and lodges were identified by Assateague Island National Seashore as being extant on Assateague Island in 2003; ten (10) in the Maryland section and one (1) in the Virginia section of the island. Each resource is listed alphabetically below followed in parentheses by other names used for the same club or lodge, and followed in parentheses by date of construction and any major alterations. This is followed by the known use of each resource and finally by a discussion of the known history of each. A cultural landscape field survey for all these resources except Pope's Island Gun Club (Black Duck) was carried out in 2000.¹³²

Bob-O-Del Gun Club (also called Bob-O-Del Gun Club, Inc.; Bob-O-Del, Inc. after 1970; also possibly Middlemoor and General Motors Club; sometimes also spelled Bobodell or Bobodel)(1917?)

Bob-O-Del Gun Club was used as a waterfowl hunting club from at least 1937. Members bought shares in the club. Deed references frequently use the term "hunting lodge" in their description. The property was described in 1972 as "mainly for the basis of a private club, which affords rather good gunning in season, and a 'get-away' place the year around. . .Hagan's Island . . . the superior gunning site of the entire holdings . . . affords a very good hunting facility . . ."¹³³

Bob-O-Del Gun Club is named after Robert O'Dell, a surveyor. Bob-O-Del Gun Club began as a corporate-type hunting facility by members of General Motors. It cost \$80,000 to establish the club. It was sold for \$5,000 about ten years later and was then used as a membership waterfowl hunting club from at least November 16, 1937, when it was incorporated as the Bob-O-Del Gun Club. Each member paid \$500 for a share and paid another \$500 each year for maintenance. Mit Collins, John D. Marsh and William Duke were such members in 1947. A sign on the club gives the dates 1917-1992 suggesting the property was used for waterfowl hunting purposes since at least this time. A scow with enclosed cabin named *Queen Mary* was used to take hunters to and from the club. Bob-O-Del Gun Club leased a hunting camp site on Middlemoor Island in 1951 (see also other waterfowl hunting camps on Assateague Island in the foregoing section). The property was acquired by Norman C. Calhoun, Jr., in 1951 and the corporation

¹³¹ It should be pointed out that the Ocean Beach Club was a development company on Assateague Island, not a hunting club.

¹³² Jeanie Hau, and Shaun Eyring, "Cultural Landscape Field Survey for: Hunting Lodge Retention Properties Determination of Eligibility Study, Assateague Island National Seashore," 2000. Note that Mackintosh, p. 9, indicated 17 such lodges/clubs existed on the island. It is not clear how this number was derived and what might have happened to at least six of them by 2003.

¹³³ Turner P. Cropper, interview, p. 19; Charles R. "Buddy" Jenkins interview, p. 6; and "Analysis and Conclusion" in "Updated Appraisal of the Property Known as Tract 8-641 [crossed and handwritten 651] Owned by Bobodel, Inc., Assateague Island National Seashore," August 16, 1972.

forfeited on October 31, 1952, with failure to file the required annual report with the Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation. The property was conveyed to Norman E. Calhoun in 1957. Bob-O-Del Gun Club leased North Island during the waterfowl season of 1967-8. Norman E. and Sallie L. Calhoun sold the property to Bob-O-Del, Inc. for \$10.00 in 1970. Bob-O-Del, Inc. had revived and reinstated a charter in the same year with stockholders. The property was sold to the US Government in 1973. The corporation was dissolved in 1975. At that time Charles R. “Buddy” Jenkins was President, Paul Curtis Stokes, Jr., Secretary, and Richard C. Dupont, Jr., Treasurer. Visitors included numerous politicians, bankers and National Football League quarterback Johnny Unitas of Baltimore Colts fame.¹³⁴

The Bob-O-Del Gun Club incorporates two shantyboats, painted battleship gray, the hulls of which can be seen under the structure. These shantyboats were described in 1947 as follows:

*The [shanty] boat on the left contains the galley and sleeps the guides. The boat on the right sleeps six members or guests. Inside all was shining white enamel, dustless surfaces, chintz curtains, silk-hemmed fleecy blankets and freshly ironed sheets. There was running water in the bathroom and a built-in tub, gas lights throughout, a sun deck on one end of each boat and a place to sit around a coal stove on the other.*¹³⁵

When it became too expensive to maintain the two floating shantyboats they were dragged up on land and put on pilings. A living room approximately 18 by 20 feet was built in between and connecting the shantyboats. That is where the red felt-topped poker table and chairs were placed. A large mounted shark decorated the room. The living room fireplace, which anchored the lodge, is credited with saving the lodge from floating off its foundation during the storm of 1962. Originally the shantyboats were used as oyster watch houses to protect private oyster beds from oyster poachers. Individuals stayed in the watch houses twenty-four hours a day armed with shotguns and powerful lights. Nat Cole was the cook and Josh Bunting served as chief guide and caretaker at Bob-O-Del Gun Club. For his services, Bunting was given a share in the club. An African-American man named Julius also was once cooked here. Roland Earl “Fish” Powell and Turner Francis Cropper also served as guides here in 1953-4. Mitchell Parker, Josh Bunting, and Slick Bradford were guides in 1947. Bob-O-Del was apparently originally called Middlemoor which is the name of the slough that runs in front of Bob-O-Del. It is known that a hunting camp called Middlemoor existed by that name near the Bob-O-Del site in 1926 and this was leased by Bob-O-Del in 1951. Bob-O-Del Gun Club is accessible only by water. Deep water access via Middlemoor “ditch” or slough is a benefit of Bob-O-Del which

¹³⁴ Charles R. “Buddy” Jenkins interview, pp. 5, 20 and 42; Kennedy, p. C-3; J.D. Quillin and Shel Chandler III interview by Agnes Terry, February 24, 1987, p. 1; “Bob-O-Del Gun Club,” handwritten notes, no author [Sharon Ofenstein] or date [2000] given, “excerpted from files, ASIS NS;” and “Appraisal of Tract #5-422, Tract #6-539, Tract #7-460, Owners Charles J. & Robert B. Jackson . . . dated July 14, 1969, p. 18. Jenkins indicates on p. 9 that Nip Collins, publisher of the *Army Navy Magazine*, along with friends Ray Dufour, chief fund-raiser for Sen. J. Glenn Beall, and the Stewart Brothers of the Washington area took over Bob-O-Del Gun Club in the 1950s until circa 1965 when Jenkins and Paul Stokes bought them out. They sought out other share holders including Chris Short a pitcher for the Philadelphia Phillies. “Gun Clubs, p. 19, states that Bob-O-Del was originally called “General Motors Club.”

¹³⁵ Kennedy, p. C-3.

many of the other camps lacked. Thousands of bushels of oyster shell were dumped here to raise the land for construction of Bob-O-Del Gun Club to take advantage of this deep water access.¹³⁶

Charles R. “Buddy” Jenkins, a former owner, stated:

*I think what was unique about Bob-O-Del was the ability to have the benefit of big area able to have all the different types of ducks come into this one geographical area. We had a small island that was part of Bob-O-Del called Hagan’s Island. And that’s where every day at 3, 3:30 in the afternoon, a flight of 40 or 50 geese would come, just like clockwork. So you had geese. You had the offshore blinds, the deep water were where you would have the flock ducks. And then in the rest of the marshy areas, you had your ponds and little nicks in the curvature of the marsh where you’d have your puddle ducks. So you really had something that a lot of places don’t have. Some don’t have any goose shooting, some don’t have any deep water.*¹³⁷

Bunting’s Gunning Lodge (also called Bunting’s and Gene Bunting’s Gunning Lodge) (circa 1942 with addition circa 1951)

Within the 1968 property appraisal terms are used such as “existing lodge,” “hunting locations,” “lodge sites,” and “hunting club site.”¹³⁸ One account states that Noah Hudson built Bunting’s as a commercial hunting lodge; hunting parties were his livelihood. This clearly indicates Bunting’s was used as and considered a hunting lodge with the potential for other hunting sites. Furthermore the Deed of Retention granted rights to “off-shore gunning privileges,” further indicating waterfowl hunting activities were carried out here.¹³⁹

The 1968 appraisal states that the wood frame lodge was “orig. 26 yrs; add. 19 yrs” [original structure 26 years old in 1968 and addition 19 years old in 1968] placing its original date of construction as circa 1942.¹⁴⁰ If this age is correct the lodge was built by Noah J. Hudson.

¹³⁶ Dennard Conwell “Connie” Purnell, interview by Sharon Ofenstein, July 26, 2000, summary of interview in “Background Info,”file, Assateague Island National Seashore headquarters; Charles R. “Buddy” Jenkins interview, pp. 5-8; Turner P. Cropper interview, pp. 17 and 20-1; Dennard Conwell “Connie Purnell,” interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 1, 2003, pp. 35-6; Harry J. Trimble interview transcript by Patricia Russell, April 30, 2003, p. 28-9; Maxwell “Mac” O. Simpson interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 24, pp. 57-8; David Cropper interview p. 46; Kennedy, p. C-3; J.D. Quillin and Shel Chandler III interview, p. 1; and Fehr *et al.*, pp. 12, 68 and 71; see also figure 6, p. 15 which shows Middlemoor Island as indicated on Martenet’s “Map of Maryland” (1855) and figure 37, p. 70 and figure 38, p. 72 for smaller scale location maps. Mel Olsen, in his interview with Ralph Eshelman on May 15, 2003, states that the Bob-O-Del Gun Club boats were originally canal boats; but this does not agree with all other accounts and is probably inaccurate information.

¹³⁷ Charles R. “Buddy” Jenkins interview, p. 38.

¹³⁸ “Appraisal Report, Tract 4-343,” by Gardiner, Trice & Pratt, August 7, 1968.

¹³⁹ “Agreement Rules Governing Retention Tract 4-343,” dated January 9, 1973; and Dennard Conwell “Connie” Purnell, interview by Sharon Ofenstein, July 26, 2000, summary of interview in “Background Info,”file.

¹⁴⁰ “Appraisal Report, Tract 4-343,” by Gardiner, Trice & Pratt, August 7, 1968.

Hunting was conducted here in the mid to late 1930s on a rather lavish shantyboat before the lodge was built. The lodge is of wood frame built with wood shingle siding with white trim and a green asphalt shingle roof resembling a Carolina beach house. It is a one-story structure except for the circa 1951 two-story tower-like addition. One account claims this structure was a Sears and Roebuck prefab kit house. A duck pen for live decoys was once located near the club house. The property was then purchased by Clayton Bunting in 1945. Bunting entertained clients of his nursery company in Delaware such as the owners of The Sears Roebuck Company. By 1968 the 375-acre tract consisted of only 152.85 acres of fast land.¹⁴¹ A fireplace and picture window were added to the lodge in 1972. The roof was damaged in May 1975 and a small access bridge washed out in 1977. Dave Devine resided here in 1978. Complaints about rabbit and deer hunters were lodged by caretaker William Bayard in December 1979. Vandals destroyed two entry doors in August 1980.¹⁴² Eugene Bunting, Clayton Bunting's son, became the owner in 1964 when Clayton's widow sold it to Eugene for \$1.00. Eugene was the owner at the time that the US Government obtained the property in 1968. Bunting's Gunning Lodge employed up to five people at one time. Chester Lawrence of Baltimore was cook and "Dink" Bunting was caretaker. "Dink" would also cook and houseclean.¹⁴³

Clements' Beach House (1953; rebuilt 1968)

Clements' Beach House was used as a recreational beach house; waterfowl hunting was rarely if ever conducted here; though some deer hunting was carried out. Bob Clements, "never hunted a lot but had friends that used to come down and hunt."¹⁴⁴ There is only limited if any use of this structure as a waterfowl hunting camp and therefore the deletion of this resource is recommended.

The Clements' Beach House was built in 1953 by Wylie Maddox. He sold his one-story wood frame house built on treated wood pilings and 29.44 acre tract to Robert S. and Mary J. Clements in 1964. Bob Clements owned the Clements Insurance Company and later the Clements Yacht Insurance Company of Alexandria, Virginia. The house has undergone "constant rebuilding,

¹⁴¹ Memorandum from George A. Pastrick to Land Acquisition Officer, dated August 22, 1968; and Dennard Conwell "Connie" Purnell, interview by Sharon Ofenstein, July 26, 2000, summary of interview in "Background Info," file; and Dennard Conwell "Connie Purnell," interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 1, 2003, p. 17.

¹⁴² "Bunting," handwritten notes, no author [Sharon Ofenstein] or date [2000] given.

¹⁴³ Frank Hodgens interview, September 15, 2000, Shantyboat Documentation Project, pp. 2 and 4; Dennard Conwell "Connie Purnell," interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 1, 2003, pp. 18 and 21; and Harry J. Trimble interview transcript by Patricia Russell, April 30, 2003, p. 11 and 20.

¹⁴⁴ "Agreement Tracts 8-573 and 8-612 Robert S. Clements and Mary Juanita Guess Clements," Liber 395, page 549-50; Dennard Conwell "Connie Purnell," interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 1, 2003, p. 39; and Dennard Conwell "Connie" Purnell, interview by Sharon Ofenstein, July 26, 2000, summary of interview in "Background Info," file. See also Purnell in his May 1, 2003 interview, p. 39-40. Harry J. Trimble interview transcript by Patricia Russell, April 30, 2003, p. 24, states he never saw Clements hunt but would let guests come down to hunt - not clear if this is deer or waterfowl hunting.

rennovation, [sic] and improvement.”¹⁴⁵ The structure was described in 1968 as a “newly rebuilt, rennovated [sic] two story frame structure” on pilings. The property and structure was purchased by the US Government in 1973 with 25 year right to continue use of the house and deer hunting during legal hunting season. A breach in the artificial dune directly in front of the house was filled by the park in 1974. Some wave overwash of the primary dune was experienced in 1978. During a storm in 1980 unknown persons sought shelter in the house. State Police allowed the intruders to stay during the storm but the intruders caused damage to the house. During the 1985 Hurricane Gloria the seawall was damaged; the house was looted the same year.¹⁴⁶

The Clements’ Boat House is a boat shelter for vessels used to access the Clements’ Beach House property. Above the covered boat slip is an apartment. As far as can be ascertained, this property was never used as or part of a waterfowl hunting camp. There is no known use of this structure as a waterfowl hunting camp and therefore it is recommended that this resource be deleted from this listing.

The Clements’ Boat House was built in February of 1971 on a 0.46 acre tract.¹⁴⁷ The wood frame boat house and second story apartment, built over tidal waters, is located approximately 0.3 miles west from the beach house.

¹⁴⁵ “Description of Property,” Gardiner, Trice & Pratt, Appraisal of Property Known as Tracts 8-573 and 8-612 Owned by, Robert S. Clements, & Mary Juanita G. Clements, his wife, Assateague Island National Seashore Purchase Order No. 7:993:69-67, dated November 11, 1968; and Dennard Conwell “Connie Purnell,” interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 1, 2003, p. 39.

¹⁴⁶ “Clements Beach House,” handwritten notes, no author [Sharon Ofenstein] or date [2000] given, “excerpted from files, ASIS NS.”

¹⁴⁷ “Clements Beach House.”

Green Run Lodge (also called Green Run Hunting Club and Lodge, Green Run Association and Jackson Brothers)(built from part of Green Run Inlet Life-Saving Station built 1875-6)(1954-5?)¹⁴⁸

The property was used for commercial waterfowl hunting, game hunting, and fishing. Green Run Lodge was described as “One of the Finest Commercial Clubs in the Country” and “one of the finest gunning spots in the East.” It was considered the largest commercial gunning club in Maryland. After the move of the Green Run Lodge from its original location to its present location in 1954 the property was used as a private hunting membership club. An ad which appeared in 1968 stated, “DUCKS Hunt on the Famed Waters of Chincoteague Bay – Assateague Island – Maryland Modern Lodge--Excellent Guides--Supers Blinds. . .Green Run Lodge.” An appraisal dated July 7, 1969, states, “The entire property of all three tracts including the lodge has been and is considered a commercial gunning club, eventhough [sic] the owners prefer to use the facilities a considerable portion of the time, for themselves rather than renting any and all of the operation during the entire gunning season of approximately 70 days. . .Tract 6-539 known as ‘Pirate Islands’ together offer gunning areas for all types of water fowl from the Canvas Back and Blue Bill Duck in the deep water areas to the goose and brant shooting in the shallow water areas.” A second appraisal dated July 14, 1969, stated that the type of property is “Commercial/Private Gunning Lodge/known as Green Run Lodge.” Each parcel is described and identified when sunken duck blinds, bulkhead sunken shore blinds, portable duck blinds, offshore blinds or boat hides were present as well as the number of each. For example for tract 6-539 there were reported six shore blinds, eight portable blinds, and three offshore blinds. This same tract offers “some of the finest diving duck shooting found anywhere on or near Assateague Island.” The structure is referred to as “a one and two story frame clubhouse.” The quality of shooting for each island which is a part of this property was listed as “Excellent.” Another updated appraisal dated August 17, 1972, states that, “This property is the only commercial gunning enterprise operating under permit of the County, in the entire area. For many years the Jackson brothers, owners of the property. . .have operated a very extensive commercial venture in gunning, fishing, clamming etc . . . the lodge is now equipped to accommodate [sic] eight (8) gunners” There exist four layout sketches of Green Run Lodge prepared from memory in 1997.¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁸ David Cropper has memorabilia from Green Run including photographs of the life-saving station, a branding iron for the Green Run Association before it became the Green Run Lodge, decoys so branded and other items such as receipts. Bill Hastings has furniture including a drop leaf table from the living room of one of the original shantyboats.

¹⁴⁹ “Green Run Lodge: Sportsmans Paradise, Ocean City Maryland, ‘One of the Finest Commercial Clubs in the Country,’” undated [1949-50?] brochure, original in “Clubs - Green Run Lodge;” “Gun Clubs,” p. 6; “Appraisal of the Property Known as Tracts 5-422, 6-539 and 7-460, Owned by Charles J. and Robert B. Jackson Assateague Island National Seashore, Contract No. 14-10-7-993-371,” dated July 7, 1969; “Appraisal of Tract #5-422, Tract #6-539, Tract #7-460, Owners Charles J. & Robert B. Jackson . . . dated July 14, 1969; and “Updated Appraisal of the Property Known as Tracts 5-422, 6-539 & 7-460, Owned by Charles J. & Robert B. Jackson, A/K/A Green Run Association, Assateague Island National Seashore,” dated August 17, 1972, p. 12; ad *Forest and Steam*, October 1968. The 1997 sketches are dated December 27, 1997, only identified as “Bill” [Bill Purnell?], copies are in the Shantyboat Documentation Project files. “Gun Clubs,” p. 6 states Green Run Lodge began as a private club in 1920. The Green Run property holdings are shown on Assateague Island tax map, William D. Pitts Collection, Worcester County Library, Snow Hill, Maryland.

A brochure, believed to be dated 1949-50, describes the lodge as follows: “accommodations for 28 persons and facilities have been installed for men and women . . . inside showers and toilets, recreational rooms, with fire-place; billiard and card tables . . . large Electric Plant for light and power Bed lights for night reading with press button in each room for service to guests . . . modern sanitary sewerage system . . . the superintendent and his wife, guides and porters cater to the pleasure of guests. The Club also has a chef that knows Maryland cooking and how good food should be served . . . prepares and packs hot lunches for the Gunners Porter Service is maintained at the Lodge, and not one item of service is missing Guides are all experienced . . . have followed the hunting business all their lives . . . All guides and employees are housed and roomed separately, hence their early morning preparations to go to the blinds do not disturb the guests until breakfast call is made The Lodge has over 500 wooden Geese and Duck decoys; several motor boats, out-board motor boats, and several skiffs to haul decoys to the blinds. The Lodge also has one light draft motor boat, which has a covered cabin with a very light draught [sic], built just for going to and from the shore and Island blinds. . .Green Run Lodge has some 32 shooting blinds We have Chesapeake Bay Retrievers at our Lodge. Guests are permitted to bring free of charge their Retrievers to our Lodge Thousands of Black Ducks are hatched and reared in the Lakes at present, in fact more Black Ducks are reared at Green Run Lodge, than are legally killed there in Season . . . rates are \$30.00 per day per guest for Duck and Goose shooting. This price includes Guides, motor boats to and from the blinds, room and board, including hot lunches and all conveniences thereto attached, also meeting you and party on mainland by motor boat or car, at a place we will designate Our Airport is approximately 5,000 feet long and 2,500 feet wide There have been seventy-nine airplanes on our Strip at one time.¹⁵⁰

One former hunter at Green Run states, “Green Run was an unbelievable spot. I mean the Pirate Islands that run out there were absolutely unbelievable at times. I mean, you know, it was just a perfect spot and everything was great.”¹⁵¹

Green Run Inlet was first hunted from floating shantyboats about 1924 before they were pulled up on land in 1946 to form the first hunting lodge. The shantyboats were built near Girdeltree, Maryland, in 1923. The cook and guides slept in one shantyboat while the bigger fancier shantyboat with varnished tongue-and-groove paneling was where the guests stayed and ate. When the land based clubhouse was built one shanty was still retained as the kitchen for a time. The property includes three tracts: tract 5-422 consisting of nine parcels in “Fox Hill Levels,” tract 6-539 consisting of eight islands known as the “Pirate Islands,” and tract 7-460 consisting of land on both sides of Green Run Cove. The Green Run Association, a group of sportsmen

¹⁵⁰ “Green Run Lodge: Sportsmans Paradise, Ocean City Maryland, ‘One of the Finest Commercial Clubs in the Country,’” undated [1949-50?] brochure. “Gun Clubs,” p. 6 states a 1946 brochure also indicates guest fees were \$30.00 per quest per day. An earlier brochure in the files of Assateague Island National Seashore which contains a map dated 1946 lists “accommodations for 22 persons.” Maxwell “Mac” O. Simpson interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 24, p. 28-9 states 75 airplanes at one time for the Sunday fly in brunch at Green Run Lodge while J.D. Quillin and Shel Chandler III interview by Agnes Terry, February 24, 1987, p. 2, states 175 airplanes - surely an over statement..

