

Capsule Summary
SM-399
Ark and Dove Inn
Mechanicsville
Private

circa 1880

The Ark and Dove Inn is a substantial structure with a wide setback from the road. The original form of the house is little changed except for the removal of the front porch and the addition of a picture window on the first floor of the main elevation. Despite its aluminum siding sheathing, the Ark and Dove Inn strongly contributes to the historic character of Mechanicsville.

This prominent two-and-a-half story structure was built in the late nineteenth century as the home of John T. Ballenger, a prominent Mechanicsville merchant. Only later, after Eugene Trice purchased the property in 1911, did this building become known as the Ark and Dove Inn. Trice's wife, Annie Robrecht Trice, managed the boarding house until 1942.

SM-399, Ark and Dove Inn
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: Architecture
Economic

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function and Use: Boarding house

Known Design Source: Unknown

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-399

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Ark and Dove Inn

and/or common

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street & number Old Route 5 not for publication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	
<input type="checkbox"/> dlstrict	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input 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 Eugene and Shanda Northrop

street & number 945 Old Route 5 telephone no.: 301-884-0745

city, town Mechanicsville state and zip code MD 20659

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk of Court liber EWA 573

street & number St. Mary's County Courthouse folio 133

city, town Leonardtown state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-399

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 Ark and Dove Inn is located on Old Route 5 in the village of Mechanicsville. This structure faces south with its principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

The Ark and Dove Inn is a two-and-a-half story frame building sheathed with vinyl German siding. The roofline is finished with a boxed cornice and a wide frieze band. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Two interior brick chimneys flank the center hall of this house and pierce the roofline. The house is supported by a mixed brick and ironstone foundation.

The south (main) elevation has a central six-panel entrance door with two-light sidelights and a three-light transom window. This entrance is sheltered by a semi-circular portico supported by Tuscan columns. To the west of this entrance are two six-over-six sash windows with louvered shutters. To the east, the original sash windows have been replaced by one large picture window flanked by louvered shutters. Unlike the first floor, the fenestration pattern of the second floor remains unaltered. The central bay of the second floor consists of two smaller four-over-four sash windows with louvered shutters flanked on either side by two shuttered six-over-six sash windows. A miniature Palladian window lights the roof's central cross-gable. To the east of the main block is a smaller, two-story wing. Across the first floor of this wing is a shed-roof enclosure roofed with tar and pea-gravel. This roof is pierced by a metal stove stack and has a boxed cornice. This first floor is pierced by a four-light over three-panel door and a bank of three six-over-one sash windows. The second floor of this wing is lit by three six-over-six sash windows with louvered shutters. This wing is finished with a boxed cornice.

The west elevation is pierced by a modern door on the first floor which provides access between the house and a side porch. This square post porch is supported by a brick pier foundation and wraps around to the north elevation of the house. The second floor of the house is blind and the eave is lit by a miniature Palladian window.

The north elevation is lit on the first floor by a central four-panel entrance door flanked on the west by two shuttered six-over-six sash windows. To the west is a picture window comprised of strips of four and five panes of glass. Some of these look like salvaged transom windows or sidelights which have been recycled for use as a window here. A square post porch stretches across this first floor. The second floor is lit by five shuttered six-over-six sash windows. An exterior brick chimney pierces the eastern edge of the main block roof. To the east of the main block is a shorter, two-story addition. The first floor of the addition consists of an enclosed shed roof section lit by two six-over-six sash windows with louvered shutters and one four-pane

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-399

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

Specific dates	unknown	Builder/Architect	unknown
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D
and/or			
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national	<input type="checkbox"/> state	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local

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

The Ark and Dove Inn is a substantial structure with a wide setback from the road. The original form of the house is little changed except for the removal of the front porch and the addition of a picture window on the first floor of the main elevation. Despite its aluminum siding sheathing, the Ark and Dove Inn strongly contributes to the historic character of Mechanicsville.

