Capsule Summary
SM-400
Mechanicsville Elementary School
Mechanicsville
Private circa 1895

The Mechanicsville Elementary School was the second public elementary school to serve the village of Mechanicsville. Built around 1895, this simple ell-shaped structure continued to be used as a school until 1951. Now divided into two apartments, the interior of the school has been reworked. The exterior retains its original form and fenestration pattern as well as its weatherboard siding.

Although the school is not very visible from the road, it represents an important part of Mechanicsville's history. Some village residents remember attending school there. Others simply recognize the distinctive schoolhouse form as a remnant of Mechanicsville's former heyday as a self-sufficient community

SM-400, Mechanicsville Elementary School
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 Education

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Village
Historic Function and Use:	School
Known Design Source:	Unknown

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-400

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Mechanicsville Elementary School

2. Location

street & number Off Old Route 5 ___ not for publication

city, town Mechanicsville ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state MD county St. Mary's County

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	x 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 Frank Abell

street & number P.O. Box 863 telephone no.: 301-274-3815

city, town Mechanicsville state and zip code MD 20659

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk of Court liber DBK 179

street & number St Mary's County Courthouse folio 301

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-400

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 Mechanicsville Elementary School is located at the end of an unpaved road off of Old Route 5 in the village of Mechanicsville. The principal gable of this ell-shaped structure is oriented on a north/south axis. The school faces north.

Built around 1895, the Mechanicsville Elementary School is sheathed with weatherboard siding. This building is supported by a brick pier foundation and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The north (main) elevation consists of a western gable end with a slightly shorter projecting gable end vestibule. This vestibule is pierced by a replacement entrance door. The door is sheltered by a gable roof portico. The eastern section of the ell is lit by two two-over-two sash windows. One of the original windows on this elevation has been replaced by a modern entrance door.

The west elevation of the entrance vestibule is lit by one four-over-four sash window. The main block of the building is lit by three six-over-six sash windows. An exterior cinderblock chimney stands against this west elevation.

The south elevation of the ell's western gable end is lit by two six-over-six sash windows. A louvered vent pierces the eave. The ell's eastern wing consists of a shed roof projection pierced by two two-over-two sash windows and a modern door on the south side and an entrance door on the west side. A third window on the south side of the eastern projection is now blocked in. An interior brick chimney projects from the roof of this wing and an exterior cinderblock chimney stands beside it.

The east elevation of the entrance vestibule is lit by one two-over-two sash window. The east side of the main block is lit by two six-over-six sash windows. The east elevation of the ell's gable end was once lit by two windows which are now blocked in.

The interior, now divided into two apartments, was not seen. There are no outbuildings on the property.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-400

Period

___ prehistoric
___ 1400–1499
___ 1500–1599
___ 1600–1699
___ 1700–1799
_x_ 1800–1899
___ 1900–

Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

___ archeology-prehistoric
___ archeology-historic
___ agriculture
_x_ architecture
___ art
___ commerce
___ communications
___ community planning
___ conservation
___ economics
_x_ education
___ engineering
___ exploration/settlement
___ industry
___ invention
___ landscape architecture
___ law
___ literature
___ military
___ music
___ philosophy
___ politics/government
___ religion
___ science
___ sculpture
___ social/humanitarian
___ theater
___ transportation
___ other (specify)

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.

The Mechanicsville Elementary School was the second public elementary school to serve the village of Mechanicsville. The first school burned in the late nineteenth century. This school was built soon after the Board of County School Commissioners acquired 3/4 of an acre of land in 1895. In 1905 a right of way to the school, recorded in St. Mary's County Land Record Liber EGA 5, folio 98, was granted to the Board of County School Commissioners by the Reintzell family.

The Mechanicsville School continued to be used until 1951 when the construction of a new and considerably larger building was completed just northwest of the village. Now divided into two apartments, the interior of the school has been reworked. The exterior retains its original form and fenestration pattern as well as its weatherboard siding.

Although the school is not very visible from the road, it represents an important part of Mechanicsville's history. Some village residents remember attending school there. Others simply recognize the distinctive schoolhouse form as a remnant of Mechanicsville's former heyday as a self-sufficient community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-400

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .75 acre

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 Source: St. Mary's County Land Records DBK 179/301

"All that lot lying contiguous to the southeast limit of the village of Mechanicsville."

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 21032-2023

PS-2746

SM-400, Mechanicsville Elementary School
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

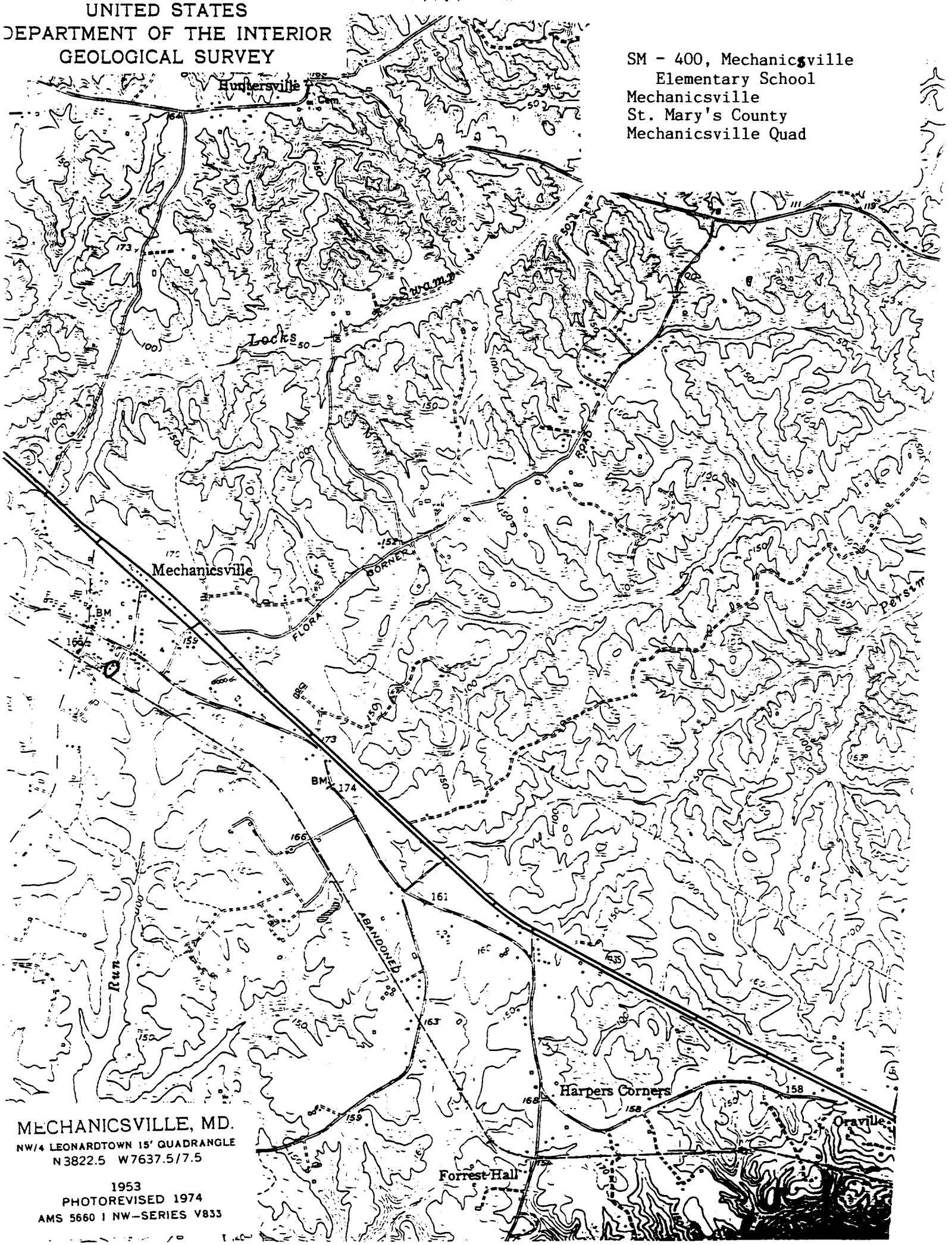
TO: J. Frank Abell
FROM: Lucie Ann Abell
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, DBK 179, folio 301.
DATE: June 28, 1972.
NOTES: Transfer of parcel 6 being .75 of an acre.

TO: J. Frank and Lucie Ann Abell
FROM: Board of Education (the body which succeeded the Board of County School Commissioners)
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, CBG 82, folio 5.
DATE: June 3, 1959.
NOTES: Quit claim deed.

TO: Board of County School Commissioners, being Joseph H. Key, Ignatius E. Mattingly, J. Frank Bohanan, and their successors.
FROM: James Burch, Mary E. Burch, William E. Burch, June H. Burch, John E. Reintzell and Sarah O. Reintzell.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JJG 3, folio 256.
DATE: September 14, 1895.
NOTES: Transfer of 3/4 of an acre.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SM - 400, Mechanicsville
Elementary School
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

SM-400 MECHANICSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD

ELIZABETH HUGHES

DECEMBER 1995

MD SHPO

NE ELEVATION

1/4

SM-400 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

DECEMBER [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

SM-400 MECHANICSVILLE [illegible] [illegible]

ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD.

[illegible]

DECEMBER [illegible]

MD [illegible]

[illegible]

74

SM-400 MECHANICSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD

ELIZABETH HUGHES

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

J. ROY GRYTHEN, MECHANICSVILLE, MD

1/4