Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74) MAGI # 2400231208 Easement WO-23 9

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC: St. Martins Church, Worcester Parish

AND/OR COMMON: Old St. Martins Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: West side of intersection of U.S. 113 and Maryland 589, one mile south of Showell

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Showell X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Worcester CODE: 047

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	__ENTERTAINMENT	X RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Vestry of Worcester Parish

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: Berlin __ VICINITY OF STATE: Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: Snow Hill STATE: Maryland 21863

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE:

DATE: __FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

CITY, TOWN: STATE:

7 DESCRIPTION

WO-23

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old St. Martins Church is located on the west side of U.S. Route 113 at its intersection with Maryland Route 589, one mile south of Showell, Maryland.

It is a brick, one-story building with a gallery.* The walls above the champhered water table are laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers on the north and south facades. The brickwork is finely done and in good condition. On the north and south is a heavy wooden cove cornice with end boards that follows the curve of the cove. The ridge of the A-roof runs from east to west; there is a "kick" to the eave of the roof.

The south facade is three bays long with a double batten door and transom (now boarded up) in the center bay. The two flanking windows are now closed on the lower half by batten shutters with strap hinges and are completely boarded over on the upper half. The lintels above the windows and doors are of gauged brick, and those above the windows have a gauged brick keystone. The west facade also contains an entrance with double batten doors. At gallery level is another boarded window. One of the unusual features of the building is the flat arches above the entrances which have an ogee ground into the bottom of the arch similar to those at Holly Hill, Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

The north and east sides have two windows each exhibiting the same treatment as the south facade, with keystones in the gauged flat arches and shuttered and boarded windows. The east gable appears to have been rebuilt with brick of a more modern date.

The interior of the chapel still retains much of its early woodwork. The brick floors are laid directly on the ground and the box pews are raised above the floor level. The original paneled pews have been used to make slip pews.* Some portions of the yellow pine pews are painted and some have never been painted. On the west is a loft or gallery which also retains its original pews, though these remain unaltered.* Access to the gallery is gained by a wide set of stairs with no railing. This stairway is new and not in its original location.*

The interior walls are plastered and there is a wood vaulted ceiling painted blue. There is no altar and a vesting booth has been added in the southeast corner.* The reading desk platform and rail are crudely done and of a later date than the building.*

St. Martins is set in a grove of pine trees adjacent to Route 113. In the woods to the west of the building is an unusual growth of periwinkle.

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* Description by Michael Bourne, July 1969, except sentences marked with an asterik. The information in the latter is taken from the report of Perry, Shaw, Etc., Architects (See #9, Bibliographical References).

8 SIGNIFICANCE

Wo-23

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	✓ RELIGION
1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	✓ ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
X 1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present brick building known as Old St. Martins Church was started in 1756 and completed in 1759. It stands on the site of its less pretentious predecessor, a chapel of ease. The interior contains its original brick floor, some pews with original caps and an intact gallery. The original sash are in evidence and were double-hung, that is, with lead weights and pulleys so as not to have the dangerous notch-and-catch contrivance of the "guillotine." The brickwork of the church is well executed and a good example of the use of glazed headers common in the eighteenth century brickwork of the Eastern Shore.

Two acres of land were set aside for the church and cemetery. In the Anglican custom, several of the early rectors were buried under the chancel of the church. During the Revolutionary War, the officiating priest of Old St. Martins Church was detained and escorted to Annapolis.

In 1844, the Episcopal Bishop of Maryland came into the area and nerated a renewal of interest in Old St. Martins which led to its refurbishing and alteration.* Box pews were turned into slip pews, the walls were plastered, and the gallery, initially in an L-shape position, was changed to its present position.

During the nineteenth century, membership dropped and parishioners attended churches in more populous areas. Old St. Martins was then used by other denominations on a temporary basis. Of the original silver service, two chalices are in the possession of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Berlin, Maryland, and two patents are in the possession of the Episcopal Church in Dagsboro, Delaware. Commemorative services are currently held once a year, in June, in Old St. Martin's Church.

*The Episcopal Bishop at this time was William Rollinson Whittingham (Bishop of Maryland from 1840 until 1879). According to Phoebe Stanton in her book, The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture, Whittingham became in 1840 the "head of a diocese in dire need of new churches, [and he] . . . . set out to improve the physical condition of existing churches, reform and dignify ceremonial practice in the diocese, and increase the number of parishes and church buildings, ..." (p. 217) He was personally a great proponent of the ecclesiological movement in church architecture and due to his influence, many of the new churches built in Maryland in the mid-19th century were in the Gothic Revival style. In spite of this, Whittingham was apparently also interested in refurbishing the buildings dating from Maryland's earlier church history. It was this concern that led him to prompt the restoration of Old St. Martins in 1844.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Earle, Swepson. The Chesapeake Bay Country. Baltimore: Thomsen-Ellis Company, 1923.