¹⁵¹ George Anthony Purnell interview, p. 4.

from New York, bought ten parcels of land from Frederick Gunby Bell in 1926, two parcels from Ocean Beach Land and Investment Company in 1927, three parcels from Showell in 1930 and two from Powell in 1930. The entire property consisted of several thousand acres including Showell Island and Swan Island which were sold to Frederick Gunby Bell in 1939. Bell sold the property to brothers Charles J. Jackson, Robert B. Jackson, and Harry Lee Jackson in 1946. Charles Jackson sold tract 7-460 with the present lodge to South Ocean Beach, Inc. in 1952. The first lodge was burnt sometime between 1952 and 1954. The Jacksons bought the tract back in 1954. It is believed this is when the life-saving station kitchen part of the original lodge was moved and incorporated into the new lodge. The Green Run Association now became Green Run Lodge. The cook was named "Pork Chop." He worked for the club around twenty years. The Jackson's sold their property to the US Government in 1972. In 1975 the Jacksons hosted a lunch for sportswriters and wives who visited Assateague Island. Cullen S. Jenkins (1907-?) leased Green Run Lodge for several years but the time of his lease is uncertain.¹⁵²

The first land based Green Run Lodge was established in 1946 on the north side of Birches Creek about one mile north of the present lodge. It incorporated a shantyboat used for living quarters attached on the east side of the main building. The life saving station kitchen, tool house and utility buildings were among six outbuildings located on the west side of the lodge placed so as to form a semicircle. The hunting lodge operated similarly to a casino with slot machines, roulette wheel, craps table, poker tables and pinball machines. The Jacksons also operated a casino in Ocean City. The interior was paneled in knotty pine and the ten-foot wide fireplace had half dollars and silver dollars embedded in the mortar. Otter skins also adorned the walls. It was described as "ritzy" by "Connie" Purnell. A large board with hooks for hanging up ducks, reading "Green Run Lodge" and with the year date was used for photographic opportunities. Two accounts claim Leon Ackerman, one of the owners, was so disgusted by the bickering between the members over whether to keep the lodge for gambling or hunting purposes that he ordered it burned down. After the first lodge was burned sometime between 1952 and 1954 the second lodge at its present site was created in part by moving the "kitchen" section to house the guides and cook. This new site is about 1,000 feet due south of Scott's Ocean House hotel site which operated from 1869 to possibly 1915 on Green Run Bay. An appraisal of the new lodge dated July 7, 1969, states that, "the hunting lodge . . . was originally a two-story Coast Guard Station [life-saving station] and from this, two additions have been made, one a 25' x 33' living room, bedroom addition with an interior porch of 16' x 17' tying the two buildings together The roof of the old Coast Guard Station [life-saving station] is cedar shingle, while the 25' x 33' addition has asphalt shingle roof and the middle portion metal roof. The game room had mounted deer heads, pheasants, and ducks on the walls."¹⁵³

¹⁵² Maxwell "Mac" O. Simpson interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 24, p. 32; Bill Hastings email to Patricia Russell dated November 22, 2003; Harold Jackson Rayne, Jr., interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 8, 2003, pp. 6 and 8; "Jackson Brothers," handwritten notes, no author [Sharon Ofenstein] or date [2000] given, "excerpted from files, ASIS NS;" "General Management Plan, Assateague Island National Seashore/ Maryland-Virginia," p. 25 states the life-saving station was decommissioned in 1937 and sold. Therefore the date of construction of the lodge, if indeed it was constructed from parts of this station, must have been in 1937 or soon after; Dennard Conwell "Connie" Purnell, interview by Sharon Ofenstein, July 26, 2000; Harry Birch interview by Ralph Eshelman, April 15, 2003, summary of interview in project files; Turner P. Cropper interview, p. 35; and Charles R. "Buddy" Jenkins interview, pp. 3 and 39.

¹⁵³ Richard A. Knecht, and M.E. Colleen Lazenby, *Assateague Island National Seashore: Historical Archeological*

During the 1990s there were several reported violations including: baiting, cutting large bushes to construct blinds, lack of needed permits, use of lead shot, exceeding daily bag limits, lying to rangers about numbers of birds shot, skeet shooting which resulted in clay pigeon, steel and lead shot debris, domestic violence, damage to lodge, guests with felony warrants, marijuana smoking, failure to turn in log sheets on the agreed schedule, failure to properly tag birds, drinking while hunting, and illegal dumping of trash. In 1994 the retention rights of the property were threatened to be withdrawn. The owners agreed to limit hunting to a few responsible quests; but none of their friends. Green Run Lodge had as many as thirty guides, fifty gunning members and two or three cooks. Harold Jackson Rayne, Sr. was the manager at one point. Wardie Jarvis, with a wooden leg, was the cook as well as Jackson Bunting, and “Pork Chop,” an African-American. G. Troy Purnell served as caretaker of the property. Guides included Josh Bunting, Fred Bunting, Roland Earl “Fish” Powell, and Max Simpson. Green Run Lodge was frequented by New York stockbrokers who came south by train to Snow Hill and then by boat to the lodge.¹⁵⁴

Survey, McCormick, Taylor & Associates, Inc., 1985, p. 46-48; Harry S. Birch, interview transcript by Patricia Russell, October 8, 2003, pp. 4 and 18; Charles R. “Buddy” Jenkins interview, p. 39; “Appraisal of the Property Known as Tracts 5-422, 6-539 and 7-460, Owned by Charles J. and Robert B. Jackson Assateague Island National Seashore, Contract No. 14-10-7-993-371,” dated July 7, 1969; “Appraisal of Tract #5-422, Tract #6-539, Tract #7-460, Owners Charles J. & Robert B. Jackson . . . dated July 14, 1969, p. 14; George Anthony Purnell interview, p. 11; and Dennard Conwell “Connie” Purnell, interview by Sharon Ofenstein, July 26, 2000; Maxwell “Mac” O. Simpson interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 24, p. 33; J.D. Quillin and Shel Chandler III interview, p. 1; David Cropper interview, pp. 3 and 23-24; and Dennard Conwell “Connie Purnell,” interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 1, 2003, pp. 24-5, 27-30 and 43. Purnell states that Leon Ackerman owned the property when the fire occurred between 1952-54. Roland Earl “Fish” Powell interview, p. 7 states that Green Run incorporated two shantyboats and on p. 8 he claims Jackson Bunting was cook. Harry J. Trimble interview transcript, pp. 9 and 44, David Cropper interview pp. 3-4, 6 and 14; J.D. Quillin and Shel Chandler III interview, p. 6; and Bill Hastings email to Patricia Russell dated November 22, 2003 all refer to the Life-Saving section of the lodge as the “kitchen.” This has been a long term use by Park Service personnel; Carl Zimmerman email to Ralph Eshelman, April 28, 2003. The Bill Hastings drawing, sheet 3 of 4. clearly shows the tool house, utility building and kitchen building as originally being part of the former life-saving station which were moved and used as out buildings for the first lodge. Sheet 4 of 4 clearly shows “original boathouse” as living quarters of original lodge. A map in the undated but believed to be 1946 brochure contains a map dated 1946 which clearly shows the lodge located on the north side of “Birch’s Creek,” original in files of Assateague Island National Seashore. Trimble states the same on pp. 10 and 40. Maxwell states on p. 43 that part of a “floating shanty” was incorporated into the lodge though we saw no evidence of this during our visit; he probably was referring to the first lodge, not the current lodge.

¹⁵⁴ George Anthony Purnell interview, pp. 8 and 11; and Harold Jackson Rayne, Jr. interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 8, 2003, pp. 3-4 and 8. Maxwell “Mac” O. Simpson interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 24, p. 30 states that there were as many as 45 gunners and a dozen guides at one time at Green Run Lodge, p. 42 states that at least three individuals worked in the kitchen and total staff of “at least 15,” p. 37 talks about cook named “Pork Chop.”

Green Run Inlet Life-Saving Station was built 1875-76 built from plans drawn in 1873 and known as the “1874-Type.” A total of 25 stations were built using this plan including Assateague Beach, Smith Island, Cape Henry, Dam Neck Mills, and False Cape, all in Virginia. Green Run Inlet was the only station built to this plan in Maryland. The 1874-Type is a combination of Carpenter Gothic and Stick Style characterized by wood bracketing in the roof gables and eaves, diagonal boards applied over horizontal or vertical siding and occasional use of side buttresses. The Green Run Inlet Life-Saving Station was somewhat unusual in that a shed-like roof extension on one side afforded housing for a second lifesaving boat. The station was decommissioned in 1937 and sold.¹⁵⁵

MARYLAND
DUCKS
 Hunt on the Famed Waters of
CHINCOTEAGUE BAY –
 ASSATEAGUE ISLAND – MARYLAND
 MODERN LODGE--EXCELLENT
 GUIDES--SUPER BLINDS
 PACKAGE RATE-- 40.00 per Day
 per Person – Min. 3 Day – 4 People
GREEN RUN LODGE
 OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND 21842
 301-289-7874 301-289-9176

(Field and Stream, October 1968)

High Winds Gun Club (also called Riddle Club, Riddle’s Place, Bounds Place, and High Winds Ducking and Goosing Club)(1922-4)(Wicomico County Historic Site WO-274)

From at least 1920 until 1993 this property has been used as a “gunning club.” A deed dated 1968 states that the grantors “reserve the right of use and occupancy for non-commercial residential purposes and hunting purposes.” Appraisal Supplement for tract 2-360 dated 1968 states, “retention of 22.03 acres for hunting purposes.” Appraisal Supplement for tract 2-365 dated 1968 states that, “This property is an ideal hunting club holding. . .plus. . .dozens of shooting sites.” A hunting trip in 1991 was described as follows, “Most of the waterfowl hunting is on offshore islands in brush blinds erected on pilings. The principal waterfowl species are Canada geese, brant, and black ducks. We hunted in three blinds with a spread of about 75 decoys each. . .we usually manage to collect our limit of two geese, two brant, and one black

¹⁵⁵ Ralph Hanks, Wick York, and Lisa Woo Shanks, *The US Life-Saving Service: Heroes, Rescues and Architecture of the Early Coast Guard* (Petaluma, California: Costano Books, 1966), pp. 217-18. A photograph of the Green Run Inlet Life-Saving Station can be found on page 220. A 1919 photograph belonging to David Cropper clearly shows a multi-gable-ended two-story building behind the main life-saving structure. The double windows on the lower level and horizontal window in one gable end appear similar if not identical to that section of Green Run Lodge. While a dormer window is also present on the Green Run Lodge “kitchen” section, the second gable end is missing. Bearss, “General Background Study and Historical Base Map: Assateague Island National Seashore Maryland-Virginia,” p. 44 and “General Management Plan, Assateague Island National Seashore/ Maryland-Virginia,” p. 25 states that the Green Run Inlet Life-Saving Station was decommissioned in 1937 and “the buildings sold and moved to the mainland.” While some buildings of the station may have been moved to the mainland, at least one portion of the station complex was adapted into the first Green Run Lodge and then later moved to the present lodge complex. A careful examination of the two-story section of the lodge shows wood shingle siding on the sides of the dormer window and wood shingle roof. White paint is still present on the wood siding. This section inside on the second floor retains original tongue-and-groove paneling either vanished or painted white. The stair rail and banister may be original as well.

