

Capsule Summary
SM-416
Martin Welch House
Chaptico
Private

Circa 1835-1850

The Martin Welch house is a fairly well-preserved example of a second quarter of the nineteenth century log dwelling house. It is one of the few log houses to survive in the Chaptico District of St. Mary's County. Although very few of the original interior finishes remain, the interior hall-parlor plan and winder stair have survived intact. The mature machine cut nails, the up and down saw marks visible on the studs, and the use of a dovetail notching system suggest a building date between 1835 and 1850.

According to local tradition, this house was built in the 1830s for a Scottish immigrant named Martin Welch. Around the turn of the century, the building served as a school for students in Kindergarten through First grades. At this time, a schoolhouse serving older students was located across the street, next to the Christ Church cemetery.

SM-416, Martin Welch house
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870.

Historic Period Theme: Architecture
Education

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function and Use: Residence
School

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. SM-416

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic MartinWelch House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Hurry-Chaptico Road not for publication

city, town Chaptico vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: none

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

name Eugene J. and Shelby B. Guazzo

street & number Box 2 telephone no.: 301-769-2272

city, town Chaptico state and zip code Md 20621

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk of Court liber MRB 167

street & number St. Mary's County Courthouse folio 476

city, town Leonardtown state Md

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-416

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 of move _____
<input checked="" 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.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Martin Welch house is located south of Zach Fowler Road on the east side of the Chaptico-Hurry Road in the village of Chaptico. This structure is surrounded by a white paling fence. A border of cedar trees lines Chaptico-Hurry Road in front of the house. The house faces west with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Built sometime between 1835 and 1850, the main block of the Martin Welch house is a one-story, three-bay structure of horizontal log construction with half dovetail notching sheathed with both board and batten and weatherboard siding. The foundation consists of mortared brick and stone piers. The roof was originally sheathed with wood shingles. While these shingles remain in place, they are now covered with a seamed metal roof. The roofline is finished with a boxed cornice. An interior brick chimney pierces the center of the roof's ridgeline. To the south of the main block extends a one-story, one-room addition with a shallow pitch gable roof on the same north/south axis as the main block. This addition is sheathed with asbestos siding and roofed with asphalt shingles. It is supported by a cinderblock pier foundation.

The west (main) elevation is sheathed with board and batten siding. It consists of a central six-light-over-three panel entrance door. The door is flanked on either side by one six-over-six sash window with narrow, molded surrounds. The southern addition is pierced by one six-over-six sash window with narrow, plain surrounds.

The south elevation of the main block is sheathed with weatherboard siding. Where the weatherboard siding has deteriorated, a layer of vertical board siding is visible. Both layers of siding are attached with mature, machine cut nails. The eave of this gable end elevation is pierced by one six-over-six sash window and is finished with a scalloped eave board. The first floor of the main block is partially obscured by the one-story addition which projects to the south. The addition is pierced by one six-over-six sash window with flat, narrow surrounds. An exterior cinderblock chimney stands against the eastern edge of this wing. A shed roof porch extends to the east.

The east elevation of the southern, one-story addition is sheltered by a shed roof porch supported by square posts. This addition is pierced by a four-panel door. Much of the vertical siding covering the main block of the house is missing on this elevation. Here, the hewn logs are clearly visible. Originally chinked with mortar, almost all of this mortar chinking has deteriorated. The main block of the Martin Welch house is pierced by two six-over-six sash windows with narrow, molded surrounds which are on axis with the windows on the west elevation. Two additional six-over-six sash windows, clearly added at a later date, also pierce this elevation. A scalloped

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-416

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 checked="" 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 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 unknown **Builder/Architect** unknown

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 Martin Welch house is a fairly well-preserved example of a second quarter of the nineteenth century log dwelling house. It is one of the few log houses to survive in the Chaptico District of St. Mary's County. Although very few of the original interior finishes remain, the interior hall-parlor plan and winder stair have survived intact. The mature machine cut nails, the up and down saw marks visible on the studs, and the use of a dovetail notching system suggest a building date between 1835 and 1850.

According to local tradition, this house was built in the 1830s for a Scottish immigrant named Martin Welch. The chain of title does not reflect that Welch owned this property, however. In the 1850s, this lot was part of the tract "Southampton" owned by the Thomas family.