This prominent two-and-a-half story structure was built in the late nineteenth century as the home of John T. Ballenger, a prominent Mechanicsville merchant. Only later, after Eugene Trice purchased the property in 1911, did this building become known as the Ark and Dove Inn. Trice was a merchant in the village. His store once stood on what is now the site of the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department (SM-395). Trice's wife, Annie Robrecht Trice, managed the boarding house which hosted teachers employed at the nearby Mechanicsville Elementary School, traveling salesmen, and parents of Charlotte Hall Military Academy students. In the mid-1930s, the Inn provided meals to the public as well as to boarders. The Inn ceased operation shortly after Mrs. Trice died in 1942.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-399

Guyther, Dr. J. Roy. "The Old Hotels of Mechanicsville." Chronicles 38.3
(Fall 1980): 337-341

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3.313 acres

Quadrangle name Mechanicsville

Quadrangle scale 1 : 24000

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"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-0000
410-770-1100

SM-399, Ark and Dove Inn
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

casement window. The second floor is lit by two shuttered six-over-six sash windows.

The east elevation of the main block is mostly obscured by the slightly shorter two-story addition although the upper half story remains visible. This attic story is lit by a miniature Palladian window partially infilled with a louvered vent. This wing is finished with a boxed cornice and plain bargeboard, and is lit by one two-over-two sash window on the first floor. To the south and north sides of the smaller two-story wing extend one-story shed roof additions. The southern shed roof addition is lit by two six-over-one sash windows. The northern shed roof addition is lit by one six-over-six sash window and a modern entrance door sheltered by a gable roof portico.

The first floor interior consists of a center hall with an open stringer stair with decorative brackets, a turned newell post, turned balusters and a molded handrail. An elaborate plaster medallion, the site of a former light fixture, is located in the ceiling of this entrance hall. The southwest parlor has built-in alcove shelving which flanks the fireplace. The fireplace mantle in this room is not original to the house, but was found abandoned in a honeysuckle patch and then installed by previous owners. The northeast parlor retains its original mantle and alcove shelving. All second floor bedrooms have fireplaces with their original mantles intact. Four-panel doors are in place on this floor as well. The upper half story is divided into three rooms.

Three outbuildings stand on the property. There is a square cinderblock building with a pyramidal roof, a frame stable with a tin roof, and a weatherboard garage on the property.

SM-399, Ark and Dove Inn
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Eugene C. Northrop and Shanda L. Northrop
FROM: James H. Rowell and Marguerite Jeanne Rowell
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EWA 573, folio 133.
DATE: December 18, 1990.
NOTES: Transfer of two parcels: 1.) 3.313 acres 2.) half interest in well pump and lot.

TO: James H. Rowell and Margueritte Jeanne Rowell
FROM: James H. Rowell and Margueritte Jeanne Rowell, and Margueritte L. Guzman.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber MRB 312, folio 71.
DATE: September 25, 1986.
NOTES: Transfer of two parcels: 1.) 4 acres 2.) half interest in well pump and lot.

TO: Thomas G. Stone, Jr., and Alma L. Stone
FROM: Holmes L. Fowler and Cecelia T. Fowler
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 83, folio 34.
DATE: August 6, 1959.
NOTES: Transfer of four acres.

TO: Holmes L. Fowler and Cecelia T. Fowler
FROM: Eugene Trice, widower, and County Trust Company of MD, a body corporate, acting under a certain Power of Attorney from Eugene Trice and Annie Trice dated August 13, 1936.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber CBG 14, folio 229.
DATE: March 29, 1943.
NOTES: Transfer of four acre lot which is known as the "Home Place of the late John T. Ballenger."

TO: Eugene Trice
FROM: Ida M. McAuliffe and Peter T. McAuliffe of Baltimore City.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 9, folio 303.
DATE: May 12, 1911.
NOTES: Transfer of four acres being the "Home Place of John T. Ballenger."
Price: \$2400.

