Form No 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

EASEMENTS ON MILL AND STORE 21

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
SM-298
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Clifton Factory, The Factory, Clifton, Cliffton, Cecil's Mill

AND/OR COMMON
CECIL'S MILL HISTORIC DISTRICT (preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Indian Bridge Road, one eighth mile from the intersection with Md. Rt. 5 — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Great Mills — X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: Maryland — CODE: 024

COUNTY: St. Mary's County — CODE: 037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
X DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	X MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	X BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY See continuation sheet page 1

NAME (Cecil's Mill)
St. Mary's County Historical Society, Inc. Telephone #: 475-2467

STREET & NUMBER
The Old Jail, Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN: Leonardtown — __ VICINITY OF

STATE: Maryland — zip code: 20650

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. St. Mary's County Courthouse, Land Records Office

STREET & NUMBER
Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN: Leonardtown — STATE: Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
None

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN — STATE

SM-298

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

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.TIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Cecil's Mill Historic District
St. Mary's County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

OWNER OF PROPERTY (continued)

Cecil Home, Old Holy Face Church -

Rosie B. Cecil (301) 994-1133
Indian Bridge Road
Great Mills, Maryland

Cecil Store -

John A. Cecil
William F. Cecil
Indian Bridge Road
Great Mills, Maryland

ıe store is listed as being the same as above, but I do not believe ..is to be correct. John A. Cecil and William F. Cecil are the owners not Rosie B. Cecil, and they are in the process of drawing up documents to donate the store to the St. Mary's County Historical Society. This process may have already been completed but as of yet there has been no deed recorded in the Courthouse. The Historical Society should be contacted about the status of this property. I expect the conditions will be similar to those for the Mill which they already donated.

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7 DESCRIPTION

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

The Cecil's Mill District is located about one quarter mile from the intersection of Maryland Route 5 and Indian Bridge Road in Great Mills, St. Mary's County, Maryland. Included are four buildings: Cecil's Mill, Cecil Store, the Cecil Home and Old Holy Face Church and part of the fields woods and streams necessary to preserve the rural flavor and integrity of the historic district.

The northern boundary is a small bridge on the Indian Bridge Road where it crosses the Western Branch of the St. Mary's River. This same western branch is the western boundary; the southern boundary is a line east from the river to a point south of the store with the eastern boundary running from that point north to the western branch.

Cecil's Mill is a two and one half story structure located on the west side of Indian Bridge Road on the western branch of the St. Mary's River. It is a wood framed, tin-roofed structure with clapboard and corrugated tin siding. Constructed about 1900, it was originally a two and one half story rectangular building with cellar. Several shed additions of one and two stories had been added since construction. The foundation retains some of the original stone and brickwork from the 1826 Clifton Factory as well as the original drive and gearing. On the north side of the mill is an unsheltered saw mill with the tracks, carriage and gearing intact. This mill was used until 1959 and the interior grist mill until the early 1940's

The interior of the mill is of open bay construction with the grain elevators, drive shafts and machinery clustered in the center of the bay on all three floors. A large metal overshot water wheel located in the extreme northeast corner of the building was added circa 1900. Running the length of the basement is a primary drive shaft which originally received power transmitted by a belt from the water wheel. A simple friction clutch located approximately ten feet from the north end of the basement allowed power to be transmitted to the entire shaft, and through a series of vertical belts to other similar shafts on the upper floors. Numerous elevator shoes and the bases of two grain bins also are located near the shaft. The drive shaft also leads outside the north end of the building and powered the circular saw mill.

On the first floor, the main portion of the mill is entered through a one-story shed addition built on the west facade. A small office is located to the left of the entrance. The central mill houses various pieces of mulling equipment designed to produce finished flour and various farm feeds. One of the three original double rolling mills (two sets of cast iron rollers) exists in situ. Also in the northern end of the mill is a corn grader (Monarch Grader, Style TT, Number 60), for cracking corn for chicken feed, and a set of two horizontal millstones on a steel shaft also used to grind corn into feed. In the northwest corne a set of steps leads to the second floor. In the southeast corner is a flour packer (S Howes Co., Silver Creek, New York, patent dates 1882-85)

See continuation sheet # 2

DESCRIPTION (continued)

fed from a chute above. Behind this and not in original position, is a Wolf Double Scourer, a machine that cleaned impurities from grain before grinding. In the southwest corner a long wooden bin was used to store bagged flour. An entrance way next to the bin leads into the southern shed addition which houses three machines used to manufacture feeds. The three machines now in this section are: A triumph Cornsheller, manufactured by the C.O. Bartlett & Snow Company, Cleveland Ohio, cal900; a McCormick Deering feed grinder, manufactured by International Harvester Co.; a bulk feed grinder (which extracts corn kennels from the cob) manufactured by the Paper Machine Company, Shortsville, New York.

