

PH0026280

SM-58 & SM-59

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: St. Mary's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 9	1972

1. NAME

COMMON: St. Francis Xavier Church and
Newtown Manor House ~~Historic District~~

AND/OR HISTORIC:
St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church & Newtown Manor House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Newtown Neck, east side of Md. Rt. 243, 1.5 mi. south of Compton

CITY OR TOWN:
Compton

STATE Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: St. Mary's	CODE 037
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (Yes/No)			
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Archdiocese of Washington
Contact: Patrick Cardinal A. O'Boyle

STREET AND NUMBER:
1721 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: Dist. of Columbia CODE: 11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:
St. John's College Campus, College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks

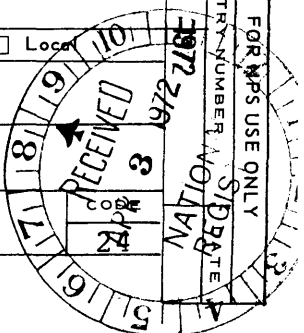
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:
94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: St. Mary's
NOV 9 1972
ENTRY NUMBER: 26280

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Francis Xavier Church and Newtown Manor House Historic District, supported by 700 acres of farmland one hundred yards to the southeast, is located on Newtown Neck on the east side of Maryland Route 243, 1.5 mile south of Compton, Maryland.

St. Francis Xavier Church is a frame, rectangular building with two octagonally-shaped brick additions: one on the northwest (entrance); a second addition on the southeast (altar). The southeast addition is broader than the main body of the church and protrudes several inches beyond the exterior walls of the main block of the church. This southeast addition has three rectangular windows--each one in a separate plane of the octagon. The end plane is a blank brick wall with a brick chimney rising above the roof. On each side of this chimney is a dormer window. There is a door in the southeast octagon, the plane which is parallel to the southwest wall of the main body of the church.

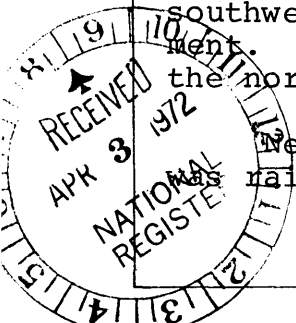
The roof over the altar is several inches higher than the A-shaped nave roof which continues at the same level and terminates at a cupola marking the apex of the roof of the northwest octagon. This entrance is narrower than the breadth of the church so that the nave protrudes several feet from the place where the addition joins the main body. This end is two stories and has rectangular windows on each story on each visible exterior plane with the exception of the door on the first story at the end plane. A sacristy and confessional are located inside.

The main body of the church has an interior barrel vault ceiling supported by two sets of piers which create the nave and side aisles. There is a dome over the chancel and altar which is located in the southeast octagonal end. The church has simple Federal woodwork and a mid-eighteenth-century reredos.

Newtown Manor House, one hundred yards to the southeast of the church, is a two-and-one-half story brick, five-bay house with a pair of enclosed chimneys on each gable end. The structure has an A roof with a jerkinhead at each end. There is a centrally placed porch on both the northeast and southwest elevations. The house sits on a high brick basement. There is a long one-story, shed-like structure along the northwest gable end.

Newtown Manor House originally had a gambrel roof which was raised and changed to its present shape in 1816.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

SIGNIFICANCE

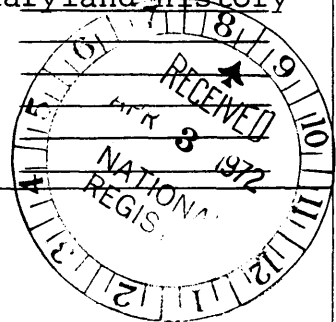
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1766-7 (church), c. 1740 (house);

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate) additions 1816 (both)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>17th century</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<u>Maryland history</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The St. Francis Xavier Church building has a barrel vault ceiling, unusual in a wood church. Architectural evidence indicates this vaulting is original (1767). The two octagonally-shaped brick ends are unusual, if not unique, features in Maryland ecclesiastical architecture.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

St. Francis Xavier Church and Newtown Manor House Historic District marks a location and site important in the seventeenth-century ecclesiastical history of Maryland. From this area of Newtown Neck and from other locations in Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore, English Jesuit priests conducted missionary activities among the Indians and ministered to the needs of the settlers beginning in the 1630's and 1640's. In Maryland, as all over North America, the Jesuits were the vanguard of western civilization in the wilderness.

The combination of St. Francis Xavier Church and Newtown Manor House properties is an example of a self-contained Jesuit community made self-supporting by the surrounding 700 acre farm. This type of community was prevalent in the eighteenth century. In 1668 the Jesuits purchased the Manor of Little Bretton, covering all of Newtown Neck. The income from the farm supported the Jesuits and their activities. The actual farm work was usually done by tenants and overseers. This tradition has continued to the present day.

Jesuit activity at Newtown dates back to the 1640's. In 1649 the mission in this locale became formally established. The first church was erected in 1662 after a relaxation of the discrimination against Catholics which accompanied the Restoration. The site of the 1662 church is believed to be in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, about one-third mile to the north.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorders: Michael Bourne, Maryland Historical Trust, 94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401; Nancy Miller, Historian, Maryland Historical Trust.

Beitzell, Edwin W., "A History of St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church (Old Newtown) The Manor of Little Bretton St. Mary's County, Maryland." n. p., 1962, Files of the Maryland Historical Trust.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

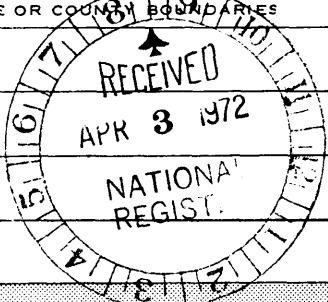
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38° 15' 23"	76° 42' 05"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	38° 15' 23"	76° 41' 55"				
SE	38° 15' 15"	76° 41' 55"				
SW	38° 15' 15"	76° 42' 05"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: sixteen (16) acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



NO
10/11
10

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: Jan. 12, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Orlando Ridout IV
Orlando Ridout IV

Title: State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date: January 13, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Wiley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/9/72

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: Nov. 7, 1972

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY St. Mary's	
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(Number all entries)

St. Francis Xavier Church & Newtown Manor House Historic District

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

A fragment of a brick wall, located near the house, is under archaeological investigation by the St. Mary's County Archaeological Society.

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

Newtown flourished in the last decades of the seventeenth century while it was the county seat as well as a religious center. After 1695, when the county seat moved, the area played a diminishing roll in the life of overall St. Mary's County. The decline was culminated in 1868 when Leonardtown became the residence of the Jesuit priests.

St. Francis Xavier Church, as a parish church, has continued since its origin in the mid-seventeenth century to minister to the needs of local Roman Catholics.

Local tradition maintains that St. Francis Xavier Church is the oldest Roman Catholic church building in the English colonies.

In 1956 the church received the Haddock Chalice which had belonged to James Haddock, a resident of Newtown from 1699 to about 1704. Haddock had taken the small vessel with him when he left; one of his descendants returned it to the church.



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St. Francis Xavier Church & Newtown Manor House Historic District

#9. REFERENCES continued

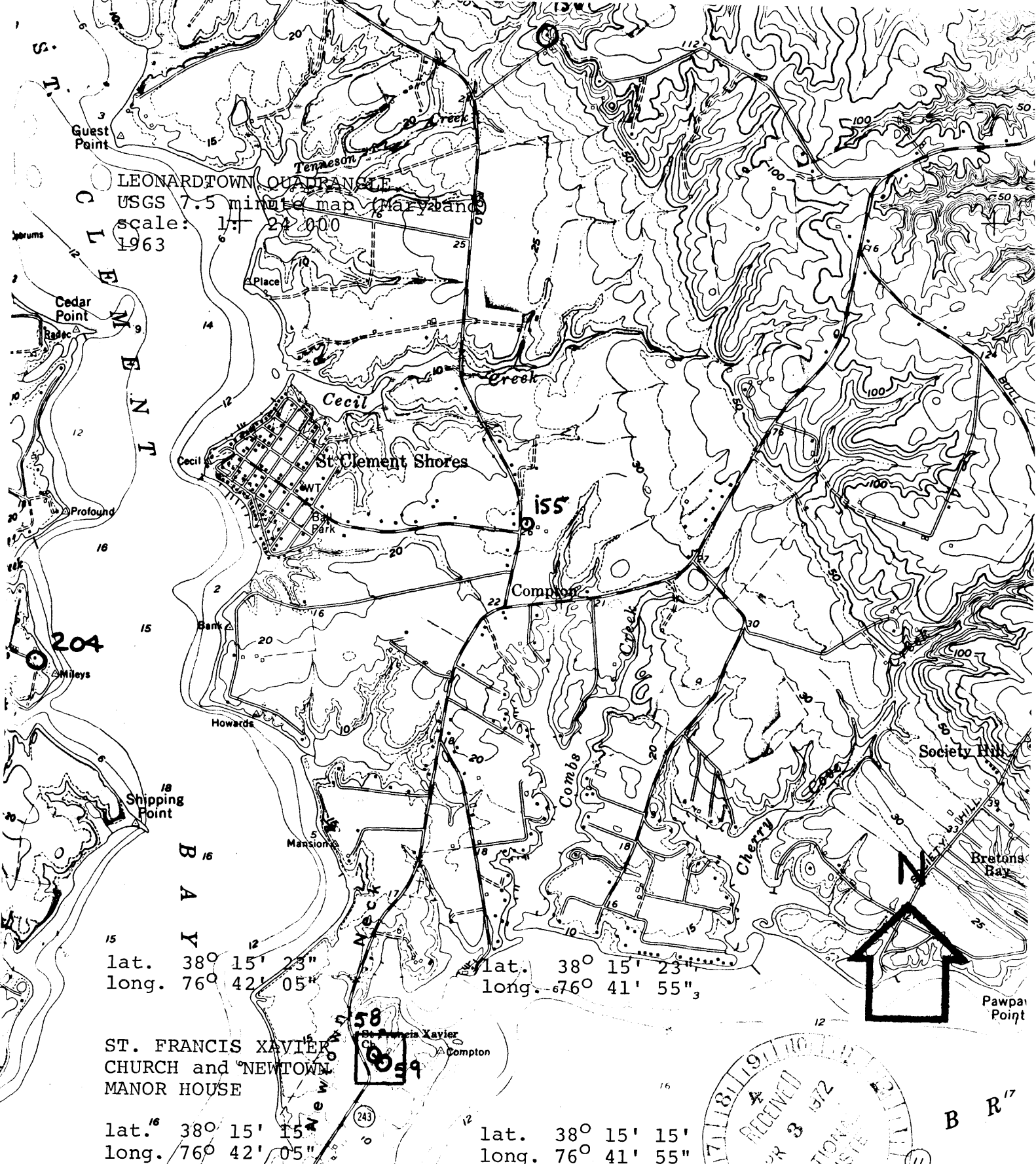
Filteau, Jerome. National Catholic News Service, U. S. Catholic Conference, Washington, D. C., April 26, 1971. One of a few Pennsylvania Roman Catholic Churches may predate St. Francis Xavier as the oldest Catholic Church in continuous existence in the thirteen English colonies.

St. Mary's County Land Records. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Federal Direct Tax Assessment 1798. St. Mary's County. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.



LEONARDTOWN QUADRANGLE
 USGS 7.5 minute map (Maryland)
 scale: 1:24,000
 1963



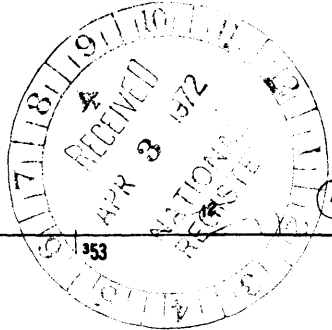
lat. $38^{\circ} 15' 23''$
 long. $76^{\circ} 42' 05''$

lat. $38^{\circ} 15' 23''$
 long. $76^{\circ} 41' 55''$

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
 CHURCH and NEWTOWN
 MANOR HOUSE

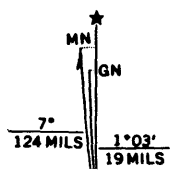
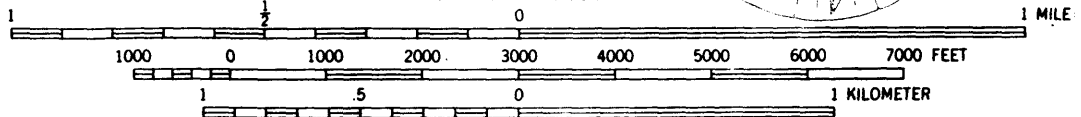
lat. $38^{\circ} 15' 15''$
 long. $76^{\circ} 42' 05''$

lat. $38^{\circ} 15' 15''$
 long. $76^{\circ} 41' 55''$



880 000 FEET 350 42'30" ROAD ENDS 1 MI. (BLAKISTON ISLAND) 5660 11 NW 353 40'

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
 DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL