

Capsule Summary  
SM-550  
Fenwick Street Fire House  
Leonardtown  
Private

1932

The Fenwick Street Fire House is a significant two story, three bay brick building located on the south side of Fenwick Street in Leonardtown, Maryland. Erected in 1932 to replace a metal sheathed building, the fire house was one of many improvements in public services that occurred in Leonardtown in the mid-twentieth century. The fire house differed, however, in several ways from other public projects. Constructed during the great depression using funds from the Works Progress Administration, the building's construction represented an opportunity for locally unemployed persons to work. Despite a drastic increase in Leonardtown's population during the 1940s, the building adequately served the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Company until 1964 when it moved to its present location at the southwest corner of Lawrence Avenue and Barthelme Street.

Since its initial construction, the building has experienced several alterations over time. These changes included a one story cinder block addition on the south side, replacement of the north side garage bays with a centrally located door flanked by fixed pane windows, installation of a large gable roof door hood supported by two square columns with irregularly laid stone bases, several windows on the first floor of the west elevation have been boarded over and finally the interior has been converted into a meeting space. Despite these alterations, the building retains its original fenestration and overall form. The building is significant, therefore, for its retention of these character defining architectural features and for its association with the Works Progress Administration.

SM-550, Fenwick Street Fire House  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore  
Chronological/Developmental Period: Modern Period, 1930-  
Historic Period Theme: Architecture, Public Services

Resource Type

Category: Building  
Historic Environment: Town  
Historic Function and Use: Fire House  
Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-550

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Fenwick Street Fire House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number S side of East Fenwick Street  not for publication

city, town Leonardtown  vicinity of congressional district 3

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	<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 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"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: club house

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

name St. Mary's Council Club

street & number East Fenwick Street telephone no.:

city, town Leonardtown state and zip code Maryland 20650

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber 169

street & number folio 302

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. SM-550

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

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 Fenwick Street Fire Department Building is situated on a flat, .33 acre tract on West Fenwick Street in Leonardtown, Maryland. The building is oriented on a north/south axis with its primary (north) elevation facing the street. On the other three sides the building are bounded by a parking lot to the west and south and a frame garage to the east. The property also contains a pair of cinder block fire-training towers that extend approximately thirty to forty feet above ground level.

Constructed in the mid-late 1920s, the Fire Department building is a two story, three bay, brick building with a one story cinder block addition to the south. The brick is laid in an irregular common bond that varies in ratio from five-to-one and six-to-one to an all stretcher bond. Both the main block and the one story addition feature a flat roof.

Much of the building's original appearance was altered when the building was converted from a fire station to a meeting place. This is most dramatically seen on the north or primary elevation. On the first floor, the three, symmetrically placed garage door bays were filled in with windows and irregularly laid stonework. The middle bay, however, received a modest gable roof portico supported by square wood columns and stone piers. This portico shades a double, panelled door that features a transom and three sidelights and stonework on each side. The other two bays consist of fifteen light picture windows supported by the irregularly laid stonework. Above the three garage bays are three, symmetrically placed six-over-three windows with nonfunctional louvered shutters. Above these windows is a false parapet that hides the flat roof.

Other evidence of subsequent changes can be seen on the west side of the building. All of the windows on the first floor of this elevation have been covered over. A transition in building materials from brick to cinder block also signals a different period of construction. This addition features a four panel door and two window bays. The main block's second floor features three, six-over-three, double-hung sash windows.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-550

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input 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	Public Safety	

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input checked="" 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 Fenwick Street Fire House is a significant two story, three bay brick building located on the south side of Fenwick Street in Leonardtown, Maryland. Erected in 1932 to replace a metal sheathed building, the fire house was one of many improvements in public services that occurred in Leonardtown in the mid-twentieth century. The fire house differed, however, in several ways from other public projects. Constructed during the great depression using funds from the Works Progress Administration, the building's construction represented an opportunity for locally unemployed persons to work. Despite a drastic increase in Leonardtown's population during the 1940s, the building adequately served the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Company until 1964 when it moved to its present location at the southwest corner of Lawrence Avenue and Barthelme Street.

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# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-550

Interview with Edward Stokel, January 1997  
Telephone interview with George Duke, February, 1997.  
Telephone interview with Mary Jane Scully, February, 1997.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .33 acres

Quadrangle name Leonardtown, Md

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting						Northing				

B 

Zone	Easting						Northing				

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed reference.

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

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County Planning and Zoning date February 1997

street & number 22740 Washington Street telephone (301) 475-4662

city or town Leonardtown, Md state Maryland

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  
814-7600

## SM-550, Fenwick Street Fire House

St. Mary's County

### 8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title (Please note that all deeds were found in the Land Records of St. Mary's County located at the County Courthouse in Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber 169, Folio 302  
Grantee: St. Mary's Council Club  
Grantor: Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department  
Date: December 30, 1970

Reference: Liber MRF 133, Folio 90  
Grantee: St. Mary's Council Club  
Grantor: Leonardtown Fire Department  
Date: April 17, 1967

Reference: Liber JMM 2, Folio 435  
Grantee: Harry M. Jones, trustee  
Grantor: Laura G. Harding  
Date: November 6, 1924  
Note: This deed notes the sale of a 1/4 acre to Harry M. Jones. Eight years after the sale of the property the brick fire house is apparently built.

Reference: Liber JMM 2, Folio 354  
Grantee: Laura B. Harding  
Grantor: Nettie A. Morgan  
Date: August 16, 1924

Reference: Liber EBA 10, Folio 283  
Grantee: F. O. Morgan  
Grantor: William Meverall Loker  
Date: August 19, 1912  
Note: This sale of the property was the result of a circuit court case that involved the default on a loan given to Max L. Millison by Ada P. Butler and J. Philip Butler. The decision occurred on May 28, 1912 and is case No. 1165 NE.

Reference: Liber EBA 6, Folio 252  
Grantee: Ada P. Butler  
Grantor: Max L. and Lena Millison  
Date: December 26, 1906

Reference: Liber EBA 1, Folio 126-127  
Grantee: Max L. Millison  
Grantor: J. Felix Fenwick, Harry B. Fenwick, and Cora A. Fenwick  
Date: September 2, 1899  
Note: This 1/4 acre property was devised to the Grantors by Ellen R. Fenwick. This deed also notes that the parcel was once part of two other parcels. Lots 2 and 3 on the Chunn survey of 1878. This is more fully described on succeeding pages. James Gordon is also listed as living on the property.

SM-550, Fenwick Street Fire House  
St. Mary's County  
8.2 Significance

Reference: Liber JFF 12, Folio 330  
Grantee: Ellen R. Fenwick  
Grantor: William H. and Julia A. Guy  
Date: May 9, 1890

Reference: Liber JFF 5, Folio 285-286  
Grantee: Julia A. Guy  
Grantor: Amos M. Graves  
Date: December 16, 1881

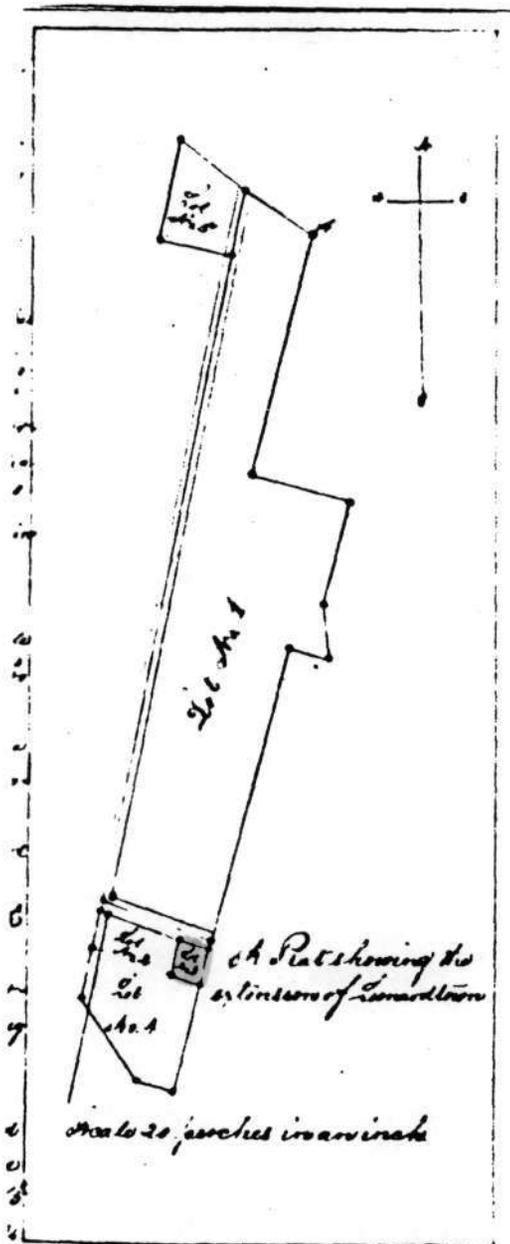
Reference: Liber JFF 5, Folio 254  
Grantee: Sallie E. Graves  
Grantor: Robert C. Combs and Joseph H. Key  
Date: November 15, 1881

Note: This deed notes that Maria L. Key sold this property to Sallie E. Graves but did not initiate a deed. Robert C. Combs and Joseph H. Key confirm the legal sale of the land to Sallie Graves. This deed refers to the property as Lot #2 on the John Chunn survey of the extension of Leonardtown. When matched to a modern zoning map of Leonardtown this lot represents a neighboring property to the current location of the Leonardtown Fire Station. This chain-of-title therefore may be erroneous at this point.

Reference: Liber JFF 3, Folio 388-389  
Date: December 7, 1878

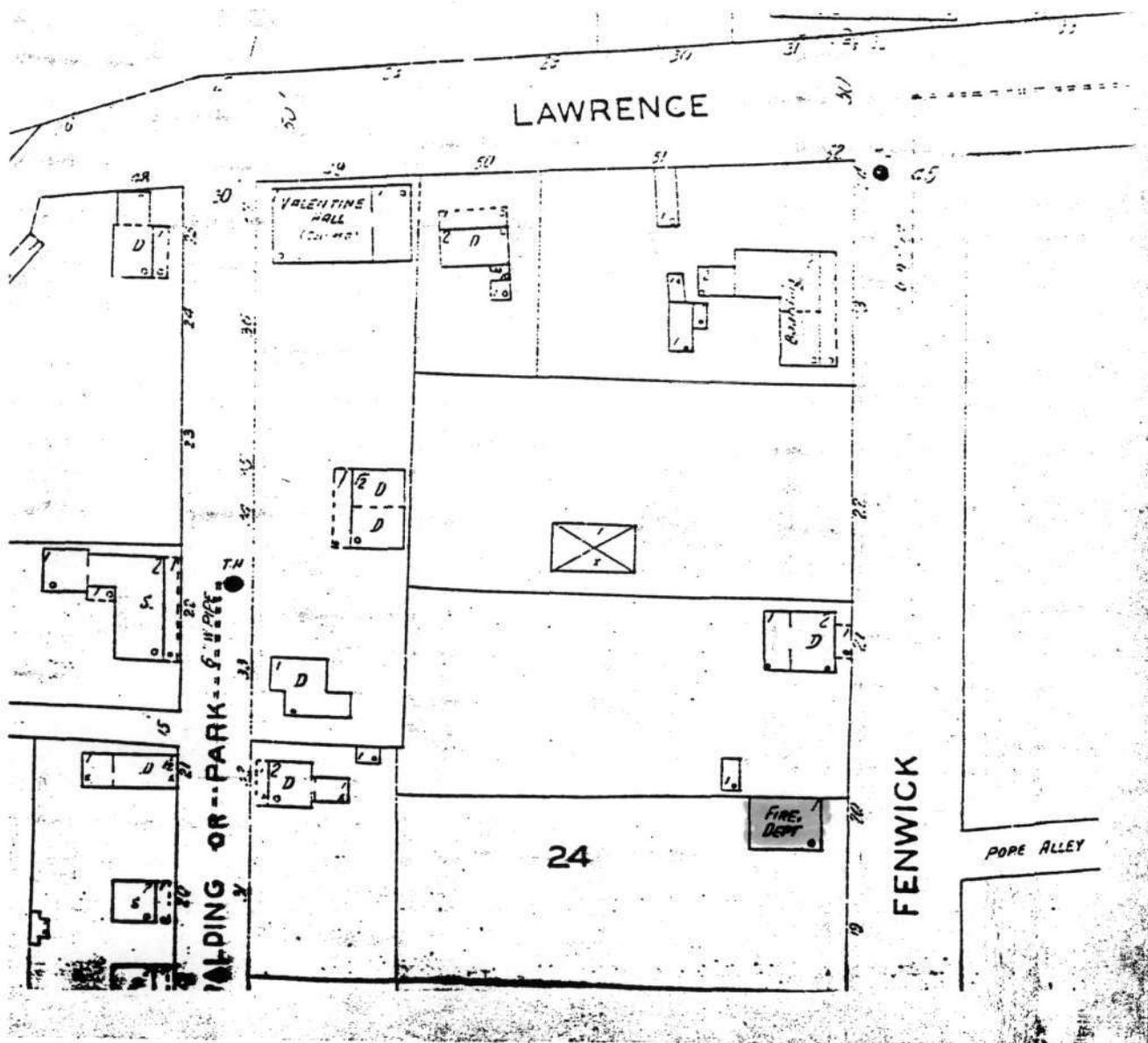
Note: This survey, laid out by John H. Chunn, was commissioned by Joseph H. Key to legalize a number of land sales made by Maria L. Key. Apparently, she did not initiate any deeds for these transactions. The Fire Station property is probably Lot # 3, which contains about 1/4 acre.

SM-550, Fenwick Street Fire House  
St. Mary's County  
8.3 Significance



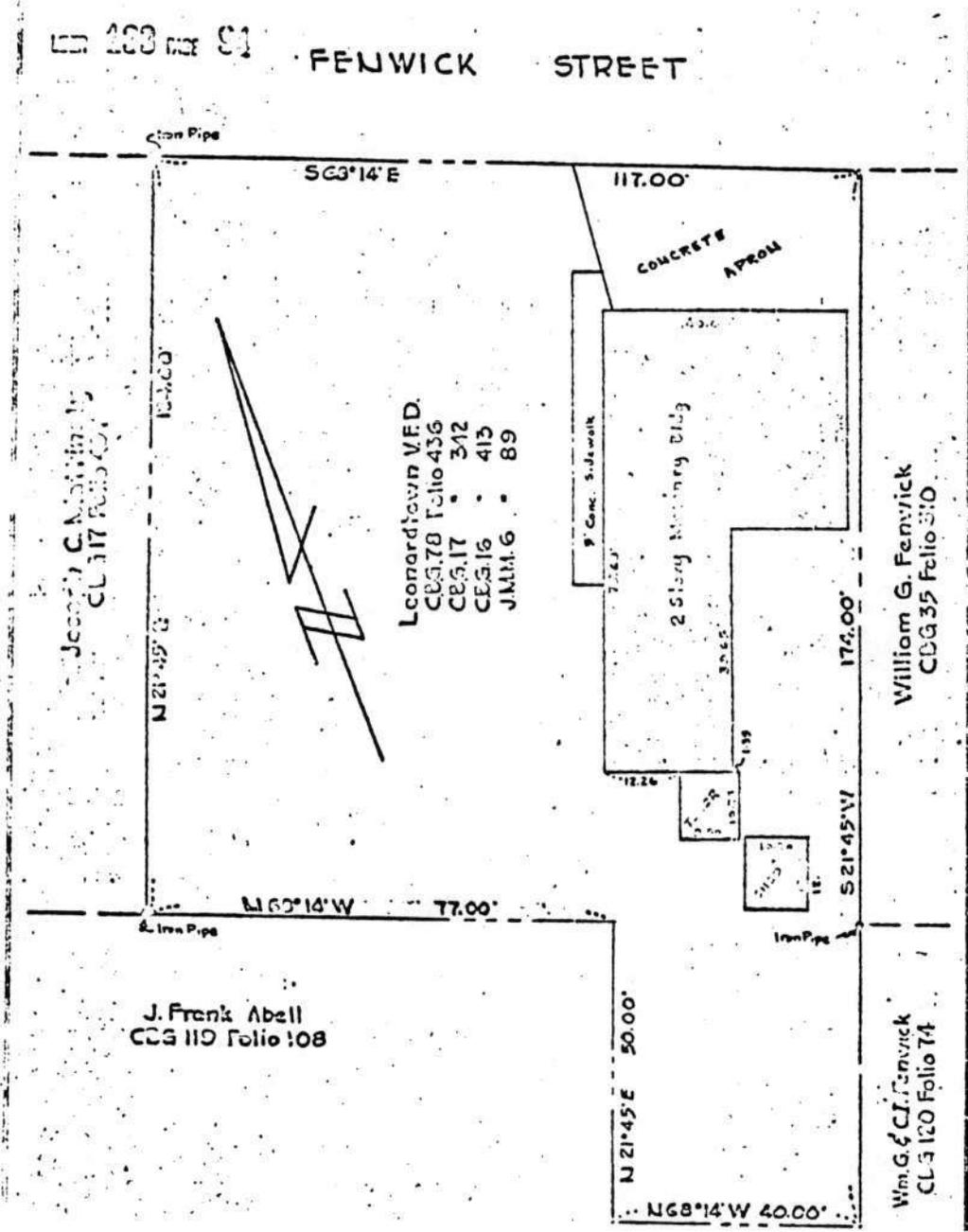
In 1878 John H. Chunn was commissioned by Joseph H. Key to survey five pieces of property once "Part of America Felix Secundus." This land was part of the systematic extension of Leonardtown in the late nineteenth century. Lot #3 represents the tract that the Fire Department building was built in the late 1920s.

SM-550, Fenwick Street Fire House  
St. Mary's County  
8.4 Significance

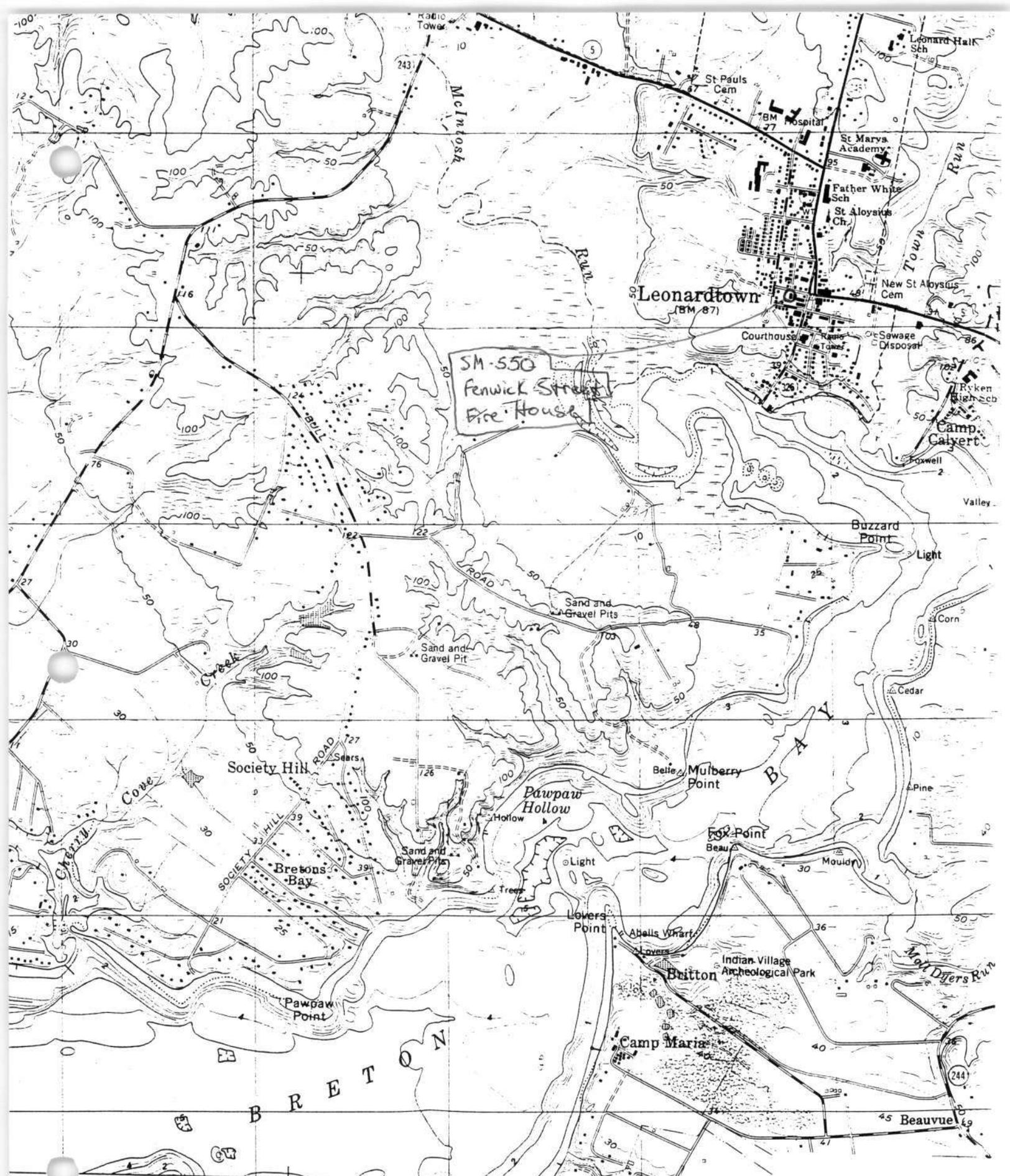


1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map of Leonardtown showing the metal sheathed Fire Station building replaced by the Fenwick Street fire house in 1932.

SM-550, Fenwick Street Fire House  
 St. Mary's County  
 8.5 Significance



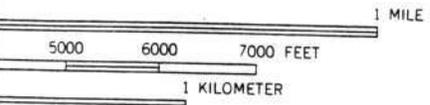
1967 plat of the two story, brick and cinder block Volunteer Fire Department building on Fenwick Street.



SM-550  
Fenwick Street  
Fire House

BRETTON

LEONARDTOWN, MD.  
SW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE  
38076-C6-TB-024



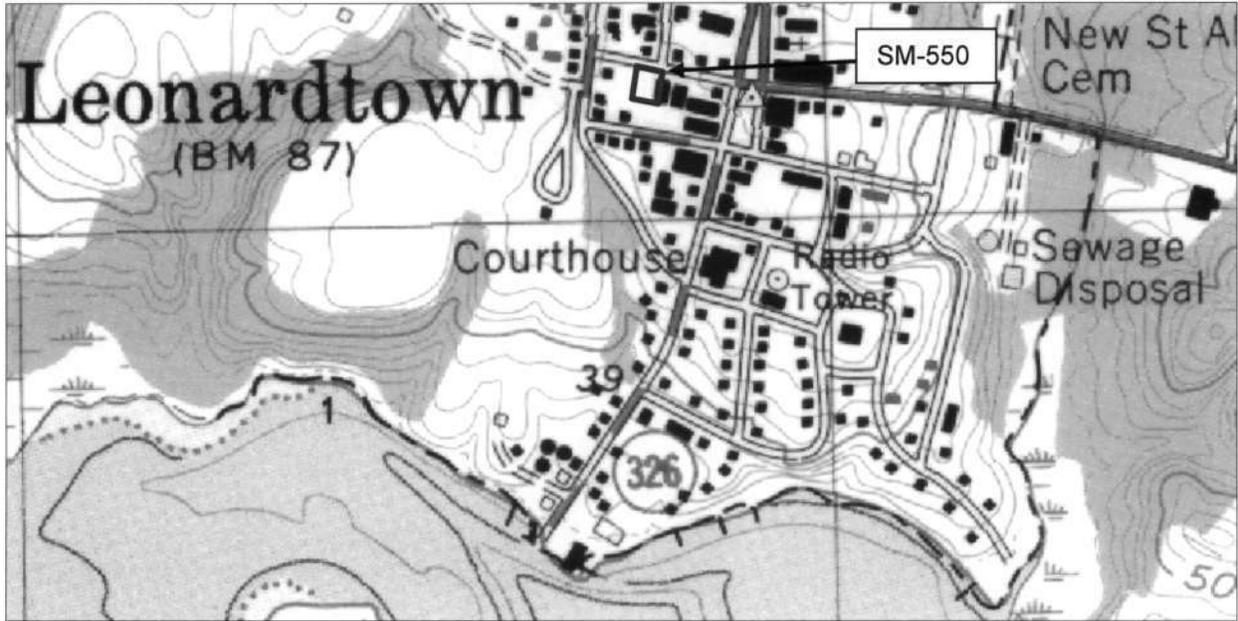
ROAC  
1963  
Heavy-duty ——— 3ATHYMETRY ADDED 1982  
Medium-duty ——— PHOTOREVISED 1984  
DMA 5660 I SW-SERIES V032

SM-550

Fenwick Street Fire House

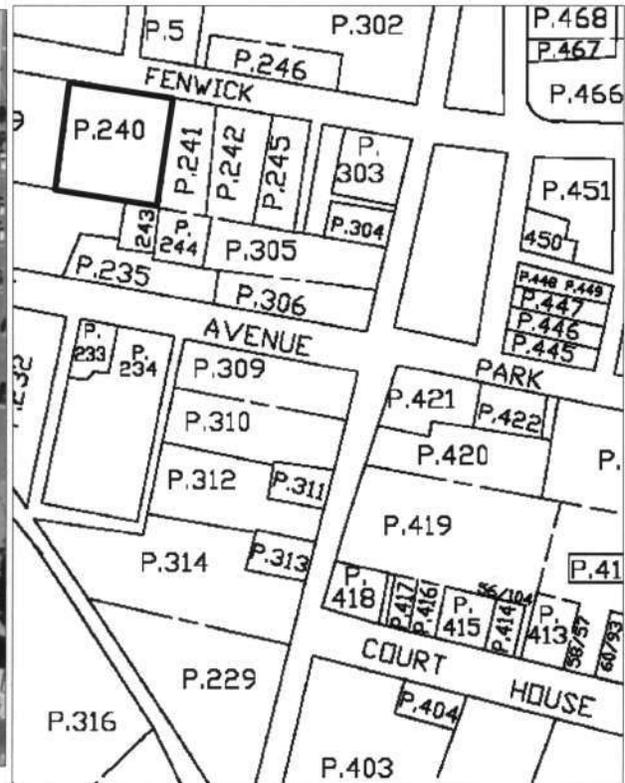
41605 Fenwick Street, Leonardtown

Leonardtown quad 1963 (Photorevised 1984, Bathymetry added 1982)



National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map, c. 2007-08

Tax Map 133, P. 240





SM-550

Fenwick Street Fire House

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Dec 1996

Md SHPO

N + E elevations

1 of 1