In the extreme western shed addition to the mill, a Fairbanks and Morse Company diesel generator (Y Engine, HP50, RPM 257, Style V) was added in the 1920's to assist in producing power to drive the main shaft. A a point ten feet from the western wall, the floor drops some four et to the basement level, to allow a large leather belt to connect the generator and the shaft.

On the second floor in the northeast corner, a chute from the third floor feeds a Cranston Scouring, Polishing and Separating machine (with magnetic attachment built by the Huntley Manufacturing Co., Silver Creek, New York, patent dates 1883-93). Next to a large bin in the northwest corner, a Wolf Middlings Purifier is also fed from a chute from the third floor. This machine separates middlings so that grain can be re-introduced and ground by the roller mill on the first floor. Located next to the purifier is a Levelsifter (made by the Wolf Co., Chambersburg, Pennsylvania 190 RPM automatic control roller bearing, self-balancing) which separates flour into different grades. Behind the sifter is a large bin and numerous elevator shafts. To the right of the bin is a Wolf Perfected Cornground Drive Receiving Separator (Size 770, Number 913, Style AA). This machine separates wheat or other grains from impurities by size and weight before grinding. Chaff is drawn through a blower and exited through a chute outside the building. In the southeast corner is a small set of steps to the floor below and another bin. In the southwest corner a set of steps leads to the third floor. Next to the steps is a large metal mixer on a stand below a large wooden chute. This was probably used to custom blend different flour mixtures for sale below.

On the third floor a massive bank of eighteen elevator heads fills th room. On the west side of the elevator heads are: A Case Company

See continuation sheet # 3

DESCRIPTION (continued)

Scalping Chest; a Wolf Horizontal Bran Duster (size 230), which dusted and separated flour from bran; and a second scalping chest, not in place, in the extreme northwest corner. Next to the northend of the elevator bank is a corrugated tin dust collector with blower that sends dust down a wooden shaft to the floor below. Behind the bank of elevator heads, near the center of the bay along the east facade, is another grain polisher. Lastly, the extreme south elevator head is attached to a chute which leads over the roof and into the southern addition to the mill. Through this chute, corn was collected and sent below to be processed by the machines discussed above.

Across the street on the east side of Indian Bridge Road stands the store, house and Holy Face Church.

The store is five bays long with a two bay shed addition on each end and is two and one-half stories high. It is also three bays deep with a two bay addition which extends across the rear of the building for a total of nine bays. The roof is gabled with corbeled exterior chimneys flanking each end of the original five bay structure, and has a large cross gable with a six-over-six light, double hung sash window. A one story porch extends the entire length (nine bays) of the front facade of the building with double door entrances in the center of the building and in each addition. The first floor is of open bay construction except for the former post office on the north end. (This post office retains most of the original office equipment including pigeon holes). The second and third floors are partitioned into rooms. This building was constructed in the 1920's and is a good example of a rural store.

The Cecil Home is north of the store on the same side of Indian Bridge Road. It was constructed in the late 1800's and is five bays long by three bays wide and two and one-half stories high. The house has two additions at the rear, one two and one-half stories and the other one and one-half stories. The house with the additions is L shaped. A one story porch extends across the front with a dormer above and corbeled chimneys at the roof peak. The siding is clapboard and the gable roof asphalt shingled. This house was constructed on the site of the tavern and served as an inn as well as the home of the Cecils.

To the north of the house separated by a small field is a barn and the Old Holy Face Church. This Church, abandoned in the 1940's, was constructed in the mid 1800's. It is two stories high, of wood frame two bays wide by three long. It stands steeple-less and slowly falling into disrepair with greyed and weathered siding. The barn is also falling into disrepair.

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8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__ 'STORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__ 0-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	X COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	X INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1810-1959 BUILDER/ARCHITECT John T. Cecil

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cecil's Mill Historic District is of interest for two reasons: its historical use as a mill site, and the existence of the turn of the century mill and related buildings presently on the site.

The Clifton Factory was the first and only attempt to establish industry in St. Mary's County until the 20th century. The "Factory" area has been the site of milling establishments since before the Revolution with the "Great Mill" about a mile downstream and the "Indian Bridge Mill" about a quarter mile above. The area was not only an economic center in the St. Mary's County community but a cultural one as well.

