SM-387
All Faith Parish Hall
Mechanicsville
Private

circa 1900

Since its construction at the beginning of the twentieth century, All Faith Parish Hall has served the community of Mechanicsville as a parish hall, a movie house, railroad construction headquarters, a paint store, a dance studio, and a place of worship. Unfortunately, the historic character of this two-story, frame structure has been significantly compromised by its exterior plywood sheathing and unusual window treatment. These modifications are reversable, however.

Except for a small room above the entrance vestibule, the interior of the Parish Hall's main block is one large open space. Both its original wood flooring and tin ceiling remain intact. The Parish Hall's high visibility to traffic approaching Mechanicsville on the Chaptico-Mechanicsville Road makes the preservation and rehabilitation of this structure especially desirable.

SM-387, All Faith Parish Hall
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Historic Period Theme:	Social/Education/Cultural Religion Economic

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Village
Historic Function and Use:	Church Hall Store
Known Design Source:	Unknown

Survey No. SM-387

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic All Faith Parish Hall

and/or common

2. Location

street & number West Side Mechanicsville-Chaptico Road ___ **not for publication**

city, town Mechanicsville ___ **vicinity of** **congressional district** 5

state Maryland **county** St. Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	X religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name SMD Land Inc., c/o Glen Dennison

street & number Star Rt. 1, Box 118 telephone no.:

city, town Callaway state and zip code MD 20620

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Clerk of Court liber MRB 187

street & number St. Mary's County Courthouse folio 282

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-387

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
X fair	___ unexposed		

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

The All Faith Parish Hall is located on the west side of the Mechanicsville-Chaptico Road at its intersection with the old railroad right of way. This structure faces south with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Probably constructed sometime between 1902 and 1907, this two-story frame building is sheathed in asbestos shingles, weatherboard siding, plywood, and imitation brick siding. The foundation is concealed behind plywood panels sprayed with gravel. The roof is sheathed in corrugated tin.

The south (main) elevation has a double door entry consisting of two five-panel doors with sidelights and a four-light transom. This entrance is flanked by projecting display windows, formerly standard six-over-six sash windows, now covered in plywood. A one-story porch stretches across the first floor, supported by square posts. The second floor consists of one large projection, now covered with plywood, and a louvered vent in the eave. To the west of the main block is a one-story, flat roofed addition pierced by a sliding glass door and a window which is covered in plywood.

The west elevation is lit on the first floor by three windows which are covered with plywood. The second floor is lit by one six-over-six sash window with one louvered shutter. The roof of the main block is pierced by an interior brick chimney. To the rear of the main block is a two-story, gable roof addition which is blind on the west elevation.

The north elevation of the main block has a projection on the first floor covered with plywood. The one-story addition located to the west of the main block is pierced by a six-panel door on this north side.

The east elevation is pierced on the first floor by a sliding door, an air conditioning unit, and a projection covered with plywood.

The interior of the main block is one large hall except for a small room over the entrance vestibule. The interior walls have been sheathed with wallboard, and the wood floor has been covered with carpet. The tin ceilings of both the main block and the north addition remain in place. The original six-over-six sash windows in the second floor vestibule remain in place. The one story addition to the west of the main block is used as a meeting room, a kitchen, and for storage.

There is one outbuilding on the property. This outbuilding is actually a trailer now sheathed with plywood which was moved here by the Victory Baptist Church, a former tenant, for use as a classroom.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-387

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	_X_ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	___ architecture	___ education	___ military	_X_ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	_X_ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
_X_ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates Unknown **Builder/Architect** Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B _xC __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state _xlocal

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The All Faith Parish Hall is a significant landmark in Mechanicsville because of its historic role as a community gathering place since the early 1900s. This hall has been the site of school graduations, dances, lectures, and meetings. It has also served as a motion picture house, a paint store, and a dance studio. Throughout its history, the hall has played a role in the commercial, social, and religious life of the community.

In 1916 this building was purchased by the Vestry of All Faith Parish to serve as its Parish Hall. Prior to that time the structure was owned by William W. Early and occupied by Horace H. Bowling. Although it is unclear how Bowling used the property, he is listed as a "bartender" in the 1910 census. An "oyster house" stood on the site, perhaps connected to Bowling's operation there, when the vestry took title to the property.

Based on a comparison of purchase prices for the property it appears that the building was constructed sometime between 1902 and 1907, during the ownership of Harriet Elizabeth Reeder and her husband Thomas A. Reeder. All Faith Parish retained ownership of the property until 1950. Currently it is being used as a house of worship by the Wynn Memorial Chapel congregation.

The historic character of the All Faith Parish Hall has been significantly compromised by its exterior plywood sheathing and unusual window treatment. These modifications are reversable, however. The Parish Hall's high visibility to traffic approaching Mechanicsville on the Chaptico-Mechanicsville Road makes the preservation and rehabilitation of this structure especially desirable.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-387

All Faith Parish Vestry Minutes, 1893-1960. St. Mary's County Histoeical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .5 acres and one perch, more or less

Quadrangle name Mechanicsville **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached

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 Elizabeth Hughes-Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County DPZ **date** 11/30/93

street & number **telephone** 301-475-4662

city or town Leonardtown **state** MD

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

PS-2746

SM-387, All Faith Parish Hall
St. Mary's County
8.1, Chain of Title

TO: S.M.D. Land, Inc.
FROM: James Theodore Bailey, Shirley Elizabeth Bailey, his wife, and John Yerkie, Jr., Contract Purchaser.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber DBK 187, folio 282.
DATE: March 16, 1973.
NOTES: Here, the Vestry of All Faith Parish of the Protestant Episcopal Chruch releases its mortgage on the property. This property consists of one half acre and one perch.

TO: John Yerkie, Jr.
FROM: James Theodore Bailey and Shirley Elizabeth Bailey, his wife.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber DBK 185, folio 120.
DATE: December 26, 1972.
NOTES: Transfer of property for cost of mortgage. Price: $14,500.

TO: James Theodore Bailey and Shirley Elizabeth Bailey, his wife.
FROM: Vestry of All Faith Parish of the Protestant Episcopal Church.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber DBK 148, folio 154.
DATE: January 31, 1969.
NOTES: Price: $5000

TO: Vestry of All Faith Parish of the Protestant Episcopal Church.
FROM: William W. Early and Maria H. Early, his wife, of Prince George's County.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 15, folio 213.
DATE: June 1, 1916.
NOTES: Price: $1100

TO: William W. Early of Prince George's County.
FROM: Harriet Eliza Reeder and Thomas A. Reeder, her husband, and John W. Chesley of Talbot County.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 6, folio 333.
DATE: April 8, 1907.
NOTES: Price: $1100

TO: Harriet Eliza Reeder
FROM: J. Harry Chesley, and Claudia W. Chesley, his wife, of Delaware, Emilie Buck and Charles E. Buck, her husband of Washington City, and William F. Chesley and Mary E. Chesley, his wife, heirs of Harriet B. Chesley.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 2, folio 523.
DATE: September 17, 1902.
NOTES: Property consists of 3/4 acres. This lot is in the posession of Rev. J.W.Chesley, the husband of Harriet B. Chesley, deceased, who has a life interest

in same. Price: $150

TO: Heirs of Harriet B. Chesley
FROM: Harriet B. Chesley
RECORD:
DATE:
NOTES: It appears that Harriet B. Chesley died intestate.

TO: Harriet B. Chesley
FROM: F.D.Adams and Amanda Adams, his wife.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JFF 13, folio 196.
DATE: February 23, 1892.
NOTES: Transfer of property not less than 3/4 of an acre. Price: $187.50

TO: Francis D. Adams
FROM: George T. Burroughs and Cassander Burroughs, his wife.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JAC 6, folio 314.
DATE: June 18, 1873.
NOTES: Transfer of property "being a part of the tract of land called and known by the name of 'Not Known' situated in St. Mary's County which is described as follows...beginning at the west gate post of F.D.Adams lot designated by a stone...running in a straight line by a cedar stob to a stone on the line of the Southern Maryland Railroad then with said Railroad to the public county road leading from Chaptico to Mechanicsville than with said county road to the land of J.T.Ballenger then in a westerly direction with said Ballenger's land to the land of F.D.Adams then with said Adams' land to the line of beginning." Contains two acres more or less.

SM-387, All Faith Parish Hall
St. Mary's
10.1

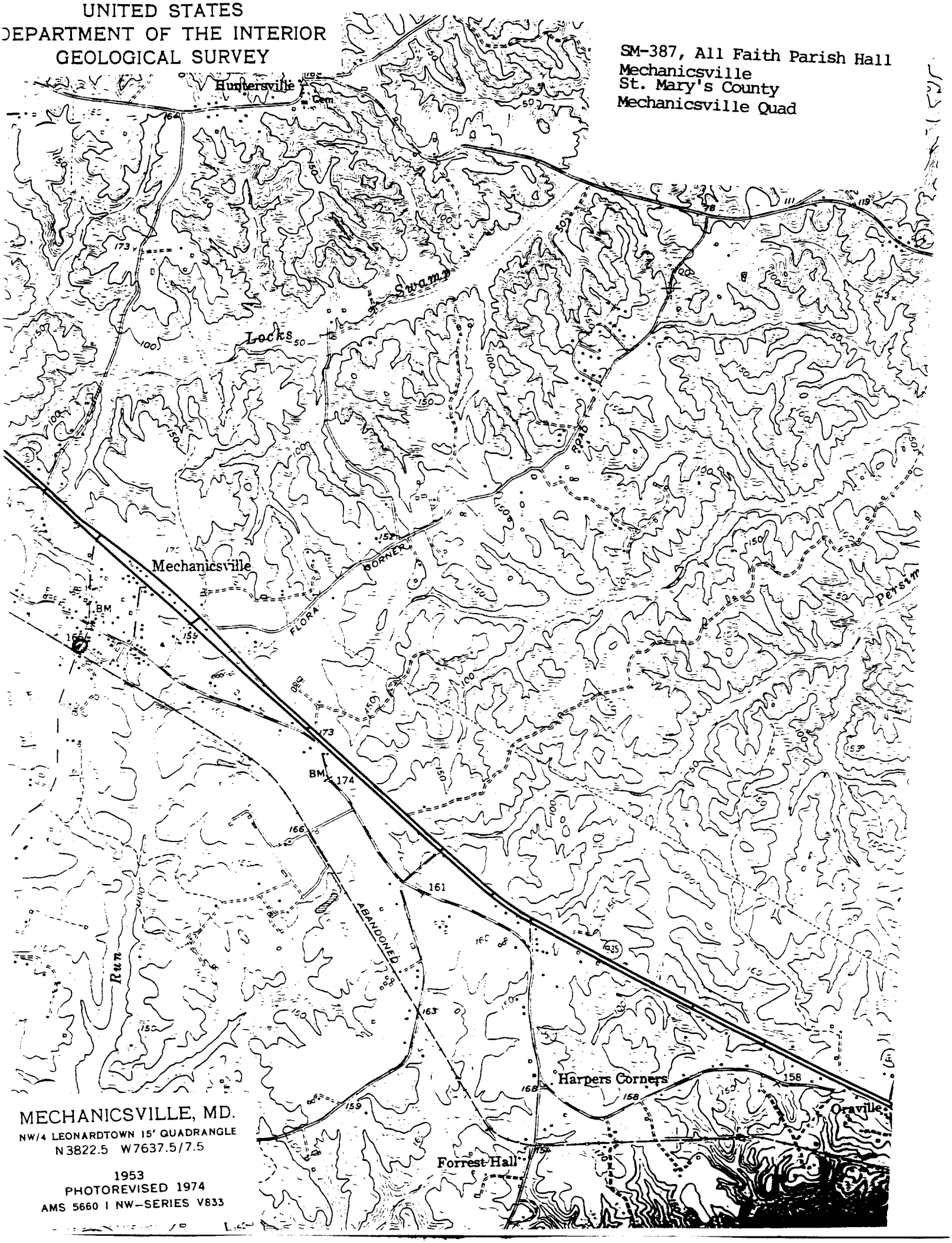
Verbal boundary and justification:

"Beginning for the same at a stone planted at the southeast of the Rectory Lot now belonging to said All Faith Parish in the Village of Mechanicsville, and by the side of the public road leading to Chaptico from Mechanicsville, Maryland, running thence with said public road South 34 3 /4 degrees West 143 links to an iron pipe driven in the ground by the side of the Washington, Potomac and Chesapeake Railroad, thence with said railroad North 53 degrees West 308 links to a stone at the corner of Daniel B. Birch's land, then with said Birch's land North 40 1/2 degrees East 194 links to a stone at the southwest corner of said Rectory Lot, thence with said Rectory Lot South 42 1/4 degrees East 291 links to the stone at the beginning, containing one-half acre and one perch of land, more or less."

Source: St. Mary's County Land Records, DBK 187, folio 282.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SM-387, All Faith Parish Hall
Mechanicsville
St. Mary's County
Mechanicsville Quad



MECHANICSVILLE, MD.
NW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
N3822.5 W7637.5/7.5

1953
PHOTOREVISED 1974
AMS 5660 I NW-SERIES V833

WYNN MEMORIAL
HOUSE OF PRAYER
APOSTLIC
PASTOR ELDER
ERNEST DOWNS
684-3860 684-5952

SW ELEVATION

1/3

SM- 38 [illegible] ALL SAINTS PARISH HALL

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

NW ELEVATION

2/3