

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Showell Store Survey Number: WO-289

Project: Road Widening-US 113 Agency: SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Showell Store, which stands at the northwest corner of the intersection of US Rte 113 and Pitts Road in the center of Showell, in Worcester County, MD is considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The two-story frame store is a central fixture in this small crossroads village. A store, which stood on the site by 1819 and was probably erected under the ownership of Lemuel Showell, may be incorporated into the present building. The building was later modified, enlarged and embellished with its character-defining bracketed eaves, boxed cornice with returns and front shed-roof porch. The Showell Store is significant as a village store and commercial center for the surrounding rural area from the early 19th century until the present day. The store building, which reflects traditional commercial development in a rural setting, is eligible for listing under Criterion A. The property is also eligible under Criterion C as an example of a 19th-century rural crossroads store building. The property is not known to have associations with persons significant to our past and is thus not eligible under Criterion B.

The proposed National Register boundaries should include the store building and a portion of the tax parcel. The boundaries have been drawn to follow the tax parcel on the south, east and west and a fence line on the north.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Review and Compliance Files; MHT form 471

Prepared by: MHT Form, Paul Touart, March 1989; Amendment Form, KCI Technologies, 1996.

Kimberly Prothro Williams January 2, 1997
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable
Peter E. Kuntz 3/5/97
Reviewer, NR program Date

Handwritten mark

W0-289
Showell Store
Showell
Private

c. 1810, c. 1860

The Showell store is a central fixture in this small crossroads village located in northern Worcester County. Trimmed with bracketed eaves, the two-story, three-bay frame store was built in two principal stages with the western portion of the front block predating the balance of the structure. A section of beaded weatherboards and driven wrought-iron pintels that survive on the first floor window point to an early nineteenth century date for the oldest part of the store.

Due to the early nineteenth century date the western portion of the store is thought to date from the ownership of Lemuel Showell I. At his death in 1818 his large agricultural and commercial holdings were divided between his children. The store remained in Showell family hands until 1887 when Lemuel Showell III transferred the property in trust to George M. Upshur and Daniel A. Massey. Three years later the store property was purchased by Daniel Massey for \$1525.00. The property description details the land near "Showell's Station...known as the Store House Lot whereon the store house now occupied by D. A. Massey is located, together with the Granary lot lying on the opposite side of the county road." After the store passed from Daniel Massey's ownership in 1895 it changed hands eight times.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: SHOWELL STORE

MHT Inventory Number: NO-209

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

~~AVON~~

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

AGRICULTURAL - INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION
(1915-1970)

4) Resource Type(s):

STANDING STRUCTURE

1. CROSSROADS STORE

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic SHOWELL STORE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Corner of Pitts Road and 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 E. Antoinette DeCarlo

street & number 3370 Ocean Pines telephone no.:

city, town Berlin state and zip code MD 21811

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber FWH 659

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 78

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. WO-289

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The Showell store stands on the northwest corner of the intersection of US Route 113 and Pitts Road in the center of Showell, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame building faces south with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in two principal stages, the western portion of the front block is an early nineteenth century structure that was enlarged by an east end addition during the mid nineteenth century. The front block is supported by a combination rusticated concrete block and brick foundation with a partially excavated cellar. Aluminum siding covers much of the store, however a section of beaded weatherboards remains exposed under the porch at the west end. The steeply pitched roof, covered with wood shingles, is trimmed with a bracketed eave. Attached to the back of the building is a shed roofed addition.

The south (main) elevation is an asymmetrical three-bay facade marked by a center entrance and flanking bays with large plate glass display windows. A six-over-six sash window is located next to the west bay with driven wrought iron pintels. The shed roof porch that stretches across the first floor is enclosed at the east end with three two-over-two sash windows. Metal columns replace the original posts. Lighting the second floor are three evenly spaced single-pane sash windows. A narrow brick stove stack rises through the roof next to the east bay.

