

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes   
no

Property Name: Hollywood Theater - Hole in the Wall Tavern Inventory Number: SM-504  
 Address: 24702 Sotterley Road City: Hollywood Zip Code: 20636  
 County: Saint Marys USGS Topographic Map: Hollywood  
 Owner: Shirley Anne Peeling Is the property being evaluated a district?  yes  
 Tax Parcel Number: 232 Tax Map Number: 26 Tax Account ID Number: 06-024408  
 Project: Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department Agency: Federal Communications Commission  
 Site visit by MHT staff:  no  yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is the property is located within a historic district?  yes  no

*If the property is within a district* District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NR-listed district  yes Eligible district  yes Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource  yes  no Non-contributing but eligible in another context  yes

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)* Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible  yes  no

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:  
 Maryland Historic Trust Library

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*  
 The building currently known as the Hole in the Wall Tavern and formerly known as the Hollywood Theater has local significance as a former hub of social activity in Hollywood, Maryland. It was one the largest building in the town, has housed a variety of businesses and remains an important landmark for the community. The property had been associated with commerce and civic function having been occupied by a store, a filling station and a post office. The main portion of the building dates from the mid-nineteen thirties, with alterations occurring into the late forties. As a recognizable and prominent feature of the physical and cultural context of the crossroads forming Hollywood, the building exemplifies the nature and growth of community identity around principal architectural landmarks. The location notable with the structure residing at the prow of an acute and rising corner at the intersection of Sotterley Road and Old Three Notch Road accentuates the recognizable and indelible quality of this building in its setting.

Prepared by: William C. Riggs, RA, Historic Archit Date Prepared: 8/6/2003

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <input type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <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 <input type="checkbox"/> None
MHT Comments <u>lacks integrity - repeated alterations</u>	
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>8/12/03</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, NR Program	<u>8/14/03</u> Date





Hollywood Theater (H. L. Matthews II Theater) SM4-301

St. Mary's County, MD

C. G. 6262

July 30, 2003

Reg. at MD SHPO



1350  
1800  
CUTTERS

Keno  
PLAYED HERE

HOLE  
IN THE  
WALL  
TAVERN

HOLE  
IN THE  
WALL  
TAVERN

HOUSE OF THE  
WALL TAVERN

THE NEW CAR  
BUS BY TRAIN

Hollywood Theater - Hide in the Wood Tavern SM-504

St. Mary's County, MD

C. Gonzalez

July 30, 2003

Meeting MD SHPO



HOLE  
IN THE  
WALL  
RESTAURANT

HOLE  
IN THE  
WALL  
RESTAURANT

Hollywood Theater Historic Theatre Taverns SW-304

St. Marys County, MD

C. G. Row 2

T. 1430 2003

Aug 17 1910 4100



H. P. ... Theater Held in the ... Town ... 501-321  
St. Mary's County, MD

C. Gonzalez

Jul, 30, 2005

Neg. at MD SHPD

Capsule Summary  
SM-504  
Hollywood Theater  
Hollywood  
Private

Circa 1935

The Hollywood Theater, now known as the Hole in the Wall Tavern, is significant as a former hub of social activity in the village of Hollywood. The one-and-a-half story masonry building, which has been enlarged over the years with a series of additions, has been occupied by a wholesale gas station, a movie theater, a dance hall, a bar room, a post office, and a barbershop. At one time the largest building in Hollywood, this tavern remains an important landmark for the Hollywood community.

In 1935, Ike Weiner purchased this lot, formerly occupied by the John R. Garner Store, and erected a masonry building to serve as a wholesale gas business. The gas business was not a success, however, and Weiner soon constructed a frame addition to the south end of the building, converting it into a theater. The Hollywood Theater was one of the first theaters established in the north end of the county. The theater showed first run films, receiving films before the theater in Leonardtown. Films were either mailed to the theater or picked up by the proprietor in Washington D.C. One of the most popular films was The Song of Bernadette which showed to packed houses for four weeks.

J. Walter Norris purchased the building in 1946 and operated the theater for one and a half years. In addition to showing films, he hosted celebrities such as Roy Clark, Grandpa Jones, and Happy Johnny who performed on the stage here. Mr. Norris also operated a bar in the north and east wings of the theater building. Around 1948 Mr. Norris converted the theater into a dance hall. He removed twenty feet from the southern frame wing, rebuilt the walls with cinderblocks, and added a new hardwood floor. The former theater then became known as the "Norris Tavern."

SM-504, Hollywood Theater  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Modern Period, 1930 - .

Historic Period Theme: Commerce  
Social

Resource Type

Category: Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Bar  
Dance Hall  
Movie Theater

Known Design Source: none

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

 MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES
DOE  yes  no
**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

 historic Hollywood Theater ; Norris Tavern

 and/or common Hole in the Wall Tavern
**2. Location**

 street & number Sotterley Gate Road  not for publication

 city, town Hollywood  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 checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> other:

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

 name Shirley Anne Peeling

 street & number Rt 3 Box 757 telephone no.: 301-373-5777

 city, town Hollywood state and zip code MD 20636
**5. Location of Legal Description**

 courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber MRB 372

 street & number folio 336

 city, town Leonardtwn state MD
**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

 date  federal  state  county  local

repository for survey records

 city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. SM-504

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input 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 of move _____
<input checked="" 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 Hollywood Theater, now known as the "Hole in the Wall Tavern," is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Old Three Notch Road and Sotterley Gate Road in Hollywood. There are no outbuildings on the property. Parking is available on both the east and west sides of the building. A horseshoe pit is located to the east. The structure faces north with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1935, the main block of the Hollywood Theater is a one-and-a-half story structure built of rusticated cement block. It is roofed with asphalt shingles. A one-story addition attached to the south end of the structure is built of plain cinderblocks. The eave of this addition is sheathed with weatherboard siding. Smaller one-story additions are attached to the east and north elevations of the building.

The north (main) elevation consists of a one-story, gable roof addition that covers what was originally the double door entrance to the building. This addition was built for use as a drive-through window around 1978. To the west of the addition is a door opening, now covered with plywood. To the east is a picture window. The north roof slope of the main block is pierced by a shed roof dormer lit by two pairs of six-over-six sash windows and a bank of three six-over-six sash windows with wide, plain surrounds. To the east extends a one-story, gable roof addition built of cinderblock. Used at one time as a bar room, this room is now used for storage. The addition is pierced by a four-light-over-three-panel door.

The east elevation of the one-story bar room addition is pierced by a six-light window at the eave. The main block gable end is pierced by one six-over-six sash window with wide surrounds, a five-panel door and a two-light-over-four-panel door. To the south extends a gable roof addition lit by four six-over-six sash windows with narrow surrounds. A one-story, flat roof bathroom addition projects from this wing towards the east. The addition is pierced by two two-light windows.

The south elevation is pierced by a central door now covered with plywood. Flanking the door on either side is a six-over-six sash window. The eave is pierced by a louvered vent.

The west elevation of the southern addition is pierced by two pairs of six-over-six sash windows with narrow surrounds. The main block gable end is pierced by two entrance doors and a six-over-six sash window on the first floor. The door that is covered with plywood formerly provided access to a room used as the Hollywood pos

# 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"/> 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 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 checked="" 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** None **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 Hollywood Theater, now known as the Hole in the Wall Tavern, is significant as a former hub of social activity in the village of Hollywood. The one-and-a-half story masonry building, which has been enlarged over the years with a series of additions, has been occupied by a wholesale gas station, a movie theater, a dance hall, a bar room, a post office, and a barbershop. At one time the largest building in Hollywood, this tavern remains an important landmark for the Hollywood community.

Catherine Wilkinson purchased the property on which the Hollywood Theater stands in 1872. By 1897, when Washington Wilkinson and John R. Garner purchased the property, a store stood on the lot. Garner bought out Wilkinson's interest in the store in 1911 for \$400. At that time, the half acre lot on which the store stood was called "Oak Point." During Garner's ownership, the Hollywood post office was located in the rear of his frame store building. Mrs. Chapman Thompson served as the Hollywood postmistress here.

Mr. Garner died in 1930 and his heirs sold the store property to G. Wilson Dean in 1934. In 1935, Ike Weiner purchased the lot and established a wholesale gas business here. Weiner demolished the Garner store and erected the masonry building that comprises the main block of the theater. The gas business was not a success, however, and Weiner soon constructed a frame addition to the south end of the building, converting it into a theater.

The Hollywood Theater was one of the first theaters established in the north end of the county. The theater showed first run films, receiving films before the theater in Leonardtown. Films were either mailed to the theater or picked up by the proprietor in Washington D.C. One of the most popular films was The Song of Bernadette which showed to packed houses for four weeks.

J. Walter Norris purchased the building in 1946 and operated the theater for one and a half years. In addition to showing films, he hosted celebrities such as Roy Clark, Grandpa Jones, and Happy Johnny who performed on the stage here. During

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-504

Norris, J. Walter. Personal Interview, June 1995.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .630 acres

Quadrangle name Hollywood

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

D 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

E 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

F 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

G 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

H 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County DPZ	date	June 1995
street & number			
		telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	MD 20650

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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  
 Shaw House  
 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
 DHCP/DHCD  
 100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
 514-7300

SM-504, Hollywood Theater  
St. Mary's County  
7.1 Description

office. The other door is now used as one of the two main entries to the tavern and is sheltered by a gable roof portico.

The interior of the former theater consists of one large open space which incorporates a portion of the main block and the entire south addition. Chamfered wood posts that support the upper half story of the main block demarcate the former exterior wall of the structure. The south addition has a cathedral ceiling. An unusual colored light with attached speakers, probably dating to the 1950s, hangs from the ceiling. A bar is now located against the north wall of the room. Flanking the bar are two doors that provide access to a north room. This north room formerly served as the vestibule to the theater where tickets and confections were purchased. A five-panel door in the northeast corner of the room provides access to an apartment above the theater. This apartment consisted of four rooms and one bath. The projectionist's booth is also located on this floor.

SM-504, Hollywood Theater  
St. Mary's County  
8.4 Significance

Ike Weiner's ownership, Norris had operated a bar in the east wing of the theater. Now that he owned the building he converted the east wing into a bar for African American patrons and the theater vestibule into a bar for white patrons. The main entrance to the theater was then shifted to the west side of the building. A small room on the west side of the northern vestibule served as a post office and, for a short time, as a barbershop.

Around 1948 Mr. Norris converted the theater into a dance hall. He removed twenty feet from the southern frame wing, rebuilt the walls with cinderblocks, and added a new hardwood floor. The theater became known as the "Norris Tavern." Church dances were held here on Saturday nights, and Mr. Norris allowed neighborhood children to rollerskate in the building during the day.

Following thirty years of continuous operation, Mr. Norris sold the tavern to Dwayne Day. In 1987, it was purchased by the current owners who continue to operate the building as a bar.

SM-504, Hollywood Theater  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Shirley Anne Peeling  
FROM: Leslie Dwayne Day and Carole Day  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 372, folio 336.  
DATE: August 28, 1987.  
NOTES: Transfer of .630 acres.

TO: Dwayne Day and Carole Day  
FROM: J. Walter Norris and Violet E. Norris  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 28, folio 65.  
DATE: November 1, 1978.  
NOTES: Transfer of .630 acres being "Part of Mannings Purchase," "Goldsborough's Race," and "Oak Point."

TO: J. Walter Norris and Violet E. Norris  
FROM: Joseph D. Weiner, attorney - assignee.  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 18, folio 72.  
DATE: January 22, 1946.  
NOTES: Transfer of 6/10 acres being "Part of Mannings Purchase" and "Goldsborough's Race," more recently known as "Oak Point," together with all the movie picture equipment and chairs in said building. Sale of property is the result of a mortgage foreclosure on same.

TO: George R. Shepp and Beatrice M. Shepp  
FROM: The Weiner Enterprise, Inc.  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 17, folio 26.  
DATE: February 21, 1945.  
NOTES: Transfer of 6/10 acres being "Part of Mannings Purchase" and "Goldsborough's Race," more recently known as "Oak Point." This conveyance also includes all movie picture equipment and chairs in the building known as the "Hollywood Theatre."

TO: Weiner Enterprise, Inc.  
FROM: Ike Weiner and Eleanor L. Weiner  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 16, folio 485.  
DATE: November 30, 1944.  
NOTES: Transfer of 6/10 acres being part of a parcel of which John R. Garner died possessed and the interest of John Garner acquired by inheritance from the said John R. by John W. and Agnes P. Garner, his father and mother....also part of land conveyed by deed from John H. T. Briscoe, Trustee in 1726 N.E. Agnes T. Garner, next friend to William Garner et al, infants, to G. Wilson Dean.

SM-504, Hollywood Theater  
St. Mary's County  
8.2 Significance

TO: Ike Weiner and Eleanor Weiner  
FROM: G. Wilson Dean and Effie L. Dean  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 9, folio 182.  
DATE: April 9, 1935.  
NOTES: Same property description as above.

TO: G. Wilson Dean  
FROM: John W. Garner  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 9, folio 106.  
DATE: December 15, 1934.  
NOTES: Transfer of four parcels. The first of these being "Part of Mannings Purchase" and "Goldsborough's Race" located on the north side of land of the Southern Maryland Rail Road and running to the land formerly owned by S. Chapman Thompson and lying and being between the said Railroad bed and the Three Notched Road, being 5 acres more or less. Also, that tract now called "Oak Point" being .5 acres.

TO: John W. Garner  
FROM: Henry J. Saunders, Jr., husband of Cecelia G. Saunders.  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 9, folio 105.  
DATE: November 26, 1934.  
NOTES: Property description is the same as above.

TO: John W. Garner  
FROM: Mary G. Reeder, G. Stuart Reeder, A. Ruth Garner a.k.a. Sister Mary Florence, Dorothy G. Hayden, Thomas A. Hayden, Cecelia G. Saunders, and Martha J. Garner.  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 9, folio 104.  
DATE: October 22, 1934.  
NOTES: Property description is the same as above.

TO: John W. Garner  
FROM: William A. Garner, Agnes T. Garner, Mary G. Reeder, G. Stuart Reeder, Martha J. Garner, A. Ruth Garner a.k.a. Sister Mary Florence, Dorothy G. Hayden, Thomas A. Hayden, Cecelia G. Saunders, Henry J. Saunders, Jr.  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 9, folio 102.  
DATE: February 28, 1931.  
NOTES: John R. Garner died intestate in 1930 (Estate # 784). Property description is the same as above.

TO: John R. Garner  
FROM: Washington Wilkinson  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 9, folio 317.  
DATE: April 14, 1911.

SM-504, Hollywood Theater  
St. Mary's County  
8.3 Significance

NOTES: Transfer of a half interest in the 5 acre lot "Part of Mannings Purchase" and "Goldsborough's Race" and the half acre lot "Oak Point" being the same lands now occupied by the said John R. Garner. Price: \$400

TO: Washington Wilkinson and John R. Garner

FROM: James Wilkinson and Catherine Wilkinson, William M. Wible and Catherine H. Wible, and Marlin Wible.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JJG 5, folio 11.

DATE: November 9, 1897.

NOTES: Transfer of two parcels. The second of these being a half acre, said point of land being the property now occupied by the said Washington Wilkinson as a store, and being a portion of JAC 6/13. Price: \$600.

TO: Catherine Wilkinson

FROM: Martin Wible and Henrietta Wible, William M. Wible and Catherine H. Wible.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JAC 6, folio 13.

DATE: May 17, 1872.

NOTES: Transfer of that property known as "Part of Mannings Purchase" and "Goldsborough's Race" being "situated on the north side of the Three Notched Road and running as follows: beginning at a small walnut bush on the north side of said road and running southeast to S. C. Thompson's line thence northwest with said line to the Cucold's Creek road, thence with said road to a small walnut bush on the south side of said road, thence across the point of land to the place of beginning." No acreage given.





SM-504

Hollywood Theater

St. Mary's County

E. Hughes

MD SHPO

1/1

NE Elevation