

WO-287  
Old Mitchell Farm  
Showell vicinity  
private

c. 1850, c. 1900

The old Mitchell farm includes a significant complex of nineteenth and turn of the century farm buildings located north of Showell. The oldest building, a mid nineteenth century single-story one-room plan structure was perhaps the initial house or a detached kitchen. Covered with wood shingles, the mortise-and-tenon frame building was served by an exterior brick chimney. Finished with lath and plaster inside, the one-room interior contains a boxed-in ladder-type stair that provides access to the undivided loft. The main dwelling is a turn of the century cross-gabled farmhouse with a wraparound turned post porch.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: Old Mitchell Farm

MHT Inventory Number: W0 - 207

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

1870-1930 INDUSTRIAL / URBAN DOMINANCE

4) Resource Type(s):

1. STANDING STRUCTURES

a. WAREHOUSE

2. OUTBUILDINGS

a. SMOKE HOUSE

b. BARN

c. CORNER HOUSE OR KITCHEN

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic OLD MITCHELL FARM

and/or common OLIVER SMITH FARM

## 2. Location

street & number West side of US ROUTE 113  not for publication

city, town Showell  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Oliver Smith

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Bishopville state and zip code MD 21813

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. W0-287

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

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

The old Mitchell farm is located on the west side of US 113 just north of the roadside village of Showell, Worcester County, Maryland. Standing alongside the road is a turn of the century farmhouse accompanied by a group of nineteenth and twentieth century farm buildings. The house faces east with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1900, the two-and-a-half story, two-bay frame dwelling is supported by a low brick foundation, and the house is sheathed by a combination of horizontal weatherboards and wood shingles. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the front block is a two-and-a-half story service wing, and much of the house is surrounded by a wraparound porch.

The east (main) elevation is an asymmetrical two-bay facade with a side entrance and flanking paired single-pane sash windows. The turned post porch stretches across the entire front and continues around part of the north and south sides. Square baluster handrails are fitted between the supportive turned posts, and a shallow gable front highlights the porch entrance. Lighting the second floor are two evenly spaced single pane sash windows, and the roof is marked by a steeply pitched cross gable. A corbelled cap brick stack protrudes through the center of the house.

The south side of the main block is marked by off-center single-pane sash windows that light the principal floors and a centered single-pane sash window illuminates the attic. The gable end is covered with a decorative shingle in contrast to the plain butt shingles that cover the rest of the house. The rear service wing is three bays across by one room deep, and the turned post porch stretches along the full south side. Two-over-two sash windows light the rear wing, and a cross gable marks the rear roof slope. Rising through the center of the service wing is a narrow brick stack. The other sides of the frame house follow along similar lines, and the interior was not seen.

Standing near the house is a c. 1850 single story one-room plan frame structure that appears to have been originally a small dwelling or perhaps a kitchen. Supported by a brick pier foundation, the exterior is covered with wood shingles or weatherboards, and the steeply pitched roof is sheathed with wood shingles. Although the brick chimney has been removed, its former cavity is clearly evident on the north side. A collapsed shed addition is attached on the west side of the building. The east side or front is marked by a centered door opening and a single window. Part of the eave to this building is trimmed with a slightly serpentine bargeboard.

(continued)

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WO-287

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 type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" 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
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