The gable ends follow along similar finishes with bracketed eaves and single pane sash windows. Small four-pane windows pierce the upper gable to light the attic. A gable roofed exterior bulkhead on the east end allows access to the partially excavated cellar. An exterior stair on the east side of the rear wing provides access to the second floor.

8. Significance

Survey No. W0-289

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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

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 Showell store is a central fixture in this small crossroads village located in northern Worcester County. Trimmed with bracketed eaves, the two-story, three-bay frame store was built in two principal stages with the western portion of the front block predating the balance of the structure. A section of beaded weatherboards and driven wrought-iron pintels which survive on the first floor window point to an early nineteenth century date for the oldest part of the store.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Due to the early nineteenth century date of the western portion of this crossroads store, it is thought that the oldest section was erected during the lifetime of Lemuel Showell I. At his death in 1818 his large agricultural and commercial holdings were divided between his children. The store remained in Showell family hands until 1887 when Lemuel Showell III transferred the property in trust to George M. Upshur and Daniel A. Massey.(JWS 2/87) Three years later the store property was purchased by Daniel Massey for \$1525.00.(JMR 1/636) The property description details the land near "Showell's Station...known as the Store House Lot whereon the store house now occupied by D. A. Massey is located, together with the Granary lot lying on the opposite side of the county road." After the property passed from Daniel Massey's ownership in 1895 it changed hands eight times.

Addendum Sheet

WO-289
Showell Store
Worcester County
Page 7.2 - Description

Preparer: Stuart Paul Dixon
Date Prepared: 10 February 1997

In an attempt to determine the evolution of this commercial structure, additional field inspection of the Showell Store was conducted by KCI Technologies, Inc. on June 28, 1996. Requests to undertake further field analysis have not been permitted as of mid-July 1996.

An examination of the store's basement area revealed a brick foundation set atop uncoursed fieldstone. A four-foot wide section in the center of the south foundation wall possesses brick the entire distance between the sill and the dirt floor of the basement. A relatively-modern, squarish, brick chimney pile supporting a first-story heating stove flue defines the eastern border of the all-brick portion of the foundation. A vertical seam in the brick defines the western edge. This all-brick section of the foundation may indicate an earlier opening providing access into basement. There are no corresponding seams in the north foundation wall that might signify the removal of an earlier interior wall.

The brick portions of the southern and northern foundation walls each exhibit three window openings with three horizontal iron bars blocking access into the basement. The basement window placement closely matches the upper story fenestration of the main, southern elevation. A brick, round-arch hearth base occupies the center of the west foundation wall. The hearth and related chimney pile have been removed from the upper stories of the store.

A short ladder nailed to the west end of the southern elevation's foundation may have provided access to the basement area from the first story, but now abuts first story floorboards. Floor joists consist of round logs, most still possessing bark on their exteriors. Most wood surfaces possess a coat of whitewash. A bulkhead basement entrance penetrating the east elevation's foundation has been added during the last 15 years.

The current owner, Antoinette DeCarlo, informed the surveyors that she has not remodeled the interior spaces of the store save to add modern heating, plumbing and electrical service. Wood paneling remains underneath the lone surviving original window opening in the west end of the south elevation's first story. The interior of the original store contains one large room.

Beaded weatherboard, identified by an earlier field examination of the Showell Store as probably indicating different periods of construction (Touart 1989), covers the entire northern elevation of the original one-room deep, three-bay wide store building. A shed-roofed addition along the store's entire north elevation shields the weatherboard from view. A stair rising along the exterior of this elevation now provides access to the store's second story.

Addendum Sheet

WO-289
Showell Store
Worcester County
Page 8.2 - Significance

Preparer: Stuart Paul Dixon
Date Prepared: 10 February 1997

Based upon the limited additional field analysis permitted by the current owner, determining a date of construction for the Showell Store remains perplexing. Surviving fabric in the basement area, and the original weatherboard sheathing the entire northern elevation, indicates that construction of the earliest portion of the current store building probably occurred at one time as opposed to during two periods. Although stone foundations from an earlier building are present, it does not appear that any additional fabric survives from an earlier building.

