Capsule Summary
SM-398
Jarboe Tomato Cannery
Mechanicsville
Private circa 1913

The Jarboe Tomato Cannery is a rectangular, gable roofed, barn like structure located just north of the village of Mechanicsville. Erected around 1913 by the E. R. Jarboe Company Inc., local tomatoes were canned here and then shipped north to distributors on the Washington, Brandywine, and Point Lookout Railroad. The Jarboe Tomato Cannery is significant as the only cannery which has been documented in St. Mary's County to date. It is also the only industrial historic site located within the Mechanicsville vicinity.

In 1922 the corporation of E. R. Jarboe and Company dissolved and Elmer R. Jarboe purchased the cannery property. It is unclear when the cannery ceased production, although the old canning factory was certainly being used to cure tobacco by the 1950s. Currently used both for storage and for some tobacco curing, the cannery building retains much of its original exterior fabric underneath a new layer of vinyl siding.

SM-398, Jarboe Tomato Cannery
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930. Modern Period, 1930 - present.
Historic Period Theme:	Agriculture Economic

Resource Type

Category:	Structure
Historic Environment:	Village
Historic Function and Use:	Cannery Barn
Known Design Source:	None

Survey No. SM - 398

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Jarboe Tomato Cannery

2. Location

street & number Old Route 5 ___ not for publication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	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	x agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	x private	x unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
x structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ 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 Edward and Marie Burroughs

street & number P.O. Box 1 telephone no.: 301-373-3456

city, town Mechanicsville state and zip code MD 20659

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk of Court liber MRB 247

street & number St. Mary's County Courthouse folio 446

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-398

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. **Contributing Resource Count:** 1

The Jarboe Tomato Cannery is located on the west side of Old Route 5 just north of the village of Mechanicsville. Although the cannery has always been associated with the village, it is located just outside of the village center. The cannery stands alone beside the road. There are no outbuildings next to this plain rectangular structure. At first glance, this weatherboard building is not identifiable as a cannery, but resembles a barn instead.

Built around 1914, the sill of this two-story, gable roof structure rests on blocks of concrete. The cannery is sheathed with a vertical layer of weatherboards, some of which are approximately eight and a half feet in height.* Since this siding does not span the height of the structure, one layer sheathes the first floor while another sheathes the second floor. Some areas are covered by a layer of siding which spans the full height of the building. There appears to be no "main" elevation, since each elevation is pierced with doors. The cannery roof consists of corrugated tin and is oriented on a north/south axis. Originally, a shed roof structure extended from the south side of the building which sheltered the steam boiler for the cannery.

The north elevation of the cannery is pierced on the first floor by a pair of double doors, about nine feet in width. A smaller, centrally placed, vertical panel door pierces the second floor. The upper half story of the cannery's north elevation is also pierced with a centrally placed door.

The west elevation is pierced by three entrance doors. One of these is a new sliding barn door, the second is an old sliding barn door, and the third is now boarded up and inaccessible. Sliding doors like these, which could be rolled open and shut on a track, provided important ventilation for the cannery which was overheated by boiling vats of tomatoes in the summertime.

The south elevation is pierced on the first floor by a new sliding barn door as the eastern most bay. This door is two stories in height. The second floor and upper half story are pierced by smaller, centrally located doors like those on the north elevation.

The east elevation was once pierced by two entrance doors which are now boarded up. A sliding barn door pierces this elevation's second floor.

The interior has a part cement and part dirt floor. Large, square, sawn beams support a second floor which is accessible by means of a ladder and currently used for storage space.

* At the time of this survey the exterior of the cannery was in the process of being covered with a layer of vinyl siding.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-398

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
1500–1599	x agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	___ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ 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 x C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state x local

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

During the first part of the twentieth century, the Jarboe Tomato Cannery was a significant, though seasonal, economic force both for area farmers and farm laborers. The cannery created a local market for farmers' tomatoes and provided work for fifteen to twenty village residents during the summer months of July, August, and September. The Jarboe Tomato Cannery is the only industrial building in the Mechanicsville vicinty and it is the only canning factory which has been documented in St. Mary's County to date. Currently used both for storage and for some tobacco curing, the cannery building retains much of its original exterior fabric underneath its new layer of vinyl siding.

The Jarboe Tomato Cannery began when Elmer R. Jarboe, Merton G. Jarboe, Wilson T. Jarboe, S. Bernard Burch, and Robert S. Harrison formed a corporation entitled "E. R. Jarboe and Company" on July 8th of 1913.[1] On November 25th, E. R. Jarboe and Company, Inc. purchased an acre of land just north of Mechanicsville from William Braddock for the erection of a tomato cannery. Two of the members of this corporation, Merton G. Jarboe and Robert S. Harrison, were familiar with tomato canning due to their family ties with the successful Talbot County "Sherwood Canning Company." Founded in 1905, this company changed its name to "Harrison and Jarboe" in 1929 and continued to operate until 1977.

The canning process in Mechanicsville began with the local farmers who raised tomatoes specifically for the cannery. Between July and September, the farmers would deliver their tomatoes to the cannery where workers scalded the tomatoes in a vat of water heated by a coal-powered steam boiler. The tomatoes were then peeled and hand packed. Once the cans had been packed, they moved along on conveyor belts through a closing machine and then through a cooker. The canned and cooked tomatoes were then labeled and packed for shipment.

Beginning in 1918, transportation for these crates of canned tomatoes was

[1] St. Mary's County Charter Record, Liber JAC 1, folio 25.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-398

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 9916 acres

Quadrangle name ~~Mechanicsville~~ ---- Charlotte Hall

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 December 1993

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
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21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

PS-2746

provided by the Washington, Brandywine, and Point Lookout Railroad, known locally as the "Farmers' Railroad."[2] The terminus for this freight train, which ran daily, was Elmer Jarboe's canning factory. This rail line ran between the cannery building and Old Route 5.

The cannery operated between July and September and was closed during the remaining months of the years. Workers there were both local African-American and white men and women. Generally, women were employed to peel the tomatoes while men packed the tomatoes. Most of these cannery employees worked as farm helpers or cut pulp wood for E. R. Jarboe during the remainder of the year. Many of the Afro-American cannery employees lived in tar paper sheds around a spring nearby.

In 1922 the corporation of E. R. Jarboe and Company dissolved and Elmer R. Jarboe purchased the cannery property. It is unclear when the cannery ceased production, although the old canning factory was certainly being used to cure tobacco by the 1950s. Although it appears that no historic photos survive of this building when it was operative, a 1989 interview with two Mechanicsville residents outlines the history and function of the cannery in the village community. This interview was conducted by Julie King, Regional Archaeologist for Southern Maryland, and Elaine Eff, with the Maryland DHCP. The transcribed tapes of their interview with John F. Wood, Sr., and T. Maddox Burroughs are available through the Jefferson Patterson Park Museum and the Maryland State Department of Historical and Cultural Programs.

[2] Hammett, Regin Combs. History of St. Mary's County, MD 1634-1990. (Ridge: n.p., 1991): 464.

SM-398, Jarboe Tomato Cannery
St. Mary's County
8.3 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Edward and Marie S. Burroughs
FROM: Benjamin H. Burroughs, Jr., personal representative of estate of Benjamin H. Burroughs, Sr.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber MRB 247, folio 446.
DATE: January 24, 1986.
NOTES: Transfer of "Part of Locke Farm" being .9916 acres.

TO: Benjamin H. Burroughs Sr. and Alice Louis Burroughs
FROM: J. Merton Jarboe and Rebeka W. Jarboe, his wife; Paul Jarboe and Peggy B. Jarboe, his wife; Ella Maureen Bowling, widow; L. Dawson Jarboe and Lori Jarboe, his wife; Clarence McDonough, Jr., and Barbara Ann McDonough, his wife; all heirs at law of Elmer Jarboe and Etoyle Jarboe.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber CBG 91, folio 376.
DATE: October 31, 1960.
NOTES: Transfer of one acre, more or less.

TO: Elmer R. Jarboe
FROM: E. R. Jarboe Company, Inc.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JMM 1, folio 300.
DATE: June 28, 1922.
NOTES: Transfer of "Part of the Locke Farm," together with the improvements thereon "and all the machinery of every description and kind thereon or therein," being one acre, more or less.

TO: Elmer R. Jarboe, Mirton G. Jarboe, Wilson T. Jarboe, S.Bernard Burch, and Robert S. Harrison, trading as E. R. Jarboe and Company, Inc.
FROM: William L. Braddock
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 12, folio 156.
DATE: November 25, 1913.
NOTES: Transfer of one acre. Price: $100.

TO: William L. Braddock
FROM: Ashby Burroughs, Bruce Burroughs and Laura J. Burroughs, his wife, Virginia Burroughs, and Laura W. Holmes.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 1, folio 392.
DATE: September 1, 1900.
NOTES: Transfer of 200 acres, being "Part Price's Rest," or "Plains of Jericho," also, "The Locke Farm." Price: $2200.

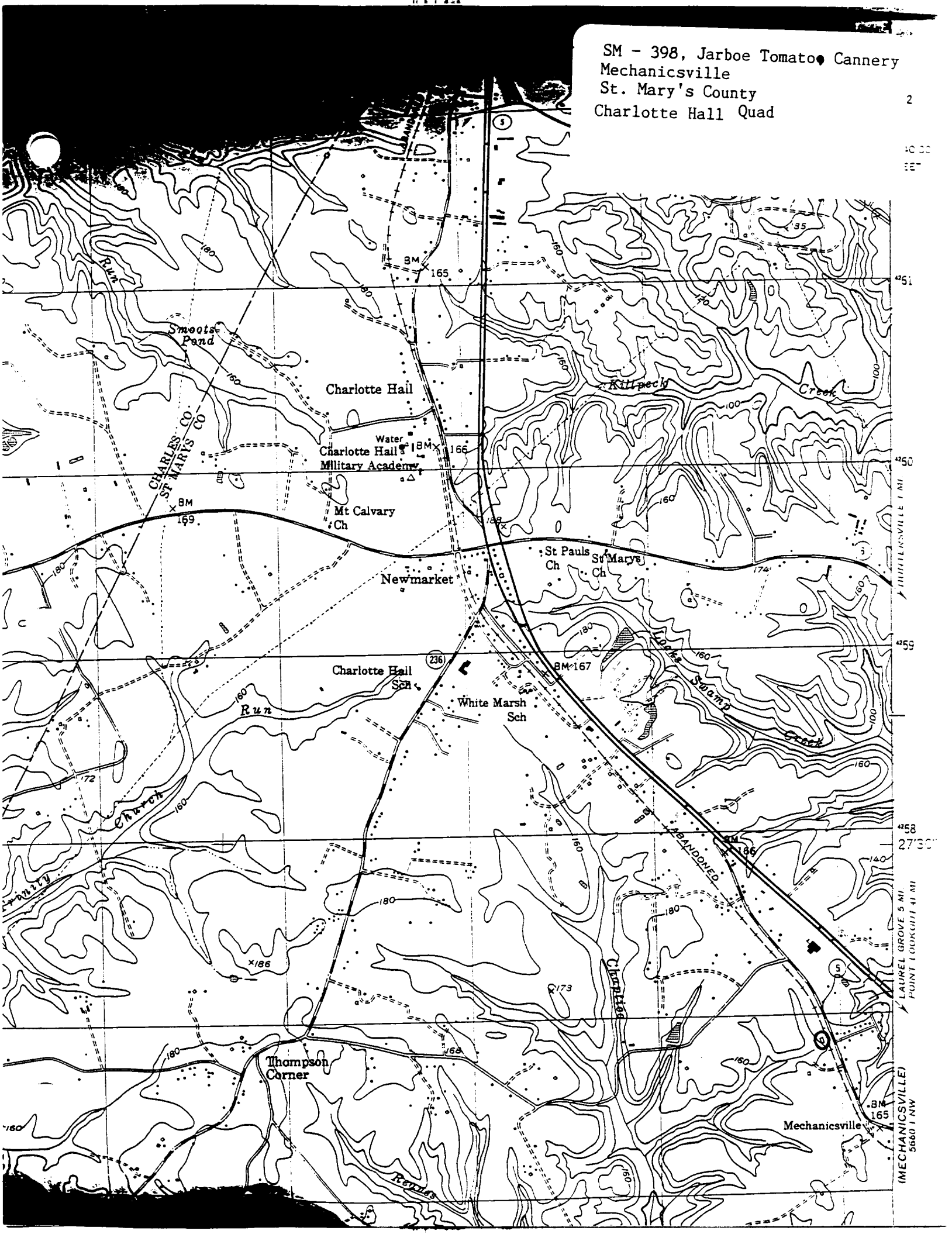
SM-398, Jarboe Tomato Cannery
St. Mary's County
10.1 Geographic Description

Source: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 247, folio 446.

BEGINNING for the same at an iron pipe set in concrete 33.00 feet to the right and perpendicular to the centerline of the U.S. Navy Railroad Track at station 1018+06.00, said point being distant S. 13° 44' 00" E. 793.55 feet measured along the centerline of the track from a railroad monument found 10.00 feet left of the centerline of track at station 1010+12.45 as shown on sheet 40 of 81 of the U.S. Navy Railroad right-of-way plats "Brandywine to Cedar Point" P.W.O. Drawing Number C 3123, said beginning point being shown as being on the old division line fence, (now missing) between "The Ballenger Farm" and "The Locke Farm" and running thence 33.00 feet west of and parallel with the centerline of the railroad track, 1. N. 13° 44' 00" W. 342.00 feet to an iron pipe set in concrete; thence 2. S. 88° 00' 00" W. 129.00 feet to an iron pipe set in concrete; thence 3. 13° 44' 00" E. 342.00 feet to an iron pipe set in concrete; thence 4. N. 88° 00' 00" E. 129.00 feet to the place of beginning, containing 0.9916 acre of land, more or less, per survey prepared by A.E. Gorsuch, Registered land surveyor, dated June 1972.

SM - 398, Jarboe Tomato Cannery
Mechanicsville
St. Mary's County
Charlotte Hall Quad

2



SM-393 SARBOE TOMATO CANNERY

ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD

ELIZABETH HUGHES

DECEMBER 1976

MD HPO

NE ELEVATION

[illegible]

SM 393 [illegible]

[illegible]

ELIZABETH HUGHES

DECEMBER 1993

MD SHPO

[illegible]

/c