

# Easement

SM-299  
CECIL STORE  
Great Mills  
Private

1920's

This large, frame structure was built as a store in the 1920's. It is basically a five-bay, 2 1/2-story building with shed additions on the sides and across the rear. A one-story porch stretches across the front. The Great Mills Post Office was located here for many years.

(This building has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, U.S. Department of the Interior, as part of the Cecil's Mill Historic District.)

(Easement on Cecil's Mill)

SM-299

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

CITY, TOWN

Great Mills

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

024

COUNTY

St. Mary's County

CODE

037

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY                                     | OWNERSHIP                                 | STATUS  | PRESENT USE   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED        | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)         | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE          | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED                 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH  | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS           | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                 | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT              | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC                   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION               |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                         | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> 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

Leonardtwn

VICINITY OF

STATE zip code

Maryland 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

Leonardtwn

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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Cecil's Mill Historic District

St. Mary's County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland 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

The store is listed as being the same as above, but I do not believe this 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.

**DESCRIPTION**

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD            | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 corner 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)

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

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 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, ca1900; 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. At a point ten feet from the western wall, the floor drops some four feet 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 the room. On the west side of the elevator heads are: A Case Company

See continuation sheet # 3

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CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

## DESCRIPTION (continued)

Scalping Chest; a Wolf Horizontal Bran Duster (size 230), which dusted separated flour from bran; and a second scalping chest, not in place, in the extreme northwest corner. Next to the northend of the elevator bar 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 machine 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 ten 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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St. Mary's County  
Maryland

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SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The mill was operated on and off during the rest of the century. 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 condition 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

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St. Mary's County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

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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.

# 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

|   |      |             |               |   |      |         |          |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 1 8  | 3 6 8 4 0 0 | 4 2 3 3 3 4 0 | B |      |         |          |
|   | ZONE | EASTING     | NORTHING      |   | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| 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

John K. Bruton, Research Analyst & Mark R. Edwards/Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION

Survey Coordinator

DATE November 23, 1976

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

Trust 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

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 |
| ATTEST:  | DATE |
| KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  |      |

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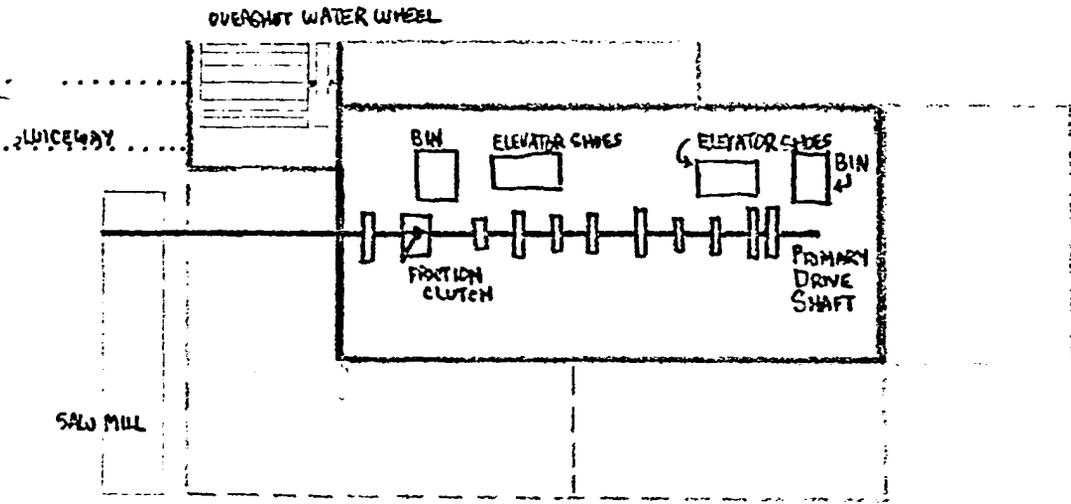
Cecil's Mill Historic District  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland

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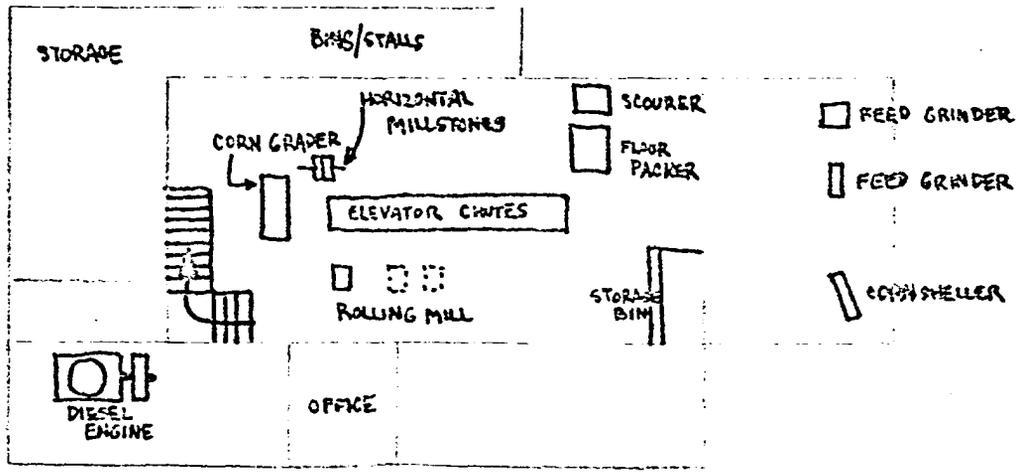
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

