

MAGI # 2400231208 *Easement*
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WO-23

9

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

St. Martins Church, Worcester Parish

AND/OR COMMON

Old St. Martins Church

2 LOCATION

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

CITY, TOWN

Showell

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

 VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Worcester

CODE

047

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

DESCRIPTION

100-23

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

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 chamfered 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^m 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.

* 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).

B SIGNIFICANCE

Wo-23

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
X 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> 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 generated 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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Wo-23

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Old St. Martins Church
Worcester County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE 1

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.

Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Worcester</u> TOWN <u>Showell</u> VICINITY STREET NO. <u>Rt 113 1/2 mile south of Showell</u> <u>on west side of Road.</u> ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <u>Religious</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>Vestry of St. Paul's Parish, Berlin</u> PRESENT USE <u>Vacant</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>brick</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>1</u>	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>WO-23</u> 2. NAME <u>St. Martin's Church</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>c. 1756-59</u> STYLE <u>Georgian</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>Once a year</u> <p style="text-align: center;">St. Martin's Church, located on Rt. 213 south of Showell in Worcester County is a fine small brick chapel constructed between 1756-59.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Above the chamfered 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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">On the north and south is a heavy wooden cove cornice with end board following the curve of the cove.</p>	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <u>yes</u> Interior <u>poor</u> Exterior <u>fair</u>	
(continued on reverse side)	
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)  8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. <u>W.P.A. Guide, p. 440.</u>	7. PHOTOGRAPH 9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> <u>Maryland Historical Trust</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>July, 1969</u>

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

(continued)

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.

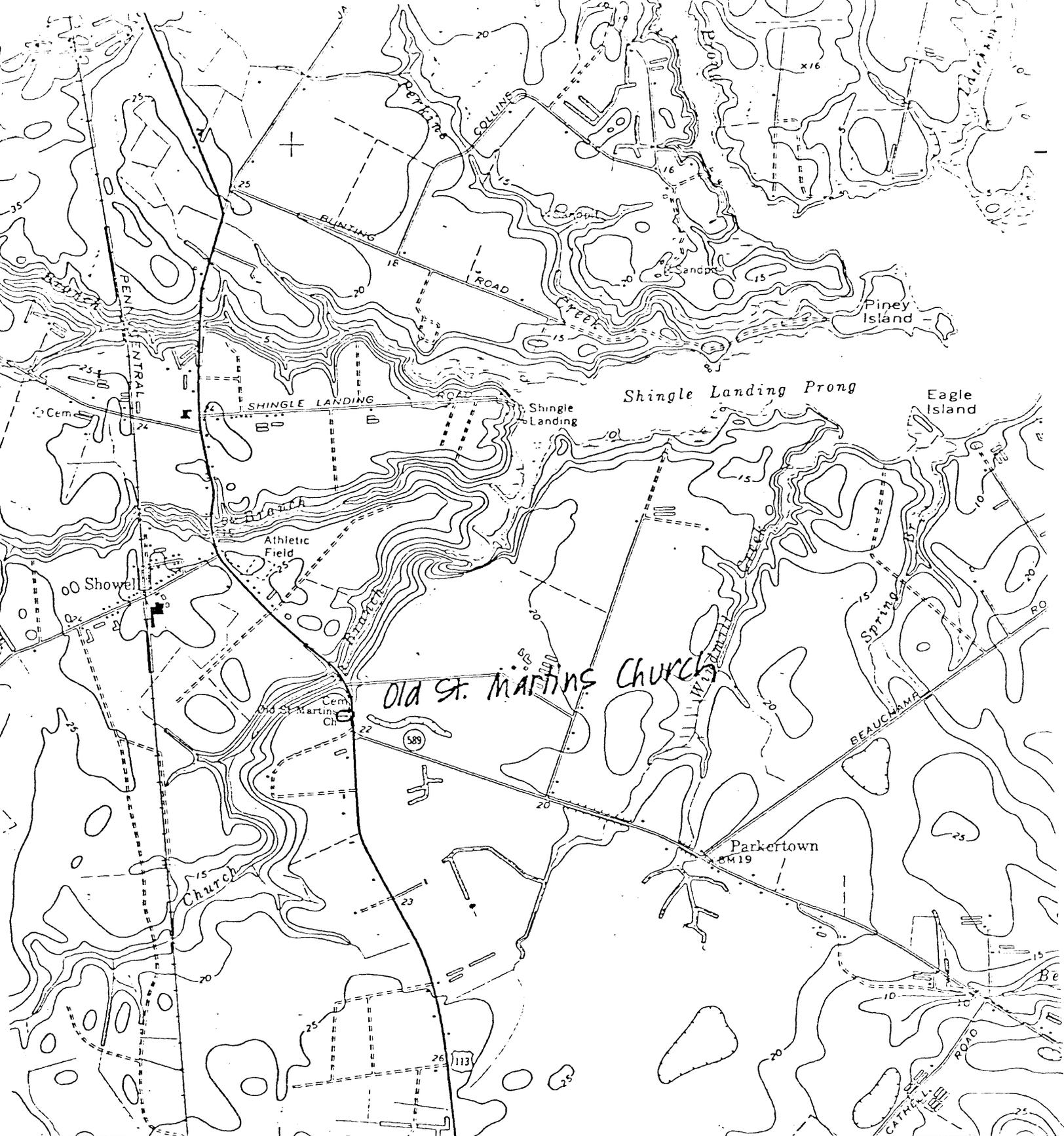
The north and east sides have two windows each with the same treatment as the south facade, with keystones in the gauged flat arches, shuttered and boarded windows. It appears as if the east gable has been rebuilt with more modern brick.

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).