Forman, H. Chandlee. Old Buildings, Gardens and Furniture in Tidewater Maryland. Cambridge, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1967.

Minutes of the Vestry of Worcester Parish.

Perry, Shaw and Hepburn, Kehoe and Dean, Architects. Regional

see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one acre

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A				B			
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mendel L. Heilig, Archivist/Michael Bourne

ORGANIZATION — Maryland Historical Trust

DATE — August 1975; July 1969

STREET & NUMBER — 117 Elizabeth Street/21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN — Salisbury/Annapolis

STATE — Maryland

21801/21401

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE — DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

9

Architectural Survey of Eastern Maryland Public and Semi-Public Buildings. 1951.

Skirven, Percy G. The First Parishes of The Province of Maryland. Baltimore: The Norman, Penington Co., 1923.

Wilstach, Paul. Tidewater Maryland. New York: Tudor Publishing Co., 1937.

Works Progress Administration Writers Project. Maryland, a Guide to the Old Line State. American Guide Series Reprint of 1940 ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1973.

ON N.R. Easement 240023208

Form 10-445 (5/62)

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Worcester TOWN Showell VICINITY STREET NO. Rt 113 1/2 mile south of Showell on west side of Road. ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE Religious PRESENT OWNER Vestry of St. Paul's Parish, Berlin PRESENT USE Vacant WALL CONSTRUCTION brick NO. OF STORIES 1	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY WO – 23 2. NAME St. Martin's Church DATE OR PERIOD c. 1756 – 59 STYLE Georgian ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC Once a year

St. Martin's Church, located on Rt. 213 south of Showell in Worcester County is a fine small brick chapel constructed between 1756-59.

The south facade is three bays long with center double batten door with transom above (now boarded up). The two flanking windows are now closed on lower half by batten shutter with strap hinges and a completely boarded upper half. Lintels above the windows and doors are of gauged brick, those above the windows having a gauged brick keystone.

Above the champhered water table the walls are laid in Flemish bond brick, the north and south walls having glazed or black headers. It has "A" roof with "Kick" to the eave. The ridge runs from east to west.

On the north and south is a heavy wooden cove cornice with end board following the curve of the cove.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered yes Interior poor Exterior fair

(continued on reverse side)

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. WPA Guide, p. 440.	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Michael Bourne Maryland Historical Trust DATE OF RECORD July, 1969

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

The west facade also contains an entrance with double batten doors. At choir level is another boarded window. One of the unusual features of the building is the flat arches above the entrances which have an ogee ground into the bottom of the arch, like those at Holly Hill, Anne Arundel County.

