Capsule Summary
SM-410
Peverley Tenant House
Mechanicsville vicinity
Private

Circa 1835-1850

The Peverley Tenant house is a significant second quarter of the nineteenth century structure both because of its architectural integrity and because of its prominent location in the landscape. The original fabric of the house's exterior remains intact and the wide board siding of the structure's central section is particularly distinctive. Although little of the house's interior woodwork has survived, its interior plan is unchanged.

The Peverley Tenant house stands alone in the middle of tobacco and grain fields on the east side of Route 235, and serves as a familiar landmark to all who travel this heavily trafficed route. Although the chain of title shows that this property was owned by George C. Peverley in the early twentieth century, it is unclear who possessed this particular parcel prior to his ownership. The structure is one of the oldest dwellings in the area, predating the village of Mechanicsville.

SM-410, Peverley Tenant House
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870.
Historic Period Theme:	Architecture

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function and Use:	Residence
Known Design Source:	None

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-410

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Peverley Tenant House

2. Location

street & number Route 235 (5) ___ not for publication

city, town Mechanicsville X 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	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 Ottilia E. Roach Sheaffer and William R Chesley

street & number 501 Bea Court telephone no.:

city, town Leonardtown state and zip code Md 20650

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk of Court liber CBG 67

street & number St. Mary's County folio 124

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-410

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 Peverley Tenant house stands at the end of a dirt road located 3000' south of Flora Corner Road on the east side of Route 5 near Mechanicsville in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The house stands alone except for one small outbuilding located to the south of the dwelling. Fields planted with corn, tobacco, and soybeans surround the house. Up until the mid-twentieth century, two tobacco barns stood on a knoll north of the house. The house faces west, with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

The Peverley Tenant house consists of a central one-and-a-half story structure with a steeply pitched roof, a two-story addition attached to its northern gable end, and a one-story structure attached to its southern gable end. Many of the windows and doors have been boarded up or covered with black plastic. Some of the interior rooms are currently inaccessible.

The central two-bay, one-and-a-half story core of the dwelling represents the earliest building stage, dating to the second quarter of the nineteenth century. This structure is sheathed with wide boards of random widths which are laid flush to the house with a diagonal joint. The boards are held in place with mature machine cut nails. This section was enlarged around the second quarter of the nineteenth century with a shed roof addition on the east elevation. The two-bay, two-story wing attached to its northern elevation may have been constructed as late as the early twentieth century. The southern one-story addition was probably a free-standing kitchen which was later attached to the house. The northern and southern wings and the eastern shed-roof addition are all sheathed with beveled weatherboard siding attached with wire nails. All roofs are sheathed with metal. The foundation of the Peverley Tenant house is largely obscured by a sheathing of corrugated metal. The one visible corner of the foundation reveals that the underpinning consists of concrete piers. A 1989 survey of the house noted that in addition to these concrete piers are brick and stone piers.

The west (main) elevation of the northern two-story wing is pierced by a four-panel door and a six-over-six sash window on the first floor. The door is finished with a narrow surround with a simple quirk moulding. The second floor is pierced by one six-over-six sash window. This wing is finished with corner boards, a boxed cornice, and a plain fascia. An interior brick chimney originally pierced the west roof slope of this addition. A porch stretches across the first floor of this wing and the central one-and-a-half story core of the dwelling. The porch is supported by square replacement posts. The central core of the dwelling is sheathed with wide boards of random widths

8. Significance

Survey No. SM__-410

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	X architecture	__ education	__ military	__ social/ humanitarian
__ 1700–1799	__ art	__ engineering	__ music	__ theater
X 1800–1899	__ commerce	__ exploration/settlement	__ philosophy	__ transportation
__ 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.

The Peverley Tenant house is a significant second quarter of the nineteenth century structure both because of its architectural integrity and because of its prominent location in the landscape. The original fabric of the house's exterior remains intact and the wide board siding of the structure's central section is particularly distinctive. Although little of the house's interior woodwork has survived, its interior plan is unchanged. The Peverley Tenant house stands alone in the middle of tobacco and grain fields on the east side of Route 235, and serves as a familiar landmark to all who travel this heavily trafficed route.

Little information exists regarding the history of the building. The chain of title shows that this property was owned by George C. Peverley in the early twentieth century. It is unclear who possessed this particular parcel prior to his ownership. The up and down saw marks and mature machine cut nails evident in the central one-and-a-half story structure of this telescope-like building suggest a building date between 1835 and 1850 for the central section of the house.

In the early twentieth century, the Peverley Tenant house was occupied by the Johnson family. A photo from the Washington Post of 1938 shows the interior of the structure's kitchen with Marie Johnson serving a meal to the operators of a portable steam powered threshing machine. Later in this century, the house was occupied by the Butler family.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-410

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acres.

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 title.) Acreage of nominated property includes the two acres surrounding the structure.

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** January 1994

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
DISCARDED
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

PS-2746

ranging from 13" to 16". This sheathing is laid flush to the house with a diagonal joint. The first floor is pierced by a modern door and a window opening. The upper half story is pierced with a shed dormer lit by two window openings. The southern one-story wing is pierced by a vertical, circular-sawn, board door with horizontal and diagonal battens. The door is attached to the structure with machine made metal hinges, probably salvaged from a tobacco barn louver. This structure is finished with a boxed cornice.

The south elevation of the one-story addition is a flush gable end lit by a window opening. The upper half story of the dwelling's central core is visible beyond the one-story addition. A centrally placed brick chimney stands against this flush gable end at its junction with the southern one-story structure. East of the chimney is a window opening which pierces the upper half story of the dwelling's central core.

The east elevation of the southern one-story structure is pierced by a window opening. On this east elevation, the principal roof of the dwelling's one-and-a-half story core has been extended to the east, creating additional interior space. This elevation is pierced by a modern door and a window opening. The cornice is boxed. The northern two-story addition is lit on the first and second floor by one six-over-six sash window.

The north elevation of the two-story northern addition is lit by two six-over-six sash windows on the first and second floors. This gable end elevation is finished with a plain eaveboard and has a medium roof overhang. The north side of the central core's rear addition is a flush gable end pierced by a window opening.

The interior walls of the oldest section of the house have been reworked, but the original one-room plan appears to have remained intact. A winder stair provides access to the upper half story in the northwest corner of the room. The treads and risers of this stair are held in place by wire nails. These elements are probably replacements. A small four-panel door provides access to a closet underneath the stair. Although the wall cladding of the upper half story of this section has been replaced, the original plaster surface and a beaded baseboard survives in a closet in the northeast corner of the room. The flooring consists of wide boards of random widths held in place by machine cut nails. A hole in the ceiling of the upper half story reveals the roof construction. The rafters are mitred and nailed together at the apex of the roof. The rafters bear saw-marks from an up-and-down mill. Reused riven shingle nailers are also visible here. A hole in the eastern roof slope reveals the roof extension over the eastern one-story addition and the addition's ceiling joists. None of the beams appear to have circular saw-marks. The interior of that addition was not accessible.

SM-410, Peverley Tenant house
St. Mary's County
7.2 Description

The interior of the northern wing consists of a single room on both the first and second floors. The only access to the second floor is by means of the winder stair located in the oldest section of the dwelling. Both the first floor door and windows in this wing of the house are finished with a deeply moulded architrave trim. The second floor windows are finished with a plain, wide trim. The flooring of the second story consists of medium sized boards of uniform width. A hole in the roof of the second floor reveals rafters with circular saw-marks mitred and nailed at the roof's apex.

The interior of the one-story southern wing and the rear addition to the dwelling's central core was inaccessible.

The one outbuilding standing on the property is a gable roof structure located to the south of the dwelling. This structure faces west with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis. Sheathed in asphalt shingle siding and roofed with metal, the building probably served as a smokehouse. Beyond the outbuilding is the site of a former hog pen. A forty foot, brick lined well is located on the east side of the house, about twelve feet east of the northern two-story wing.

SM-410, Peverley house
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: William R. Chesley, Emily D. Chesley, John W. Roache, and Ottilia E. Roache
FROM: James G. Raley and Florence W. Raley
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber CBG 67, folio 124.
DATE: January 3, 1957.
NOTES: Transfer of 1/2 interest to Mr. and Mrs. Roache and 1/2 interest to Mr. and Mrs. Chesley. This includes two parcels: 1.) 47.66 acres of "The Home Place of the late George C. Peverley 2.) 167.66 acres of "Kelley's Luck," "Fortune," and "The Combs Farm" except three parcels noted here.

TO: James G. Raley and Florence W. Raley
FROM: J. Ernest Bell and T. Webster Bell, joint tenants.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber CBG 17, folio 11.
DATE: February 22, 1945.
NOTES: Transfer of 202 1/10 acres being 47.66 acre parcel "The Home Place of the late George C. Peverley and 167 2/3 acres of "Kelley's Luck," "Fortune," and "The Combs Farm."