The earliest portions of the building may indeed relate to Lemuel Showell I's (died 1818) ownership and operation of a store on his Cropton plantation located on the south and west sides of the Middle Branch of St. Martin's River, land that includes the present day village of Showell. An 1819 inventory of Showell's estate contained 13 pages of store goods. Lemuel Showell II inherited his father's Cropton estate "where the store house stands." At his death in 1859, Showell had acquired personal property valued at over \$40,000. In addition to the store, at his death Showell also owned three granaries, a mill, 11 farm properties, coastal vessels and lighters, and 83 slaves (TPP 3-76). The Lemuel Showell House, circa 1830 (WO-284), stands a short distance south of the store property along the east side of US 113. The Showell House has previously been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places by the Maryland Historical Trust and the Maryland State Highway Administration.

Lemuel Showell III received the store property from his father's estate. Showell became one of the Wicomico & Pocomoke Railroad's leading promoters and financial backers during the late 1860s. During the next decade Showell also helped bankroll the Worcester Railroad which eventually built its line a short distance west of the store. Showell also invested in the early development of Ocean City, MD (Touart 1994:293-94). Showell probably over extended his finances during this period, for in 1887 he was forced to sell all his properties and personal belongings, including the store, in order to meet his many outstanding debts.

Daniel Massey acquired the store house property in 1890 but placed all his personal and real property under the care of a trustee the following year in order to pay his creditors. Between 1895 and July of 1996, seven owners have operated a store at the Showell crossroads.

Significant as a village store and commercial center for the surrounding rural area from the mid-nineteenth century through to the present day, the Maryland State Highway Administration and the Maryland Historical Trust have determined the Showell Store eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, reflections of broad

Addendum Sheet

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Showell Store
Worcester County
Page 8.3; Significance

Preparer: Stuart Paul Dixon
Date Prepared: 10 February 1997

patterns of history. Recommended boundaries for the eligible property enclose a portion of the current tax parcel containing less than one acre of land as illustrated on the attached site map. The National Register boundaries follow the tax parcel boundaries on the west, south and east, and a fence line on the north. Although once part of a much larger tract of land, other properties once associated with the store now possess non-related structures.

Addendum Sheet

WO-289
Showell Store
Worcester County
Page 9.1; Bibliography

Preparer: Stuart Paul Dixon
Date Prepared: 10 February 1997

Graham, John L., ed.
1976 *The 1877 Atlases and other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland.*
 Peninsula Press, Salisbury, MD.

Touart, Paul Baker
1994 *Along the Seaboard Side, The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland.* Worcester County Commissioners, Snow Hill, MD.

United States Geological Survey
1967 *7.5' Series Quadrangle for Selbyville, MD.-DEL.* Reston, VA.

Worcester County Clerk of Court
 Deed transactions. Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill, MD.

Worcester County Register of Wills
 Wills. Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill, MD.

 Inventories. Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill, MD.

Worcester County 250th Anniversary Committee
1993 *Articles for Consideration: 250 Years of History, Worcester County, Maryland.*
 Board of Commissioners of Worcester County.

Addendum Sheet

**WO-289
Showell Store
Worcester County**

**Preparer: Stuart Paul Dixon
Date Prepared: 10 February 1997**

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Eastern Shore

Chronological/Development Period:

Agricultural-Industrial Transition	A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance	A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:

Economic (Commercial)

Resource Type:

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Functions:	Store
Known Design Source:	None

