

SM-392
Immaculate Conception Parish Hall
Mechanicsville
Private

1931

In 1931 Vernon Johnson built this one-story, hip-roofed structure for the nearby Immaculate Conception Catholic Church to replace an earlier Parish Hall formerly located on the same site. The German siding of this oblong building is well-preserved and finished with a wide frieze band. Except for replacement doors and the reworked entrance portico, the Parish Hall looks much the same as it did when first completed.

SM-392, Immaculate Conception Parish Hall
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Modern Period, 1930-Present

Historic Period Theme: Architecture
Religion
Social/Education/Cultural

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function and Use: Church Hall

Known Design Source: Unknown

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-392

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Immaculate Conception Parish Hall

and/or common

2. Location

street & number South side Old Route 5 not for publication

city, town Mechanicsville vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Paul Colonna Jr. and Catherine A. Colonna

street & number P.O. Box 64 telephone no.: 301-884-4906

city, town Mechanicsville state and zip code MD 20659

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Clerk of Court liber JFF 3

street & number St. Mary's County Courthouse folio 218

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-392

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input 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 Immaculate Conception Parish Hall is located on the south side of Old Route 5 next to the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Mechanicsville, Maryland. The Parish Hall faces north with its principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Completed in 1931, this one-story, frame structure is sheathed in german siding. It has a hipped roof of standing seam tin and is supported by a cinderblock foundation. A small, square cupola supporting a cross is positioned on the center of the building's roof. The eave is finished with a boxed cornice and a plain frieze. The building is finished with corner boards.

The north (main) elevation is three bays in width. The center bay is a double door entrance with its original six light transom window intact. The original door has been replaced by a pair of modern doors. The entrance is sheltered by a portico supported by turned posts with decorative brackets. This center bay is flanked on either side by a six-over-six sash window with wide surrounds.

The west elevation is nine bays in width and the roof is pierced by a decoratively corbeled interior brick chimney. The northern seven bays consist of a central door flanked on either side by three six-over-six sash windows with wide surrounds. The door is a replacement but retains its original three light transom. The two remaining bays consist of six-over-six sash windows with wide surrounds which have been raised to a higher position on the building than the preceding seven bays. Underneath these windows are two three-over-three sash windows which light the basement of the Parish Hall. Attached to the rear of the building is a two-bay, hip roof addition which is slightly stepped back from the line of the building's main block. An interior brick chimney rises from the center of this addition. This addition is lit by two six-over-six sash window with wide surrounds. One of these windows has been covered with plywood. Below these windows are two three-over-three sash windows and a five-panel entrance door to the basement. The doorway is sheltered by a gable roofed portico supported by square posts.

The south elevation of the Parish Hall's main block is lit by two six-over-six sash windows with wide surrounds and two three-over-three sash windows below which light the basement. The rear of the addition is blind.

The east elevation is identical to the west elevation. Here, however, all windows remain intact.

The interior of the Parish Hall is divided between a vestibule, an open space,

8. Significance

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1931 **Builder/Architect** Vernon Johnson

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

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

The Immaculate Conception Parish Hall is the only architectural landmark that ties the Immaculate Conception community to its 115 year history in Mechanicsville. Prior to 1879, Catholics in the village of Mechanicsville had to travel to St. Joseph's Church in Morganza if they wished to celebrate mass. On October 23, 1878 George Long changed all that by giving Father Basil Pacciarini an acre of land on which to build a Catholic church in the village. By 1879 a church had been erected here by local builder Francis D. Adams. This parish served Catholics not only in Mechanicsville but in the area north to the Charles County border, south to the midway point between Mechanicsville and Morganza, east to the Patuxent River, and west to a midway point between Mechanicsville and Chaptico. In 1993 the first Immaculate Conception Church was demolished and a new structure, designed by the architecture firm of Walton, Madden, and Cooper, was erected in its place.

In 1931 the Immaculate Conception congregation paid for the construction of this Parish Hall on the original George Long land grant. Vernon Johnson was the builder of this well-preserved structure which replaced an earlier Parish Hall formerly located on the same site. This Hall remains the site of CCD classes, bazaars, meetings, and suppers for the Mechanicsville and Immaculate Conception communities today. Except for replacement doors and the reworked entrance portico, the Parish Hall looks much the same as it did when first completed in 1931. The integrity of this structure strongly contributes to the historic character of Mechanicsville.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. Sm-392

Guyther, Dr. J. Roy. "The History of Immaculate Conception Church at Mechanicsville, Maryland." The Catholic Historical Society of Washington Newsletter 1.2 (Nov 1993): 5-7

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .75 acre more or less

Quadrangle name Mechanicsville

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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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
MECHANICSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-475-7400

SM-392, Immaculate Conception Parish Hall
St. Mary's
7.1

and a stage. The walls of the hall are sheathed with dark brown wainscoating. The front vestibule is divided from the main open space by a square post baluster divider and is flanked by small meeting rooms. The stage at the south end of the hall is flanked on either side by a pair of stairs which provide access both onto the stage and underneath the stage. Beneath the stage is a half basement divided into two rooms which serve as a kitchen and a meeting room. Behind the stage are restrooms and closet space.

There are no outbuildings on the property.

SM-392, Immaculate Conception Parish Hall
St. Mary's
10.1

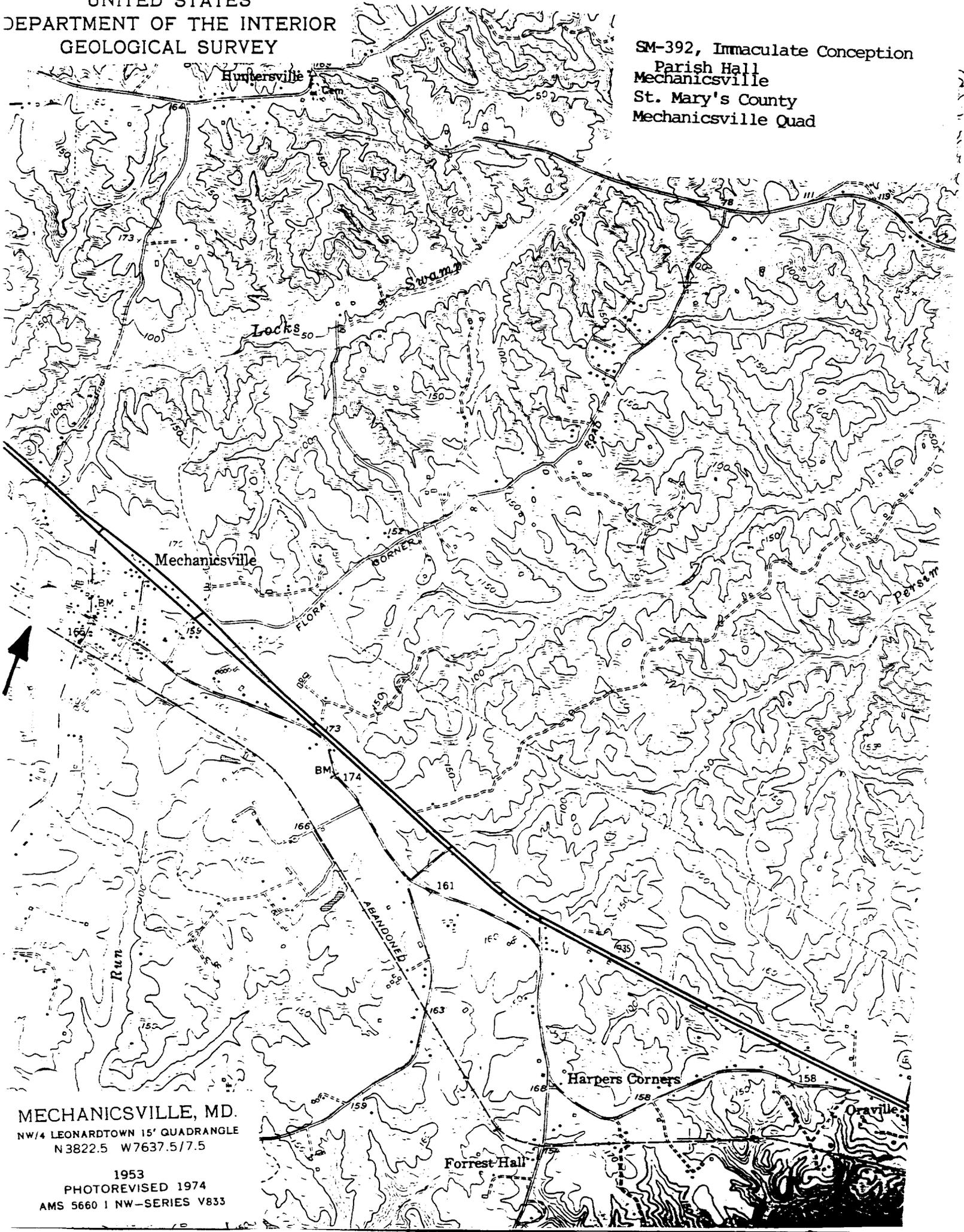
Verbal boundary description and justification:

"Beginning at a stone on Three Notched Road in Mechanicsville...at the western boundary of the Lot belonging to George Long and Mary E. Long his wife and running with said line in a southwesterly direction a distance of about 95 yards to where is now an embankment for a railroad and running with said railroad a distance of seventy yards to a stone, thence in a northerly direction, a distance of about eighty five yards to the Three Notched Road and with said road a distance of seventy yards to the place of beginning."

St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JFF 3, folio 218.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SM-392, Immaculate Conception
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 1 NW-SERIES V833



SM- 392 Immaculate Conception Parish Hall

St. Mary's County, MD

Electrician's Report

December 1998

217 St. Paul

NE Elevations

1/2



