

D-314  
St. Peter's M. E. Church  
Meekins Neck  
1923  
Private

Located on the roadside between Dunnock's crossroads and the Fishing Creek bridge is St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church, an ell-shaped frame chapel erected in 1923 for this Meekins Neck congregation. The well-built weatherboard frame structure was infused with finely detailed decoration in the gable-front porch to the subtle refinement in the six-over-six sash that have segmental arched window heads. Fixed atop the rectangular main block is a finely detailed tower with woodwork decoration in the form of a classical pediment in pilasters that embellish each face of the octagonal shaft.

While the exterior finish details point to neoclassical influences, the overall shape of St. Peter's is tied to the plans developed and promoted by the national Methodist Episcopal church during the late nineteenth century. The side wing to the rectangular sanctuary is labeled a "Lecture Room" or "Classroom" where the space could be utilized for additional congregation seating or used as a separate instructional space.

A Methodist church on Meekins Neck has functioned since the mid nineteenth century, although it has been known by different names with various buildings on different sites. Regional church records document a Methodist Episcopal church known as Asbury on the Meekins Neck portion of Hooper's Island during the third quarter of the nineteenth century, and the 1877 atlas map documents that a church stood on the west side of the county road south of Dunnock's crossroads. The St. Peter's M. E. congregation surfaces during the early twentieth century with the acquisition of several

small parcels on the east side of the road from Charles Mills, et al. A land transfer in 1915 is a joint transaction between members of the Mills family and the trustees of St. Peter's and Zion Methodist congregations.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-314

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

historic St. Peter's M. E. Church

other \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street and number Hooper's Island Road  not for publication

city, town Swan Harbor  vicinity

county Dorchester

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

name Trustees of St. Peter's M. E. Church

street and number RFD telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Church Creek state MD zip code 21622

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber WHM 1 folio 523

city, town Cambridge tax map 84 tax parcel 13 tax ID number 6-095925

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District  
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Recorded by HABS/HAER  
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

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

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. D-314

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

St. Peter's M. E. Church stands on the east side of Hooper's Island Road at the point where it intersects Swan Harbor Road in the Taylor's Island Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story, ell-shaped frame church, supported on brick piers, was erected in 1923. The exterior is clad with plain weatherboard shingles and the gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The gable-front main block is extended on its north side by a side wing of lower height, and a small tower rises from the roof. The main entrance is incorporated into a single-story gable-roofed open porch and enclosed vestibule. The church is accompanied on the lot by a burial ground.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

St. Peter's M.E. Church, built in 1923, is a single-story gable-front frame structure resting on brick piers and covered with steeply pitched gable roofs sheathed with asphalt shingles. The exterior is clad with plain weatherboard siding. The main section of the church, a gable-front rectangular structure is extended on the north side by a shorter single-story side wing, and in front by an enclosed vestibule and porch. The church faces west with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

The west (main) façade is a symmetrical elevation with the projecting gable-front porch and enclosed vestibule covering a large portion of the west wall of the main block. The gable-front porch sheltered a double door entrance fitted with five-panel double doors with a six-light transom overhead. The transom rail has a decorative dentil molding. The gable roof of the porch has extended eaves with exposed and decorated rafter tails. The gable front surface of the porch is finished with a woodwork decoration of a middle post that bisects a semi-circular arch. The porch posts are salt-treated replacements. On each side of the enclosed vestibule are small three-pane vertical windows, which are framed by plain surrounds. The lintel has a slight header molding. The vestibule and porch entrance is flanked on each side by six-over-six sash windows that have a segmental arched top header to the upper sash. The lintel also has a cap molding. The roof edge of the main block is extended and has open soffits with exposed and decorated rafter tails. Rising atop the front of the main gable roof is a short tower rising from a square base. The main portion of the tower has an octagonal shape, and it is capped by a short broach spire. The surface of the tower is enriched with a neoclassical pediment and pilaster decoration application on four sides. Round vents have been inserted in the center of each side. Fixed in the southwest corner of the pier is a marble datestone inscribed, St. Peter's M. E. Church, Built 1923."

The south side of the sanctuary is defined by two banks of tripartite compositions of six-over-six sash windows, and each individual sash has a segmental arched header to the top sash. And each section of tripartite windows have a molded cap to the window lintel.

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**Maryland Inventory of**  
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**Continuation Sheet**

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The east (rear) elevation of the sanctuary is marked by a three-sided apse covered by a steeply pitched hip roof. The two narrow sides of the apse are pierced by six-over-six sash windows.

The north side of the main block is covered in part by the shorter single-story side wing, which is detailed in the same way as the rest of the church. The gable roof has extended eaves with open soffits and decorated rafter tails. Banks of tripartite window units fitted with six-over-six sash mark the east and west sides of the wing. The north gable end of the wing has a side entrance hung with a five-panel door and topped by a four-light transom. The door is joined to each side by six-over-six sash windows each executed with the segmental arched header and lintel molding across the entire door and window unit. Fixed in the northwest corner where the wing meets the main sanctuary is a single flue brick stove chimney.

The church is not used actively at present. The interior was not open for inspection.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

### Specific dates

### Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1923

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Located on the roadside between Dunnock's crossroads and the Fishing Creek bridge is St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church, an ell-shaped frame chapel erected in 1923 for this Meekins Neck congregation. The well built weatherboard frame structure was infused with finely detailed woodwork finishes, from the exposed and decorated rafter ends to the relief woodwork decoration in the gable-front porch to the subtle refinements in the six-over-six sash that have segmental arched window heads. Fixed atop the rectangular main block is a finely detailed tower with woodwork decoration in the form of a classical pediment on pilasters that embellish each face of the octagonal shaft. While the exterior finish detail point to neoclassical influences, the overall shape of St. Peter's is tied to the plans developed and promoted by the national Methodist Episcopal church during the late nineteenth century. The side wide to the rectangular sanctuary is labeled a "Lecture Room" or "Classroom" where the space could be utilized for additional congregation seating or used as a separate instructional space.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

A Methodist church on Meekins Neck has functioned since the mid nineteenth century, although it has been known by different names with various buildings on different sites. Regional church records document a Methodist Episcopal congregation known as Asbury on the Meekins Neck portion of Hooper's Island during the third quarter of the nineteenth century, and the 1877 a M. E. church stood on the west side of the road south of Dunnock's crossroads.<sup>1</sup> The St. Peter's M. E. congregation surfaces during the early twentieth century with the acquisition of small parcels on the east side of the Hooper's Neck Road from Charles Mills, et al.<sup>2</sup> The land transfer in 1915

<sup>1</sup> John L. Graham, ed. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, p. 72.

<sup>2</sup> Dorchester County Land Records, WHM 1/523, 4 August 1915; JFD 18/538, 30 June 1926, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge.

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is a joint transaction between members of the Mills family and the trustees of St. Peter's and Zion Methodist congregations.

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St. Peter's M. E. Church  
Hooper's Island Road  
Swan Harbor vicinity, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 84, Parcel 13

JFD 18/538

Charles R. Mills

to

6.30.1926

Trustees of St. Peter's M. E. Church

All that lot of land situate lying and being in Meekins Neck, on the east side of the county road, leading from Dunnock's Cross Roads to Hooper's Island and containing one fourth acre of land more or less, Beginning fro the out bounds of the said lot, at the north east corner of the Parsonage Lot...The right of a free burial ground is reserved in this deed for Mrs. Mary R. Stanley (the wife of William Stanley) and family, she being the donator of the lot of land.

WHM 1/523

Charles R. Mills, bachelor, Samuel H. Mills, and Addie Mills, his wife,  
John G. Mills, and Manie G. Mills, his wife

to

8.4.1915

Samuel J. Hooper, pastor of St. Peter's and Mount Zion Methodist Episcopal Churches; Aaron Meekins, John W. Chester, William Meekins, Charley Meekins, William Ennalls, William Ward, William Matney, George Waters, William P. Meekins, Trustees of said St. Peter's Church and Joseph W. Woolford, Joseph W. Griffin, Joseph W. Dorsey, William S. Travers, Oliver A. Griffin, Louis Griffin, Henry Cooper, William Stanley, and Joseph Cornish, Trustees of Mt. Zion Church

All that land on the east side of the County road leading from Dunnock's Cross

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Roads to Fishing Creek, in No. 6 Election District, that is to say, Beginning for the outbounds for same at the south west corner of the Church yard where it intersects the aforesaid county road, thence in an Easterly direction with the church yard seventy yards to a post, thence in a westerly direction direction parallel with the said County road seventy yards to a point, thence....containing one acre of land more or less...

