

WO-284
Lemuel Showell House
Showell
private

c. 1830

Architecturally, the Lemuel Showell house stands out in this small roadside village as the oldest extant dwelling distinctive for its Federal style finishes. The modillion block cornice with a scalloped fascia as well as a fanlighted transom are distinctive features that link this house with several other contemporary dwellings located in or near Berlin. The Calvin B. Taylor house and Engleside are two of the most prominent contemporary houses erected during the 1830s.

Originally built on a site southeast of its present location, the Showell family homestead was known as Croften. Lemuel Showell inherited the family property from his father, Lemuel, in 1859. Due to the Federal style architectural details it is estimated that the house was erected around 1830 by Lemuel Showell II. (...?....-1859) At his death in 1859, Lemuel Showell passed his wealth to his sons, Lemuel and William, both of whom are listed in the 1860 United States census for Worcester County. Reflective of Lemuel Showell's wealth at the time are his real estate and personal assests, valued at \$130,000. Later during the nineteenth century, Lemuel Showell was instrumental in financing the railroad construction across northern Worcester County. He served as president of the Wicomico and Pocomoke Railroad Company. In addition to his interests in railroad construction, Lemuel Showell provided early support to the ocean-side resort of Ocean City.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: LEMUEL SHOWER HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: WO-284

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

1815-1870 AGRICULTURE - INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION

4) Resource Type(s):

1. STANDING STRUCTURE

a. SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-284
Magi No. 2402845404
DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic LEMUEL SHOWELL HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number East side of US Route 113 ___ not for publication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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mr. and Mrs. Orlando Davis

street & number P. O. Box 338 telephone no.:

city, town Showell state and zip code MD 21862

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. WO-284

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move <u>c. 1930</u>
<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 Lemuel Showell house is located on the east side of US Route 113 in the small village of Showell, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame dwelling faces west with the main gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1830, the two-story, side hall/parlor main block was moved to this site around 1930 and enlarged with a gable end addition to the south. Supported by a continuous brick foundation, the wood shingled dwelling is covered by a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof.

The west (main) elevation is an asymmetrical three-bay facade with a side entrance and flanking nine-over-six sash windows. The eight-panel front door is distinguished by slightly raised diamond panels, and a fluted surround is accompanied by a arched fanlight. Sheltering the entrance is a gabled hood. The adjacent windows are framed by ovolo molded surrounds along with louvered shutters. The second floor is lighted by three evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows. Trimming the base of the roof is a modillion block cornice with a scalloped fascia. The cornice repeats the same form as found at Engleside north of Berlin and at the Calvin B. Taylor house in Berlin.

Lighting the gable end are two nine-over-six sash windows on the first floor and two six-over-six sash on the second floor. Both pairs of windows have ovolo molded surrounds and louvered shutters. The attic is lighted by four-over-two sash with a shingle shutter to one side. The gable end is trimmed with a molded bargeboard. Rising through the gable end is a narrow brick chimney that replaced the original stack.

Extending from the south gable end is a story-and-a-half frame wing finished in a similar manner as the main block. Lighting the first floor from the west is a tripartite window, while the modillioned cornice above is interrupted by a shed roofed dormer. Attached to the back of the 1930s addition is a shed roofed extension that includes a side entrance protected by a gabled stoop.

The back of the main block is partially covered by a single story gable roofed addition also attached after the house was relocated. Like the rest of the house the first floor of the old house is lighted by nine-over-six sash windows, while the second floor is marked by six-over-six sash. Trimming the base of the roof is a boxed cornice fitted with a period bed molding.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. W0-284

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/ 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

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 Lemuel Showell house is associated with a small collection of Federal style dwellings erected in northern Worcester County during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. A modillion block cornice with a scalloped fascia, a diamond-panel front door, and a fanlight transom clearly link this house with a handful of others standing in or around Berlin. (See Engleside, W0-28, and the Calvin B. Taylor house, W0-75) Originally this house stood on ground southeast of its present location. It was moved to this site around 1930.

