Capsule Summary
SM-608
Bushwood Post Office
Bushwood
Private

c. 1908

The Bushwood Post Office building, constructed c. 1907, represents the oldest building to remain in continual use as a United States Post Office in St. Mary's County and is also significant for its association with Richard Ellis, a prominent local master carpenter, miller, and post master. Situated just south of the intersection of Bushwood Wharf Road and Maddox Road, the post office building typifies the development that occurred at county crossroads in the late-nineteenth to early twentieth century. With service beginning on October 3, 1908, this convenient location greatly facilitated inland postal delivery. Ellis, who served as postmaster from 1908-1943 took full advantage of the postal service for he soon made the crossroads an important commercial center. In 1910, Ellis constructed a frame grist mill (SM-609) as well as a saw mill (no longer extant).

As recently remembered by his daughter Frances Ellis, Richard Ellis was born on February 5, 1887 to a relatively poor family. By the age of eleven, both of his parents had died. When he was old enough, Ellis left St. Mary's County and worked at the Norfolk Naval Yard as a "finisher" and master builder. Upon his return to St. Mary's County, Ellis built the Bushwood Post Office and soon after the grist and saw mills. The collection of buildings at the Bushwood crossroads was evidence of Ellis' diverse business interests and represented advertisements for his abilities as a master carpenter. The one-and-a-half story, frame post office building, for instance, was erected by Ellis who deliberately segregated the building's two functions from each other. Both the post office and dwelling featured separate entries and their functions were separated by partition walls. Ellis also took advantage of the newest innovations in building materials for he utilized decorative pressed metal tin throughout the interior of the house--an economical, sanitary, and fire proof alternative to plaster.

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SM-608, Bushwood Post Office
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronologicial/Developmental Period:	Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Historic Period Theme:	Economic Architecture

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Rural Crossroads
Historic Function and Use:	Post Office, Residence
Known Design Source:	Richard Ellis, Builder

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-608

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Bushwood Post Office

and/or common

2. Location

street & number SW corner of Maddox Rd. & Bushwood Wharf Rd. ___ not for publication

city, town Bushwood ___ vicinity of congressional district 7

state Maryland county St. Mary's TM-30, G-22, P-171

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	x occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
x building(s)	x private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	x private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	x yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	x not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Donald G. Eaton and Lucy Agnes Peterkin

street & number PO Box 25 telephone no.: 301-769-4762

city, town Bushwood state and zip code Md 20618-0025

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber MRB 283

street & number folio 188

city, town Leonardtown state Md

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-608

Condition		Check one	Check one
_x_ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_x_ original site
___ good	___ ruins	_x_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

Contributing Resource Count: 2

The Bushwood Post Office is strategically located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Maddox Road (Maryland Route 238) and Bushwood Wharf Road in the crossroads community of Bushwood, Maryland. Oriented on an east/west axis, the Post Office building is bounded to the south by a driveway leading to rear service yard and outbuildings, to the west by an open yard, to the north by Maddox Road, and to the east by Bushwood Wharf Road. The area immediately to the south and west is further bounded by a combination of metal link and wooden picket fences.

Constructed c. 1908 and added on to soon later, the Bushwood Post Office is a two story, six bay, single-pile, frame building with a two story rear ell. The building rests on a brick pier foundation and is constructed of circular sawn lumber. The exterior is sheathed with vinyl siding preserving the original clapboard. The cornice is enclosed and the roof is covered with asphalt shingle siding. The roof of the main block is pierced by an interior, corbelled brick chimney flue as is the roof of the rear ell.

The primary or east elevation is pierced on the first floor by six bays and on the second floor by five bays. The first floor fenestration consists of three doors and three, two-over-two, double-hung sash windows. Each of the doors provide access into different parts of the building. The southern most entry permits access into the dwelling. It is a modern door but features an oval window with two panels below. It also exhibits a two pane transom. The center six panel door accesses the post office. The northern most door, which leads into a storage room is strongly built with each of its four panels exhibiting diagonally set tongue-and-groove boards. All of these bays are sheltered by a porch supported by six chamfered posts decorated with scroll sawn brackets. The five second floor bays consist of six-over-six windows.

The south elevation consists of the gable end of the main block and the side of the rear ell. The main block is pierced by a two-over-two window on the first and second floors. The first floor of the ell is pierced by two, two-over-two windows and two doors. All of these bays are sheltered by a screened-in porch that exhibits chamfered posts and a matchstick ceiling. The second floor is pierced by a comparably small six-over-six window and a two-over-two window.

The west elevation consists of the ell's gable end and the side of the main block. The gable end's fenestration on the first floor is composed of a two-over-two window and a paired set of six-over-six windows. The second floor is pierced by a six-over-six window. A small louver ventilates the attic. To the south of the ell, the main block is pierced by a door on the first floor and a six-over-six window on the second floor. To the north of the ell, the main block features a two-over-two window on the first and a six-over-six window on the second.

The north elevation is composed of the ell's side and the main block's gable end. The ell is pierced on the first and second floors by two, two-over-two windows. The gable end's fenestration consists of a two-over-two window on the first and a six-over-six window on the second floor.

The interior of the Bushwood Post Office is organized to accommodate its two distinct functions. The first floor of the main block, for instance, is largely reserved for the post office,

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-608

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	x architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
x 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	x politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1907 **Builder/Architect** Richard Ellis

check: Applicable Criteria: x A ___B x C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state x local

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-608

Interviews with Donald Eaton, Lucy Peterkin, and Frances Ellis, November, December, 1997.
Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: N.p., 1991

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acres around building

Quadrangle name Rock Point, Md **Quadrangle scale** 1:24 000

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed 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 Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County Dept. of Planning & Zoning **date** February, 1998

street & number 22740 Washington Street **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
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

PS-2746

while the second floor, as well as the entire ell, is used as a residence. The interior of the post office, entered via the center door on the east elevation, has been modernized although portions of the original post office boxes, counter, and matchstick wainscotting. An unheated storage space lies just to the north of the post office section and was apparently a later addition to the building. The dwelling can be entered through the southern most door. This entry leads into a stair passage that features a closed string stair with a turned newel and balusters. Decorative pressed metal wainscotting extends up the stairs and into the second floor of the ell and main block. This stair passage also leads into the main living space of the ell. This space features an elaborate mantle with reeded columns, elaborate brackets, and circular knobs typical to the period. To the west of this room is the present day kitchen which still features its original pressed metal ceiling. To the north of the kitchen and living room are two spaces which represent modern additions. The room beside the kitchen is the dining room with the other room reserved for a stair to the second floor and a doorway (now blocked) into the post office section of the main block. The second floor of the ell consists of one bedroom and a living area, while the second floor of the main block consists of three bedrooms.

Just west of the house is a contributing corn crib and a non-contributing chicken coop and storage shed/garage. The frame corn crib features a concrete pier foundation, a braced, circular sawn frame that is partly sheathed with vertical boards. The lack of boards on the lower section permits a view of the interior slats and floor construction. The floor joists are merely placed over the sill and support a series of thick floor boards. Vertical slats line the interior of the crib but are only partially visible as vertical boards, attached to the frame with wire nails, cover the upper portions of the walls. The roof is covered with corrugated metal. The only entrance into the crib is situated on the south side. The door consists of vertical boards held together with a series of horizontal battens. The interior is entirely sheathed with vertical slats fastened to the frame with wire nails.

SM-608, Bushwood Post Office
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title
(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber MRB 283, Folio 188
Grantee: Donald George Eaton and Lucy Agnes Eaton
Grantor: Frances M. Ellis
Date: November 3, 1977
Notes: The deed notes that the post office property was once part of the larger tract called "Bushwood" and "Bushwood Lodge" near the corner of Route 238 and Burshwood Wharf Road.

Reference: Liber DBK 173, Folio 263
Grantee: Frances M. Ellis
Grantor: Richard Carroll Ellis
Date: November 30, 1971
Notes: Due to a vague chain-of-title, it is unclear how the Ellis family received the property. It occurred, however, during one of two transactions listed below.

Reference #1

Reference: Liber JMM 8, Folio 383
Grantee: Richard Carroll Ellis
Grantor: Reverand Michael J. Curley, Archbishop of Baltimore, etc.
Date: November 17, 1933
Notes: The property is listed as containing 44 acres and is probably the tract where the post office is.

Reference #2

Reference: Liber EBA 18, Folio 50
Grantee: Richard Carroll Ellis
Grantor: Eleanor M. Renehan
Date: March 28, 1919
Notes: This deed does not mention the size of the tract, but refers to the property as part of Bushwood or Bushwood Lodge.

transformation of River Springs (SM-116). His clients were some of the most prominent members of the local community. They included Dr. Edward B. Snell, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Beitzell, Mrs. Robert D. Blackistone & Children, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Hughes, Mr. L. L. Chandler, Mr. and Mrs. Yowaiski, J. J. Tunney, Gwynn E. Gardiner, J. S. Guy, and the Hotel St. Mary's. While Ellis often worked straight from architects specifications or standardized plans, he also prepared his own floor plans and in one case a framing section for a barn. Typically these drawings were performed on reused sheets of paper with pencil. The types of paper used included "Unemployment Census" announcement posters from the Bushwood Post Office, brown mailing wraps, calendars, or even freezer paper. Overall, the buildings at the Bushwood crossroads as well the collection of drawings provide a vivid glimpse into the working world of Richard Ellis--a miller, post master and rural craftsman.