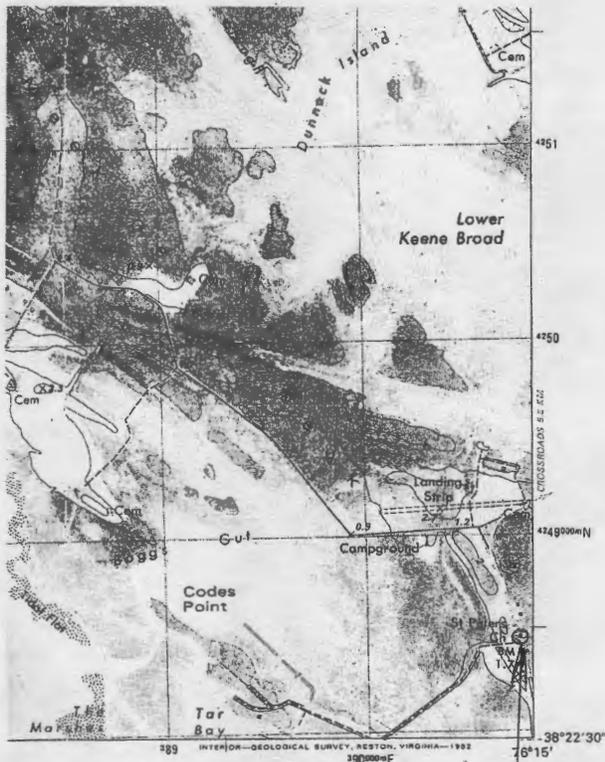


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**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road

Trails  
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

**TAYLORS ISLAND, MD.**

N9822.5-W7615/7.5

1982

DMA 6760 IV NE-SERIES V8310



D-314, St. Peter's M. E. Church





D-314

ST. PETER'S M. E. CHURCH

MEEKINS NECK, DORCHESTER C. MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

10.2012, PAUL B. TOWANT, PITVTV,  
W. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 of 5



D-314

St. Peter's U. F. Church  
MARTINS NECK, DORCHESTER Co., MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

10. 2012, PAUL B. TOWANT, PHOTO.

WET./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2 OF 5



D-314

ST. PETER'S M. E. CHURCH

MEEKINS NEAR, DORCHESTER Co MA

NORTH ELEVATION

10.2012 PAUL B. TOWANT, PHOTO.

Nº. / IN. HISTORICAL TRUST

3 OF 5



D-314

St. Peter's M. E. Church  
Meekins Neck, Dorchester  
NEST  
ELEVATION, CO., MD.

10.2012, Paul B. Tourant,  
PITTS.

NEZ/MR Historical Trust

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D-314

St. Peter's M. E. Church  
MEEKINS Neck, Dorchester  
Co., Md.

STEEPLE - NW ELEV.

10. 2012, PAUL B. TOWANT,  
PITTSV.

N. H. / W. D. HISTORICAL TRUST

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D-314  
1003144708

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
St. Peter's Methodist Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Md. Rt. 335 Hooper's Island Road, at corner of Swan Harbor Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Church Creek

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Dorchester

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
St. Peter's Methodist Church, Meekins Neck

STREET AND NUMBER:  
RFD

CITY OR TOWN: Church Creek STATE: Maryland ZIP: 21622

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Dorchester County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
High Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge STATE: Maryland ZIP: 21613

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>On Meekins Neck is a frame chapel built on brick piers. It consists of the main body with a vestibule and porch under a seperate roof. On the north side of the building is a part of a transept. The windows consist of a series of three windows, each with segmental headed panes. Single windows flank the door on the west facade and the north transept. The ends of the rafters are exposed and cut with an ogee curve. Above the entrance is a small louvered bellfry. The chapel was built in 1923.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1923

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Across the graveyard from the church is a small structure which looks as though it was the chapel prior to the erection of the present church. Many of the details of the church can be found in Zorah Church at Petersburg near Hurlock.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Blank area for Major Bibliographical References.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Blank area for Acreage Justification.

