

Capsule Summary  
SM-719  
Point Lookout Railroad Cut  
Scotland  
Private

c. 1880-1890

The Point Lookout Railroad cut in Scotland and Ridge is but a remnant of an ambitious attempt to link Point Lookout by railroad to the more urban cities such as Washington, DC to the north. Originally envisioned in the 1860s by the Southern Maryland Railroad Company, the line demanded the purchase of extensive right-of-ways and construction of culverts, beds, and cuts. This particular cut was probably completed in the 1880s or 1890s. The rails were never laid, however, and service was only extended as far south as Mechanicsville by 1881. Service was never substantially extended any further south and by 1928 passenger service was discontinued. While stock continued to be transported on the line in the 1930s, it was not until 1942 that the United States Navy extended the rail line to Millstone Landing on the Patuxent River for the new Patuxent River Naval Air Station. This branch continued until 1965 when all service was suspended. The right-of-way for the railroad was purchased by the St. Mary's Board of County Commissioners in 1970.



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## 7. Description

Inventory No. SM-719

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

The Point Lookout Railroad cut is located approximately ½ mile north of the intersection between Fresh Pond Neck and Point Lookout Roads near the rural communities of Scotland and Ridge. The cut is marked by a visible swale cut into an otherwise level mown field. The railroad bed is approximately 10 feet wide and lies about five feet below the field. Further to the south, the bed is overgrown with shrubs, bushes, and cedar trees.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-719

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates	Architect/Builder
<b>Construction dates</b>	

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property varying  
Acreage of historical setting varying  
Quadrangle name Point Lookout                      Quadrangle scale: 1:24 000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Point Lookout Railroad cut is a swath of land that extends southeast from Point Lookout Road. The cut extends until its intersection with Fresh Pond Neck Road to the south. The railroad bed is used in the property description for the St. Mary's Episcopal Chapel of Ease located in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber 22, folio 304.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtwn	state	Maryland

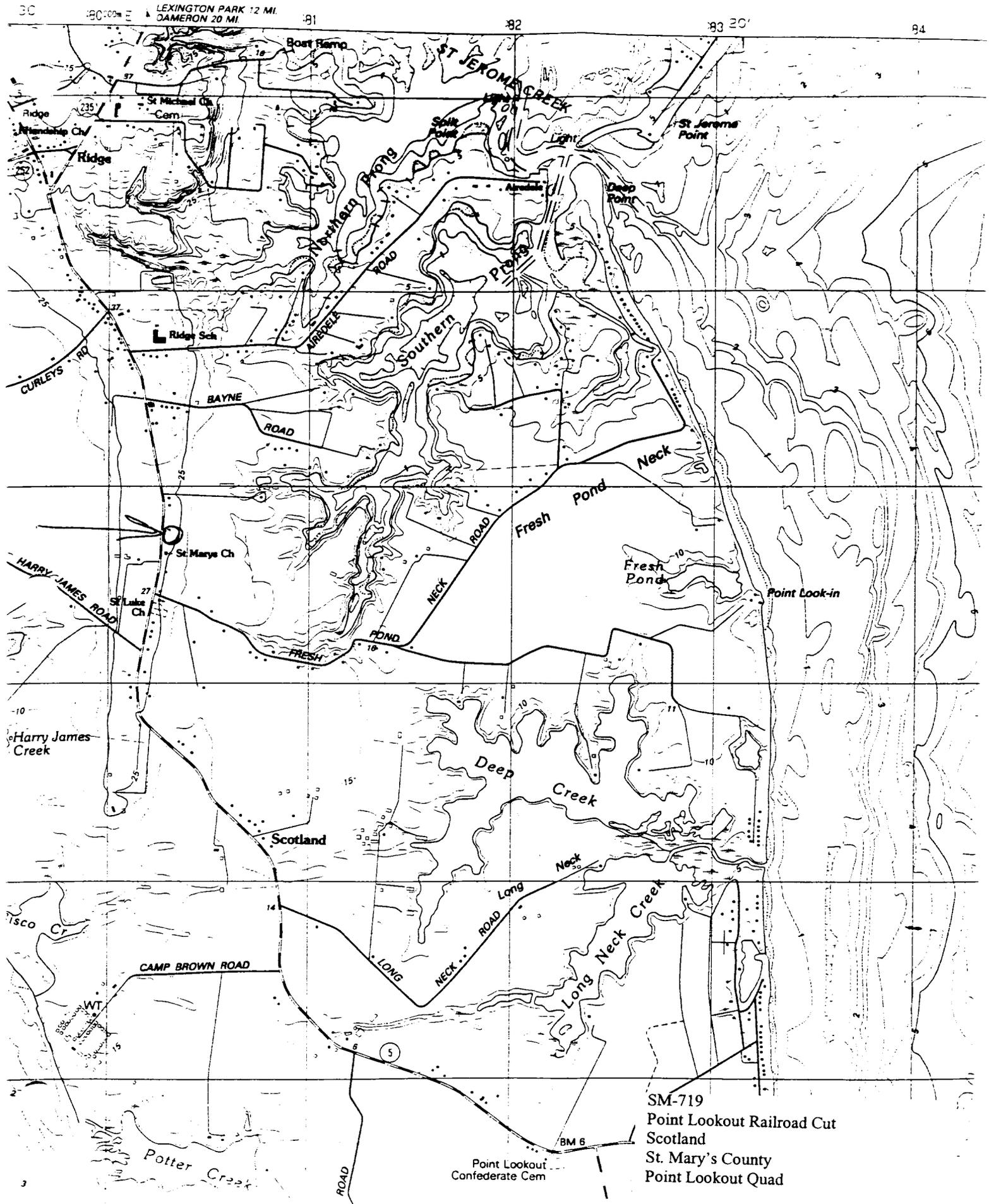
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The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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  
   DHCD/DHCP  
   100 Community Place  
   Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
   410-514-7600

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY





SM-719

Pt Lookout Railroad Cut

St Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ransette

Nov/82

Md 2100

Looking S

1982