TO: J. Ernest Bell and T. Webster Bell, as joint tenants.
FROM: Corinne D. Peverley, unmarried.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber CBG 13, folio 372.
DATE: May 2, 1942.
NOTES: Transfer of 202 1/10 acres being 47.66 acre parcel "The Home Place of the late George C. Peverley" and 167 2/3 acres of "Kelley's Luck," "Fortune," and "The Combs Farm."

TO: Corinne D. Peverley
FROM: John H. T. Briscoe, Philip H. Dorsey Jr., William Aleck Loker, Trustees.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JMM 9, folio 531.
DATE: July 28, 1936.
NOTES: Transfer of 202 1/10 acres being 47.66 acre parcel "The Home Place of the late George C. Peverley" and 167 2/3 acres of "Kelley's Luck," "Fortune," and "The Combs Farm." Price: $8075

TO: John H. T. Briscoe, Philip H. Dorsey Jr., William Aleck Loker, Trustees.
FROM: Estate of George C. Peverley
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Decree Record JMM 5, folio 310.
DATE:
NOTES: Sale of property as a result of Circuit Court case County Trust Corporation of Maryland vs. Helen Parsons Peverley, executrix of George C. Peverley estate.

SM-410, Peverley house
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

Here the title divides into six chains. The location of this structure is unclear.

TO: George C. Peverley
FROM: Wilhelm and Elizabeth Schumaker of Melvin, Ford County, Indiana.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 16, folio 398.
DATE: August 28, 1917.
NOTES: Transfer of "Kelly's Luck and Fortune" located a half mile from Mechanicsville on the state road leading from Mechanicsville to Leonardtown being 167 2/3 acres.
Price: $4500

TO: George C. Peverley
FROM: Alice O. Adams, widow
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 12, folio 185.
DATE: December 8, 1913.
NOTES: Transfer of 30 acres being "all the land contained in said Home Farm of the late Henry C. Adams (located) on the right hand side of the Public Road leading from Harrisburg to Trent Hall."

TO: George C. Peverley
FROM: Alice O. Adams, widow
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 11, folio 146.
DATE: March 15, 1913.
NOTES: Transfer of 1/3 acre parcel being a triangular shaped lot. "Beginning for the same at a stone on the south side of the road leading from Mechanicsville to Trent Hall..." Parcel being part of the Home Farm of the late Henry C. Adams.

TO: George C. Peverley
FROM: Wilhelm Schumacher and Elizabeth Schumacher
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 10, folio 430.
DATE: December 13, 1912.
NOTES: Transfer of 11 acres of "Kelly's Luck and Fortune" beginning at "...a point on the State Road leading from Mechanicsville to Leonardtown at the southeast corner boundary of the lot now owned and occupied by George C. Peverley then running southeast with said State Road..." Price: $600

TO: George C. Peverley
FROM: William Schumacher and Elizabeth Schumacher
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 10, folio 26.
DATE: February 22, 1911.
NOTES: Transfer of 2 1/3 acres "Beginning...at a post on the Three Notched Road at the intersection of property hereby conveyed and the property of said George C. Peverley..." Price: $208

SM-410, Peverley house
St. Mary's County
8.3 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: George C. Peverley
FROM: Charles J. Wood and Mary E. Wood
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 8, folio 472.
DATE: July 8, 1910.
NOTES: Transfer of 4 acres "Beginning...at a poplar tree at the southwest corner of the land conveyed by Charles J.Wood and wife to Wilhelm Schumacher in deed dated June 9, 1910 near the State Bridge..." Price: $300

SM-410, Peverley Tenant House
St. Mary's County

People in historic photo of interior: Henry Willis Wood, Marie Johnson, Edward Newton Lee Sr., George Hebb (brother of Marie Johnson), Turner Burroughs, Levin (Leb) Rice.