Clifton Factory on Indian Bridge Road at the headwaters of the St. M's River was on the main road from St. Mary's City to Leonardtown. T velers stopped at the factory to have wood cut or grain milled, and the tavern where the Cecil Home now stands, to pass the time of day and rest on the long journey. The Factory area also contained a post office, tannery and blacksmith shop.

The Clifton Factory was built by William Hebb, Peter Gough and William C. Somerville about 1810. The factory was built to manufacture woolen and cotton goods as well as mill grain and wood. The factory area also contained a weaving house, dairy, stables, smokehouse, tailors shop and houses for the supervisors and workers.

The Factory was owned by a succession of people after the original owners had serious disagreements over the operation of the mill and several lawsuits were initiated. One of these suits in 1866 shows Johns Hopkins suing Thomas W. Gough, Joseph Forrest, Henry J. Carroll, Joseph H. Maddox and E. Lee Spaulding.

These men incorporated the Clifton Factory in 1860 and sold stock at $25 a share distributed in proportion to the individual incorporator's interest. Johns Hopkins was one investor in the corporation which failed by 1866. The Factory was put up for sale for failure to pay back taxes for the years 1862, 1863 and 1864. The company was liquidated and the St. Mary's County Tax Assessment for 1870 shows Thomas O. Spencer in sole ownership of the factory. It appears that he bought out the other p ners and paid Johns Hopkins.

See continuation sheet # 4

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The mill was operated on and off during the rest of the century. It is not known exactly when the textile mill was shut down, but all of the equipment had certainly been removed well before the turn of the century. It appears that the operation was never particularly successful and was characterized by dissension between the owners.

The factory was an experiment unique in southern Maryland in that it attempted to provide an economic base outside of the monoculture tobacco industry. This experiment involved not only the manufacture of textiles but also the raising of sheep and the cultivation of cotton. Both the sheep and the cotton failed. The land, already in poor conditior because of poor farming practices used in growing tobacco, failed to nurture cotton and could not survive the destructive eating habits of the sheep. Also, few farmers were willing to risk their livelihood on a new crop, and after the Civil War, labor was no longer as cheap or as plentiful as it once had been. Perhaps the single largest consideration was the development of milling elsewhere in Maryland and the subsequent development of transportation lines and markets far away from St. Mary's County, specifically in Baltimore and Ellicott City.

Cecil's Mill, constructed in 1900 by John T. Cecil, stands on the site of the Clifton Factory. William F. Cecil purchased the property in 1882. William Cecil ran the Factory and the Indian Bridge Mill a short distance upstream until the latter was destroyed by flood in the 1890's. In 1900 John T. Cecil knocked down the old factory and constructed the present structure. This mill is the last one standing in the district. All the others have been destroyed and only traces remain.

Cecil retained part of the original foundations, the gearing and the main drive. These parts remain intact today. In the early 20th century, an overshot water wheel and sluice were placed to the rear of the structure. Faint evidence of the sluice still exist north of the house and lead to a point along the west St. Mary's River where the original sluice gate was placed. The mill was a belt driven grist mill with a saw mill standing outside of the main structure. It is three stories high with the drive in the cellar and all of the milling equipment intact. In 1927 H. Robb Cecil moved the first diesel generator in St. Mary's County from Leonardtown where it had been replaced, and installed it in the mill. Cecil ran the mill with that engine and the overshot water wheel. (It should be noted that this engine was the first electrical generator of any kind in St. Mary's County). The saw mill was run until 1959 when Cecil was killed by a tooth from the saw wheel. The

See continuation sheet # 5

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Grist Mill discontinued operation in the 1940's.

Across the street from Cecil's Mill is the Cecil Store, the Cecil Home and Old Holy Face Church. The store is now closed. It housed the Great Mills Post Office for many years and at one time five members of the Cecil Family had all been postmasters. The store was built in the early 1900's as was the house (on the site of the tavern). Old Holy Face Church, constructed in the late 1800's, has stood abandoned and steeple-less since 1940. These buildings are reminders of the passing of an era in the rural life of the County.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Regina Combs Hammett, "My Search for the Great Mill", St. Mary's Chronicles
Vol. 20 Issue 11 & 12, November & December 1972,
Vol. 21 Issue 1,2,3,4, January - April 1973

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET PAGE 6

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6 acres

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	368400	4232340	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

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
John K. Bruton, Research Analyst & Mark R. Edwards/Historic Sites Survey Coordinator

ORGANIZATION
St. Mary's County Committee Maryland Historical Trust/Maryland Historical Trust

DATE November 23, 1976

STREET & NUMBER
c/o David Roberts, Chmn. 109 Lakeland Dr./21 State Circle

TELEPHONE (301)373-5251/269-2438

CITY OR TOWN
Hollywood/Annapolis

STATE
Maryland

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

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 John N. Pearce 7/26/77

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

2. St. Mary's Gazette (Beacon)
November 29, 1860
August 17, 1865
October 18, 1866
(Microfilm #Mfm 533,534,535, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Library)

3. Deed Records, St. Mary's County Courthouse
Leonardtown, Maryland

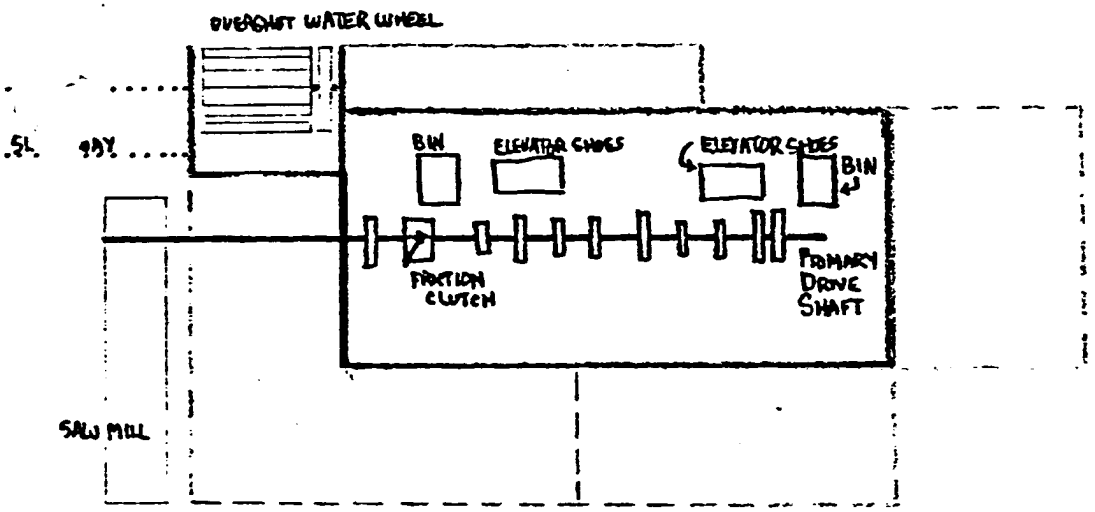
4. Register of Wills, St. Mary's County Courthouse
Leonardtown, Maryland

5. Alienations and Transfers, St. Mary's County Clerk's safe
Leonardtown, Maryland

6. Private Notebook, Benjamin Tippett, St. Mary's County Surveyor
St. Mary's County Clerk's safe
Leonardtown, Maryland

7. Tax Assessment Records, St. Mary's County
Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland

CECIL'S MILL



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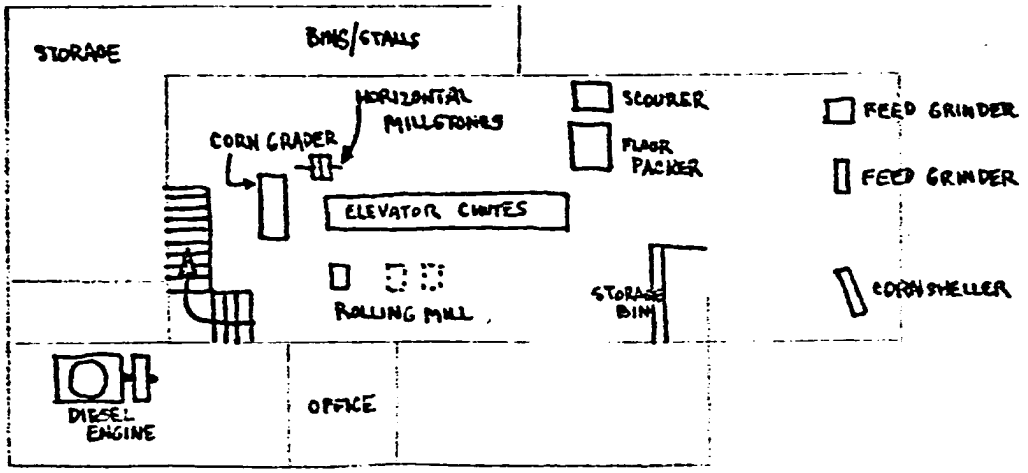

