

SM-395
Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department Firehouse
Mechanicsville
Private

1934

The main block of this two-story parapet front structure is constructed of molded concrete block. A one-story addition to the south of the main block and a three-story hose tower, which stands behind the building, were constructed of plain concrete block in the 1960s. Ironically, the firehouse stands on the site of Eugene Trice's store which burned to the ground on the morning of July 5th, 1934, threatening to destroy the entire town of Mechanicsville along with it. It was this incident which led to the formation of the Volunteer Fire Department. This structure ceased to be used as a firehouse in 1976, and is currently used for storage.

SM-395, Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department
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
Social/Education/Cultural

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function and Use: Volunteer Fire Department

Known Design Source: Unknown

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-395

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Mechanisville Volunteer Fire Department Firehouse

2. Location

street & number East side of All Faith Church Road not for publication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 type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 William R. Mattingly and Catherine Mattingly

street & number P.O. Box 23 telephone no.: 301-884-3137

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 279

street & number St. Mary's county Courthouse folio 157

city, town Leonardtown state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-395

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 Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department is located on the east side of the Mechanicsville-Chaptico Road in Mechanicsville, Maryland. This parapet front structure faces west and has a shed roof. Currently, it is used for storage.

Built in 1934, this two-story structure is built of concrete block molded to look like rough cut stone. The foundation consists of the same material. The shed roof is covered with tar and gravel and the parapet roofline is lined with a strip of green tin. The siren stand is still in place on the roof. At the rear of the structure, and attached to it, is a three-story, concrete-block hose tower.

The west (main) elevation of the main block is pierced by two modern garage doors on the first floor. Above these doors are flat cement lintels which stand out next to the structure's deeply textured faux stone. The second floor is lit by three six-over-six sash windows with wide surrounds and flat cement lintels. Three rows of plain concrete block, once the location of a sign which read "Mechanicsville Vol. Fire Department," is located beneath the sills of the second story windows. To the south of the building's main block is a one-story addition of plain concrete block with a parapet front which mimics both the form and the green trim of the main block. This addition was constructed in the 1960s. The addition is pierced by two modern garage doors with plain concrete lintels. At the junction of the main block and the southern addition is a modern door with a wood lintel.

The north elevation was pierced by two windows with plain concrete lintels on the first floor which are now blocked in. The second floor is lit by two six-over-six sash windows with wide surrounds and plain concrete lintels. The roofline is sheathed with a green tin strip like that on the front facade. To the rear of the structure is a one-story addition formerly pierced by a window which is now blocked in. A green tin strip runs along the roofline of this addition.

The east elevation of the main block is completely covered by a one-story addition. This addition was formerly lit by two windows which are now blocked in. The second floor of the main block is lit by two six-over-six sash windows. A centrally placed interior brick chimney pierces the roof of the main block on this elevation. Adjoining the one-story rear addition is a square, flat roofed, three-story, concrete block hose tower. At the roofline of this tower, which is trimmed with a green tin strip, are two small two-pane rectangular windows on both the north and south sides. At the junction of the tower and the one-story addition is a slightly taller one-story addition which extends to the south of the main block. This adjoining structure is pierced by a three-light-over-two panel door set into a well below ground level.

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 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"/> 500-1599	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1934 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

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 Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department Firehouse is the village's only standing civic structure. It is also the only parapet front structure standing in the village. The Firehouse is a significant site in Mechanicsville both because of its unique architectural style and because of its history as a landmark of community cooperation.

The firehouse stands on the site of Eugene Trice's store, formerly John Ballenger's store. The Trice store burned to the ground on the morning of July 5th, 1934, threatening to destroy the entire town of Mechanicsville along with it. On November 18, 1934, at a meeting of about forty citizens, the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department was formed. Samuel Bernard Burch was selected as Chairman, Henry J. Fowler as Secretary, and R.H. Sothoron as Treasurer. The main block of the firehouse was erected soon afterwards. The southern addition and the hose tower were added in the 1960s. Although this structure ceased to be used as a firehouse in 1976, the fire department continues to operate out of a new building located nearby on Hill's Club Road.

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St. Mary's County
7.1

The south elevation consists of a one-story addition across the first floor of the structure. This roofline of this addition is trimmed with a green tin strip. The addition is lit by three casement windows. The second floor of the main block is lit by two six-over-six sash windows with wide surrounds and plain cement lintels.

The interior of the main block consists of one large room, formerly used as a garage for fire trucks, and a stair to the second floor of the building. This space is currently being used for storage.

SM-395, Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department Firehouse
St. Mary's County
Historic Photo

Source: Enoch Pratt Library, Baltimore, MD.

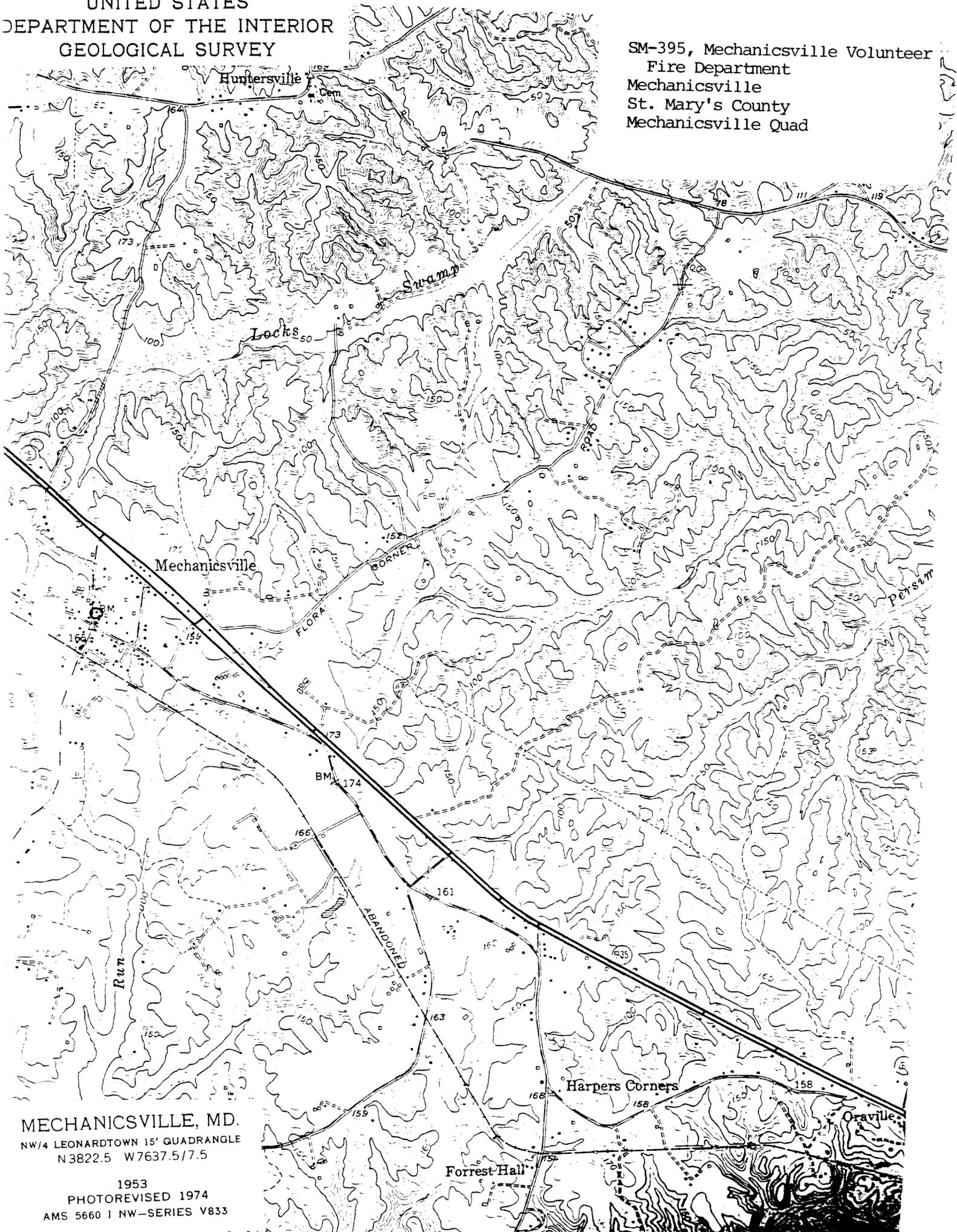
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SM-395, Mechanicsville Volunteer
Fire Department
Mechanicsville
St. Mary's County
Mechanicsville Quad



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

1953
PHOTOREVISED 1974
AMS 5660 I NW-SERIES V833