SM-608, Bushwood Post Office
St. Mary's County
8.3 Significance

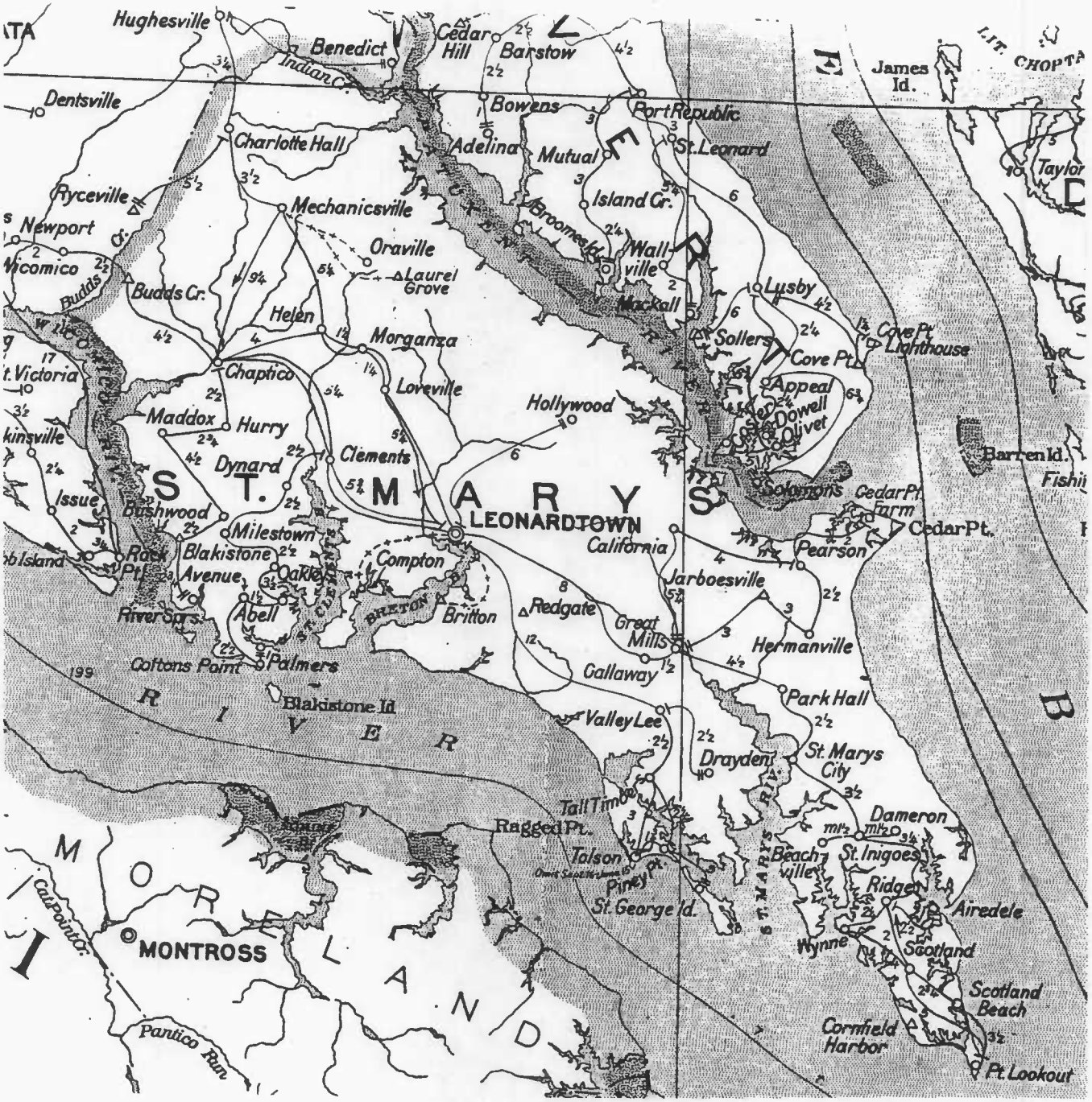
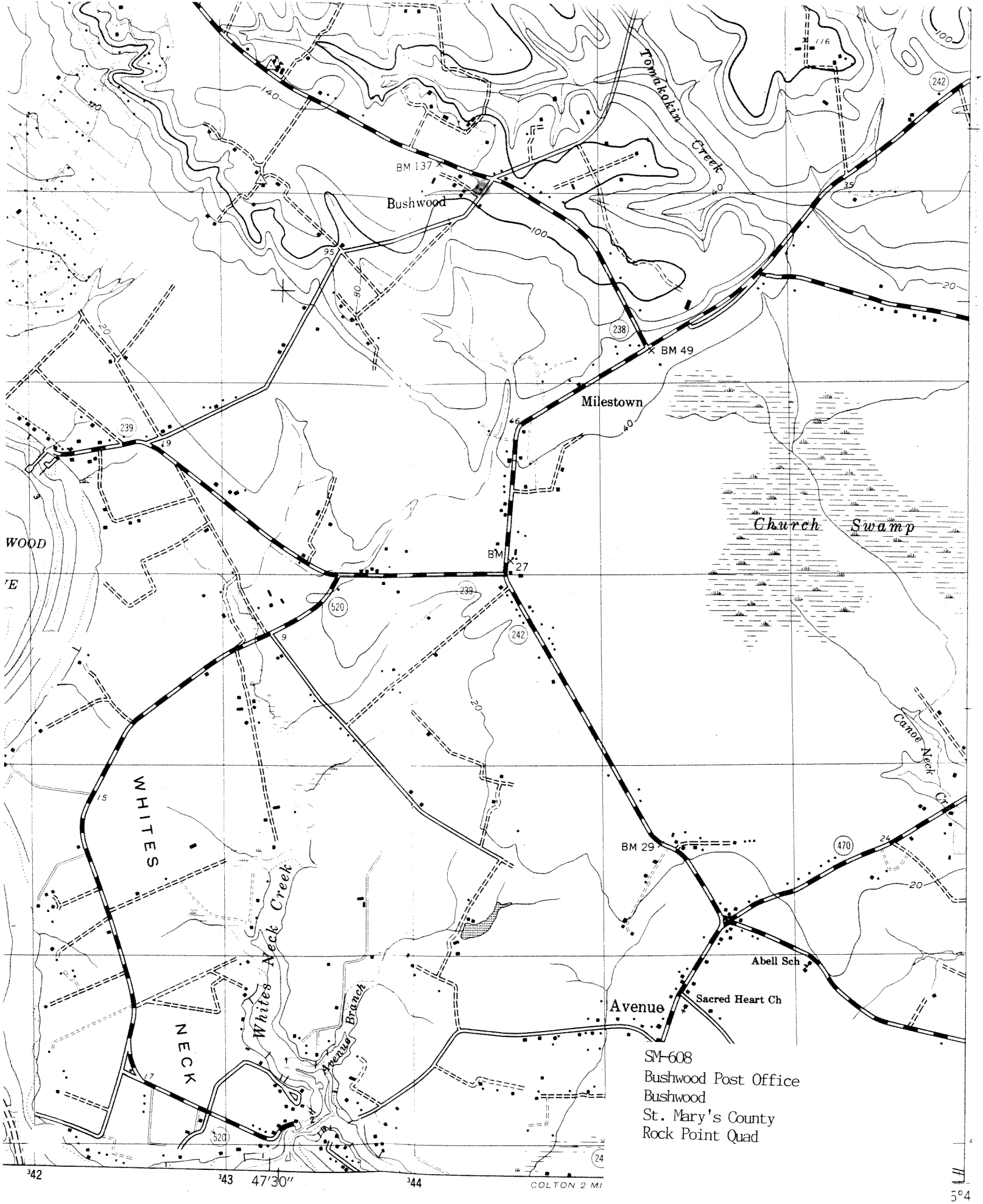


Figure 1. 1920's United States Post Office Route Map for Delaware and Maryland showing St. Mary's County and its various postal stops.



SM-608
Bushwood Post Office
Bushwood
St. Mary's County
Rock Point Quad

1 MILE
5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium-duty Light-duty

SM-607
Bushwood Post Office
St. Mary's County
Kirk Ranzetta
Dec/97
Md SHPO
S+E elevations
1 of 3

SM-[illegible]
Bushwood Post Office
St. Mary's County
Kirk Ranzetta
Dec/97
Md SHPO
N + W elevations
2 of 3

SM-[illegible]
Bushwood Post Office
St. Mary's County
Kirk Ranzetta
Dec/97
Md SHPO
Outbuildings - looking N
3 of 3