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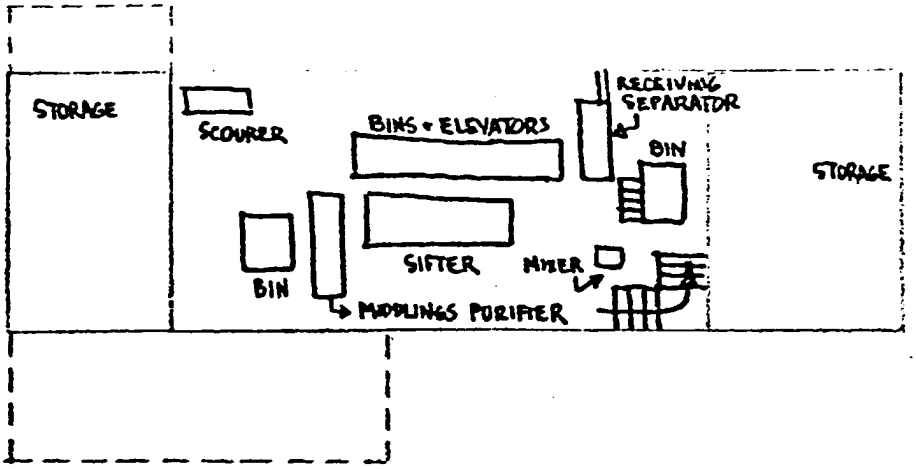

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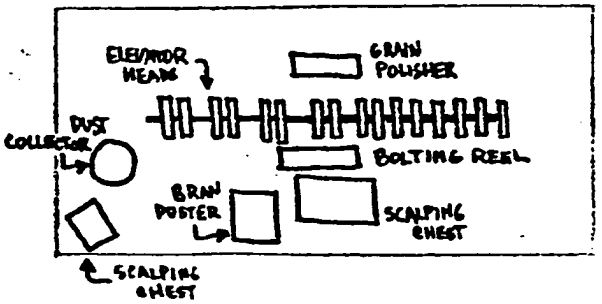

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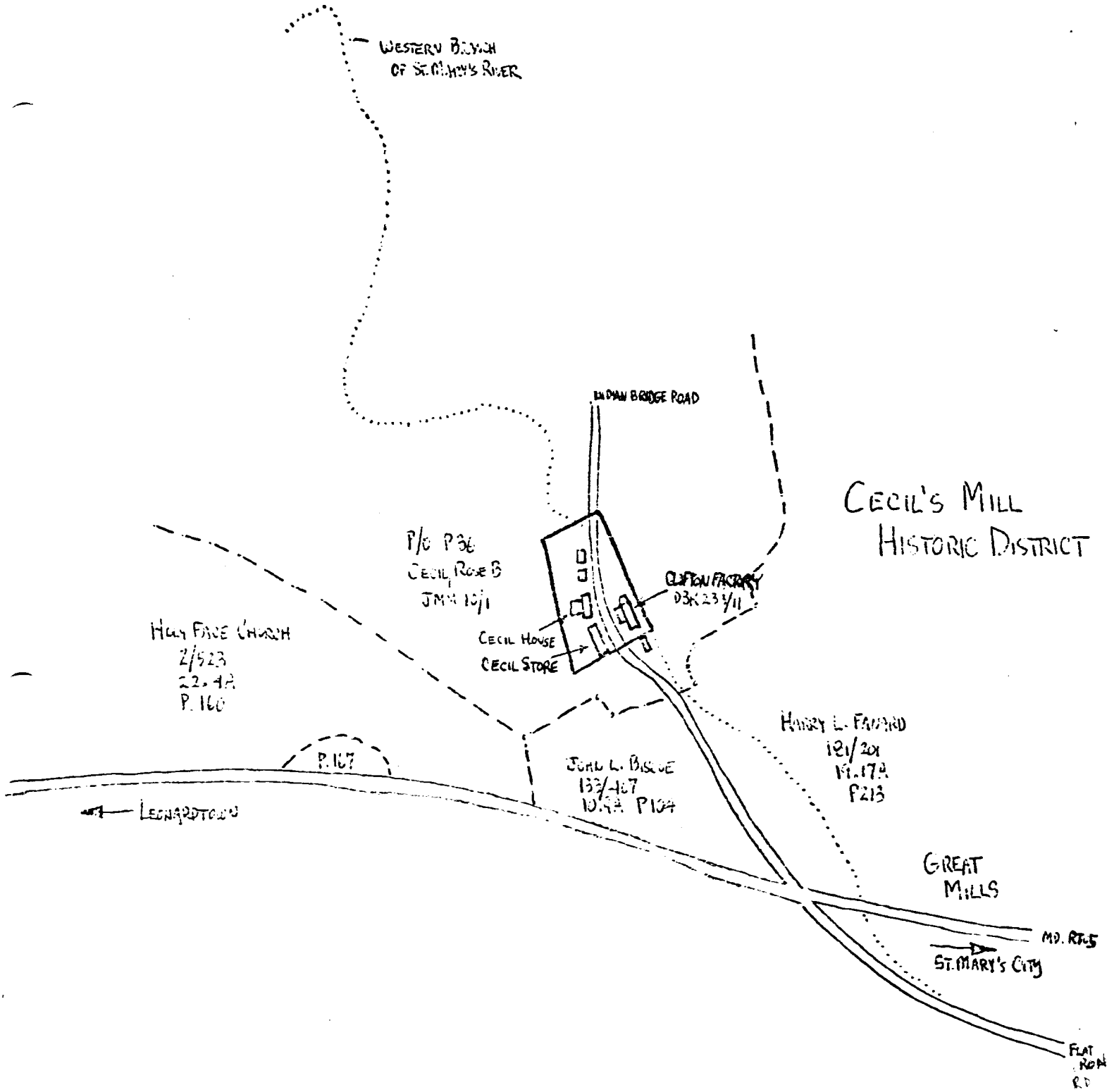