WO-289
SHOWELL STORE
Showell, Maryland
Chain of title

FWH 659/78

Manford T. Daisey
Agnes L. Daisey

to

4/6/1979

E. Antoinette DeCarlo
3370 Ocean Pines
Berlin, MD 21811
\$60,000 3.81 acres
Plat drawn 4/4/1979

FWH 309/178

James Clifford Hall
Rose Anne Hall

to

5/18/1971

Manford T. Daisey
Agnes L. Daisey

FWH 106/287

Herman Ray Lewis
Maggie Lulu Lewis

to

11/26/1957

James Clifford Hall
Rose Anne Hall

BB 30/202

Edith G. Mason, widow

to

7/8/1936

Herman Ray Lewis
Margie Lulu Lewis

PJ 10/483

Last will and testament of
Upton L. Mason

to

Edith G. Mason

WO-289
SHOWELL STORE
Showell, Maryland
Chain of title

Page 2

ODC 13/363

Savannah A. Bowen
Ara P. Bowen

to

2/7/1913

Upton L. Mason
Edith B. Mason

FHP 23/596

Elijah T. Bowen
Ella C. Bowen
Ara P. Bowen

to

10/30/1905

Savannah A. Bowen
\$1200.00

FHP 7/41

Charles C. Mumford
Annie D. Mumford

to

11/4/1895

Elijah T. Bowen
Ara P. Bowen
\$900.00

FHP 7/40

William T. Dickerson, trustee under
a deed of Trust from Daniel A. Massey

to

9/17/1895

Charles C. Mumford
"Showell's Store" containing two acres

WO-289
SHOWELL STORE
Showell, Maryland
Chain of title

Page 3

JMR 1/636

James C. Dirickson
Eliza B. Dirickson

to

8/6/1890

Daniel A. Massey

\$1525.00 all that land lying in the Ninth Election District in Worcester County near "Showell's Station" known as "The Store House Lot" whereon the store house now occupied by D. A. *Massey* is located, together with the "Granary lot" lying on the opposite side of the county road containing 19 acres...adjacent to the Delaware, Maryland and Virginia Railroad...

JMR 1/635

George M. Upshur, Daniel A. Massey,
trustees under a deed from Lemuel Showell

to

8/5/1890

James C. Dirickson

whereas by a deed dated 10/3/1887 a certain Lemuel Showell conveyed to George M. Upshur and Daniel Massey

JWS 2/87

Lemuel Showell

to

10/3/1887

George M. Upshur and Daniel A. Massey

Land in trust "all that tract of land lying in the third election district of Worcester County known as the "Home Farm" where the said Lemuel Showell now resides, together with all that land known as the "Store house lot"...

WO-289
SHOWELL STORE
Showell, Maryland
Chain of title

Page 4

T.T./287

Last will and testament of
Lemuel Showell, Sr.