duck.”¹⁵⁶

High Winds Gun Club was originally named Riddle Club, after Samuel D. Riddle, but later was changed to High Winds “because we had hoped forever that it would have high winds” -- which is good for duck hunting. The property on which the High Winds Gun Club now sits was patented by Lewis C. Dilworth. The exact date is unknown due to a fire in the Worcester County Courthouse in the 1870s. Dilworth sold the land to Benjamin F. Vosburgh and Charles P. Tucker in 1887. Vosburgh sold the land to Samuel D. Riddle in 1920. Riddle was owner of nearby Riddle Farms and world famous race horse Man-O-War. He supposedly hunted from a horse and buggy in the shallow waters around his property. The deed of sale mentions buildings but their location and use is unknown. Between 1922 and 1924, Riddle acquired additional land both by patent and purchase, mostly small islands purchased from Vosburgh. It was during this period that Riddle is believed to have built a “Gunning Club.” Upon Riddle’s death in 1942 the club was purchased by Thomas B. McCabe, who later became President and then Chairman of the Board of Scott Paper Company. McCabe was active in Republican politics and served on the Federal Reserve Board. Richard Nixon, a friend of McCabe, visited McCabe’s second property on several occasions at the north end of Assateague Island. McCabe sold the High Winds Gun Club to E. Raymond Bounds in 1948. Bounds sold the property in 1952 to Francis S. Townsend, William H. Scott, Harry Aydelotte Jarvis, Mitchell D. Clogg, Walter T. Savage, and Daniel Trimper III. Clogg, his wife, two small children, and two other guests tragically drowned in a boating accident on their return from High Winds Gun Club in 1955. Clogg’s share was bought by the remaining five partners. The property was acquired by the US Government in 1968 with a 25-year retention of hunting rights.¹⁵⁷

The single-story waterfowl hunting club was built between 1922-4 using at least two 40-foot shantyboats which were joined together to form a hunting club consisting of a dining room, kitchen, mud room and several bedrooms totaling seventeen rooms. About the same time an octagonal living room was built on the west side of the northernmost shantyboat. The slightly

¹⁵⁶ “Warranty Deed” Tracts No . ASIS 2-360 & 2-365, between Harry A. Jarvis et al. and United States of America, dated June 27, 1968; “Appraisal Supplement Retention for Term of 25 Years, tract 2-360, dated April 24, 1968; “Appraisal Supplement Retention for Term of 25 Years, tract 2-365, dated April 24, 1968; Ricks E. Savage, letter to unknown individual “Bill,” dated January 13, 1993, which researches the title history of High Winds Gun Club; Touart, *Along the Seaboard Side: The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland* , 1994, p. 306, indicates that the property was used for hunting purposes as early as 1887, Touart also indicates the age of the club house as “Circa 1900-1920” but gives no justification for this date; and Peter McLain, “Old hunting clubs should be saved,” *Asbury Park Press*, January 13, 1991. The High Winds Gun Club property holdings are shown on Assateague Island tax map, William D. Pitts Collection, Worcester County Library, Snow Hill, Maryland. Maxwell “Mac” O. Simpson interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 24, p. 4, states the club may have begun as early as 1902.

¹⁵⁷ Francis J. Townsend interview, pp. 10-1; Harold Jackson Rayne, Jr., interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 8, 2003, p. 14; Ricks E. Savage, letter to unknown individual “Bill,” dated January 13, 1993, which researches the title history of High Winds Gun Club; Bill Perry, ““High Winds’ hunting lodge will be only an Assateague memory in June,” *Sunday Star*, January 7, 1993; Peter McLain, “High Winds Club fading into history,” undated, unknown newspaper article but probably *Asbury Park Press*; Touart, *Along the Seaboard Side: The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland*, 1994 , p. 306; and “High Winds,” handwritten notes, no author [Sharon Ofenstein] or date [2000] given, “excerpted from files ASIS NS.” Dennard Conwell “Connie Purnell,” interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 1, 2003, p. 14 states John Dale Showell was also a member of High Winds.

arched roof construction of the shantyboats can still be discerned on the exterior. Inside the beaded tongue-and-groove ceilings and walls of the shantyboat rooms are still intact. The club was described in 1968 as, “very irregular in shape, and containing a total area of 2,320 square feet. This lodge contains nine (9) bedrooms, a living room, dining room, kitchen, pantry, . . . two storage rooms, plus an octagon-shaped clubroom. . . The interior walls and ceiling are of tongue and groove wainscoat [sic].” This wainscot is believed to be original fabric to the shantyboat period. The club used a battery for electricity and an in ground cistern to store water.¹⁵⁸

Jackson Bunting and his two sons-in-law were guides. Maxwell “Mac” O. Simpson served as cook and guide at High Winds. One member of the club was Harry Aydelotte Jarvis, president and CEO of the oil producing section of Esso (now Exxon) in Venezuela. He spent six to eight weeks at the club each season. He brought along Father Gill, his African-American servant, who he would summon from a buzzer in the dining room. On at least one occasion High Winds took in over bookings from Green Run Lodge.¹⁵⁹ One blind located south of the club and easily reached by walking through the marsh, not requiring a boat, was called “Social Security” blind because it was so easy to get to.¹⁶⁰

When the 25-year retention rights expired in 1993 there was a flurry of activity to try to preserve High Winds Gun Club. Several newspaper articles appeared questioning the future of the club. Former members of the club such as Ricks and Diane Savage wrote letters to politicians. Private citizens from around the nation also wrote letters; one even to then Vice President Al Gore. Historic preservation and educational groups such as Preservation Maryland, The Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, and Salisbury University endorsed letters of support for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. A nomination was written and recommended by the Governor’s Consulting Committee – Maryland’s State Review Board in 1995. Over the objection of the National Park Service the property was determined eligible by the Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer in June 1996, but the Keeper of the National Register in

¹⁵⁸ Touart, *Along the Seaboard Side: The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland*, 1994 , p. 306; Paul Touart, “High Winds,” unapproved draft National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1994; Peter McLain, “High Winds Club fading into history;” “Farewell to old hunting lodges: Bishops Head and High Winds lodges bound for different futures,” *Salisbury Daily Times*, May 9, 1993; Dennard Conwell “Connie Purnell,” interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 1, 2003, pp. 9-10 and 36; Francis J. Townsend interview, pp. 11 and 15; Harry J. Trimble interview transcript by Patricia Russell, April 30, 2003, p. 14; Maxwell “Mac” O. Simpson interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 24, p. 5; and “Appraisal Supplement Retention for Term of 25 Years, tract 2-365, dated April 24, 1968, p. 6. Note that McLain claims there were three shantyboats used to form this club while Purnell claims “three or four” while all other sources claim only two. Persons like Townsend, pp. 11 and 15, who hunted there, should know; we therefore assume the actual number of shantyboats is two. Harold Jackson Rayne, Jr., interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 8, 2003, pp. 14-15 gives a description of High Winds. On p. 24-25 he states only two shantyboats were incorporated into the complex.

¹⁵⁹ Francis J. Townsend interview, pp. 32-33 and 39; Harold Jackson Rayne, Jr., interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 8, 2003, p. 11; Maxwell “Mac” O. Simpson interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 24, p. 4; and Dorothy Pruitt Hudson interview, p. 22. Hudson states Bunting was cook so he may have been both cook and a guide. Hudson states George Hastings was a guide - whether this was one of Bunting’s sons-in-law is not known.

¹⁶⁰ J.D. Quillin and Shel Chandler III interview, p. 9.

September 1996 overruled this recommendation and determined the property not eligible.¹⁶¹

The reviewer of the National Register documentation determined that,

High Winds is a hunting lodge constructed ca. 1920 when two (or three) floating hunting shanties were removed from the water and combined to form this seventeen room building. The documentation submitted with this DOE establishes the importance of early 20th century floating hunting shanties. There is no evidence that removing them from the water and combining them on land into hunting lodges was an important practice in the culture of the area. In essence, removing them from the water and combining them into one building has destroyed the integrity of the shanties which can no longer convey their importance as described in the draft nomination form.¹⁶²

While this opinion may have been an appropriate response at the time, research since then has brought to light additional information on this subject. At least five gunning lodges on Assateague Island either began as and/or incorporated shantyboats into their construction. At Bob-O-Del Gun Club and High Winds Gun Club two shantyboats were brought up on dry land, expanded, and used as lodging for waterfowl gunning parties. Bunting's Gunning Lodge started as a shantyboat in the 1930s but was replaced by a non-shantyboat structure circa 1942. Green Run Lodge and Egging Beach Gunning Club started by using floating shantyboats before land based club houses were built. At Green Run Lodge a floating shantyboat was also incorporated into the first land lodge. Furthermore, boats are frequently moved and there are many examples of historic boats now moved and stored on land which are listed on the National Register.

High Winds Gunning Club

Of the bay called Chincoteague
Part of barrier reef or island
Named by Indians Assateague
Is a gun club and a haven
For its members, there are five,
Wives despair when comes the season
During which the hunters thrive.

On a sand hill on the island
Is the house of this fine club
Equipped with heat and running water
Mostly hall by someone dubbed,
It will sleep fourteen in comfort
In a pinch another seven.

¹⁶¹ Pete McLain, "Old hunting clubs should be saved," *Asbury Park Press*, dated January 13, 1991; William M. Feinberg letter to Vice President Al Gore, January 7, 1993; Diane Scott Savage, letter to Congressman Wayne T. Gilchrest, April 21, 1995; Fulton P. Jeffers letter to J. Rodney Little, Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer, September 18, 1995; and "E.O. 11593 Determination of Eligibility Notification," High Winds, dated September 5, 1996.

¹⁶² "E.O. 11593 Determination of Eligibility Notification," High Winds, dated September 5, 1996.

“In my house are many mansions,”
To the members this is heaven.

The clubhouse is crudely furnished
Full of boots, decoys and dogs,
The living room contains a fireplace
Every evening stuffed with logs.
Gather here the dampened hunters
After they have filled their bags
And filled themselves with salty oysters
Till each sample stomach sags.

Comes the day of their departure,
Everyone is feeling blue,
It's always sad when friends are parting
The dogs droop tails, they feel it too.
Though every man is near exhaustion,
They think this place just has no peer'
They look at marsh and mud and sand hills
And vow that they'll return next year

William H. Scott, His feelings on High Winds as expressed through poetry (copy in High Winds File, Assateague Island National Seashore).

Hungerford's (formally called Mike and Bill's Place when owned by the Lynch's) (circa 1953 with 1960 addition)

In 1968 Churchill Hungerford described his property as the “Finest goose shooting area on the entire Assateague Island.” In 1969 Hungerford stated, “the marshland area now owned by us is one of the finest goose hunting sections on the ocean side of Maryland . . . land abuts High Winds” One account claims Hungerford's was used as a private hunting club with some summer visitation. An appraisal dated March 1, 1968, states that, “This property is used by the owners as a weekend, summer home and winter hunting lodge” Deed between the Hungerford's and United States of American dated February 20, 1970, states that the “tracts are used for non-commercial residential purposes and for hunting . . . ,” and those purposes were granted in a ten year right of retention.¹⁶³

Part of what is now called Hungerford's was owned by Ocean Beach Land and Improvement Co. (OBLIC) prior to 1949. OBLIC sold part of this holding to William H. Lynch and Charles E. Lynch in 1949. It became known as “Mike and Bill's Place.” The Lynch's sold part of their property to Churchill Hungerford, Jr. and David M. Hungerford in 1952. In 1955 David and his wife Nelvi E. Hungerford conveyed their interest to Churchill Hungerford, Jr. Churchill

¹⁶³ Churchill Hungerford letter to Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall, dated August 1, 1968; Churchill Hungerford letter to superintendent, Assateague Island National Seashore dated May 9, 1969; Dennard Conwell “Connie” Purnell interview by Sharon Ofenstein, July 26, 2000, summary of interview in “Background Info,” file, Assateague Island National Seashore headquarters; “Appraisal Report,” Mabel R. Hungerford for tract 3-488, dated March 1, 1968; and Deed between the Hungerford's and United States of America for tracts 3-488 and 3-505, dated February 20, 1970.