Also significant to this property is its association with Lemuel Showell, a prominent Worcester County land owner and financier during the second half of the nineteenth century. Born on the Showell family property of Croften, Lemuel Showell inherited a fortune at his father's death in 1859. Reflective of his wealth at mid century is the entry in the 1860 United States census for Worcester County which lists him as a 34 year old merchant with real estate and personal assests totaling \$130,000. His father, however, was apparently responsible for financing the early nineteenth century section of the extant house around 1830.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-284

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
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organization	Worcester County	date	3/15/89
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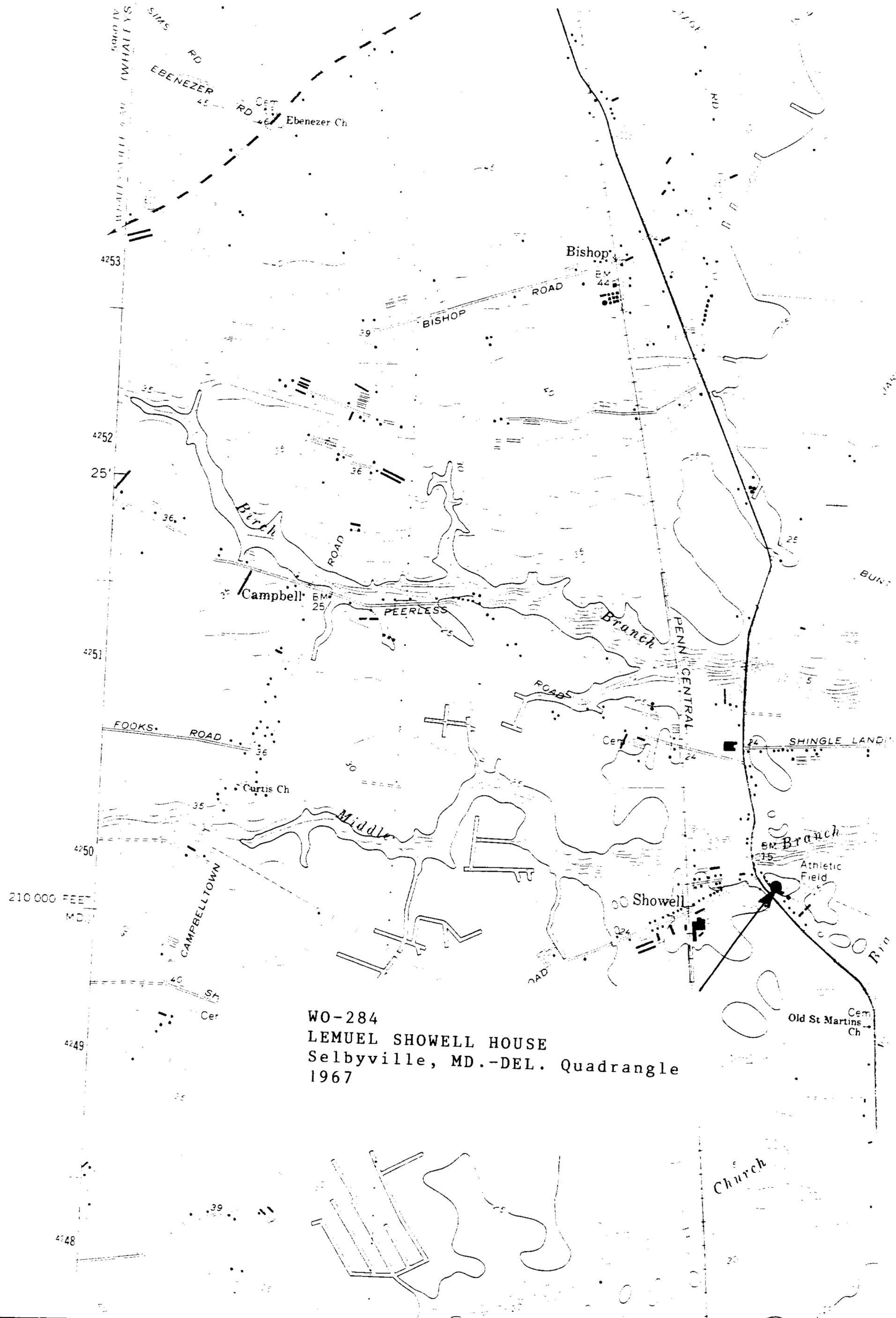
street & number	Worcester County Courthouse	telephone	301-632-1194
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city or town	Snow Hill	state	MD 21863
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature 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



WO-284
LEMUEL SHOWELL HOUSE
Selbyville, MD.-DEL. Quadrangle
1967