KEY:

—— PROPOSED DISTRICT

DATA FROM ST. MARY'S TAX MAP 50

MRE: 1/19/77

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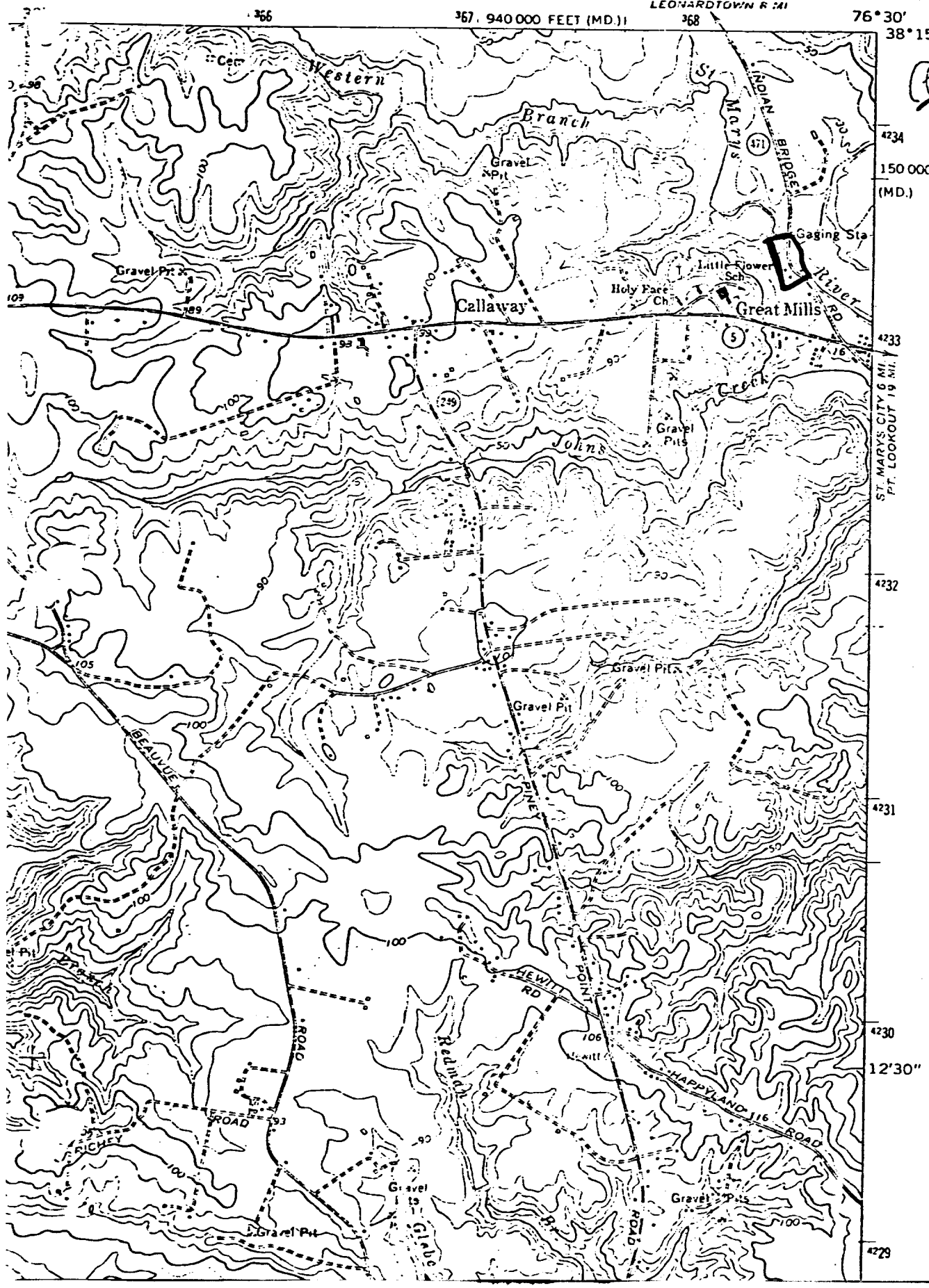
PINEY POINT QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND–VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