conveyed his interest to Mabel R. Hungerford, his wife, in 1958. The Hungerfords sold the property to the US Government in 1970 with a ten-year retention of rights. The property consisted of 52.04 acres and a wood frame cottage built on treated wood pilings. In 1972 there were three hunting blinds on the property. About the same time the access road was covered with Liberty Ship hatch covers. The lodge was described in 1968 as a one-story frame cottage “15 & 8 years” approximate age or built 1953 with an addition in 1960. This property is used by the National Park Service as a research quarters.¹⁶⁴

Mabel Hungerford was noted for decorating a living cedar tree near the beach with painted shells bows and ribbons each Christmas. She also hunted with her husband.¹⁶⁵

The appraisal of 1968 makes no mention of blinds, hunting, waterfowl, lodge, etc. The property is merely described as a “one story frame cottage consisting of 4 rooms and bath including kitchen.” Musser, “never did any hunting I don’t think.”¹⁶⁶ Notation in Musser’s file at Assateague Island National Seashore states “not a hunting camp

Thomas W. Musser, Sr., purchased the first tract [8-588] of this property in 1954 from South Ocean Beach, Inc. A second tract [8-391] was purchased in 1961 from South Ocean Beach, Inc. The house is built on wood piles high enough to make it necessary to go up a flight of stairs to enter the cottage. Another flight of stairs goes to roof. The interior is sided with knotty pine paneling. The house was vandalized in 1968 and repaired in 1971-72. Musser sold his property to the US Government in 1972 including a 25-year retention right for use of the house on tract 8-391. Thomas, Jr., repaired the house in 1978. By 1983 the house was vandalized, left in disrepair and reported as “an eyesore.”¹⁶⁷

Peoples & Lynch (property part of Worchester Gun Club in 1926) (1947?)

An appraisal of the property dated May 12, 1969, states the property includes, “an all-season cottage and three small islands is most suitable for a small hunting and fishing facility, as well as privately-owned resort recreational cottage. The entire property does not lend itself to a large hunting club but only to a small operation.” The same appraisal mentions five duck blinds. A

¹⁶⁴ “Hungerford,” handwritten notes, no author [Sharon Ofenstein] or date [2000] given, “excerpted from ASIS NS;” Dennard Conwell “Connie Purnell,” interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 1, 2003, p. 45; “Appraisal Report,” Mabel R. Hungerford for tract 3-488, dated March 1, 1968; and Harry J. Trimble interview transcript by Patricia Russell, April 30, 2003, p. 11. Maxwell “Mac” O. Simpson interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 24, pp. 7-8 state that the original cabin at Hungerford was built by “Bill and Mike Lynch” in the 40s.

¹⁶⁵ Harry J. Trimble interview transcript by Patricia Russell, April 30, 2003, pp. 12-3.

¹⁶⁶ Dennard Conwell “Connie Purnell,” interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 1, 2003, p. 42; “Appraisal of Property Known as Tracts 8-391 and 8-588 Owned by Thomas W. Musser & Gladys V. Musser, His Wife Assateague Island National Seashore Purchase Order No. 7:993:69-67,” dated November 11, 1968.

¹⁶⁷ “Mussers” handwritten notes, no author [Sharon Ofenstein] or date [2000] given, “excerpted from files, ASIS NS.”

second appraisal dated June 27, 1969, lists the type of property as “Shooting Lodge and Waterfowl Blind Sites Subject, in use as a waterfowl shooting lodge The waterfowl shooting in the area has always been very good Parsons Island . . . w/two blinds Ennis Island. . .w/three blinds. . .Purnells Bar. . .w/three blinds. . .A tiny shell island [Shell Island] w/one blind. . . site is improved with a one story frame gunning lodge.” “Although a private camp, he [Junior Evans] did have some commercial parties.”¹⁶⁸

William I. Purnell, Frank Parsons, and Elijah R Ennis, of the Worcester Gun Club, obtained a patent from the State of Maryland in 1926 for unclaimed land which they named Purnell’s Bar, Ennis Island, and Parsons Island. South Ocean Beach Inc., sold a portion of Lot 4, Block 937 [Tract 7-340] to Edward C. “Junior” Evans, Jr., in 1953. In the deed Evans was required to move “the old building (which is now or was partially on said Lot 4) . . . will remodel said building . . . including 30 degree pitch roof, outside wall sheathing with board siding or shingles”¹⁶⁹ The 1969 appraisal states, “a one-story frame resort cottage with the original portion having been constructed approximately 22 years ago [circa 1947] and an addition, 8' X 24', containing two bedrooms and bath was added at a later date. This cottage contains seven (7) rooms. . .The original building was 24' X 34.5' and an addition of 8' X 24'.”¹⁷⁰ An insurance policy states the structure was built in 1947. It is therefore probable that the original structure was five rooms built in or about 1947, and after it was moved a short distance in 1953, was remodeled with a two-room addition. The structure is built on cinder block piers, with a wood frame, asphalt shingles over pseudo-brick tar paper, and a green asphalt shingle roof. The porch is located on the land side with a bay window providing a grand view of the water. The interior walls are knotty pine. Parsons and Ennis (Purnell died sometime prior to this) sold their holding to Evans in 1955 who then sold his combined holdings (Ennis Island, Parsons Island, Purnell’s Bar, and Lot 4) to Stanley J. Devaney in 1957. Devaney owned a construction company. He bought clients to the lodge before he sold his holdings in 1964 to Richard A. Peoples, a doctor in Delaware, and Donald J. Lynch, totaling approximately 20 acres. The property was sold to the US Government in 1972 with a 25-year retention for use of the house and hunting rights. Ernest J. Peoples, brother of Richard, was arrested January 5, 1989, for shooting two too many black ducks. Apparently Donald Lynch was the actual culprit. There reputedly were also violations in 1984 and 1988. This plus a lack of remorse by said parties caused the hunting rights to be revoked for one year from August 1989 to August 1990. After notification Peoples sent a letter of apology on August 24, 1989, and their hunting rights were reinstated on September 2, 1989.¹⁷¹

¹⁶⁸ “Appraisal of the Property Known as Tracts 7-340 and 7-467, Owned by Richard A. Peoples and Donald J. Lynch t/a Peoples and Lynch Assateague Island National Seashore Contract No. 14-10-7-993-371,” dated May 12, 1969; “Appraisal of Tracts 7-340; 7-467 & 7-467A et. al. Owners: Dr. Richard A. Peoples, Donald J. Lynch,” dated June 27, 1969; and Dennard Conwell “Connie” Purnell, interview by Sharon Ofenstein.

¹⁶⁹ Deed between South Ocean Beach, Inc., and Edward C. Evans, Jr., dated July 31, 1953; and Dennard Conwell “Connie Purnell,” interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 1, 2003, p. 34.

¹⁷⁰ “Appraisal of the Property Known as Tracts 7-340 and 7-467, Owned by Richard A. Peoples and Donald J. Lynch t/a Peoples and Lynch Assateague Island National Seashore Contract No. 14-10-7-993-371,” dated May 12, 1969.

¹⁷¹ “Peoples & Lynch” handwritten notes, no author [Sharon Ofenstein] or date [2000] given, “excerpted from files, ASIA NS;” and Harry J. Trimble interview transcript by Patricia Russell, April 30, 2003, p. 9.

Pope's Island Gun Club (also called Pope's Island Land Company and Black Duck)(1930-2002)

A 1972 appraisal mentions "frame box and sunken blinds." A deed dated May 23, 1973 mentions "All tracts for hunting purposes during annual waterfowl season."¹⁷²

Peter Watson owed the island in 1850-60s. He and his family, including at least four sons, lived on the island. Peter supported his family by market hunting. His first hunting boat was named "Hen Coop," a two-masted sailing vessel. A hunting facility was established on Pope's Island in the 1890s. It was reported that, "Wild duck, geese, and swan being available in season merely for the taking." The present clubhouse was probably built in the early 1930s because the Pope's Island Gun Club was incorporated in March of 1930. The club was owned by a group of businessmen, doctors, and lawyers. The Club obtained several patents for the land from the State of Maryland in 1929 and 1930. The 1929 parcel was called "Club's Island." Club members included J.E. Greiner, owner of J.E. Greiner Company of Baltimore (civil engineering including roads, turnpikes, bridges, and tunnels), Major Allen-Herschel (who worked for Greiner as an engineer), and Fletcher (Maine granite business). Allen-Herschel eventually owned 50 percent of the club, Fletcher 49 percent, and Ned Kenney (railroad supply company) 1 percent.¹⁷³

Members traveled to the club by train to Franklin City or Lecata, Virginia. The staff at the club would then pick them up at the train station and take them to the nearest boat landing for a ride to Pope's Island. William T. Savage kept logs from 1968 until 1985 which includes bills and persons who stayed at Pope's Island Gun Club including senators and governors.¹⁷⁴

The clubhouse consists of a one-story wood frame structure built on concrete block piers. The wood shingle siding is covered with a light green asbestos shingle and the rolled tar paper roof is covered with asphalt shingle. The interior is uniformly sided with varnished tongue-and-groove walls and ceiling. A stuffed snow goose is mounted over the fireplace, a bone fish over the bay window, and a tarpon over the bookshelves in the club room. The club room and living/dining room also have varnished tongue-and-groove floors. Two gun racks are located in the southeast corner of this room. Four bedrooms with 9 bunk beds and one single bed provide accommodations for 19 persons. The club room is believed to be the original portion of the clubhouse with multiple additions made over time. The picture window was installed by one of Allen-Herschel's carpenters. On the east and west interior sides of the living/dining room wood shingle siding is exposed. Similar siding is exposed inside the center eastern most bedroom just

¹⁷² Deed between Pope's Island Land Company and US Government, dated May 23, 1973, Liber 398, page 153; and Appraisal of Black Duck by Frasia D. Trice, August 11, 1972.

¹⁷³ William Teaf Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 20, 2003, pp. 4, 8 and 15; Maxwell "Mac" O. Simpson interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 24, p. 7 states a Reed Miles "had Black Duck" in the '50s and on p. 20 states owned by a group named "Bunting;" and "Gun Clubs," p. 33.

¹⁷⁴ William Teaf Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 20, 2003, pp. 4-5 and 59-60.

off the kitchen. Out side on the north side is a decoy/storage shed, dog pen ruins, generator shed, and outhouse. On the west side a canal has been dug to accommodate boats. A long pier with decoy shed is located here.¹⁷⁵

In the dining/living room area was a long wooden table with white table cloth, cloth napkins and wine glasses. The food served here was similar to that of a five star restaurant. Appetizers consisted of shrimp, main entrees of prime rib or lobster. Hunters had cocktails around the fireplace prior to dinner and after. This scene is reminiscent of the photograph of the more opulent Accomack Club. Some hunters arrived and departed by personal or corporate helicopter. Al Decker of Black and Decker hunted here.¹⁷⁶

This club had a cook, mess boy, and three to six guides depending on the number of guests - a ratio of two quests to one guide was the norm. Orville Quillin, Bill Jester, and Fitz Taylor guided here; Quillin was also the caretaker in the 1960s. William Teaf Savage worked here as caretaker and guide for over twenty years beginning in 1968. William replaced his uncle who worked here before him. William's brother Harold took over as caretaker in 1985; William staying on a few more years to help. Cliff and Estel Taylor, husband and wife, both African-American, served as cooks and waiter.¹⁷⁷

By 1977 the club, actually located on Pitt's Island, was referred to as "Black Duck," apparently so it wouldn't be confused with Pope's Island. The boat used by the club was also called "Black Duck." Pope's Island is also called Lower Pope's Island. The Pope's Island Gun Club was also named Pope's Island Land Company when it was used to entertain company clients. The property was acquired circa 1974 by the US Government for \$526,000.¹⁷⁸

Valentine's (also called Whittington Point and Valentine and Hughes)(1961)

Deeds dated July 29, 1959, and June 24, 1960, for tract 6-514 mention "marginal gunning property." A 1968 appraisal report states "there are a total of 10 duck blinds spotted throughout this tract, 4 of which are built up on pilings in the Bay or large slough areas . . . two sunken

¹⁷⁵ Pope's Island Gun Club site visit by Ralph Eshelman, Patricia Russell, Michael O. Hill and Brian Sturgis, April 25, 2003; see also William Teaf Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 20, 2003, pp.18, 21 and 24.