to

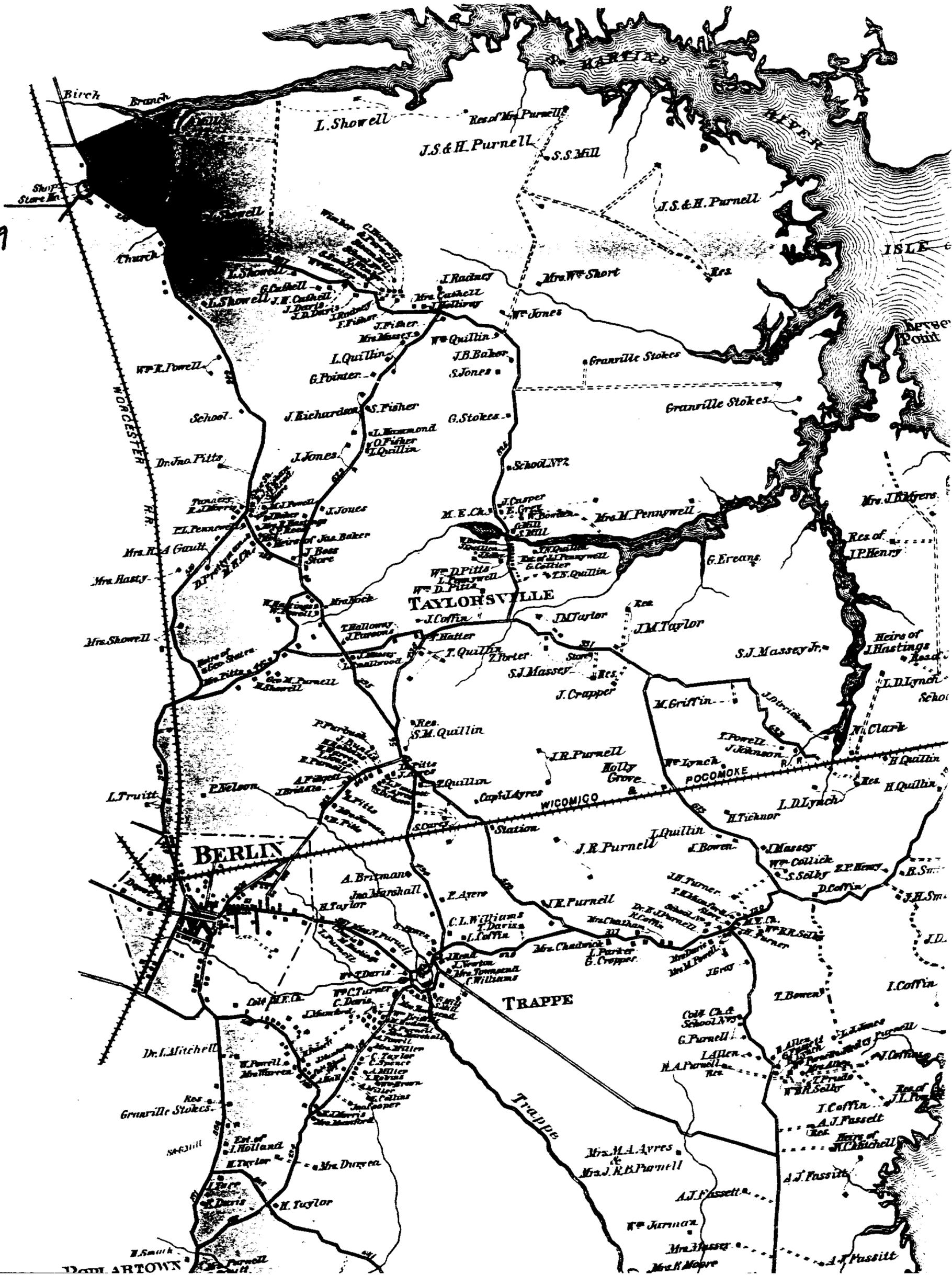
Written
9/19/1859