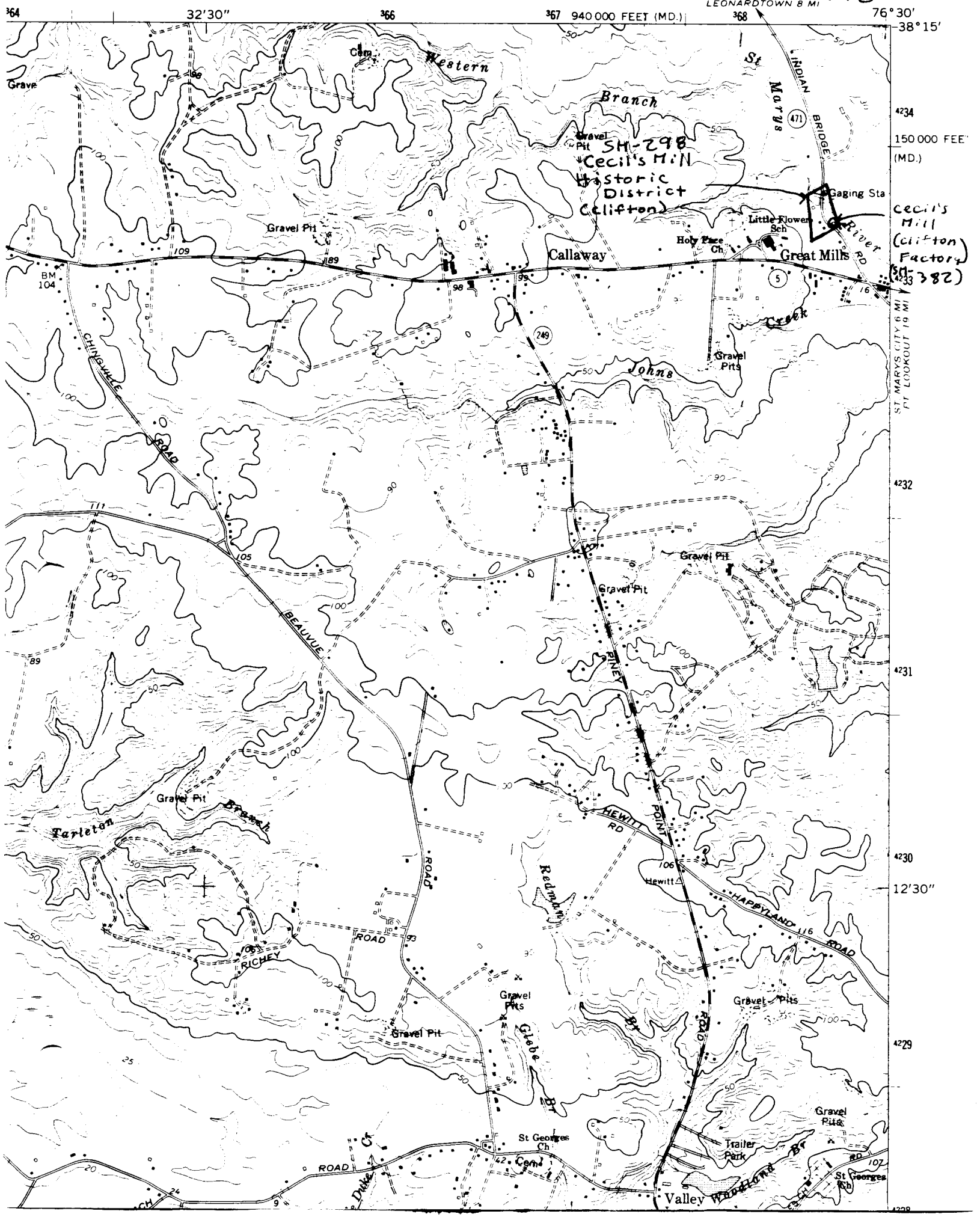
NE/4 PINEY POINT 15' QUADRANGLE
LEONARDTOWN 6 MI

