

Capsule Summary
SM-856
Hill's General Store
Helen
Private

circa 1920

Taking advantage of a strategic crossroads, Hill's General Store is a reminder of how crossroads communities flourished in St. Mary's County in the early twentieth century. Erected circa 1920, the store building features multiple bays on the east elevation probably to segregate the various services the building held over the years. Many crossroads stores not only provided badly needed merchandise to its rural neighbors, but also served as a local post office, bar, and gas station. Further research needs to be undertaken to determine how the building functioned and to understand how long the Hill family has operated the enterprise.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-856

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Hill's General Store

other

2. Location

street and number 29933 Point Lookout Road ___ not for publication

city, town Helen ___ vicinity

county St. Mary's

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

name James D. and Elizabeth L. Hill

street and number 29933 Point Lookout Road telephone N/a

city, town Helen state Md zip code 20635

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse tax map and parcel TM-18, P-4

city, town Leonardtown liber MRB 535 folio 219

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- _____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
- _____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- _____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- _____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- _____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
- _____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- _____ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
_____ district	_____ public	_____ agriculture	_____ landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	_____ recreation/culture	1	_____ buildings
_____ structure	_____ both	_____ defense	_____ religion	_____	_____ sites
_____ site		_____ domestic	_____ social	_____	_____ structures
_____ object		_____ education	_____ transportation	_____	_____ objects
		_____ funerary	_____ work in progress	1	_____ Total
		_____ government	_____ unknown		
		_____ health care	_____ vacant/not in use		
		_____ industry	_____ other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				0	

7. Description

Inventory No. SM-856

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Hills General Store is located on the west side of the intersection of Point Lookout and Helen Chaptico Road in Helen, Maryland. The building is oriented on an east/west axis with the primary elevation facing the road. A small parking lot lies immediately in front of the building. The parcel, consisting of 1.11 acres is largely flat with mature trees standing to the west and a series of horseshoe pits lying to the north. The property is bounded by a residential lot to the south, Point Lookout Road to the east, the Helen War Memorial to the north, and an open parcel to the west.

Hill's General Store is a two story, frame building with a gable roof probably constructed circa 1920. The exterior walls are sheathed with artificial siding while the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The roof is pierced by a brick interior chimney.

The primary or east elevation is dominated on the first floor by a porch that runs most of the building's length. It shades two doors and one one-over-one, double-hung sash window. To the south of the porch are two sets of paired windows and a door. During the time of the visit, louvered shutters covered each window. The north end of the porch has been enclosed and is pierced on the east side by a paired set of one-over-one windows. The second floor of the building contains six one-over-one windows. Signs all over this side of building advertise sales on various brands of beer. Another sign over the main entrance reads "Hill's 7 Day Service: Meats General Merchandise, Groceries."

No other elevations were investigated.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-856

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Taking advantage of a strategic crossroads, Hill's General Store is a reminder of how crossroads communities flourished in St. Mary's County in the early twentieth century. Erected circa 1920, the store building features multiple bays on the east elevation probably to segregate the various services the building held over the years. Many crossroads stores not only provided badly needed merchandise to its rural neighbors, but also served as a local post office, bar, and gas station. Further research needs to be undertaken to determine how the building functioned and to understand how long the Hill family has operated the enterprise.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-856

Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.11 acres
Acreage of historical setting same
Quadrangle name Mechanicsville Quadrangle scale: 1:24 000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded by a residential lot to the south, Point Lookout Road to the east, the Helen War Memorial to the north, and an open parcel to the west. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber MRB 535, Folio 219.

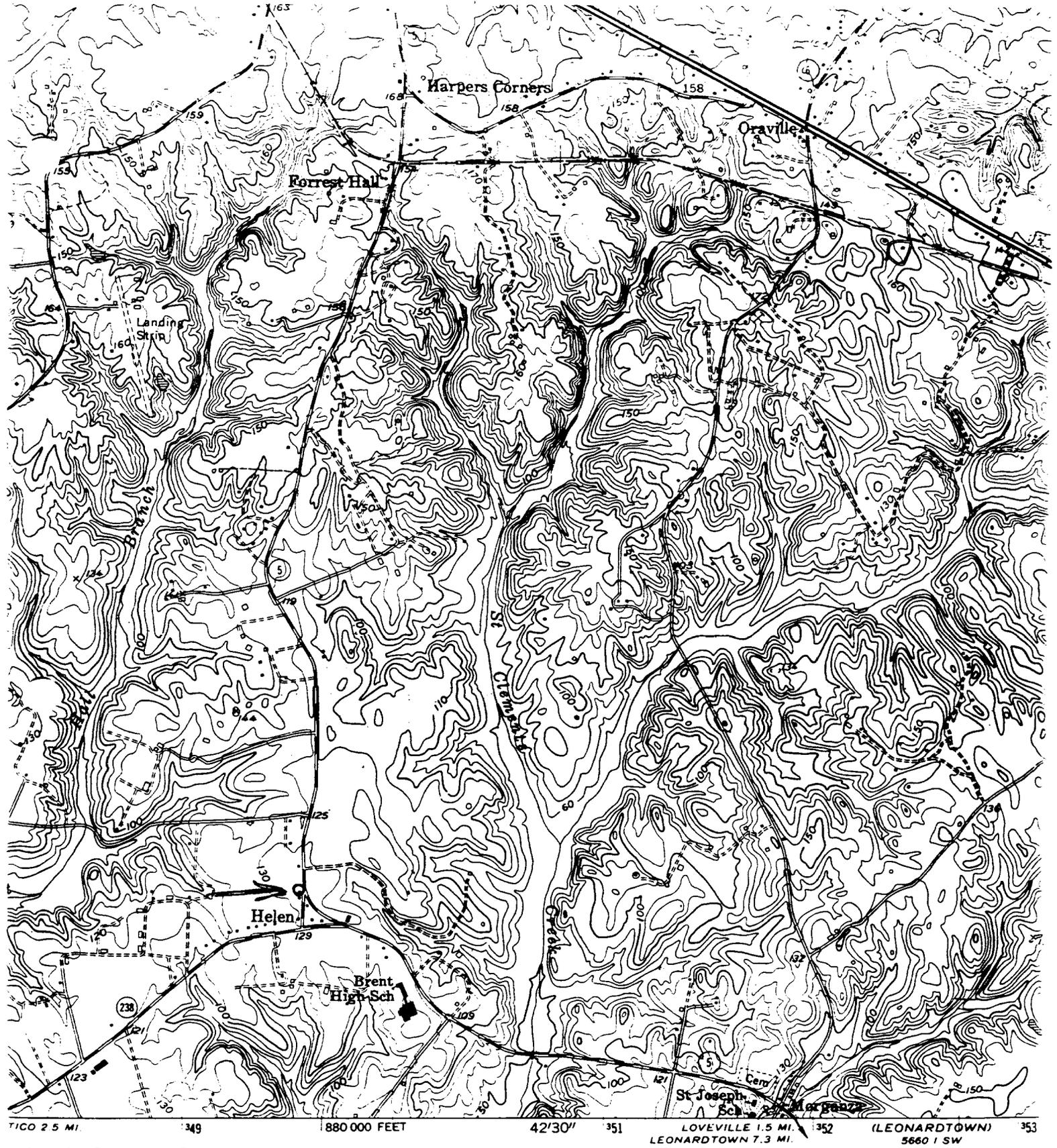
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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.

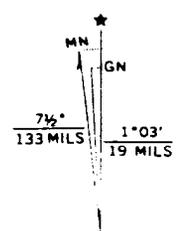
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



red by the Geological Survey

is by stereophotogrammetric
 in Field check 1953
 535 dated 1951
 American datum
 d coordinate system
 brown
 Mercator grid ticks,
 d from aerial photographs



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000

1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000

SM-856
 Hill's General Store
 Helen
 St. Mary's County
 Mechanicsville Quad

10 FEET
 DATUM C
 DATUM IS
 MATE LINE OF
 THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS 1.5 FEET



S.M. - 256

Hill's General Store

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Sept/00

4d SHPO

Looking W

1 of 1