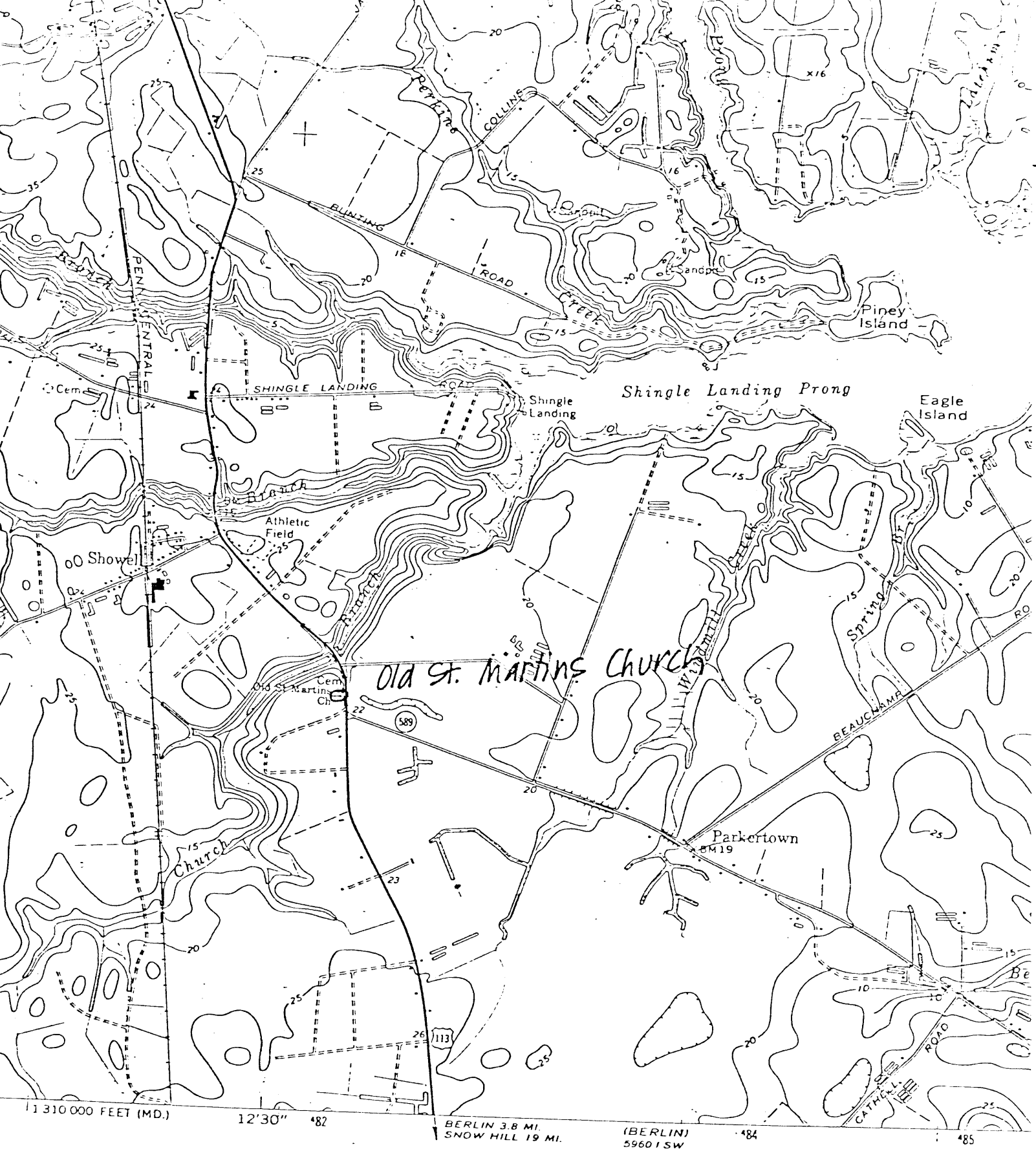
The north and east sides have two windows each with the same treatment as the south facade, with keystones in the gauged flat arches, shuttered and boarded windows. It appears as if the east gable has been rebuilt with more modern brick.

The interior of the chapel still retains much of its early woodwork. The brick floors are laid directly on the ground and the box pews are raised above the floor level. None of the pews have their doors. Portions of the yellow pine pews are painted and portions have never been painted. Some of the original twenty-pane sash remain in the chapel. The interior walls are plastered and there is a wood vaulted ceiling painted blue. On the west, is a loft, which also has original pews. Access is gained by a wide set of stairs with no railing.

St. Martin's is set in a grove of pine trees and adjacent to Rt. 113. In the woods west of the building is an unusual growth of periwinkle (myrtle).

Maryland Historical Society Marker:

OLD ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH
The Original Protestant Episcopal Church
of Worcester Parish, Started 1756, Completed
1759 on site of earlier "Chapell"-of-ease.
First Rector, the Reverend Mr. Dingle, and two
later Rectors buried under floor of Church.
Annual Service held in June.