Around the turn of the century, the building served as a school for students in Kindergarten through First grades. At this time, a schoolhouse serving older students was located across the street, next to the Christ Church cemetery.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-416

Norris, Joseph E. Jr. Chaptico: A History of St. Mary's 4'th District
Chaptico : Chaptico 350th Committee, 1984

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.958 acres

Quadrangle name Rock Point

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification See "Parcel A" of attached plat MrB20/100. The lot occupied by the Martin Welch House was reduced to 1.958 acres in 1986 and became known as "Residue Parcel A". See Attached plat 25/112.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Maryls County DPZ	date	February 1994
street & number			telephone 301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
ANNAPOLIS
STATE PLACE
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21403-2023
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SM-416, Martin Welch House
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

eave board survives here.

The north elevation is sheathed with weatherboard. The eave is lit by one six-over-six sash window with narrow surrounds. Part of a scalloped eaveboard survives on this elevation.

The interior consists of a hall-parlor plan with an enclosed winder stair. This stair rises from east to west and is separated from the rest of the house by a four-panel door held in place by a metal butterfly hinge. There are no fireplaces on the interior, but a chimney stack rises through the center of the house which once served heating stoves. There are two rooms upstairs. Access to these rooms are provided by door openings finished with plain door frames held in place with mature machine cut nails. The interior chimney stack protrudes into the northern doorway, suggesting that the chimney was a later addition. These rooms have been plastered using riven lath. A false ceiling has been added which covers the joining of the roof rafters. The rooms are finished with a plain baseboard and the floors are sheathed with the original wide floor boards. The rafters are visible through a crawlspace on the east and west ends of the house. These rafters are hewn on all four sides. The vertical studs appear to have been milled using an up-and-down saw mill.

The interior of the southern, one-room addition is accessible one step down from the main block of the house. This addition has exposed ceiling rafters which are all circular sawn. The room is finished with beaded door and window frames, and a plain baseboard.

SM-416, Martin Welch house
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Eugene J. and Shelby P. Guazzo
FROM: Zach M. Fowler, Sr., per power of attorney, Ann Fowler Lawrence
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 167, folio 476.
DATE: December 29, 1983.
NOTES: Transfer of Parcel A being 3.958 acres, same as ACM 1/434 and CBG 17/216; and Parcel B being 5.893 acres. See plat MRB 20/100.

TO: Zach M. Fowler
FROM: Louise F. Long, Richard B. Long, and Mary R. Fowler, unmarried.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 17, folio 216.
DATE: June 28, 1945.
NOTES: Transfer of property being part of that of which Zach Fowler died seized and possessed which went to his widow and children. Being the same as JYG 5/342 and EBA 16/481.

TO: Zach M. Fowler, Louise F. Long, and Mary R. Fowler
FROM: Martha B. Fowler
RECORD: St. Mary's County Testamentary Record, Liber ACM 1, folio 434.
DATE: February 11, 1941.
NOTES: Transfer to daughters, Louise F. Long and Mary R. Fowler, and son, Zach M. Fowler, all right, title, and interest in my home and farms in the fourth district including those known as "White Hall" and "Billy Goat Hill" to share and share alike.

TO: Martha B. Fowler
FROM: Zach Fowler
RECORD: St. Mary's County Estate #615
DATE: September 1925.
NOTES: Zach Fowler died intestate in 1925. The final accounting of his estate was submitted in 1938.

TO: Zachariah M. Fowler
FROM: John M. Payne
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 16, folio 481.
DATE: November 28, 1917.
NOTES: Transfer of 1/2 interest in a storehouse and lot in the village of Chaptico.
Price: \$1500

SM-416, Martin Welch house
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

TO: Zach M. Fowler and John M. Payne

FROM: Thomas H. Fowler

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JGG 5, folio 342.

DATE: September 26, 1898.

NOTES: Transfer of a storehouse and lot in Chaptico, being the same as JFF 11/180.
Price: \$2000

TO: Thomas H. Fowler

FROM: John C. Herbert and James E. Herbert

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 11, folio 180.

DATE: February 20, 1889

NOTES: Transfer of store house and lot being 2.5 acres, the same as that purchased from J. Philip Greenwell on 12-2-1885 and being a portion of that lot purchased by Greenwell from Ann M. Waring, et al, on 8-7-1884. Price: \$1200

TO: John C. Herbert

FROM: J. Philip Greenwell

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 8, folio 405.

DATE: December 2, 1885.

NOTES: Transfer of a store house and lot in Chaptico now enclosed by a plank fence and public roads and separated from the remaining portion of an original lot, purchased by me in JFF 7/363, which remaining portion is now in my possession and known as the "Mill Lot." Transfer of 2.5 acres. Price: \$1000

TO: J. Philip Greenwell

FROM: Ann M. Waring, Kate E. Waring, Elizabeth T. Waring, Annie M. Waring, and Henry Waring, her children, and Elizabeth Thomas.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 7, folio 363.

DATE: August 7, 1884.

NOTES: Transfer of 4 acres, being part of "Southampton." Price: \$200

TO: Anna Maria Waring, wife of James Waring

FROM: Henry M. Thomas, James Richard Thomas, and Jeanette E. Thomas, all of the above being heirs of James and Elizabeth Thomas, deceased as of April 29, 1854.

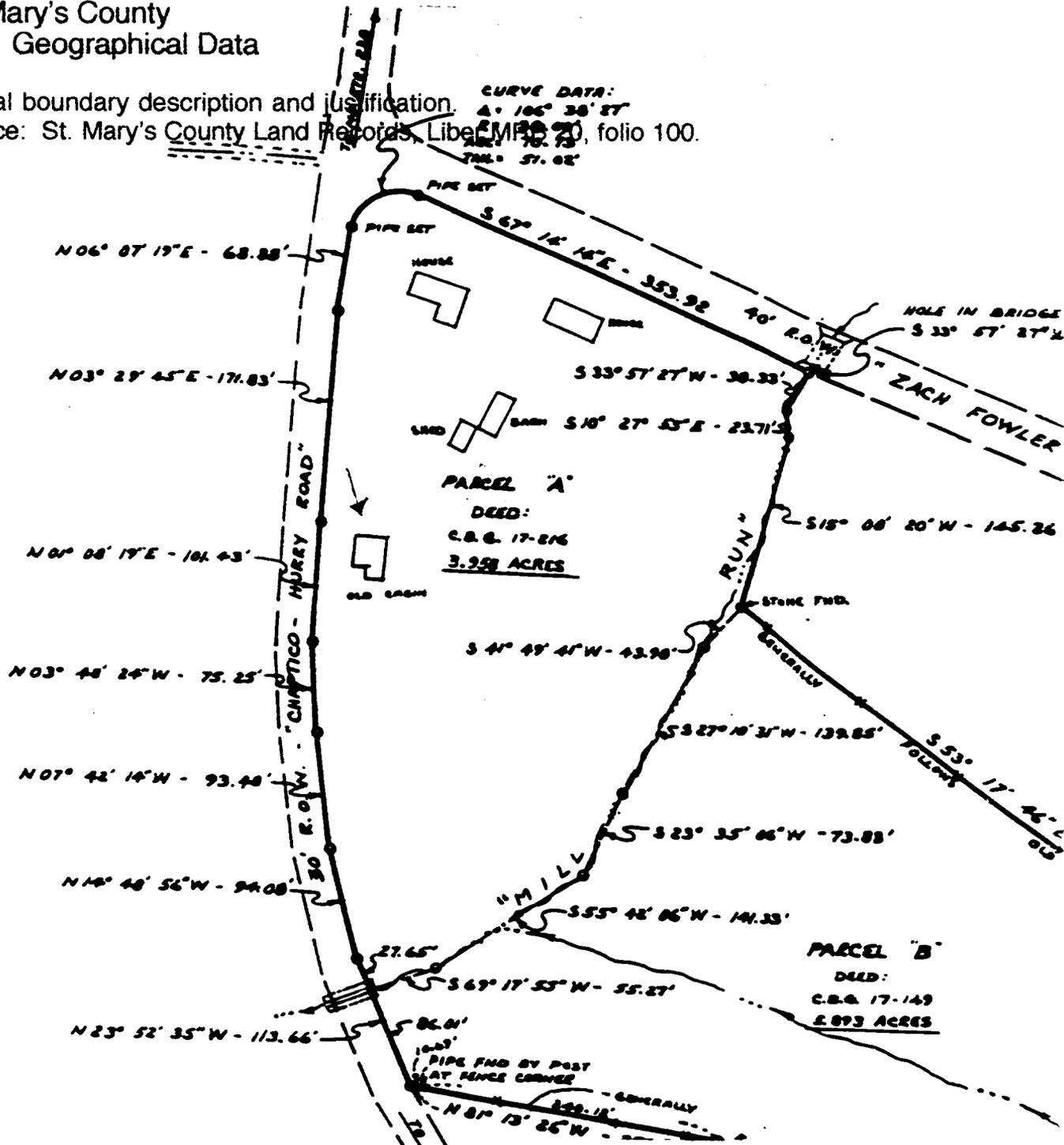
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JTB 4, folio 277.

DATE: June 3, 1857.

NOTES: William D. Merrick and Henry G. Garner partitioned the real estate among the heirs. Transfer of tract known as "Southampton" which comprises "Weems," "Boston," "Mellons," "Hope," "Notley's Addition," and "Peach Bottom" being 464 1/4 acres. Also, one other tract being part of "Notley Hall," of 231 1/2 acres. Also a portion of Notley Hall estate being woodland, 32 2/3 acres.