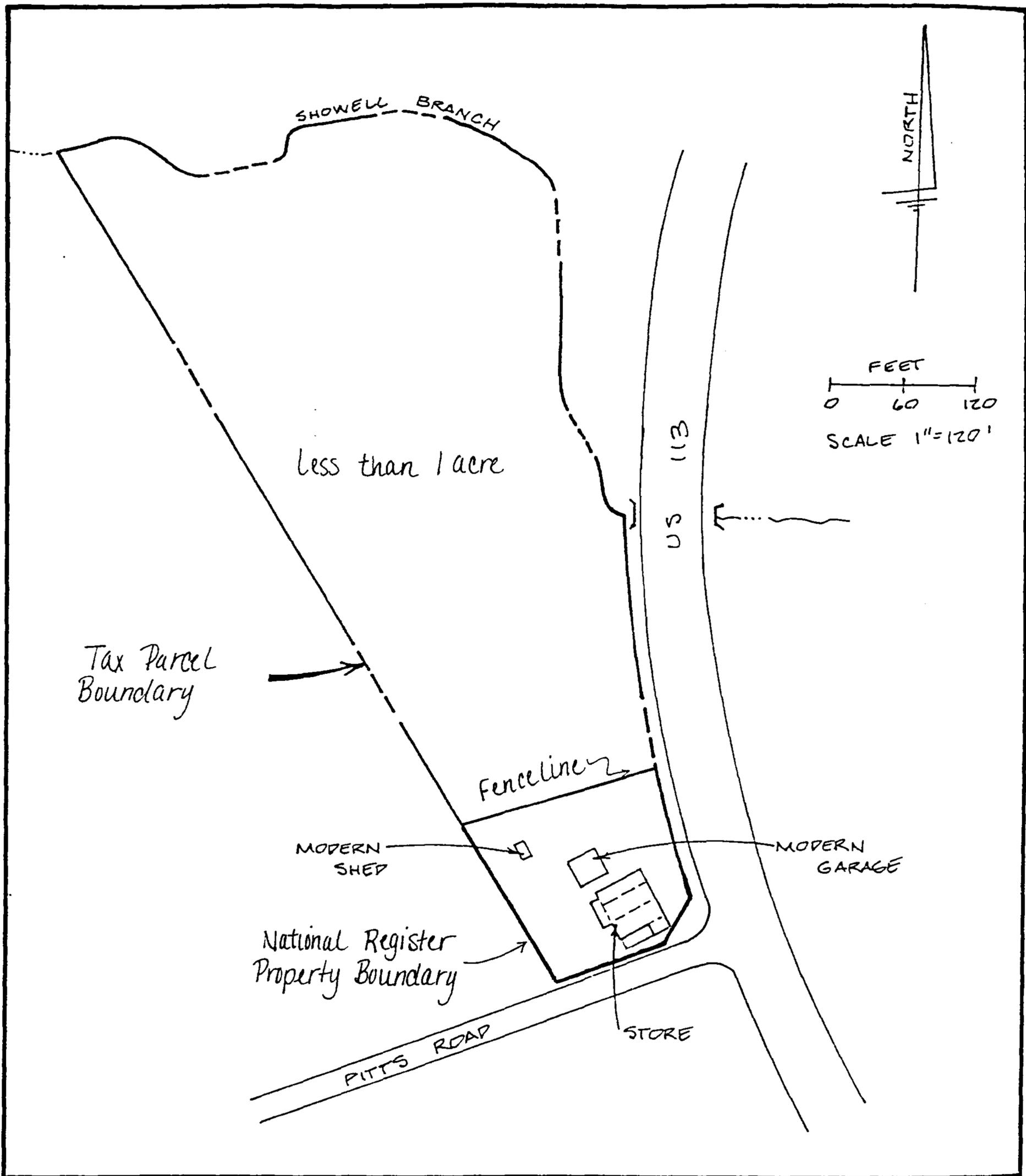
Lemuel Showell and William Showell

Proved
10/19/1859

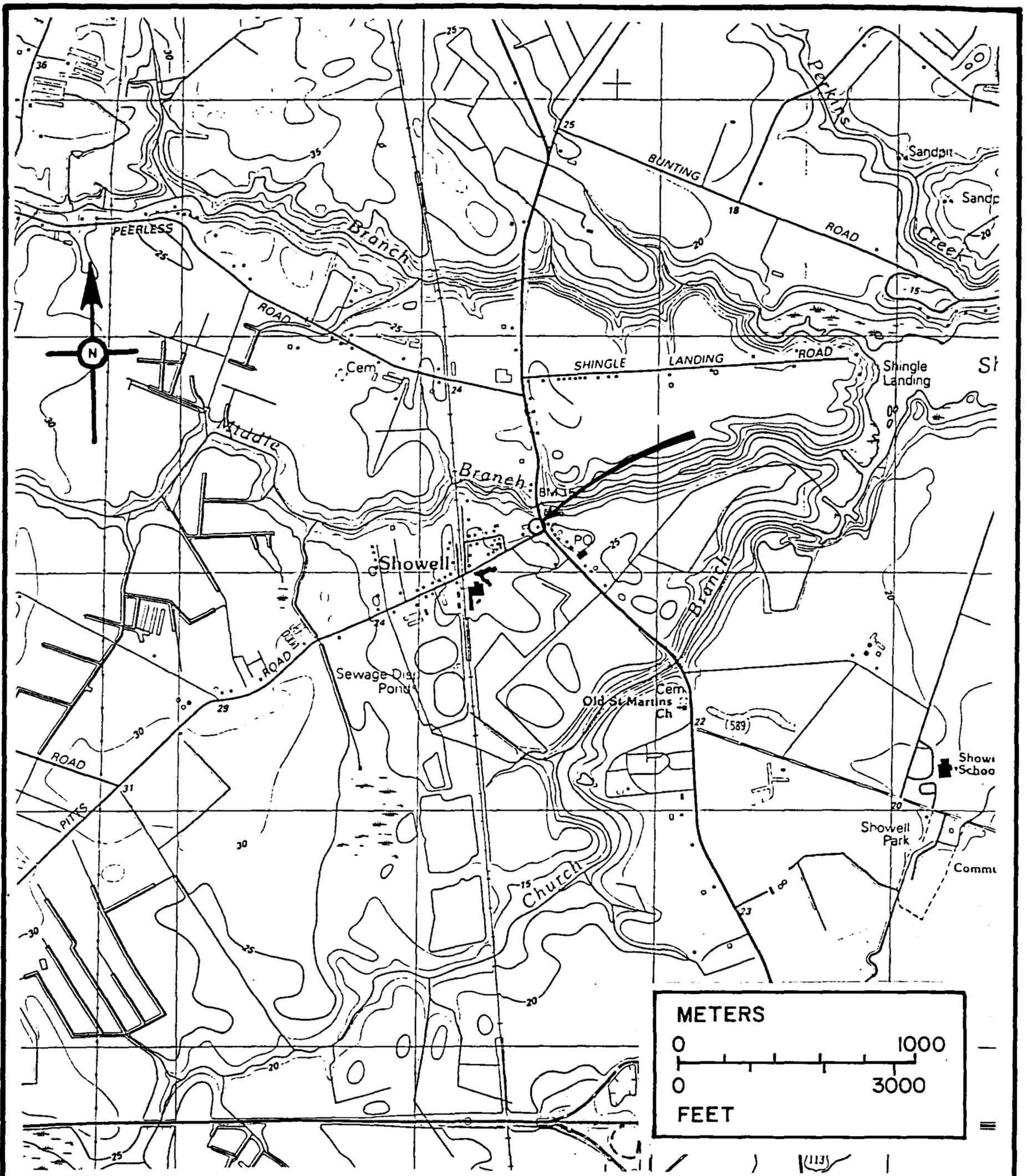
1877 LAKE, GRIPPING, AND STEVENSON ATLAS