¹⁷⁶ Mel Olsen interview by Ralph Eshelman, May 15, 2003; William Teaf Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 20, 2003, pp. 32, 38 and 65; and Accomack photograph CBMM 79-30-1, from the collections of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels, Maryland.

¹⁷⁷ Ralph L. Watson of Snow Hill to R.V. Truitt, March 9, 1968, as cited in Truitt, p. 33; photostatic copy of handwritten notes on Peter Watson family by daughters of Maud Mae Watson Clark, undated; Dennard Conwell "Connie" Purnell interview by Sharon Ofenstein; Thomas Earl Reed, Jr. oral interview by Ralph Eshelman, May 15, 2003, summary of interview in project files; and William Teaf Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 20, 2003, pp. 5, 8-10 and 60.

¹⁷⁸ Harry J. Trimble interview transcript by Patricia Russell, April 30, p. 6; William Teaf Savage interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 20, 2003, p. 3 and 31; and Mackintosh, p. 46.

blinds with concrete floor . . . and 4 other stake and brush blinds.” A 1968 appraisal supplement retention states “use of 148 acres for hunting purposes.” A 1969 appraisal refers to a “one and one-half story frame cottage designed as a lodge. This cottage has been recently rebuilt, replacing a former cottage destroyed by fire . . .” A 1971 deed mentions a “single-family residence . . . used for noncommercial residential purposes and for hunting.”¹⁷⁹

The Valentine property consists of about 169.84 acres of which 147.49 acres are above mean high water. The tract contains some thirty-two separate parcels, of which twenty-four are small islands ranging from 0.01 to approximately 8.0 acres in size, comprising about 2.5 miles of Chincoteague Bay waterfront.¹⁸⁰ The lodge was begun by C. Braxton Valentine, Jr., of Richmond, Virginia, famous for the Valentine’s Meatjuice Company, and apparently four others, one named Hughes. One account referred to the lodge as Valentine and Hughes. Before the lodge was built they would stay on board their fishing boat. Valentine’s never operated as a commercial enterprise. The first wood frame one-and-one-half-story structure was begun on this tract in 1963 and completed in 1964. The setting is in a rustic meadow. It was set on piles and described as a “small 3 bedroom gunning shack.” One had to climb stairs to get into the lodge which was heated by a wood stove. Wood was either gathered from the beach or hauled by boat. One former guest recalled “we all ate and enjoyed life and drank beer.” Bunks were all around the large combination kitchen-big room. During 1965 at least six break-ins were reported; these were believed to be attributed to the opening of the Verrazano Bridge. Because vandals continually tore down property signs none were posted in 1966 and public hunters trespassed on the Valentine property. The lodge was burned by vandals February 28, 1966. A rebuilding permit was obtained in August 1966. Braxton bought out the other four members after they lost interest due to the fire. It was stated Valentine planned to build “exactly what we had before.” While he built the new house on the same foundation around the original chimney which survived the fire, it apparently was not quit as nice.¹⁸¹

¹⁷⁹ Deed between Assateague Island Realty Corporation and Arter F. Hughes and C. Braxton Valentine, Jr., dated July 29, 1959; Deed between Assateague Island Realty Corporation and Benjamin H. Brinton and Charles M. Hughes, dated June 24, 1960; “Appraisal Report” Arter et al. tract 6-514 dated August 29, 1968; “Appraisal Supplement Retention for Term of 25 Years,” tract no’s 6-436 and 6-514, dated December 2, 1968; “Appraisal of the Property Known as Tracts 6-436 and 6-514 Owned by Arter F. Hughes, C. Braxton Valentine, Jr., Charles R. Hooff, Jr. and Kinsey Spotswood t/in/c Assateague Island National Seashore,” dated November 25, 1969; and “Deed between Arter F. Hughes, C. Braxton Valentine, Jr., et al. and United States of America,” dated March 1, 1971 of tracts 6-436 and 6-514 recorded in Liber 309 page 576.

¹⁸⁰ “Appraisal of the Property Known as Tracts 6-436 and 6-514 Owned by Arter F. Hughes, C. Braxton Valentine, Jr., Charles R. Hooff, Jr. and Kinsey Spotswood t/in/c Assateague Island National Seashore,” dated November 25, 1969.

¹⁸¹ Peter Gilsey telephone interview by Patricia Russell, April 17, 2003; Harry Birch interview by Ralph Eshelman, April 15, 2003, summary of interview in project files; Dennard Conwell “Connie Purnell,” interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 1, 2003, p. 34; C. Braxton Valentine, Jr., letter to Superintendent, Assateague Island National Seashore, August 25, 1966; Harry S. Birch, interview transcript by Patricia Russell, October 8, 2003, pp. 5-7; and Mackintosh, p. 155. Note the David Cropper in his interview with Patricia Russell p. 44 states the lodge was built in 1961.

The standing structure was probably built in late 1966. In 1967 suspected deer and duck hunting violations were noted to have occurred on the property. Squatters built illegal duck blinds on property immediately behind Valentine's. The lodge operated ten duck blinds on its property in 1968. The property was acquired the US Government in 1971. The caretaker of the house and property from 1963 to 1996 was Harry Birch of Chincoteague who replaced Lewis White who preceded him. Birch also hunted with C. Braxton Valentine, Jr. Birch, Bruce Jester, and "Super Guide" David Cropper guided. The cook, Edward "Eddie" Quillin, also called "Capt. Ed," occasionally guided as well. Quillin's uncle was the manager of Pope's Island Gun Club. Capt Ed and Harry slept in the two bedrooms in the upper half-story of the lodge. In later years members took turns cooking in the kitchen which occupied one corner of the kitchen-big room. David Cropper, who worked at the lodge, stated Braxton was "Real bid in the Republican Party and they gunned everything from politicians to businessmen . . . astronauts, . . . diamond brokers . . . people from American's Cup." The lodge was robbed of all valuable decoys during summer of 1989. The diamond broker had a phone line put in at Valentine's so he hunt while carrying out his million dollar diamond deals. The lodge was referred to as "Whittington Point" after Valentine conveyed joint interest to Robin Reeder Valentine, Reuben Clark, and David G. Hanes in 1984.¹⁸² Whittington Point is the name of the northern most island among the Pirate Islands just north of the Valentine lodge and a part of the Valentine property.

"Ours [Valentine's] has ample access by water for boats which draw as much as 3½ feet. In addition, because of control of about 2½ miles of Chincoteague Bay front. . .It can accommodate more than a usual number of blind sites for the amount of acreage actually owned"¹⁸³

¹⁸² "Valentine's," handwritten notes, no author [Sharon Ofenstein] or date [2000] given, "excerpted from miles, ASIS NS." See also Harry J. Trimble interview transcript by Patricia Russell, April 30, 2003, p. 10; David Cropper interview by Patricia Russell, June 9, 2003, pp. 21 and 29 and Harry S. Birch, interview transcript by Patricia Russell, October 8, 2003, pp. 5 and 19.

¹⁸³ Charles R. Hooff, Jr., oral communication to Joseph W. Fehrer, April 20, 1970.

CONCLUSION

After evaluating the eleven “hunting lodges” listed by the National Park Service for inclusion in this context study they can be separated into three distinct groups: 1) private hunting membership clubs and commercial lodges 2) private non-membership residences where hunting was practiced and 3) private beach houses where hunting was rarely if ever conducted. George Gibbs’s “hunting shack” which was moved by the National Seashore to the ferry landing and now used as a naturalist’s shack, should be included in this inventory as it was used for waterfowl hunting.¹⁸⁴ These resources are so grouped below:

Private Hunting Membership Clubs and Commercial Lodges

- Bob-O-Del Gun Club (corporate)
- Bunting’s Gunning Lodge
- Green Run Lodge (Jackson Brothers)
- High Winds Gun Club (partnership)
- Pope’s Island Gun Club (Black Duck)

Private Non-membership Residences Where Hunting Was Practiced

- Gibbs’s Shack (now naturalist’s shack)
- Hungerford’s
- People & Lynch
- Valentine’s

Private Beach Houses Where Hunting Was Rarely If Ever Conducted.

- Clements’ Beach House
- Clements’ Boat House
- Musser’s

Therefore, Clements’ Beach House, Clements’ Boat House and Musser’s are recommended for deletion from this hunting camp resource list. Hungerford’s, Peoples & Lynch and Valentine’s are private non-membership or non-club type hunting camps where friends and/or family gathered to hunt. Bob-O-Del Gun Club, Bunting’s Gunning Lodge, Green Run Lodge (Jackson Brothers), High Winds Gun Club, and Pope’s Island Gun Club (Black Duck) were either commercial lodges or private membership hunting clubs. In the 1982 “General Management Plan” for Assateague Island National Seashore there is no mention of the hunting camps as cultural resources; only the statement that, “Generally, all structures on Assateague Island acquired from holders of retained rights will be removed. Some appropriate structures many be

¹⁸⁴ Dennard Conwell “Connie Purnell,” interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 1, 2003, pp. 8-9 and 14-15; Harry J. Trimble interview transcript by Patricia Russell, April 30, 2003, p. 15; and Maxwell “Mac” O. Simpson interview transcript by Patricia Russell, May 24, p. 22.

temporarily retained for administrative facilities or housing for scientific investigators.” There is also no mention of future public hunting on the island though public hunting is mentioned in the visitor activity section.¹⁸⁵

This oversight for these potentially historic resources occurred despite Edwin Bearss’s report of 1968 in which he wrote that, “The blinds and hunting camps located in the Maryland section of Assateague Island National Seashore constitute a resource to be used in interpreting this phase of the area’s history and the role of the waterman.”¹⁸⁶

When the 25-year retention rights began to close and the realization that the four-score-year tradition of Assateague Island hunting clubs and lodges was coming to an end, many lamented their passing. In recognition of this some sought to preserve at least one such club or lodge for posterity. Roger Rector, Superintendent, Assateague Island National Seashore expressed the opinion that these hunting lodges would be eulogized in interpretive programs at the seashore and at the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art. Peter McLain, former deputy director of a state Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, and an outdoor writer for hunting magazines such as *Gun Dog*, *Shooting Classics*, *Field & Stream* and *Gray’s Sporting Journal*, wrote in 1991 after hunting at High Winds Gun Club that, “Wildfowling is certainly a heritage of the barrier beach lifestyle. Some day, when the old gun clubs are all gone, someone will say, ‘Why didn’t we save that little bit of Barrier Island Americana?’” Ricks Savage who began hunting at High Winds Gun Club in 1955 said in 1993 that “Someday, when all the old hunting lodges are gone, someone will wish they were still around so people could see what they were like.”