SM-416, Martin Welch house
 St. Mary's County
 10.1 Geographical Data

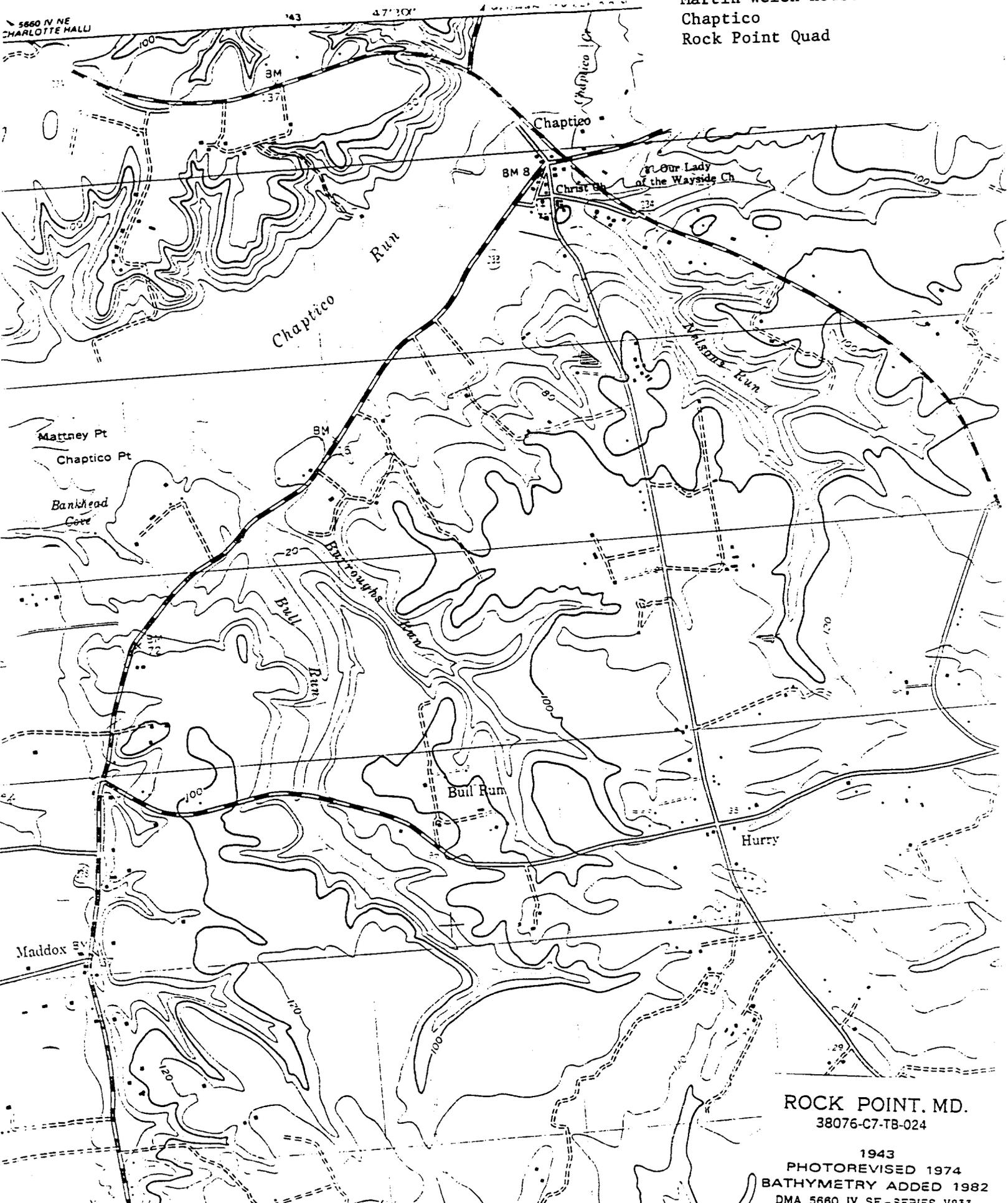
Verbal boundary description and justification
 Source: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber MFB 90, folio 100.



BOUNDARY SURVEY
LAND OF
ZACH M. FOWLER
 4TH ELECTION DISTRICT
 ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD.
 TOTAL AREA: 9.851 ACRES
 DECEMBER, 1983



SM-416
Martin Welch House
Chaptico
Rock Point Quad



ROCK POINT, MD.
38076-C7-TB-024

1943
PHOTOREVISED 1974
BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982
DMA 5660 IV SE-SERIES V833