Selbyville Quad

SCALE 1:24 000

1 MILE

7000 FEET

1 KILOMETER

MN
GN
8½°
151 MILS
0°07'
2 MILS

UTM GRID AND 1967 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

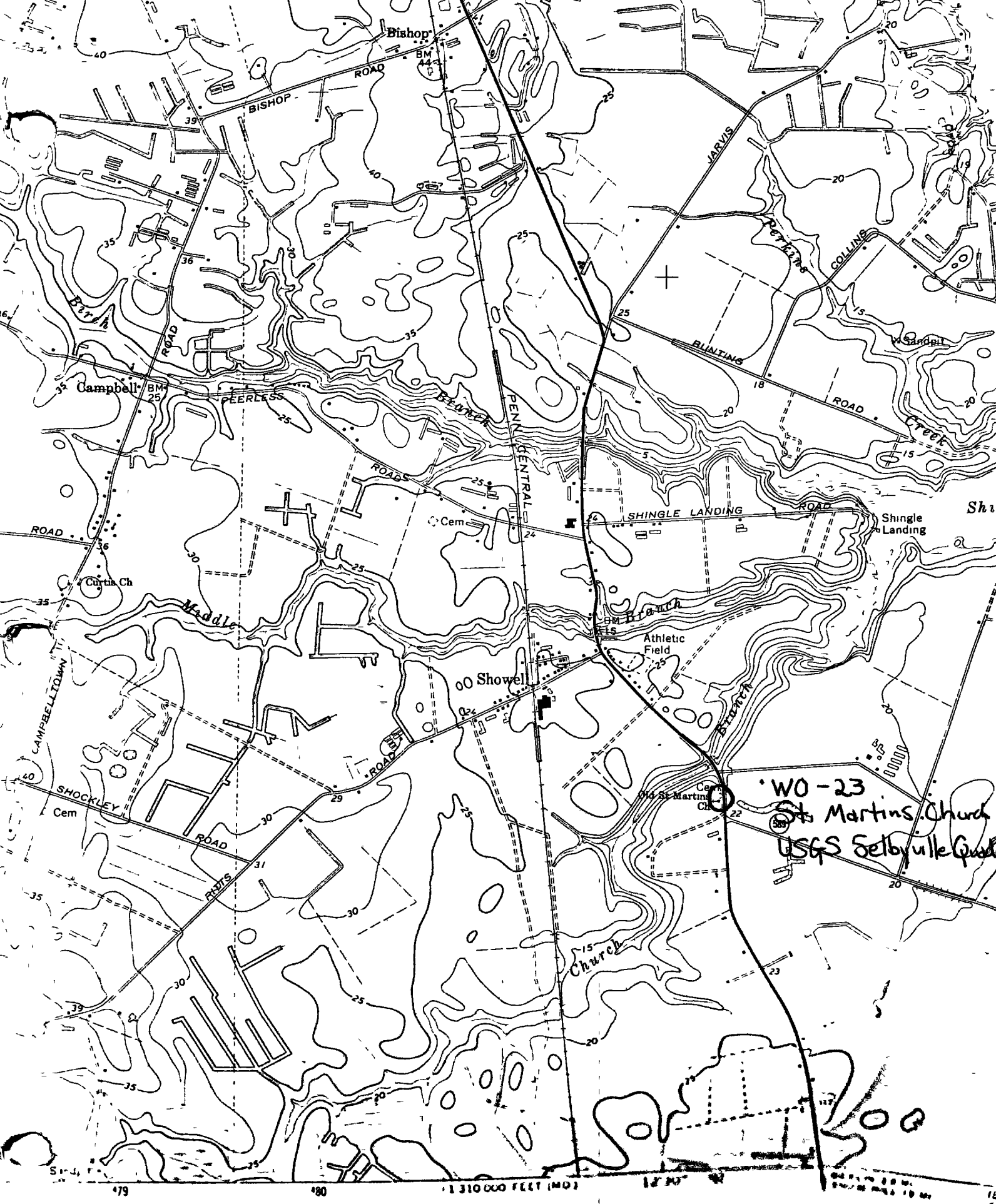
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET

DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER

SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER

THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS LESS THAN 1 FOOT


Bishop
BM 44
BISHOP ROAD
JARVIS
Perkins
COLLINS
Sandpit
BLINTING ROAD
Campbell
BM 25
PEERLESS ROAD
Branch
PENN CENTRAL
Creek
ROADS
Cem
SHINGLE LANDING ROAD
Shingle Landing
Curtis Ch
Middle
BM 15
Athletic Field
Showell
CAMPBELLTOWN ROAD
Branch
Old St Martins Ch
Cem
SHOCKLEY ROAD
Cem
RUTTS ROAD
Church
WO-23
St Martins Church
USGS Selbyville Quad
479
480
1 310 000 FEET (MD)
and published by the Geological Survey
USC&GS and Maryland Bureau of Control Surveys
methods from aerial photographs
dated 1943

WO-23
ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH
SHOWELL VICINITY, WORCESTER COUNTY, MD.
SOUTH ELEVATION
11/18/88
PHOTOGRAPHER, MICHAEL HARRISON DAY
NEL / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

WO-23

(9)

ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH

SHOWELL VICINITY, WORCESTER COUNTY, MD.

SOUTH ELEVATION

11/18/98

PHOTOGRAPHER, MICHAEL HARRISON DAY

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1756-1759

ST. Martin's Church WO-23

WO. -23 J.M.K. 9/75

WO-23
ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH
SHOWELL VICINITY, WORCESTER COUNTY, MD.
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION
11/18/88
PHOTOGRAPHER, MICHAEL HARRISON DAY
NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST