

WI-501
Pittsville Firehouse
Pittsville
Private

1929

The old Pittsville firehouse is a two-story, brownish brick structure that stands in the center of town between Railroad Avenue and Main Street. Erected in 1929, the rectangular common bond brick station is distinguished by decorative arches over the two garage bays. The lighter colored brick that fills the arched areas is laid in Flemish bond, and the edge of the arch is defined by a rowlock row border. Common to early twentieth-century commercial and public architecture in Wicomico County are the brick pilasters that mark the front corners of the structure. The firehouse has a marble date plaque that records the 1929 construction date as well as the members of the fire company at that time. Listed on the stone is the president, Thomas W. Davis; Vice-president W. H. Farlow, and secretary J. W. Brittingham. Grouped under the label "trustees" are James A. Davis, who also served as treasurer, fire chief S. G. Truitt, E. E. Brittingham, W. H. Brittingham, M. T. Truitt, and G. C. Rayne.

Built of solid materials with distinct references to neoclassical design popular during the early twentieth century, the Pittsville firehouse represents an ambitious effort by the local fire company to erect a substantial public building to serve the needs of the community.

The land records of Wicomico County record that the Pittsville Volunteer Fire Company acquired this lot on August 21, 1929 from Southey Truitt. The fire company retained ownership until 1973.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-501

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Pittsville Firehouse

other _____

2. Location

street and number 7456 Gumboro Road not for publication

city, town Pittsville vicinity

county Wicomico

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

name John W. and Estella Fitzgerald

street and number 8023 Philadelphia Avenue telephone

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21237

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court tax map and parcel Map 301, P. 995

city, town Salisbury, Maryland liber 1164 folio 815

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

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Continuation Sheet

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7. Description

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Condition

	excellent	deteriorated
x	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 old Pittsville firehouse is located in the center of the town at 7456 Gumboro Road between Railroad Avenue and Main Street. The two-story, two-bay rectangular brick firehouse faces east.

Erected in 1929, the two-story, two-bay by four-bay brick station is laid in six-course common bond, and a parapet wall disguises a flat roof. A later addition is attached to the back of the brick structure.

The two-bay front is marked by a pair of large garage bays defined by decorative arches above. The wall surface above the garage bays is laid in a lighter colored, Flemish bond brick pattern. Trimming the border of the arch is a rowlock row. Fixed in the southeast corner of the front wall is a white marble datestone inscribed with the 1929 construction date as well as the members of the Pittsville Volunteer Fire Company at the time. Listed on the stone plaque is the president, Thomas W. Davis; Vice-president W. H. Farlow, and secretary J. W. Brittingham. Grouped under the label "trustees" are James A. Davis, who also served as treasurer, fire chief S. G. Truitt, E. E. Brittingham, W. H. Brittingham, M. T. Truitt, and G. C. Rayne. The second story of the two-bay front is defined by three boarded over window openings featuring soldier course arches. Fixed above the second floor windows is a panel framed by a rowlock brick border. The corners of the firehouse are marked by brick pilasters.

The north and south sides are asymmetrical elevations with boarded over window and door openings. Most of the window openings have flat soldier course brick arches. An interior side brick stove flue rises through the north wall. The south facade features a side entrance with a decorative arch of Flemish bond above the doorway.

The interior was not seen.

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8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
1600-1699	agriculture	economics	health/medicine	performing arts
1700-1799	archeology	education	industry	philosophy
1800-1899	x architecture	engineering	invention	politics/government
x1900-1999	art	entertainment/ recreation	landscape architecture	religion
2000-	commerce	ethnic heritage	law	science
	communications	exploration/ settlement	literature	social history
	community planning		maritime history	transportation
	conservation		military	other:

Significance dates

Architect

Specific dates 1929

Builder

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 reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The old Pittsville firehouse is a two-story, brownish brick structure that stands in the center of the town between Railroad Avenue and Main Street. Erected in 1929, the rectangular common bond brick station is distinguished by decorative brick arches over the two garage bays. The lighter colored brick that fills the arched areas is laid in Flemish bond, and the edge of the arch is defined by a rowlock row. Common to early twentieth-century commercial and public buildings are the brick pilasters that mark the front corners of the firehouse. The building features a marble plaque that records the 1929 construction date as well as the members of the fire company at that time. Built of solid materials with distinct references to neoclassical design popular during the early twentieth century, the Pittsville firehouse represents an ambitious effort by the local fire company to erect a substantial public building to serve the needs of the community.

The land records of Wicomico County record that the Pittsville Volunteer Fire Company acquired this lot on August

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21, 1929 from Southey G. Truitt.¹ The fire company retained ownership of the property until 1973.²

¹ Wicomico County Land Record, IDT 160/21, 21 August 1929.

² Wicomico County Land Record, 781/81, 23 January 1973.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

Resource Type: Standing Structure

Category: Public Building

Historic Environment: Residential Neighborhood

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Firehouse

Known Design Source:

9. Major Bibliographical References

WI-501

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area
Acreage surveyed
Quadrangle name

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian
organization	Private Consultant
street & number	P. O. Box 5
city or town	Westover, Maryland 21871

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
410-514-7600

WI-501
Pittsville Firehouse
7456 Gumboro Road
Pittsville, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain-of-title

Map 301, Parcel 995

1164/815 Joseph U. Kauffman, Jr.
Doris B. Kauffman

to

8/23/1988 John W. Fitzgerald
Estella Fitzgerald

781/81 Pittsville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

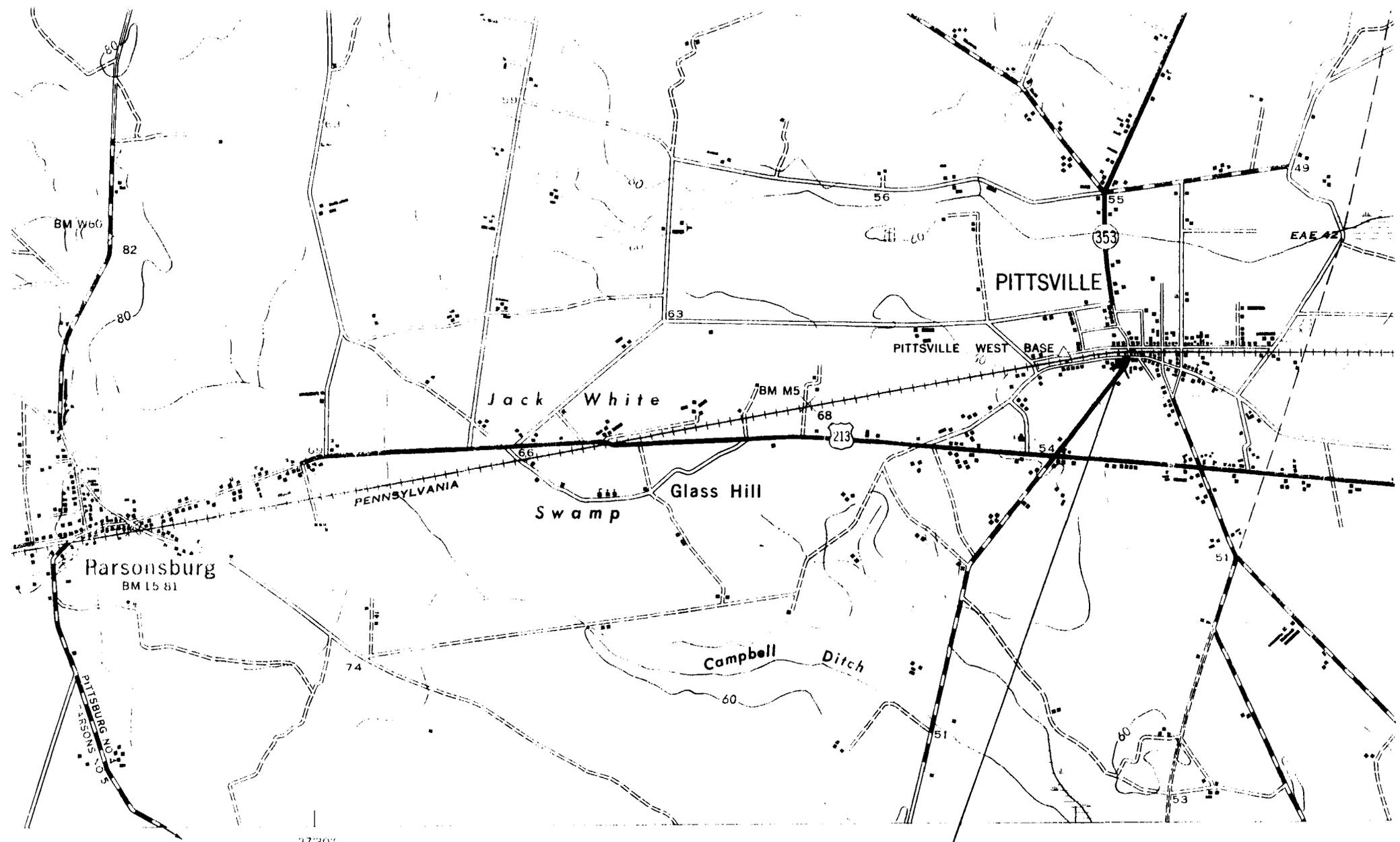
to

1/23/1973 Joseph U. Kauffman, Jr.
Doris B. Kauffman

IDT 160/21 Southey G. Truitt

to

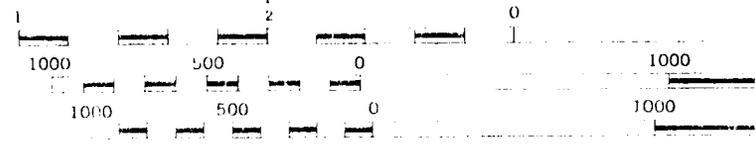
8/21/1929 Pittsville Volunteer Fire Company



SHAVOX 1.4 MI.
WASTE GATE 2.4 MI

27°30'

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL.

POLYCONIC PROJECTION
1983 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM

WI-501
Pittsville Firehouse

Pittsville, MD. DEL. Quadrangle

...e (AM), U. S. Army.
...IV NW, 194...
...graphy by plane
...surveys by

KAUFFMAN

2054



W1-321

February 1, 1952

From the [unclear] [unclear]

1000 - 1000 - 1000 - 1000

2/00, Page 3000 - 1000, 1000

1000 1000 1000 1000