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

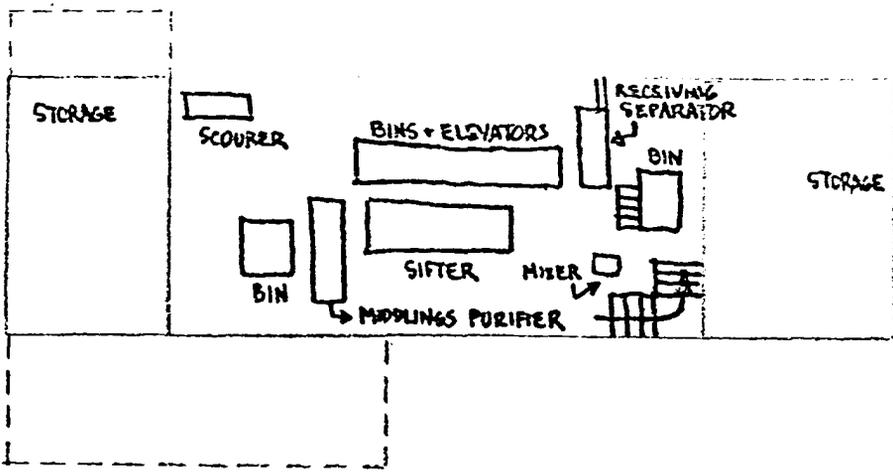
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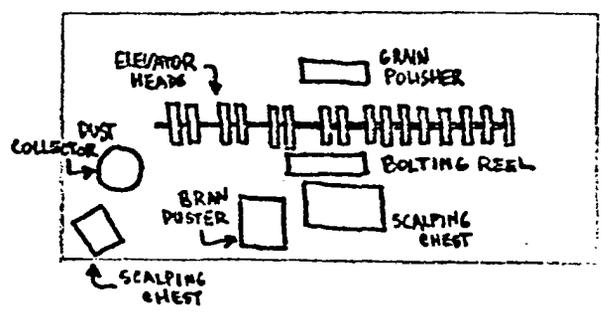
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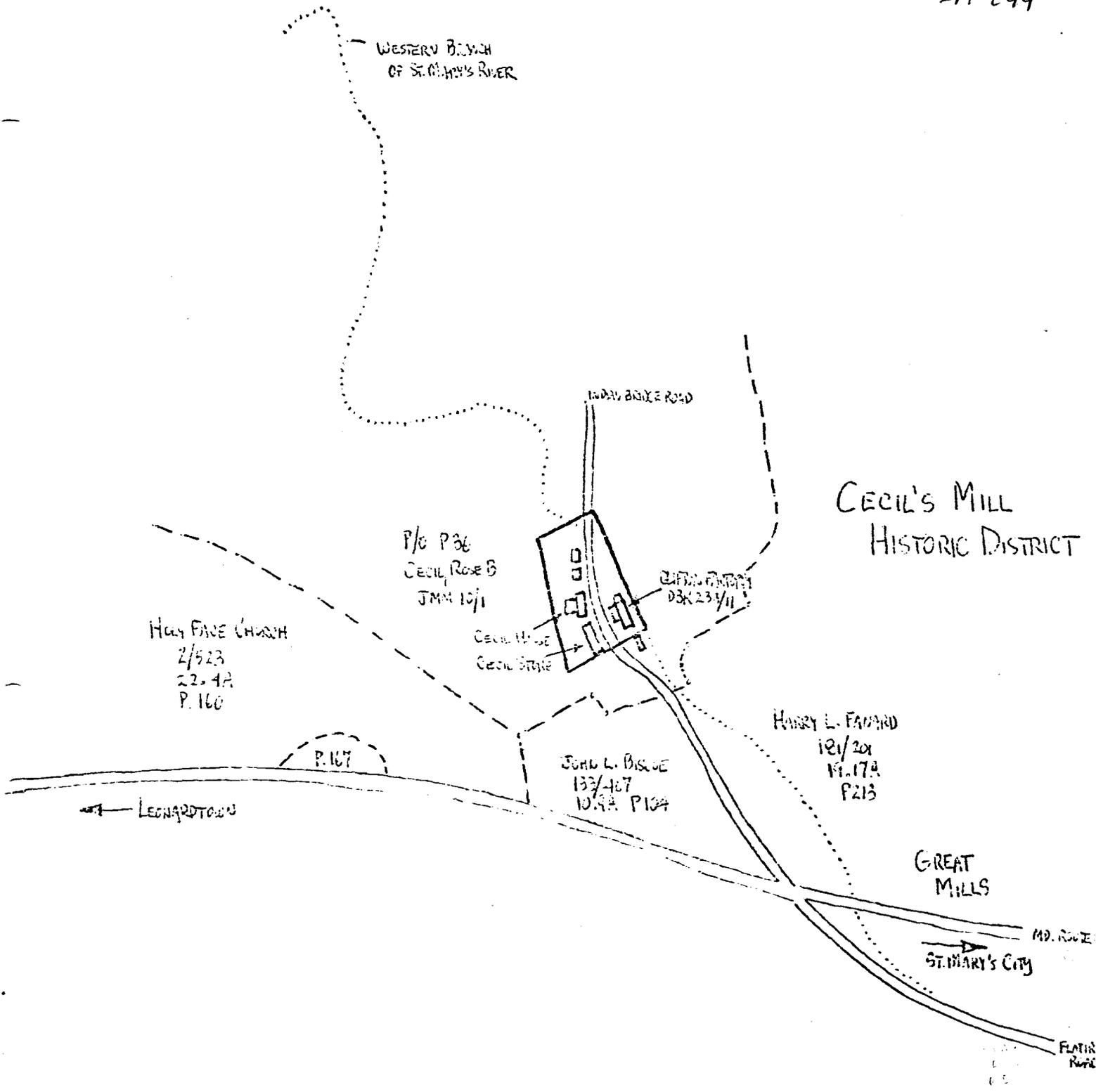
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2ND FLOOR



3RD FLOOR



# CECIL'S MILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

HOLY FACE CHURCH  
2/523  
22.4A  
P. 160

P/O P36  
CECIL ROSE B  
JMM 10/11

CECIL HOUSE  
CECIL STONE

JOHN L. BISCUÉ  
133/467  
10.9A P134

HARRY L. FAUARD  
181/201  
11.17A  
P213

GREAT MILLS

← LEONARDTOWN

→ ST. MARY'S CITY

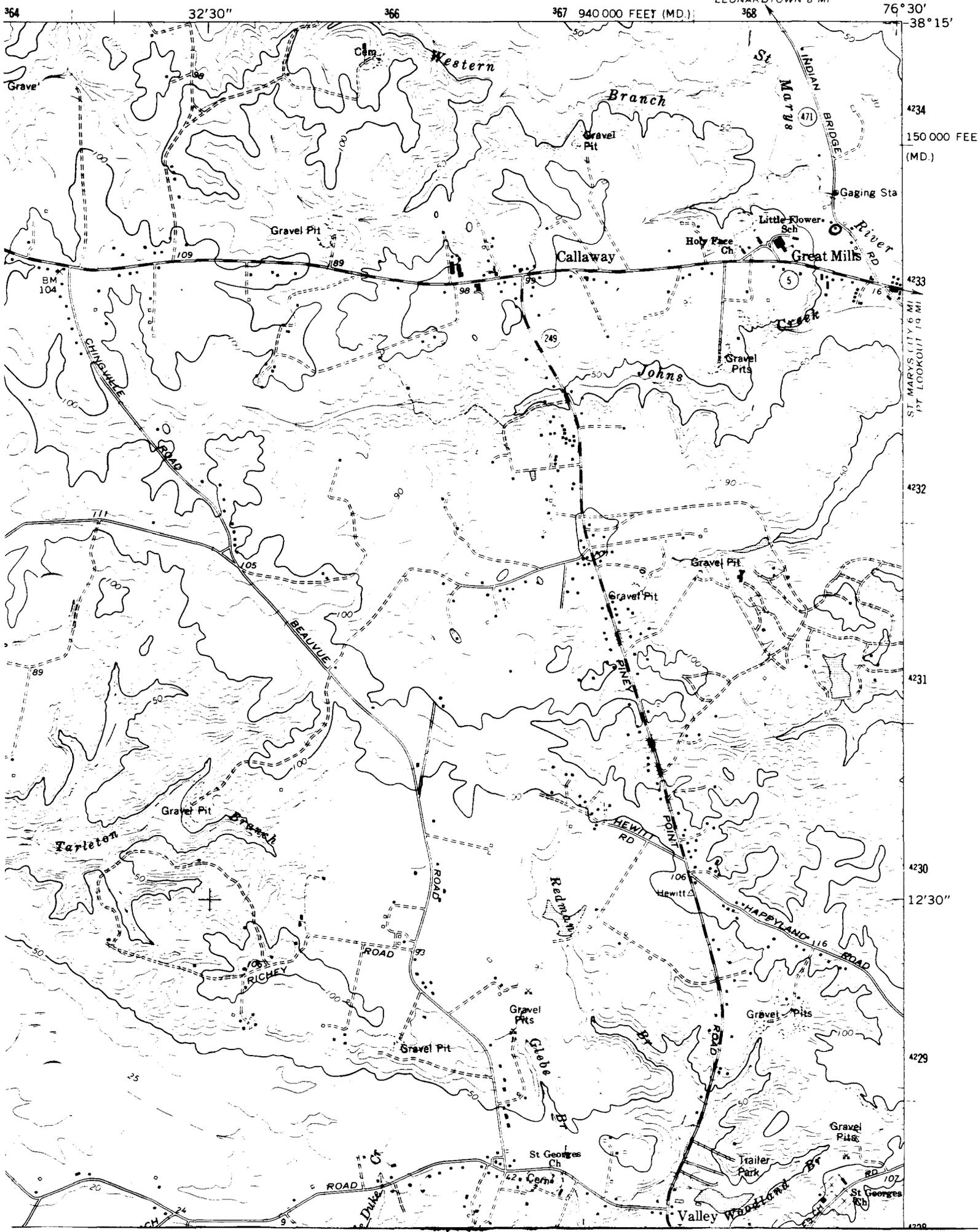
MD. ROUTE

FLATIN ROUTE

KEY:  
 — PROPOSED DISTRICT  
 DATA FROM ST. MARY'S  
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 MRE: 1/19/77