5760 IV SW
(SOLOMONS ISLAND)

Cecil's Mill
Historic
District



MARYLAND—VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SM-298



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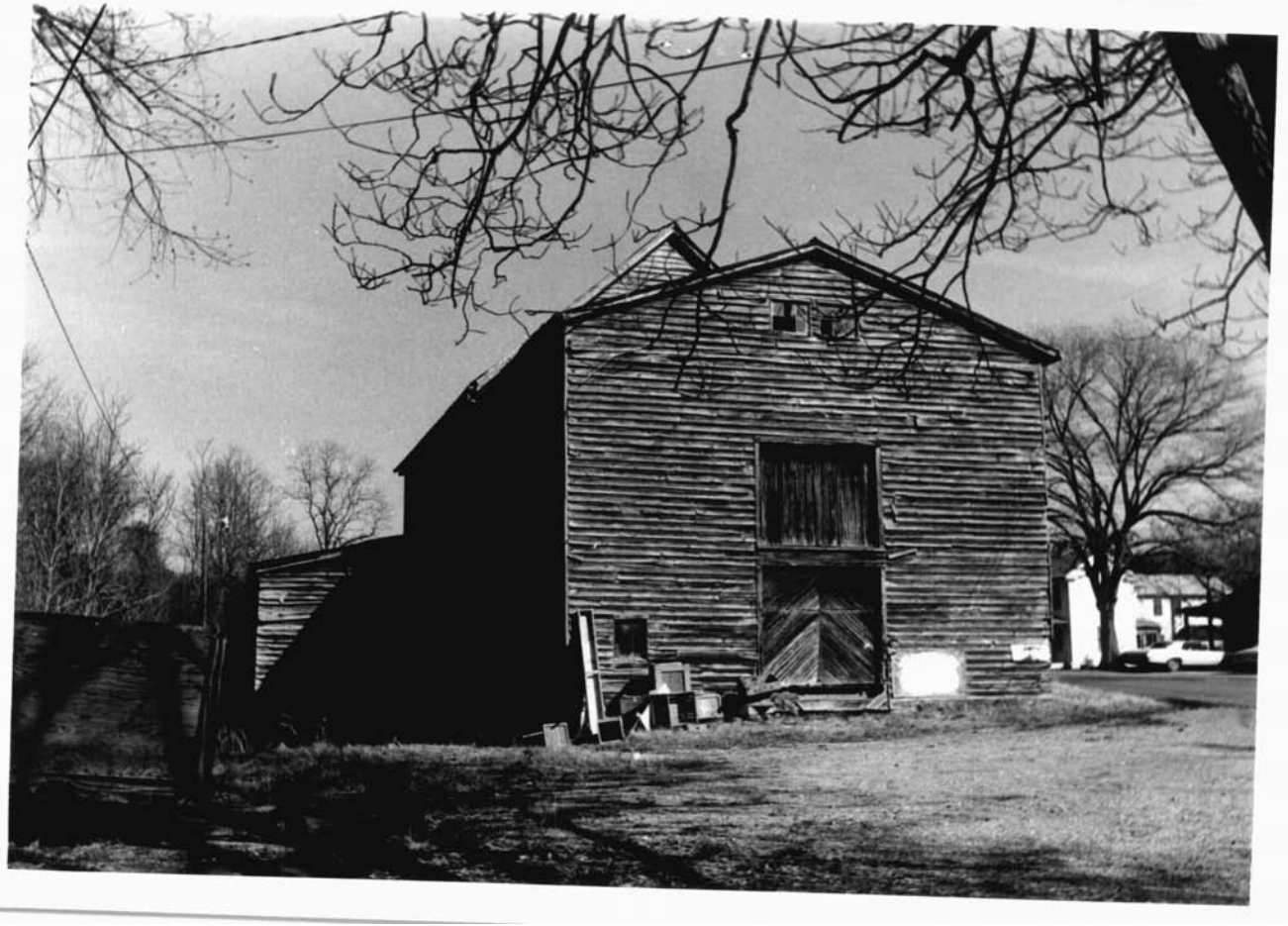
CECIL'S MILL



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Cecil's Mill

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Cecil's Mill