SM-399, Ark and Dove Inn
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

TO: Ida M. Ballenger

FROM: John T. Ballenger

RECORD: St. Mary's County Testamentary Record, Liber PHD 1, folio 137.

DATE: March 10, 1903.

NOTES: Transfer of "the house and lot where I now reside."

TO: John T. Ballenger

FROM: Sylvester Adams

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JAC 1, folio 353.

DATE: September 13, 1865.

NOTES: Transfer of half of an undivided lot "being half of the ten acres of land and the south part thereof of the same that the said Sylvester purchased of Henry C. Adams" in JAC 1/146.

SM-399, Ark and Dove Inn
St. Mary's County
10.1 Geographic Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Source: St. Mary's County Land Records, EWA 573/133 et seq.

ALL THE LAND OBTAINED BY JAMES H. ROWELL AND MARGUERITE JEANNE ROWELL BY DEED DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 1986, RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND, IN LIBER 312 AT FOLIO 71, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE NORTHEASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF OLD MARYLAND ROUTE 5 (40 FEET WIDE), SAID POINT ALSO BEING THE SOUTHERNMOST POINT OF THE LAND NOW OR FORMERLY BELONGING TO ROY J. GUYTHER (LIBER 195 AT FOLIO 200) AND RUNNING WITH PART OF GUYTHER'S BOUNDARY LINE

1. NORTH 8 DEGREES 6 MINUTES 40 SECONDS EAST 187.41 FEET TO A POINT, SAID POINT ALSO BEING THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF A 15 FOOT BY 25 FOOT WELL AND PUMP LOT; THENCE WITH THE OUTLINE OF SAID WELL AND PUMP LOT THE THREE FOLLOWING COURSES AND DISTANCES

2. SOUTH 81 DEGREES 53 MINUTES 20 SECONDS EAST 15 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE

3. NORTH 8 DEGREES 6 MINUTES 40 SECONDS EAST 25 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE

4. NORTH 81 DEGREES 53 MINUTES 20 SECONDS WEST 15 FEET TO A POINT ON SAID GUYTHER'S LINE; THENCE RUNNING WITH PART OF SAID LINE THE FOLLOWING TWO COURSES AND DISTANCES

5. NORTH 8 DEGREES 6 MINUTES 40 SECONDS EAST 171.56 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE

6. NORTH 86 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 55 SECONDS EAST 368.97 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WESTERLY LINE OF THE LAND NOW OR FORMERLY BELONGING TO SHERMAN H. SMITH, ET UX; THENCE WITH PART OF SMITH'S LINE

7. SOUTH 19 DEGREES 26 MINUTES WEST 551.63 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE LEAVING SMITH'S LINE AND RUNNING WITH PART OF THE OUTLINE OF PARCEL "B" AS SHOWN ON A PLAT MADE BY D.H. STEPPENS DATED MARCH 1, 1968, THE FOLLOWING TWO COURSES AND DISTANCES

