

Capsule Summary
SM-860
Morganza Post Office
Morganza
Private

circa 1900

The Morganza Post Office is the second oldest continuously operated Post Office building in St. Mary's County. Constructed circa 1900, the Morganza Post Office is second only to the Bushwood Post Office. Similar to many other commercial buildings located at crossroads, the building features a primary elevation that exhibits a number of doorways so that the various uses of the property could be segregated. In this particular case, the post office portion is segregated from the part of the building that serves as a dwelling. Within the next few months, the post office will be moved south on Colton's Point Road to its intersection with Dr. Johnson Road, just across the street from Chopticon High School. Prior to its removal to that location, the interior and exterior of the building should be more thoroughly documented.

7. Description

Inventory No. SM-860

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.

The Morganza Post Office is located on the southeast corner of Morganza Turner and Point-Lookout Road in the rural crossroads community of Morganza, Maryland. Oriented on a west/east axis, the Post Office is situated on a 4,670 square foot lot. The lot slopes to the east towards a tributary of St. Clements Creek. The property is bounded by a residential lot to the east, and by Point Lookout, Busy Corner, and Morganza Turner Roads to the west, north, and south.

The Morganza Post Office is a circa 1900 two story, six bay, single-pile frame building with a gable roof and two rear additions. The exterior is clad with asbestos siding and the roof is covered with raised-seam metal. The roof is pierced by an interior brick flue and an exterior end flue on the building's south side.

The primary or west elevation is pierced on the first floor by three windows and three doors – all asymmetrically placed. The main entrance into the building is related by a door on the southern side of the elevation. This entrance maintains sidelights and a transom, while a more plain door stands immediately to the north. All of the windows on the first floor are two-over-two, double-hung sash windows. Both the doors and window are shaded by a full-length wrap-around porch that has been enclosed on the south side of the building. Portions of the porch have also been screened-in. The second floor is pierced by six, two-over-two windows.

No other elevation were investigated.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-860

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.)

The Morganza Post Office is the second oldest continuously operated post office building in St. Mary's County. Constructed circa 1900, the Morganza Post Office is second only to the Bushwood Post Office. Similar to many other commercial buildings located at crossroads, the building features a primary elevation that exhibits a number of doorways so that the various uses of the property could be segregated. In this particular case, the post office portion is segregated from the part of the building that serves as a dwelling. Within the next few months, the post office will be moved south on Colton's Point Road to its intersection with Dr. Johnson Road, just across the street from Chopticon High School. Prior to its removal to that location, the interior and exterior of the building should be more thoroughly documented.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-860

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 4,670 sq. ft.
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 east, and by Point Lookout, Busy Corner, and Morganza Turner Roads to the west, north, and south. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber MRB 225, Folio 418.

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.

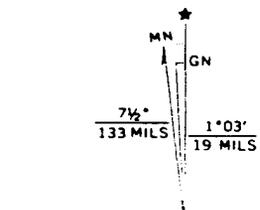
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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

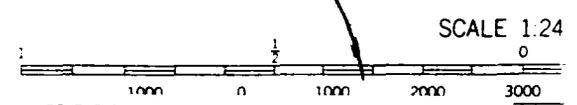


CHAPTICO 2.5 MI. 1349 880 000 FEET 42'30" 351 LOVEVILLE 1.5 MI. LEONARDTOWN 7.3 MI. (LEONARDTOWN 5660 1 SW)

and published by the Geological Survey
 USC&GS
 Aerial photographs by stereophotogrammetric
 methods taken 1952. Field check 1953
 Control chart 539 dated 1951
 Based on 1927 North American datum
 and on Maryland coordinate system
 Contour lines are shown in brown
 Grid lines are shown in brown
 UTM grid ticks
 Information compiled from aerial photographs
 Information not field checked



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



SM-860
 Morganza Post Office
 Morganza
 St. Mary's County
 Mechanicsville Quad

ERVA
 ARTIC
 N FEE
 APPRO
 THE MEAN RANGE OF

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL



SM-860

Morganza Post Office

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranetta

Sept/00

MD SHPO

Looking NE

1 of 1