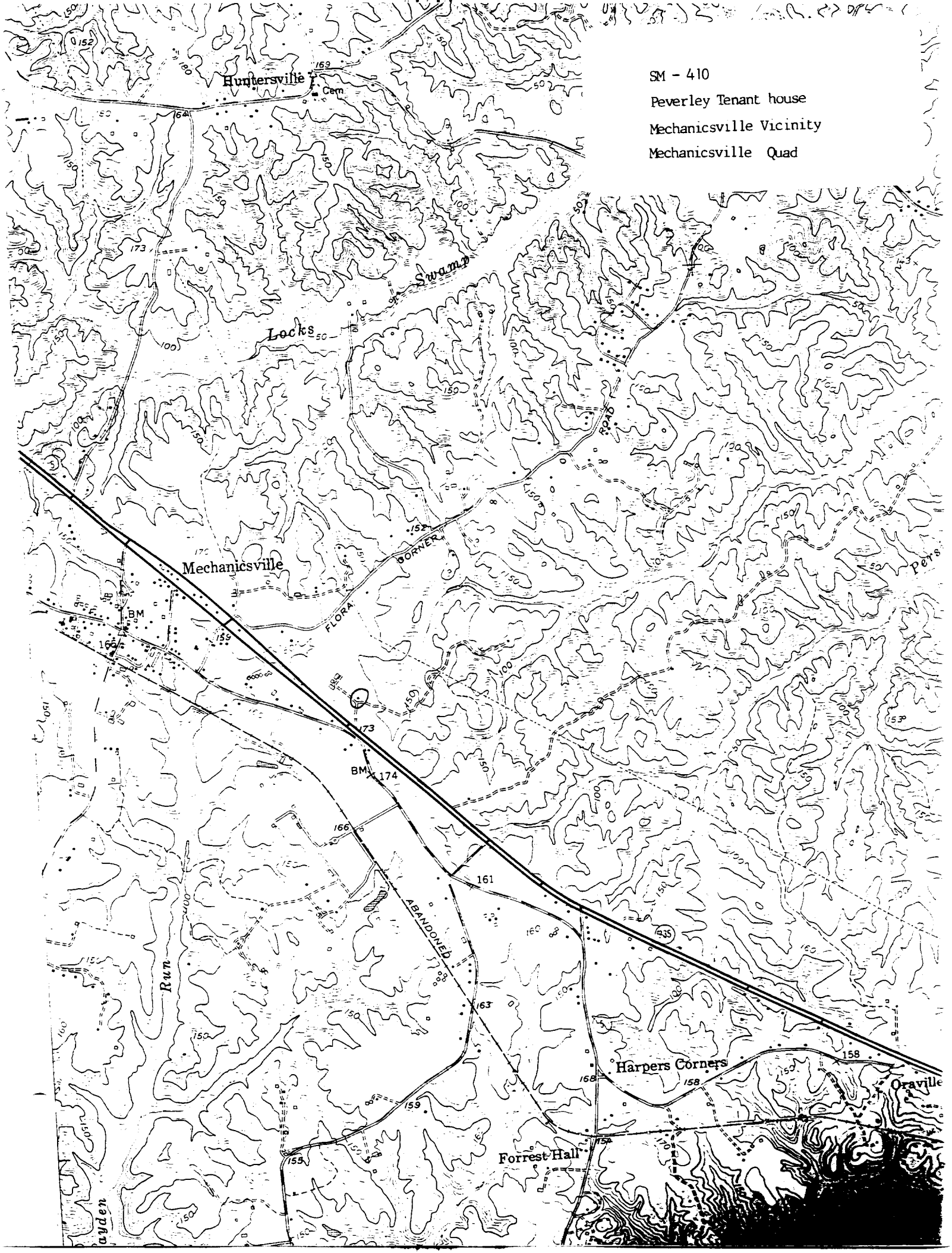
Source: Washington Post Brown Sheet, July 17, 1938.

SM - 410

Peverley Tenant house

Mechanicsville Vicinity

Mechanicsville Quad



3 FEEDING THE THRESHER. Twine cutters on either side toss the open bundles received from the wagon-man to the feeder in center who loosens the wheat as it is fed to the thresher.

4 Turn... enjoying this cool ... water boy who is kept busy ... at threshing machine and hands in field

Post Staff Photos ... Goodwin

5 STRA... the blower in the ... at the Peverly estate. Sacks of ... ing two bushels, can be seen stacked in ...

7 AH, THOSE BISCUITS. Marie Johnson serving Edward Lee who was among those at the first table listened to compliments about her culinary art for a full hour. Southern Maryland ham with a half dozen fresh vegetables made a welcome meal for these tillers of the soil.

HEAR...
West...
If impaired ... with your w... progress—se... proved hearin...
Forem... of ... Techn...
● Natu...
● Non-... tion.
● Bone... ducti...
● Real...
Convenien...
Send for Fre...
WALT...
Suite 201, ...
17th and H...

Georges & Son, Inc.
Chiropodists
Podiatrists
Foot Specialists
614 12th St. N.W.
For appointment, phone NAtional 6918

FEDERAL MODEL