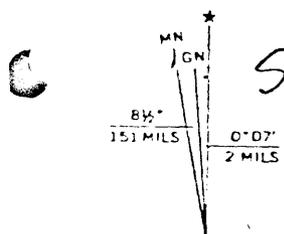
Maryland Historical Society Marker:

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.

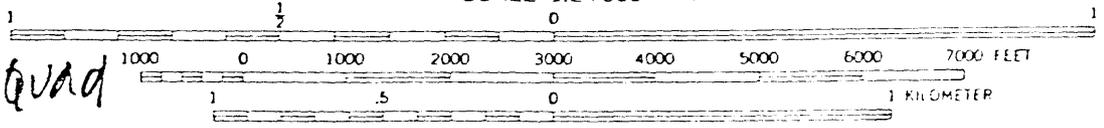


1 310 000 FEET (MD.) 12'30" 482 BERLIN 3.8 MI. SNOW HILL 19 MI. (BERLIN) 59601 SW 484 485

SCALE 1:24 000

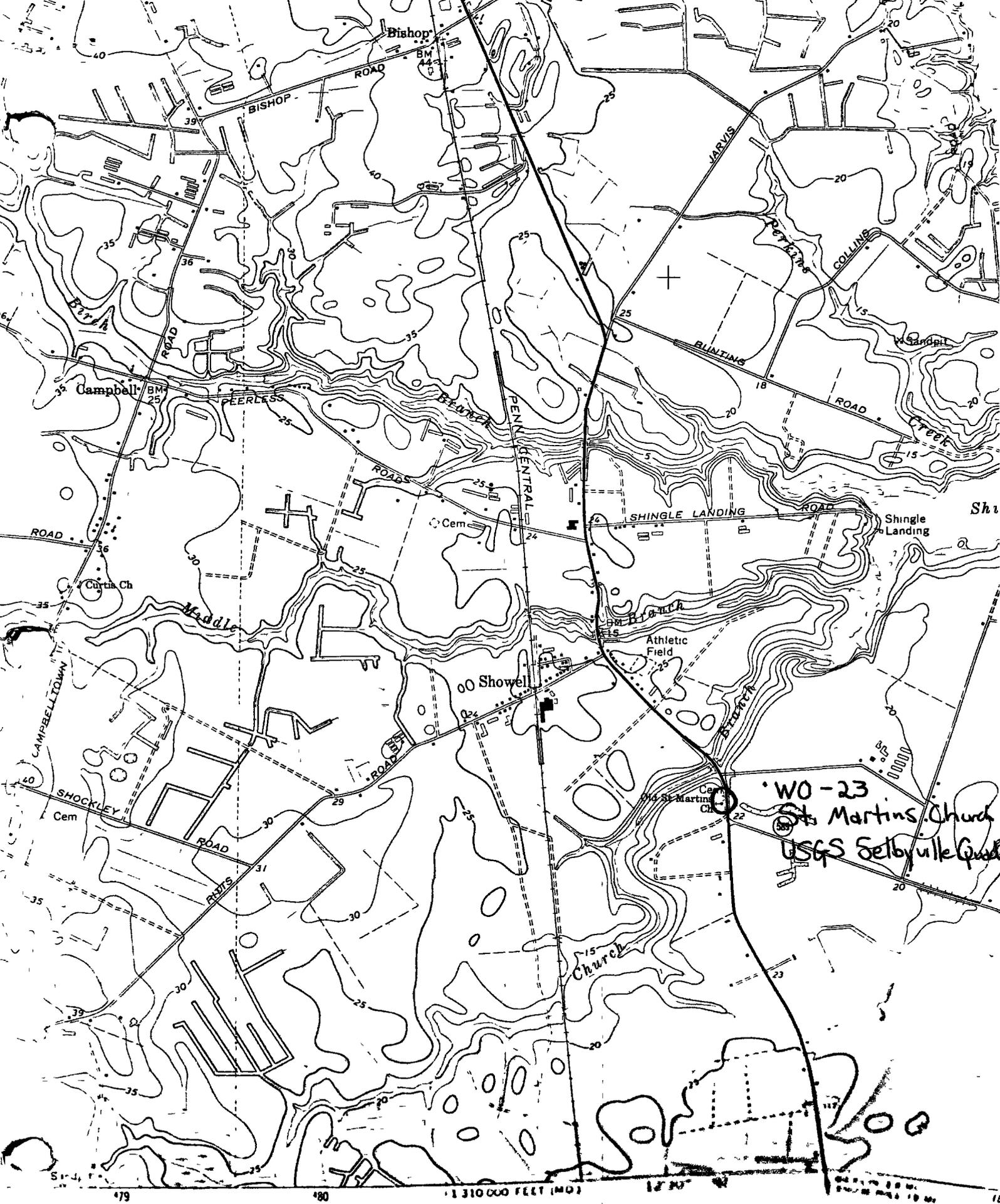


Selbyville Quad



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

UTM GRID AND 1967 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



and published by the Geological Survey
 USGS and Maryland Bureau of Control Surveys
 methods from aerial photographs
 dated 1943



W0-23

ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH

SHOWELL VICINITY, WORCESTER COUNTY, MD.

SOUTH ELEVATION

11/19/99

PHOTOGRAPHER, MICHAEL HARRISON DAY

MEL. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST



W0-23

ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH

SHOWELL VICINITY, WORCESTER COUNTY, MD.

SOUTH ELEVATION

11/19/99

PHOTOGRAPHER, MICHAEL HARRISON DAY

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1756-1759

9



Wo. - 23

J.M.K. 9/75

A handwritten mark consisting of a long, slightly curved horizontal line that ends in a small, tight loop on the right side.



W0-23

St. MARTIN'S CHURCH

SHOWELL VICINITY, WORCESTER COUNTY, MD.

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

11/18/08

PHOTOGRAPHER, MICHAEL HARRISON DAY

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST