

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JAN 4 1980  
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC  
St. Peter's Church  
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

SE of Queenstown on U.S. 50  
STREET & NUMBER North side of U. S. Route 50, 1 1/2 miles  
south of Queenstown

CITY, TOWN Queenstown Md. X VICINITY OF First  
STATE Maryland CODE 24 COUNTY Queen Anne's CODE 035

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 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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The Reverend Edward B. Carley  
STREET & NUMBER Mother of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church  
CITY, TOWN Centreville VICINITY OF STATE Maryland 21617

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN Centreville STATE Maryland 21617

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Peter's Church is located directly adjacent to the westbound lane of U. S. Route 50, about one and one-half miles south of Queenstown.

The church is of brick construction and laid out in a cruciform plan. The most distinguishing features of the building are the steeply pitched slate roofs, decorated Victorian-Gothic vergeboards, large rose windows, and a small, frame Victorian bell cupola on the south gable.

The exterior appearance of St. Peter's Church is a result of two separate building periods. Constructed in the 1820's, the earliest section was a large rectangular building 45 feet long by 30 feet wide, oriented to an east-west axis. This early building was laid in two different types of brickwork. The west gable and the south facade, visible from the road, are laid in Flemish bond, while the east gable and the north facade, oriented away from the road, are laid in five-course American bond.

The brick shell is virtually all that remains of this early church. By 1877 the congregation had outgrown the building, and it was enlarged. As executed, these alterations dramatically affected both the exterior appearance and the interior arrangement of the church, to the extent that a cornerstone in the southwest corner of the entrance gable states: "Rebuilt 1877."

An octagonal apse added on the north facade and a buttressed nave and vestibule on the south facade created a new, cruciform plan, with the entrance shifted from the west gable to the south and the altar moved from the east gable to the apse on the north facade. The new additions were laid in seven-course American bond, with corbeled buttresses at the corners.

All original doors and windows were removed or replaced. The roof pitch was increased dramatically, and large rose windows were incorporated into the east, north, and west gables. Two sets of paired, Gothic-arched stained glass windows were placed on the east and west gables and single paired windows were placed on the south facade and on either side of the nave. Smaller, rectangular windows used on the entrance gable flank a large, arched door constructed of narrow, diagonal boards. There is a stained glass transom in the arch above the door.

The steeply pitched roofs are of slate. At the eaves, the scrolled and chamfered rafters are left exposed, terminating in brackets. The gable eaves are embellished with wide vergeboards, supported by chamfered stick-style brackets, and decorated with punched quatrefoil medallions.

A brick sacristy and meeting room were added to the northeast corner of the church in the mid-1960's.

The interior is divided into a nave, transepts, and apse. Entrance into the nave is made from a small vestibule on the south gable. The original, 1820's church now forms the transepts, and the altar is located on a raised platform in the apse.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 checked="" 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 1823-27, 1877

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Peter's Church has played an important role in the history of the Roman Catholic Church in Maryland. A Catholic community was established in this area soon after Claiborne founded his colony on Kent Island in 1631, and this group, with the communities in St. Mary's and Charles Counties, formed the earliest enclave of Catholicism in the American colonies.

The parish of St. Peter's was formed in 1765; the chapel constructed soon thereafter was the third permanent mission established on the Eastern Shore. The present church was built in 1823-1827 and expanded in 1877. Though little more than the exterior shell remains of the 1827 church, the enlarged 1877 structure is a notable example of Victorian-Gothic church architecture. The bold, stick-style roof and handsome vergeboards make the church a well-known landmark along U.S. Route 50.

The interior is virtually intact from the Victorian construction period and contains all of the 1877 stained glass and altar furniture.

The first permanent Catholic mission on the Eastern Shore was the Mission of St. Francis Xavier, commonly known as Old Bohemia (NR), established by Father Thomas Mansel in Cecil County. Old Bohemia became the headquarters for all missionary activity on the Delmarva Peninsula. The priests visited each area twice a year, with special trips for baptisms and to assist the sick or dying.

In 1765 Father Joseph Mosley was assigned to establish a permanent mission on the Central Shore, thus reducing Old Bohemia's territory by half and alleviating some of the problems accompanying such a large territory. This central mission was founded on 207 acres of land purchased in Talbot County and was named St. Joseph's Tuckahoe.

St. Peter's Parish was established in the same year, and some time before 1784 a modest chapel was constructed a mile and a half south of Queenstown. This was a small, gambrel-roofed structure that bore closer resemblance to a dwelling house than a church. Of frame construction on a brick foundation, this building was converted to a parsonage after the larger brick church was completed in 1827. It survived on its original site until its demolition in 1960.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carley, Reverend Edward B. The Origins and History of St. Peter's Church,  
Queenstown, 1976.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5 acres approximately

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	401760	4314760	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

BEGINNING on the north side of U.S. Route 50 at a point 2000 feet east of Green Spring Road; thence, northwest about 500 feet; thence, northeast about 100 feet; thence, southeast about 400 feet; thence, northeast about 50 feet; thence, southwest about 200 feet to a point on the north side of U.S. Route 50; thence, northwest along the north side of U.S. Route 50 about 250 feet to the point of beginning, containing about 1.5 acres.

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

1 km

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

April 28, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

124 South Commerce Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*[Signature]*

12-28-79

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*[Signature]*  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 3/10/80

ATTEST *[Signature]*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
*Regional Coordinator*

DATE 3-5-80

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Queen Anne's County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

A central aisle leads from the entrance vestibule up to the walnut communion rail. Doors to the left of the altar lead to a small confessional, while the doors to the right lead to the 20th century sacristy. A gallery supported by two square, chamfered pillars with molded capitals fills the upper nave and is reached by a narrow stair in the southwest corner.

Most of the interior woodwork and furnishings date to the 1877 enlargement, but several pews in the gallery and a very nice tabernacle in the sacristy remain from the early 19th century church. The paneled wainscoting, added during the 1927 centennial celebration, is similar to the paneling on the 1877 gallery railing. The altar furniture includes a marbleized font and two pedestals, said to be dated 1867, and a very fine set of walnut Eastlake chairs with caned seats and religious motifs worked into the backs.

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St. Peter's Church  
Queen Anne's County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET      ITEM NUMBER 8      PAGE 2

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(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

By the early 19th century, the congregation had outgrown the first chapel, and in 1819 Archbishop Marechal referred to the old frame church as "a most miserable old house."<sup>1</sup> In 1821 Eleanore Tilghman devised the hire of her Negroes to the parish for three years, two of which were to be used toward the building of a new church. Other bequests were made with similar intentions, and by 1823 the new church was under way. Supervised by Reverend Peter Veulemans, the church was completed and dedicated in 1827.

St. Peter's continued to thrive through the middle of the century, and by 1869 plans to build a new church in Queenstown were being considered. Fairs and tournaments were held to raise money, but the plans for a new church had to be abandoned, and the old building was enlarged. The work was completed by late fall, and the dedication ceremonies were held December 23, 1877. The event was reported in local newspapers, and Bishop Becker estimated that 2,000 people attended. Father Henchy, who had supervised the project, reportedly informed the parishioners that the new church "was a miniature of St. Peter's in Rome."<sup>2</sup>

The centennial of St. Peter's Church was celebrated in 1927, and the church was rededicated.

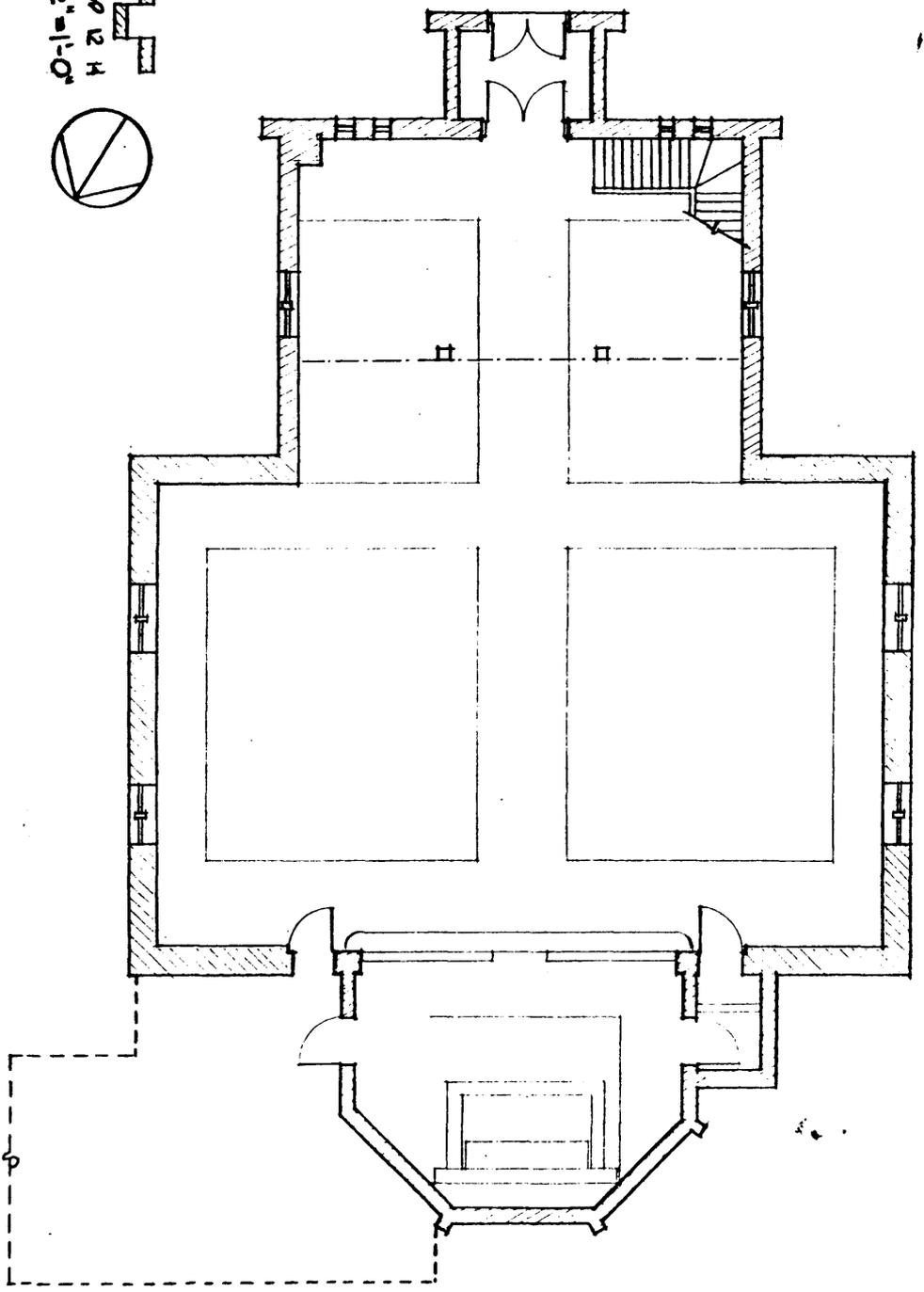
In 1960 the earlier frame chapel was demolished, and in 1963 plans were proposed for a new sacristy and a meeting room adjoining the northeast corner of the church. This project was completed in 1967.

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<sup>1</sup>Carley, p. 58.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 102.

▨ PERIOD I : 1823-1827  
□ PERIOD II : 1877



0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14  
SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"



QA-209

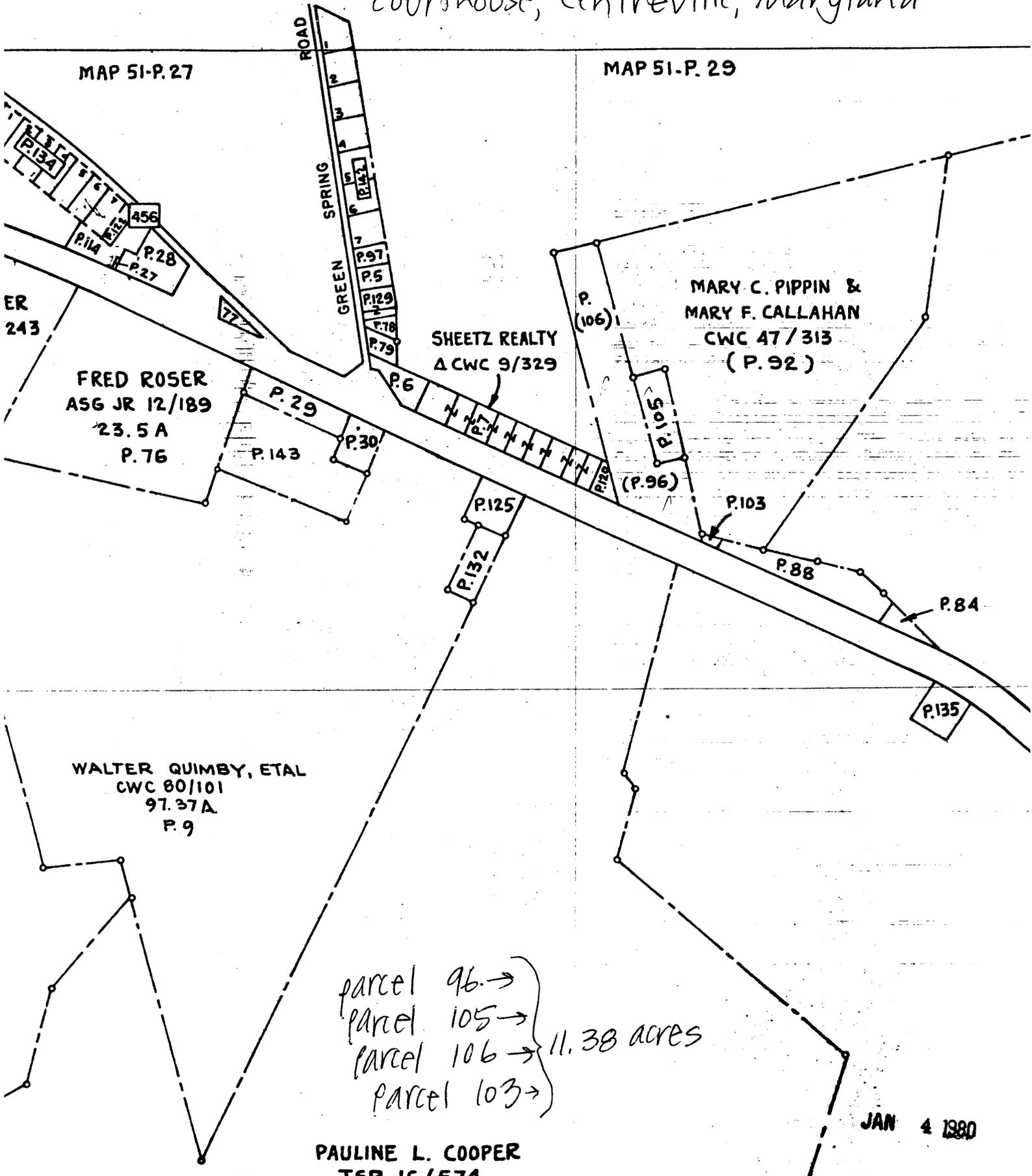
ST. PETER'S CHURCH  
QUEENSTOWN, MARYLAND

MARCH 30, 1978.

Queen Anne's County Tax Map 59  
 Department of Assessments  
 Courthouse, Centreville, Maryland

MAP 51-P.27

MAP 51-P.29



ER 243

FRED ROSER  
 A56 JR 12/189  
 23.5 A  
 P.76

SHEETZ REALTY  
 Δ CWC 9/329

MARY C. PIPPIN &  
 MARY F. CALLAHAN  
 CWC 47/313  
 (P.92)

WALTER QUIMBY, ETAL  
 CWC 80/101  
 97.37A  
 P.9

parcel 96 →  
 parcel 105 →  
 parcel 106 → } 11.38 acres  
 parcel 103 →

PAULINE L. COOPER  
 TSP 16/1574

JAN 4 1980