MARYLAND - VIRGINIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
SM-299  
CECIL STORE  
LEONARDTOWN 8 MI

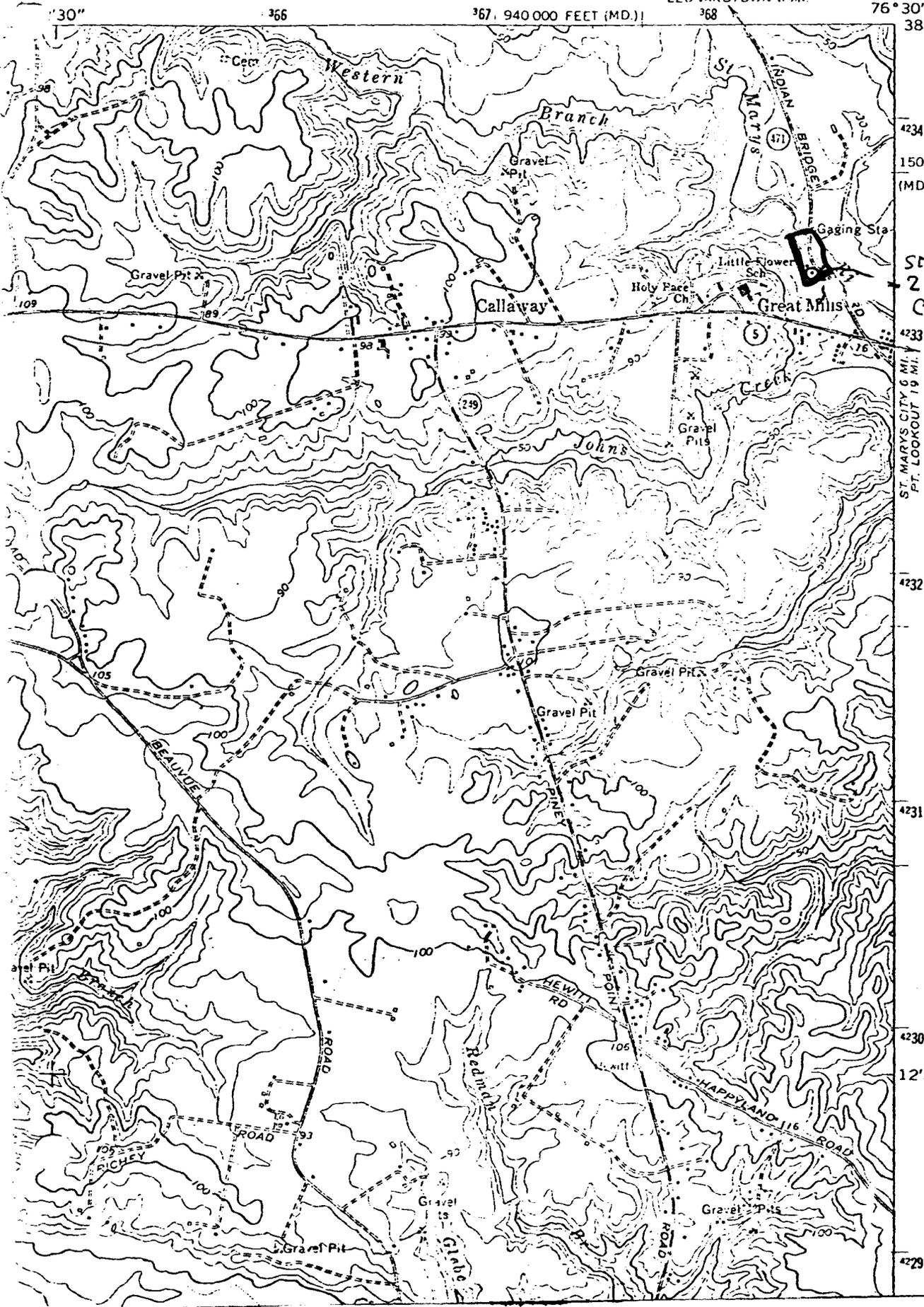
57'  
ISOLOMO



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

NE/4 PINEY POINT 15' QUADRANGLE  
LEONARDTOWN 6 MI.

5760 IV SW  
ISOLOMONS ISLANDS



*Cecil's Mill  
Historic  
District*

SM-  
299  
Cecil Store

ST. MARYS CITY 6 MI.  
PT. LOOKOUT 19 MI.

4232

4231

4230

4229



65%

SM 299

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CELL STONE