

SM-391
Colonna Texaco Station
Mechanicsville
Private

1931

In 1931 Leo Higgs constructed the main three-bay block of this hipped-roof building out of molded concrete block. The front facade of the building has a deep roof overhang supported by molded block piers and squat wood columns with battered sides. Although it is currently being used for storage, the old Texaco sign, gas pumps, and advertisements for Pepsi-Cola and cigarettes on the service station windows give this structure the appearance of being frozen in time.

The Colonna Texaco Station later expanded to include a garage as an eastern wing and a barber shop as a western wing. Like the Immaculate Conception Parish Hall (SM-392) and the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department (SM-396), both built in the 1930s, the Colonna Texaco Station demonstrates how Mechanicsville continued to grow in the first half of the twentieth century.

SM-391, Colonna Texaco Station
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Modern Period, 1930-Present

Historic Period Theme: Architecture
Economic

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function and Use: Gas Station
Barber shop

Known Design Source: Unknown

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-391

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Colonna Texaco Station

and/or common

2. Location

street & number South side of Old Route 5 ___ not for publication

city, town Mechanicsville ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Storage

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

name Paul Colonna Jr. and Catherine A. Colonna

street & number P.O. Box 64 telephone no.: 301-884-4906

city, town Mechanicsville state and zip code MD 20659

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Clerk of Court liber MRB 86

street & number St. Mary's County Courthouse folio 190

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-391

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<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.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Colonna Texaco Station is located on the south side of Old Route 5 next to SM-392 in Mechanicsville, Maryland. The main block of this building faces north. It has a hipped roof with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Built in 1931, the Colonna Texaco Station is a one-story structure made of concrete blocks simulating stone. Its roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The front facade of the building was once illuminated by lightbulbs implanted in the roof overhang which are still in place today. A free-standing Texaco sign is planted next to the structure.

The north (main) elevation has an overhang supported by three molded block piers with squat square wood columns with battered sides. Between these supports sit two old gas pumps. The main block of the gas station consists of three bays. The center bay entrance door is flanked on either side by barred one-over-one sash windows with wide surrounds. To the west of the main block is a hipped roof addition pierced by two one-light-over-three-panel doors and two pairs of windows now covered with plywood. To the east of the main block is a hipped roof addition pierced by two oversize double doors which was once used as a garage.

The west elevation is blind.

The south elevation of the western addition is pierced by a five-panel door. From the roof of this addition projects an interior brick chimney. The roof of the main block of the gas station is also pierced by an interior brick chimney. Attached to the main block is a shed-roof addition sheathed in weatherboard siding. This addition is lit by two single-light windows with metal security screening and pierced by a five panel door. The eastern garage wing has a double door on this elevation and an exterior brick chimney.

The east elevation of the main block is lit by two barred one-over-one sash windows with wide surrounds. The east end of the garage is lit by two windows with wide surrounds covered with plywood.

The interior of the gas station is currently used for storage. Some of the shelving, a five-panel door, and the glass and wood partitions remain in place.

There are no outbuildings.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-391

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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	1931	Builder/Architect	Leo Higgs
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D
and/or			
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national	<input type="checkbox"/> state	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local

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

The Colonna Texaco Station is the only service station to survive in the village of Mechanicsville. It is also one of the few obviously commercial structures in the village. This site is well preserved, and although it is currently being used for storage, it could become a commercial site again in the future.

Paul Colonna purchased this property in 1930 from the heirs of George Long. The following year he hired Leo Higgs to construct the main three-bay block of the building which began as a Standard Oil Company station. Sometime before 1946 Mr. Colonna added a garage on the east side of the building and a barbershop for barber Ambrose Wood on the west side of the building. In 1979 the gas station ceased operation.

The old Texaco sign, gas pumps, and advertisements for Pepsi-Cola and cigarettes on the service station windows give this structure the appearance of being frozen in time. The location of the station in Mechanicsville is a reminder that Old Route 5 was once the main north/south thoroughfare that traversed St. Mary's County. Like the Immaculate Conception Parish Hall (SM-392) and the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department (SM-396), both built around the same time, the Colonna Texaco Station demonstrates how this nineteenth century village continued to grow in the early twentieth century.

SM-391, Texaco Station
St. Mary's County
8.1, Chain of Title

TO: Paul Colonna and Catherine A. Colonna, his wife.
FROM: Paul Colonna and Catherine A. Colonna, his wife.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber MRB 86, folio 190.
DATE: December 4, 1980.
NOTES: Transfer of two parcels.

TO: Paul Colona (sic) and Catherine A. Colona (sic), his wife.
FROM: Mary R. Fowler
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber CBG 58, folio 180.
DATE: July 27, 1955.
NOTES: Transfer of two parcels: 1.) 3/4 of an acre more or less, being the same as JMM 7/164. 2.) same as JMM 11/324

TO: Paul Colonna
FROM: Georgianna Long, widow, Elizabeth Drury and F. Eugene Drury, her husband, and Raphael Long.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JMM 7, folio 164.
DATE: November 7, 1930.
NOTES: Transfer of property "beginning at a post on the line of Immaculate Conception Church property and the state road and running with said state road southeast 79 feet to a post on the private road of the Texaco Oil Company, thence with said private road southwest 125 feet to a post on the line of the original Long property, thence with the said Long line 97 feet to the Church property aforesaid in a northwest course, thence with said Church property northeast 125 feet to the place of beginning, containing about 3/4 of an acre."

SM-391, Colonna Texaco Station
St. Mary's
10.1

Verbal boundary description and justification:

"Beginning for the same at a post on the line of the Immaculate Conception Church property and the state road, and running with the said State road Southeast 79 feet to a post on the private road of the Texaco Oil Co., thence with said private road Southwest 125 feet to a post on the line of the original Long property, thence with the said Long Line 97 feet to the Church property aforesaid in a Northwest course, thence with the said Church property Northeast 125 feet to the place of beginning, containing about three fourths of an acre more or less."

St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber MRB 86, folio 190.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SM-391, Colonna Texaco Station
Mechanicsville
St. Mary's County
Mechanicsville Quad



MECHANICSVILLE, MD.
NW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
N3822.5 W7637.5/7.5

1953
PHOTOREVISED 1974
AMS 5660 I NW-SERIES V833



SM-391 Colonna Terma Station

St. Mary's County, MD

Elizabeth Heights

November 1993

MD SHD

Dr. Elizabeth



