

Capsule Summary
SM-657
Ellis/Millison Store
Avenue
Private

c. 1920

The Ellis/Millison Store is a two story, frame commercial building most likely erected in the first quarter of the twentieth century during the ownership of Mary D. and J. Briscoe Woodburn. The building typifies the type of commercial development that occurred throughout rural areas in St. Mary's County during the early twentieth century. Like several other contemporary stores and businesses in Avenue including Long's Boat Shop/Victory Bar (SM-656), Morris/Gibson Store (SM-658), and the Morris Movie House (SM-663), the Bailey/Ellis/Millison store was situated at a convenient crossroads to take advantage of passing road traffic. Selling general merchandise, the store included everything from shoelaces to canned goods -- nearly every product needed by Avenue's rural residents.

The store was built sometime between 1904 and 1926. In 1904, the Woodburns purchased a three acre tract from Richard H. and Attaway T. Garner. By 1926 Albert Warrauch was listed as occupying the "storehouse" which was on the corner property. "Bebe" Grace Gibson recalls that James Bailey owned and operated a store at this location between 1926 and 1932.¹ Vivian Love, the daughter of local boatbuilder John Long, remembers that in 1932 Paul Ellis, whose relative owned and operated the Oakley Post Office and Store (SM-603), purchased the building and ran a general merchandise store there until 1946.² The property was then sold to Herman and Bertha Millison who ran the store until 1969. The store has since gone out of operation but the building remains as a vacant reminder of crossroads commerce.

1 Informal interview with Charles and "Bebe" Grace Gibson, July, 1998.

2 Telephone Conversation with Vivian Love, August 1998.

SM-657, ~~Bailey~~/Ellis/Millison Store
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Historic Period Theme:	Architecture Economic

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Rural Crossroads
Historic Function and Use:	General Store
Known Design Source:	None

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. SM-657

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

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Ellis/Millison Store

2. Location

street & number SW corner of int. of Paul Ellis and Colton's Point Rds. **not for publication**

city, town Avenue _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 7

state Md _____ county St. Mary's TM-46, G-5, P-200

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

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

name Ralph T. and Thelma R. Miller

street & number 37845 Paul Ellis Rd. telephone no.: 301-769-2139

city, town Avenue _____ state and zip code Md 20609

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber MRB 122

street & number _____ folio 195

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-657

Condition		Check one	Check one		
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site		
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move	1920s?
<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 Ellis/Millison Store lies at the intersection of Maryland Route 242 and Paul Ellis Road in Avenue, Maryland. Situated on the southwest corner of the intersection, the building is oriented on an east/west axis with its primary elevation facing east towards Route 242. The built and natural environment surrounding the building's small, topographically flat lot consists of several one story residences, a neighboring bar, and woodlands. The store is currently vacant and boarded up.

The Ellis/Millison Store is a two story, four bay, frame commercial building with an L-shaped plan. A masonry pier foundation supports the circular sawn frame walls. The walls were originally sheathed with double-run siding fastened with wire nails, but are currently overlaid with asbestos shingles. Evidence on many of the elevations reveal newer shingles placed around several of the window openings suggesting that many bays were either eliminated or made smaller. The cornice is open and raised seam metal covers the gable roof. An interior end, corbelled brick chimney projects from the north side of the roof.

The primary or east elevation consists of four bays on the first floor and three on the second. The first floor openings feature two centrally located doors flanked on either side by a window (While several of the window openings are boarded over, the visible sash on the first floor all exhibit iron security bars.). The scar of a porch which once covered these bays is clearly discernable. The second floor is pierced by three window openings.

The south elevation consists of the main block and contiguous two story rear ell. The main block is pierced by a six-pane fixed sash window on the first floor and two boarded over windows on the second floor. The ell has a six-over-six, double-hung sash window and a small, six-pane, fixed sash.

The west or rear elevation of the ell has a six-over-six window on the first floor and a small six pane fixed sash on the second. The main block is pierced by a six pane window.

The north elevation consists of the main block's and ell's sides. The ell is pierced by a door opening and a six-pane fixed sash window. The main block features two six pane fixed sash windows on the first floor.

The interior was not accessible at the time of the visit.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-657

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 checked="" 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		

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.

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SM-657, Ellis/Millison Store
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber DBK 152, Folio 195
Grantee: Ralph T. and Thelma R. Miller
Grantor: Herman and Bertha Millison
Date: July 16, 1969

Notes: The deed notes that a survey was completed by George W. Joy, Jr. on June 25, 1969. The property is described as containing 20,037.6 sq ft of land and was once part of Watt's Lodge.

Reference: Liber CBG 18, Folio 244
Grantee: Herman and Bertha Millison
Grantor: Paul Ellis
Date: April 23, 1946

Notes: The tract is listed as containing 3/4 of an acre and it is described as being a "Part of Poplar Grove."

Reference: Liber JMM 8, Folio 74
Grantee: Paul Ellis
Grantor: William H. Mattingly
Date: August 11, 1932

Reference: Liber JMM 8, Folio 8
Grantee: William H. Mattingly
Grantor: Richard T. Hammett, sheriff
Date: April 9, 1932

Notes: The deed notes that as the result of a circuit court case between William H. Mattingly and Matthew R. Bailey, et al, the property is sold at auction.

Reference: Liber JMM 6, Folio 245
Grantee: James H. Bailey
Grantor: J. Allan and Clara C. Coad
Date: November 8, 1928

Notes: A storehouse is listed as being on the property. James H. Bailey is listed as the occupant.

Reference: Liber JMM 4, Folio 471
Grantee: J. Allan and Clara C. Coad
Grantor: Clara S. Bailey
Date: December 29, 1929

Reference: Liber EBA 20, Folio 428
Grantee: James H. Bailey
Grantor: Mary D. and J. Briscoe Woodburn
Date: April 4, 1926

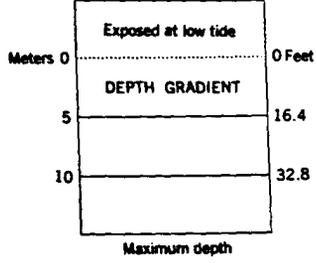
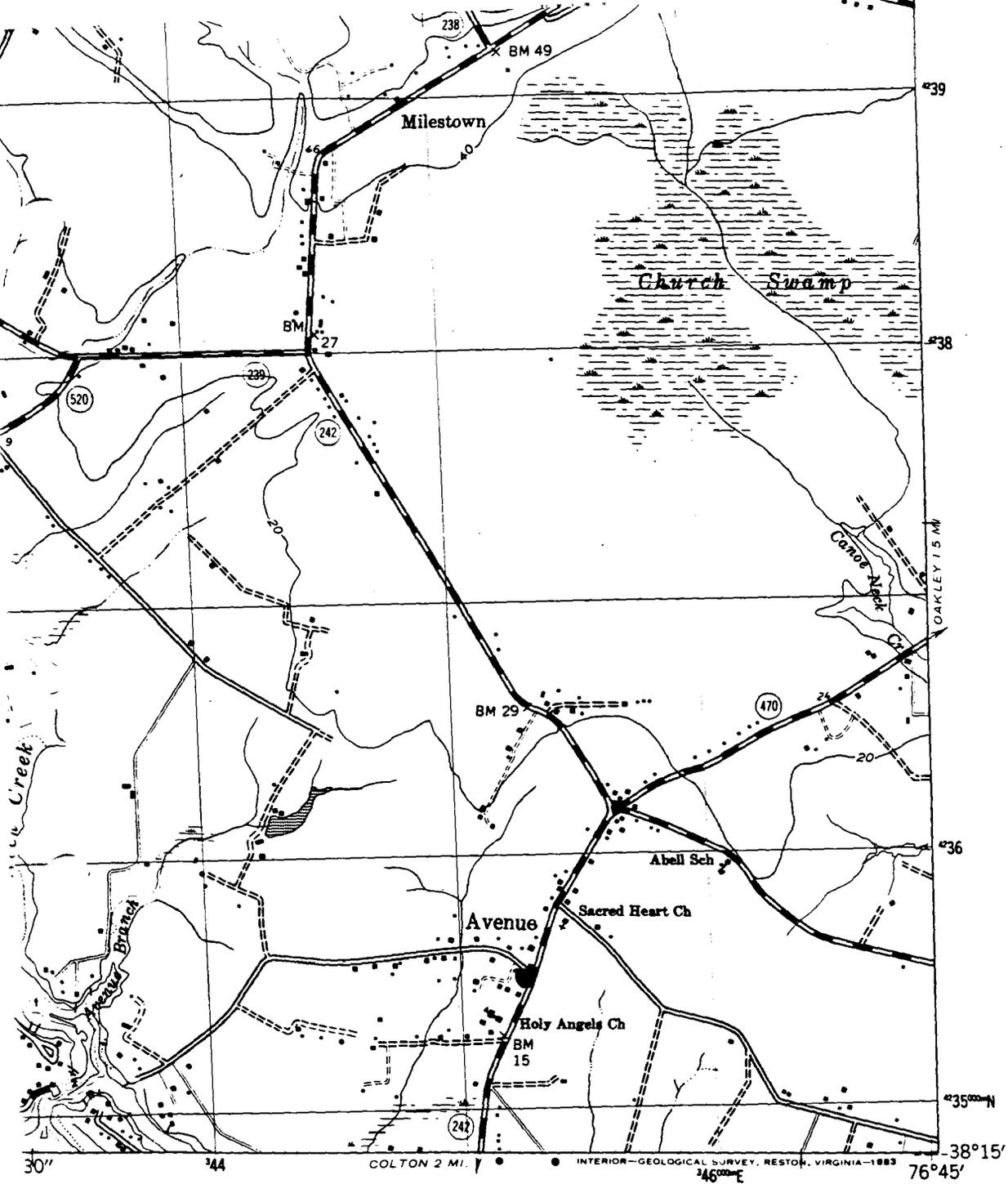
Notes: Albert Warrauch is listed as occupying the storehouse and lot.

SM-657, Ellis/Millison Store
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

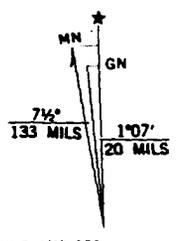
Reference: Liber EBA 3, 481
Grantee: Mary D. and J. Briscoe Woodburn
Grantor: Richard H. and Attaway T. Garner
Date: April 2, 1904
Notes: Here the tract consists of three acres.

6 1.8288
 7 2.1336
 8 2.4384
 9 2.7432
 10 3.0480

To convert feet to meters
 multiply by .3048
 To convert meters to feet
 multiply by 3.2808



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Medium-duty ————— Light-duty —————
 Unimproved dirt = = = = =
 ○ State Route



ROCK POINT,
 38076-C7-TB-024
 1943
 PHOTOREVISED
 BATHYMETRY ADD
 DMA 5660 IV SE-SERI

SM-657, ~~Berley~~/Ellis/Millison Store
 Avenue
 St. Mary's County
 Rock Point Quad

(ST CLEMENTS ISLAND)
 5660 II NW