8. NORTH 53 DEGREES 24 MINUTES WEST 90.88 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE

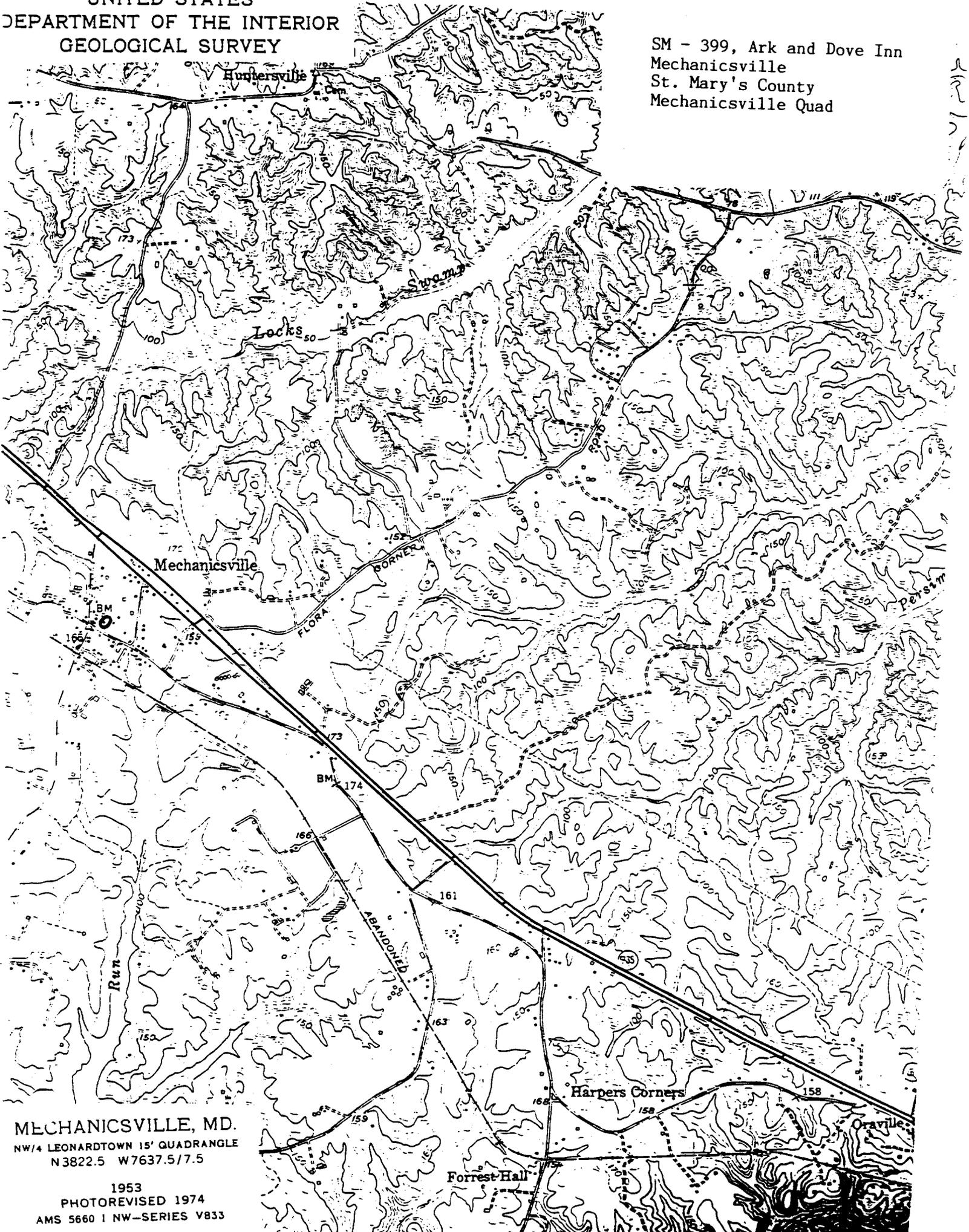
9. SOUTH 29 DEGREES 45 MINUTES WEST 46.53 FEET TO A POINT ON SAID NORTHEASTERLY LINE OF OLD MARYLAND ROUTE 5; THENCE WITH SAID LINE

10. NORTH 53 DEGREES 24 MINUTES WEST 178.15 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING

CONTAINING 3.313 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, IN THE FIFTH ELECTION DISTRICT. TAX ACCOUNT #05-0C638-4.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SM - 399, Ark and Dove Inn
Mechanicsville
St. Mary's County
Mechanicsville Quad



MECHANICSVILLE, MD.
NW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
N 3822.5 W 7637.5/7.5

1953
PHOTOREVISED 1974
AMS 5660 I NW-SERIES V833



SM-399 ARR AND DEPT 1973

ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD

ELIZABETH HUMES

DECEMBER 1973

112 SHPS

NW ELEVATION

1/3