Prior to 2003 only a limited attempt had been made to determine the historic significance of the hunting clubs and lodges of Assateague Island National Seashore. A National Register (NR) nomination for High Winds Gun Club was submitted and rejected in 1996. This nomination was hastily done and not in context with the other hunting resources known on the island. In addition, the significance of shantyboat hunting and their incorporation at several waterfowl hunting sites was not fully understood at that time. The NR nomination makes no mention of Bob-O-Del Gun Club containing extant shantyboats or that Bunting’s Gunning Lodge and Green Run Lodge begun with shantyboats, or that Egging Beach was a double shantyboat hunting site. Shantyboats were a significant part of the waterfowl hunting scene on and around Assateague Island, whether afloat or ashore.

While the pleas to preserve a club or lodge on Assateague Island were unsuccessful in the 1990s, it must be understood that Assateague Island National Seashore was authorized without mention of cultural resource preservation and, with limited funding and personnel, these resources have understandably received less attention than natural resource protection.¹⁸⁷

¹⁸⁵ “General Management Plan, Assateague Island National Seashore/ Maryland-Virginia,” Denver Service Center, National Park Service, US Department of the Interior, 1982.

¹⁸⁶ Bearss, p. 97.

¹⁸⁷ Peter McLain, “Old hunting clubs should be saved;” “Farewell to old hunting lodges: Bishops Head and High Winds lodges bound for different futures;” and Mackintosh, pp. 140-1.

In 1978 the public was made aware of a “wildfowling museum” proposed for Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. The purpose of the museum was to “re-create the excitement and challenge” of hunting waterfowl. The local tabloid declared “Proposed Wildfowl Museum To Offer Underwater View of Ducks.”¹⁸⁸ While many criticized this facility as an unwanted development in an ecologically sensitive area, the Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center opened in the fall of 2003. Ironically, there is already the Refuge Waterfowl Museum, which opened in 1978 in the town of Chincoteague. Could the National Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service collaborate and incorporate Bob-O-Del Gun Club or Pope’s Island Gun Club, or least elements of them, into the museum/visitor center complex? Is it too late? Movement of historic structures is usually frowned upon due to loss of contextual integrity. However, the lodges are in remote areas where visitation would be limited and difficult. If the lodges are going to be destroyed anyway (even if by neglect), why not choose the most appropriate lodge or club and consider moving it for interpretive purposes. An unnamed hunting lodge in Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge was/or is being considered for possible use as part of a canoe trail campsite.¹⁸⁹ Thus there remain two possible alternatives which might result in the preservation of a waterfowl hunting lodge or club short of outright preservation for the sake of what these structures were and the recreational hunting tradition they represent; ie. find an adaptive reuse at the original location or relocate to some other appropriate location.

Observations

1. Of all the waterfowl hunting resources on Assateague Island, Pope’s Island Gun Club retains the most integrity. While the decoy shed, and other outbuildings are in derelict condition, the clubhouse itself appears to be in good condition. The interior with its varnished tongue-and-groove floors, walls and ceilings, the fireplace, mounted goose and fish and gun racks, all instill a hunting club character. One former National Park Service staff member stated, “If you save one - save Pope’s Island.”¹⁹⁰
2. Green Run Lodge represents a wonderful compilation of life-saving station structure(s) with numerous additions. Its landscape setting is fabulous. Green Run illustrates the resourcefulness of its members in bringing together resources available to meet their needs.
3. The west shantyboat at Bob-O-Del Gun Club retains approximately 90 to 95 percent of its original fabric. The carvel roof can be clearly seen from both the interior and exterior. This is the best preserved shantyboat known in existence. The east shantyboat is less ornate and not as well preserved but still retains at least 70 to 80 percent original fabric.

¹⁸⁸ “A New Fight: Saving Assateague” (*Baltimore Sun*, April 17, 1978). The article mentions the *Chincoteague Beacon* but gives no reference to date.

¹⁸⁹ Dave Wilson, “Assateague Island National Seashore may soon be more accessible,” Maryland Coastal Bays Program, August 12, 2002.

¹⁹⁰ Mel Olsen interview by Ralph Eshelman, May 15, 2003.

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AFS17,441-AFS 17,442: Newton Downey - waterman, netmaker, story teller.

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APPENDIX I

ANNOTATED LIST OF GUN CLUBS IN AND LODGES IN MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA

This list is intended to give an impression as to the number of gun clubs and lodges, years of operation, and significance if any. It is not indented to be a comprehensive list. Hotels which are known to cater to waterfowl hunters are also included. The clubs and lodges listed below are largely from "Gun Clubs," Museum of the Historical Society of Talbot County, Easton, Maryland, November, 1986- January 1987, a catalog of an exhibit and Archie Johnson and Bud Coppedge, *Gun Clubs & Decoys of Back Bay & Currituck Sound*, p. 4. Each club and lodge name is listed alphabetically, followed by any alternate names, location and minimum years of operation (it could have begun earlier or operated later than years given):

Maryland –

Atheneum Club upper Chesapeake Bay (1880s).

Baltimore Gun Club (1880s). The clubhouse was considered a "model one."

Bartlett and Hayward Company of Baltimore, Bush River, Harford County (1890s). This Company, founded in 1837, made stoves and other iron works. The company club consisted of four farms with well-furnished clubhouses. They boasted 500 decoys.

Benjie's Hunting Club (Benjie's Quarter), on mainland near Carroll Island, Baltimore County (circa 1850-1921). President Benjamin Harrison often hunted here. The April 18, 1891, issue of *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* featured Harrison on the cover and the feature article along with sketches and photographs covered his visit to this club. The club was sold in 1921 for private use.

Bishop's Head Gunning Club, Bishop's Head Point, Hooper Strait area of Chesapeake Bay Dorchester County (1930-). This club was founded by Albanus Phillips and Levi Phillips of Cambridge. At the time it was the largest game preserve in Maryland. Bishops Head has been described as "the last of the great hunting clubs."

Bob-O-Del Gun Club (Bob-O-Del Gun Club, Inc.; Bob-O-Del, Inc. after 1970), Assateague Island (1917?- 1990s).

Bowley's Quarter (Bowley's Bar), Baltimore County (circa 1800-1928). This club owned or leased over nine miles of shoreline. About 1880 a group of 12 men from Philadelphia formed a club and built a "handsome" clubhouse in 1887. President Grover Cleveland, an ardent duck hunter, hunted here circa 1892.

Bunting's, Assateague Island (circa 1942-1980s).

Carroll's Island Club, Carroll Island, west mouth of Gunpowder River, Baltimore County (1856-1917). Carroll's Island Club is considered the oldest wildfowl shooting preserve in Maryland; a club may have been located on Carroll's as early as 1830. The island was used for shooting waterfowl as early as 1750. In 1880 a stock club was formed consisting of 20 members who each were assessed \$2,500 to pay for the \$30,000 purchase price of the island. This club was taken over by the US Government in 1917 for use as the Aberdeen Proving Grounds.

Cedar Point Club, East Neck Island, Kent Island (1934-1964).

Cedar Valley Club, Big Levels, Assateague Island (?).

The Cedars, upper Chesapeake Bay (1880s). In 1889 this club had telephone service from the clubhouse to Baltimore.

East Neck Rod and Gun Club, East Neck Island, Kent County (1923-1934). This club consisted of twenty members. The lodge was a one-room building with one-story log building for the caretaker. In 1928 a corporation was formed and in 1934 the name changed to Cedar Point Club.

Egging Beach Hunt Club, west of old ferry landing on Assateague Island (?).

Elliott Island Gunning Club, Elliott Island, Dorchester County (1920s).

Eider Ducking Club, Aberdeen (circa 1885-1907). Members were largely from New York City and Newark, New Jersey. The club owned the sailing scow *Widgeon* and a rig of 589 decoys.

Fox Hills, Assateague Island, near Bunting's (?).

Grace's Quarter, Baltimore County (circa 1840-1917). About 1885 several men paid \$15,000 each for membership in the club. The property was taken over by the US Government for use as the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in 1917. The five shares in the club were once reported to have been sold for \$60,000. The clubhouse was said to be "finely appointed."

Green Run Lodge, Assateague Island (1954?-1990s).

Hen Peck Lodge, Assateague Island, located just east of Bob-O-Del's (?).

High Winds Gun Club, Assateague Island (1922-1993).

Honga River Gun Club, Dorchester County (circa 1920).

James Island Gun Club, Chesapeake Bay side of Dorchester County (1960s).

Jefferson Islands Club (Poplar Island Lodge), Jefferson Island, Talbot County (1930-1947).

Original membership consisted of 50 members who each paid a \$500.00 initiation fee as well as annual dues in exchange for a stock certificate. It served as a meeting place and getaway for the Democratic Party. Among the first members was the governor of New York, Franklin D.

Roosevelt, the first person suggested for membership after the original group of Democratic Senators acquired the site. Roosevelt paid his \$500 initiation fee and in June of 1937; as President of the United States he chose the island for a Democratic reception. Senator Harry S. Truman declined membership in 1936 stating he could not afford it. The clubhouse burned in 1947. The property was later used for private and then commercial hunting and called Poplar Islands Lodge. This second clubhouse burned in 1959. During the early years of the club it was stated that five to ten cases of shells were shot daily.

Marshy Point Gunning Club (Marshy Point Ducking Club), Saltpeter and Dundee creeks, Baltimore County (1848-1952). This gun club was established on property obtained by Alexander Brown in 1848. The clubhouse burned in 1952.

Maxwell's Point (Gunners' Paradise) east side of the Gunpowder River, Harford County (1840-1917).

Miller's Island Ducking Club, Miller's Island, Baltimore County (circa 1900).

Moors, Horn Point, Dorchester (1920-1930s). Here was located the hunting preserve and lodge called the Moors built by U.S. Senator Coleman Du Pont (1863-1930). Du Pont adapted the original house which dates from circa 1750 as a part-time residence. That house burned in 1948. The present house was built to replace it. The property is now home to the Horn Point Environmental Laboratory of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Studies.

Peoples & Lynch (property was part of Worchester Gun Club in 1926)(1947?-1997).

Philadelphia Ducking Club (Philadelphia Gunning Club), mouth of Kings Creek on the west side of Bush River, below Lauderick Creek, Harford County (1880s).

Poplar Island Lodge, Jefferson Island, Talbot County (1949-1959). This lodge replaced an earlier lodge which burned in 1947 and known as the Jefferson Islands Club.¹⁹¹

Rickett's Point, tip of Gunpowder Neck, Harford County (?).

Robert Morris Inn, Oxford, Talbot County (1966-7).

San Domingo Ducking Club, Bush River, Harford County (1880s-1917).

Scott's Ocean House, Green Run Inlet, Assateague Island (1870-1913). This hotel consisted of a large two-story structure where sportsmen from Charleston, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Washington, and Baltimore came to hunt.

Seneca Duck Club, Baltimore County (1853-circa 1919). The property was acquired in 1852 and a lodge built in 1853.

¹⁹¹ Peter K. Bailey, *Poplar Island: My Memories as a Boy*, 1996, pp. 156-7.

Spesutie Island Rod and Gun Club, Spesutie Island, Harford County (1889-1917). This club was incorporated in New York. J. Pierpoint Morgan was a member. The clubhouse among the most elaborate in Maryland.

Spry's Island (?).

Talbot Rod & Gun Club (1946).

Thomas Point Gunning Club (1903). A photograph of this club [MD HR G 2040-320] is located in the Maryland Hall of Records.

Tyding, Taylor's Creek, near the Bush River, Harford County (?). This club was considered a "first-class shooting" shore; the club operated a steam yacht named *Comfort*, regarded as a "model craft for gunning purposes."

Valentine's (Whittington Point), Assateague Island (1959-1990s). The private clubhouse was built in 1961.

Walnut Grove Ducking Club, Back River, Baltimore County (1864-1884).

Wellwood Club, Charlestown (circa 1880-present). Founded as a private Republican club, it reached its popularity in 1900 when Theodore Roosevelt was a member. In the lounge are wildlife carvings donated by Roosevelt during his presidency. The club was referred to as a yacht club by 1922.

William B. Hurst Clubhouse, Legos Point, Bush River, Harford County (1887-1890s). This club was started by a group of Baltimoreans.

William Walker hunting lodge, lot 12, block 20 at Baltimore Avenue and Seventh Street, Ocean City (1908-1910). This small lodge, actually a decoy storage shed, was incorporated into Romarletta Cottage in 1910, which still stands.

Worcester Gun Club, Assateague Island (1920s).

Wroten Island Gun Club, Wroten Island, Dorchester County (circa 1940).

Virginia -

Accomack Club, Wachapreague (1887-1936). This club consisted primarily of members from New York who paid an annual club dues of \$75.00. Membership was limited to 35 persons. This club was one of the earliest on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Sportsmen from all over the East Coast came to this opulent club to hunt on the nearby barrier islands. The clubhouse was largely destroyed by the 1933 "August Storm" and completely destroyed in the storm of 1936. The club operated a Naphtha burning steam vessel. President Grover Cleveland was invited to hunt here but is not known if he actually did.

Atwood Gunning Club, Back Bay (1907).

B.P.Hollard Camp, Back Bay (?).

Back Bay Gunning Club, Back Bay (1894-1930). This hunting lodge was built in 1894 and purchased along with approximately 1,000 acres for \$40,000 by 14 men in 1899. The club was purchased a group from Princess Anne Club in 1930 but it burned shortly after. Former President Grover Cleveland visited here circa 1900.

Ball Island/ Newport News Club, Back Bay (1924). Ball Island was later renamed Newport News Club.

Barbour's Hill Club, Back Bay (1892-1950s).

Battery Shooting Club, Back Bay (1908).

Beach Gunning & Social Club, Back Bay (1903).

Beggar's Bridge Club, Back Bay (?).

Bone Island Club, Northampton County (?).

Broad Marsh Fowling Club, Back Bay (?).

Broadwater Club, Hog Island (early 1886-1929). President Grover Cleveland was provided "the best and most experienced guides" during his hunting trip here in 1892. It is believed Cleveland stayed here in 1893. Dr. Walter Reed also hunted here. In 1912 the New York owners went bankrupt and the club closed.

Broadwater Hotel, Hog Island (1900-1930). This hotel served sportsmen.

Carners Island Gun Lodge, Inc. (1925-1928).

Cartwright Lodge, Back Bay (1940s-1956).

Cedar Island Club (Lodge), Back Bay (1880-1980s). This island in the middle of Back Bay was owned by John Williams in 1880 who built a boarding lodge for hunters and fisherman. In 1914 he sold the island to George Gould, son of Jay Gould, the railroad tycoon. The property was sold in the 1920s to Senator James Barbour of New Jersey. The clubhouse still stands.

Charles Ralph Turlington, Chincoteague Bay (?). (Mel Olsen interview)

Chincoteague Yacht and Sportsman Club, Toms Cove, Assateague Island (?). Reference to "Old Club House" building #11 is mentioned in Chincoteague Refuge Narrative Report, January 1 to April 30, 1950, pp. 8-9, which may refer to this club; it states the club was located "just north of the "Old [Coast Guard] Station;" copy in files of Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.

Conver and McGee, Chincoteague Bay (?).

Creeds Gunning Club, Back Bay (1988).

Deal's Island Club, Back Bay (?).

Dudley's Island Club, Back Bay (1880-1930s). Dudley Island Club was a small private lodge.

Drum Point Club, Back Bay (1913-).

Egging Beach Gunning Club, Assateague Island (1920s-1930). This was a stock membership club operated by Philco Radio Corporation.

False Cape Battery & Blind Ducking Club, Back Bay (1903-1914).

False Cape Gunning Club, Back Bay (1800s-1950). This club was founded by Otis Ule who in 1945 sold it to F.M. Edwards of Boston.

Ferrell Cottage, Hog Island (1892-1910). This facility was outfitted "all the modern conveniences as to steam-heating, lighting, water, etc." President Grover Cleveland stayed here during his hunting trip in 1892.

Floating Island Club, Back Bay (?).

Fulton House, Chincoteague Bay (?). (Mel Olsen interview.)

George Gibb's (now moved to Ferry Landing) Assateague Island.

Goat Hill Gunning Club, Back Bay (1940s).

Goose's Roost Gun Club (?). [Va or NC?]

Hen Pecked Lodge, Assateague Island (?).

Holland Marsh Club, Back Bay (1920s-1968).

Horne (Horn) Point Club, North Bay (1907-present). This club was founded by George Eastman of Eastman Kodak and George Bonbright. Eastman hunted here until his death in 1928.

Horton's Lodge, Back Bay (?).

The Hunters Home, Back Bay (1912).

Island House Hotel, Cedar Island (1902-1978). This was a more modest facility.

Kirn Brothers Lodge, Back Bay (1910-1962).

M. & M. Hunting Club, Back Bay (1920s-1987).

Man and Boy Channel Gunning Club, off Sand Shoal Channel near Oyster, Northampton County (circa 1918-20).

Market Gun Club, Back Bay (?). [Va or NC?]

Mockhorn Island, Northampton County (1852-1950s). A lodge was started on Mockhorn Island by Nathan Cobb, Jr., in 1852. It was enlarged by the Cushman family of New York in 1902.

Murden Brothers Lodge, Back Bay (?).

Newby's Club, Back Bay (1950).

Newport News Gunning Club, see Ball Island (?).

Norfolk Hunt Club - see VIR-MAR

North Bay Gunning Club, Back Bay (1916-1988).

North End/ Seaboard Club, Back Bay (?).

Pellitory Gunning Club, Back Bay (circa 1900-).

Pine Tree, Assateague Island (?).

Piney Point Gunning Club, Back Bay (?).

Pocahontas Fowling Club, Back Bay, (1904-circa 1943). This club was formed by a group of Norfolk sportsmen. In 1914 it was sold to a group of New York sportsmen. The original clubhouse burned in the late 1920's replaced by an "elaborate" clubhouse. By 1943 the club was purchased by another group of Norfolk sportsmen. President William Howard Taft visited here.

Pope's Island Gun Club, Assateague Island (1930-2002).

Powhatan Gunning Club, Back Bay (?).

Princess Anne Battery Ducking (Gun) Club, Back Bay (1894-1936). This club was purchased by the Back Bay Gunning Club in 1930.

Pungo Hunt Club, Back Bay (1932-1982).

Purnell's (also called Pope's Island Oyster Company), Pope's Island (?-present). (Mel Olsen interview)

Ragged Island Gunning Club, Back Bay (1891-1939). This was charted as a stock club. The name was changed to Ragged Island Club in 1939.

Ram Island Club, Back Bay (1917-1950s).

Rats' Nest, Chincoteague Bay (?). (Mel Olsen interview)

Red Eye Rod & Gun Club, Chincoteague Bay (1954-present). Donald Leonard, owner of Refuge Motel, owned this club as well as a member of Valentine's in Maryland (Harry Birch and Mel Olsen interviews).

Red Neck Richard, Chincoteague Bay (?). (Mel Olsen interview)

Revel's Island Shooting Club, bay side of the southern tip of Paramore Island (1884-1940s). This club was founded by a group of Washingtonians.

Running Channel Club (circa 1920s).

Russel Fisher, Chincoteague Bay (?).

Sand Bridge Club, Back Bay (1897-present). The club was formed in 1897 by 8 Philadelphians sportsmen who acquired 2,913 acres. The original clubhouse burned in 1952. The new clubhouse survives today.

Schaeffer Cottage, Hog Island (1910). This was a private hunting club.

Ship Cabin Club, Back Bay (1925). This club was started when the cabin of a sailing ship was barged here and set up as a hunting lodge.

Sugar Shack, Chincoteague Bay (1950s-present)(Harry Birch and Mel Olsen interviews).

Swan Club, False Cape (?). A round table from this club, referred to as the "Gulls Roost" complete with barrel seats is preserved in the Refuge Waterfowl Museum, Chincoteague.

Tar Paper Shack, Assateague Island (?). Owned by Quillen (Trimble interview).

Triple Island Gunning Club, Back Bay (?).

Virginia Beach Battery Ducking Club, Back Bay (1909).

VIR-MAR Gunning Club, Back Bay (1920-1931). This club was founded by Baltimoreans. Its name was changed to Norfolk Hunt Club and by the late 1920s to Swan Club.

Wachapreague Hotel, Wachapreague (1902-).

Wallop's Island Clubhouse, south end of Wallop's Island (1886-1930s). This two-story

clubhouse with veranda also contained guest cottages, cookhouse, icehouse, and a steam launch. The club was organized by a group of Pennsylvania sportsmen.

Westchester/Bayview Gunning Club, Back Bay (?).

White Marsh Gunning Club, Back Bay (1908-1986).

APPENDIX II

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE OF CONTEXT STUDY TEAM

Ralph Eshelman has over 30 years of cultural resource management experience. His work includes researching and writing the Historic Context Study for the oystering industry of the United States for the National Maritime Initiative of the National Park Service. Eshelman prepared the Cultural Resource Management Plan for the United States Coast Guard. He has written numerous successful National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark nominations including the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and Grand Central Terminal Oyster Bar. Eshelman served as historian for the team which wrote the “Historic Lighthouse Preservation Handbook” for the United States Coast Guard and National Park Service. He was co-director of the Patuxent River Cultural Resource Survey which discovered and partially excavated an American War of 1812 military vessel from the US Chesapeake Flotilla. Eshelman also conducted an holistic inventory of War of 1812 and Revolutionary War sites in Maryland for the National Park Service’s National Battlefield Protection Program. He currently serves as the historian for the “Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail” Study Team of the National Park Service and is the director of the “Maryland War of 1812 Initiative.” Additionally, Eshelman is very familiar with Assateague Island, having served as life guard at Assateague State Park in 1965. Since then he has frequently camped, hiked and canoed there. He also serves as lecturer for the Oyster and Maritime Museum Elderhostel program, held at Chincoteague and Assateague islands. For the past six years Eshelman has conducted three to four sessions each spring and fall.

Patricia A. Russell has a special interest in documenting coastal bay shantyboats, several of which were taken ashore and eventually became shore based hunting lodges. In researching this work Russell has conducted numerous interviews listed in the acknowledgments section of this report and include for example a former owner of Bob-O-Del Gun Club, guide at Bob-O-Del; and former owner of High Winds Gun Club. In addition Russell has uncovered numerous never published photographs, newspaper articles and even home movies of hunting at these lodges. Her research, interviews and cultural material was essential to gathering the information necessary for researching this historic context study. Russell has also been active in other historic preservation activities including the successful protection of the 19th century town of Whitehaven, Maryland, including its hotel, schoolhouse, shipyard and railway.

Appendix III

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE FIELD SURVEY