W0-289

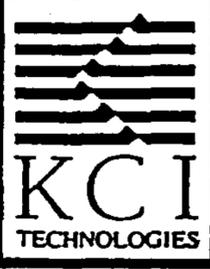


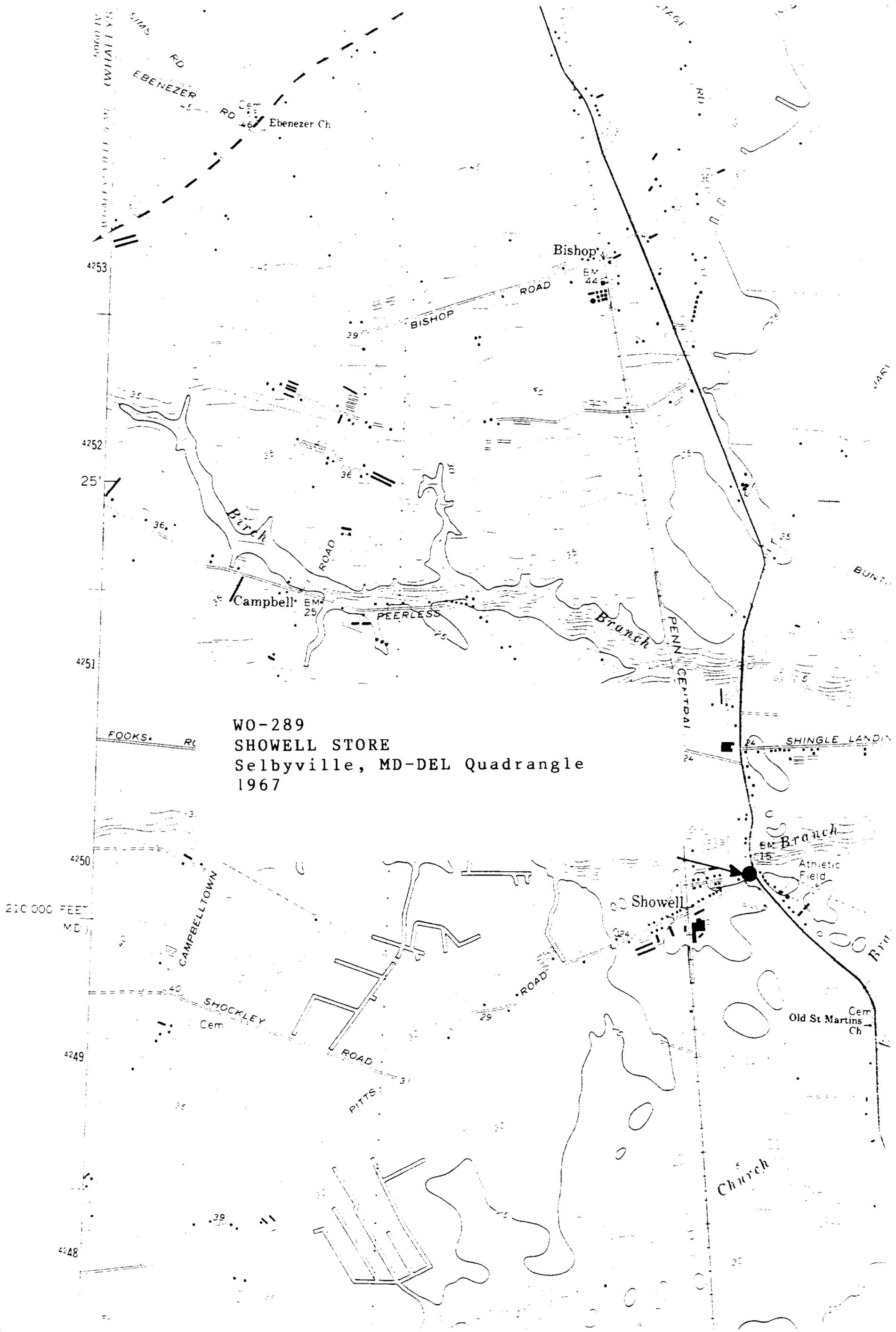


RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
 Showell Store (WO-289)
 Showell, Worcester County, MD
 Selbyville, DE-MD Quad Map



LOCATION MAP
 Showell Store (WO-289)
 Showell, Worcester County, MD
 Selbyville, DE-MD Quad Map





WO-289
SHOWELL STORE
Selbyville, MD-DEL Quadrangle
1967



4949- 6

WO-289

Showell Store

Worcester Co, MD

Stuart Dixon

6/96

State Highway Admin

West & South elevations

1/3



4949 - 7

WO-289

Showell Store

Worcester Co, MD

Stuart Dixon

6/96

State Highway Admin

East & North elevations

2/3



49-49 - 0

W0-289

Showell Store

Worcester Co, MD

Stuart Dixon

6/96

State Highway Admin.

North & West Elevations

3/3