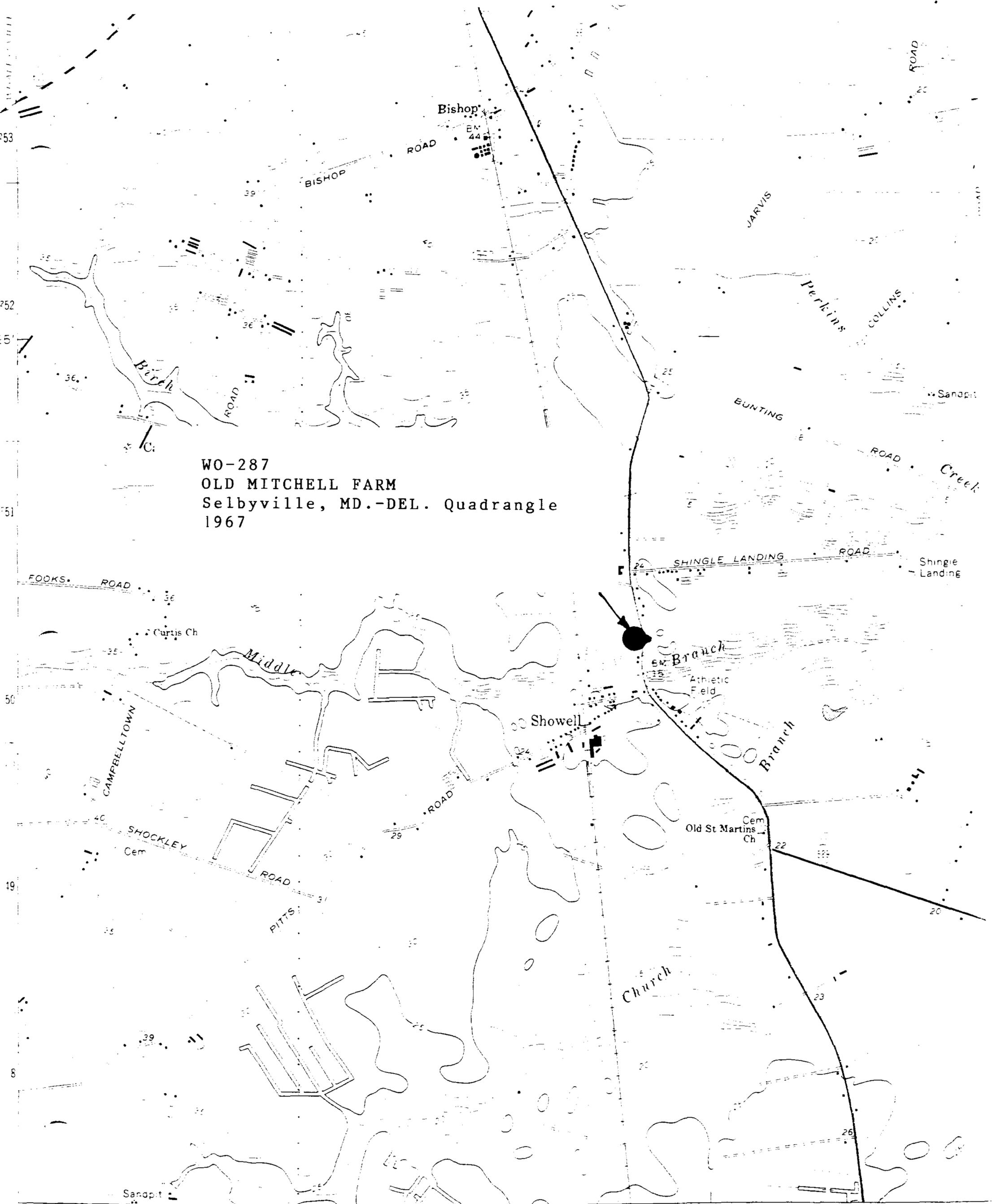
The old Mitchell farm is a significant group of nineteenth and turn of the century farm buildings located north of Showell. The oldest building, a mid nineteenth century single story one-room plan structure was perhaps the initial house or a detached kitchen. Covered with wood shingles, the mortise-and-tenon frame house was served by an exterior brick chimney. Finished with lath and plaster inside, the one-room interior contains a boxed-in ladder-type stair. Also on the property is a c. 1900 cross-gabled frame farmhouse and a gambrel roofed barn.



## OLD MITCHELL FARM DESCRIPTION (continued)

The interior survives with a steep, enclosed ladder-type stair as well as remnants of a plaster and lath finish. Cut nails fasten sawn lath.

Other buildings on the property include a board-and-batten frame smokehouse that stands directly behind the kitchen wing, and a gambrel roofed barn located west of the old house.



WO-287  
 OLD MITCHELL FARM  
 Selbyville, MD.-DEL. Quadrangle  
 1967