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust      DATE: Nov, 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis      STATE: Maryland      ZIP: 21401

**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:

National       State       Local

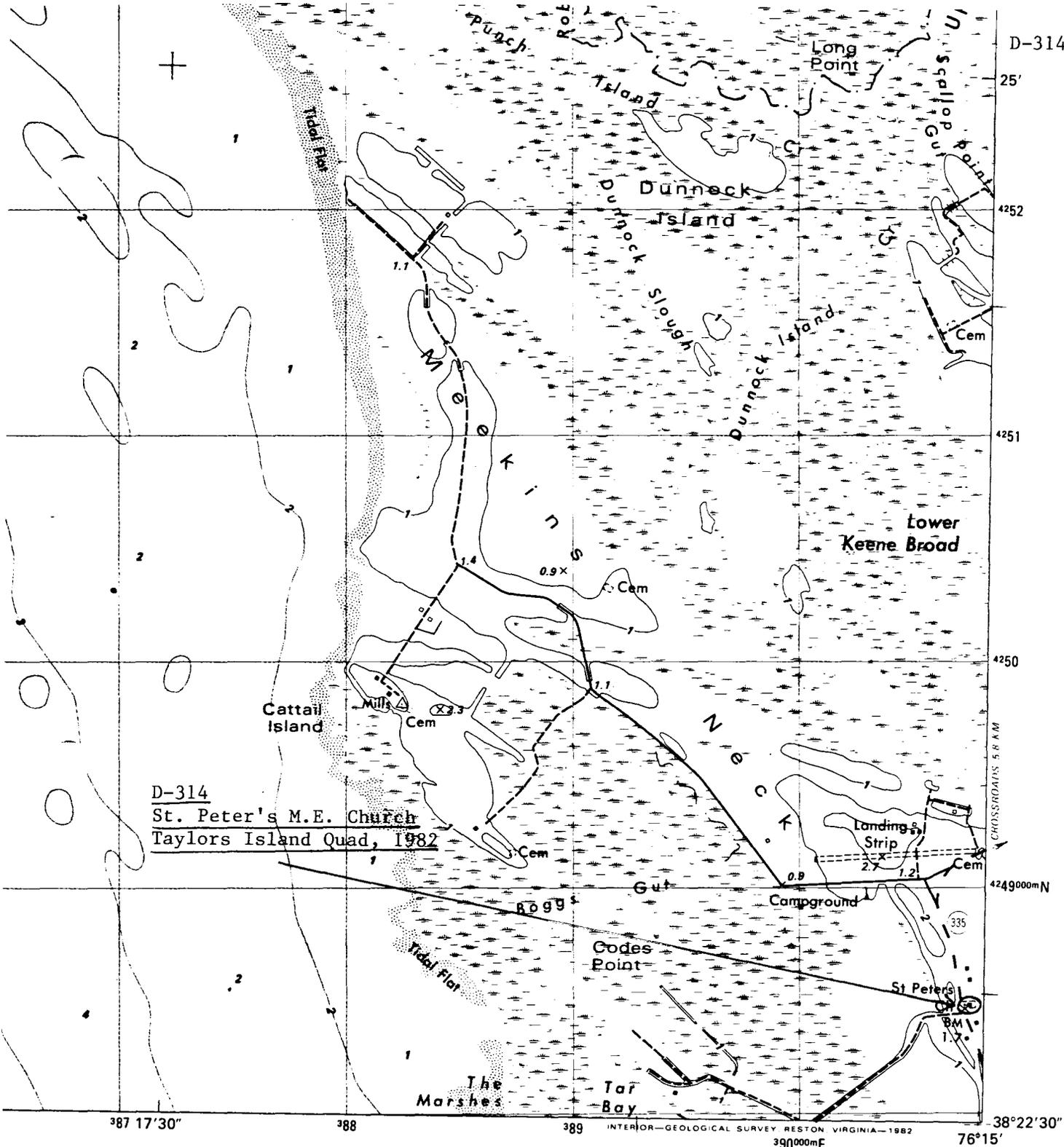
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FEET	METERS
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

To convert feet to meters  
multiply by .3048

To convert meters to feet  
multiply by 3.2808



D-314  
St. Peter's M.E. Church  
Taylors Island Quad, 1982

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESTON, VIRGINIA—1982

**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Trails
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route



CONTOURS AND ELEVATIONS  
IN METERS

**TAYLORS ISLAND, MD.**  
N3822.5—W7615/7.5

1982

DMA 5760 IV NE—SERIES V8330

ER

12  
EQUEST

(HONGA)  
MS 10970

13X1-35

50%

D-314



St. Peters Methodist Church

D-314

M. Bourne Nov 1975