

— Capsule Summary
SM-566
St. Mary's Theater
Leonardtown
Private

c. 1956-57

— The St. Mary's Theater is a one story structure located on the east side of Washington Street. Constructed in 1956-1957, the building was initially used as a movie theater but has also served as the C & P Office, the St. Mary's County Health Department, and finally the Department of Planning and Zoning building. Because of these multiple change in uses several changes to the building have obscured its original function. The theater's marquee, for instance, was removed when an addition to the front of the building was made and the interior has been divided into office space. The structure retains, however, its exposed brick buttresses on the building's north and south sides as well as the descending roof level of the building's rear section that help to identify it as an old movie theater. While significantly altered, the St. Mary's Theater provides stark testimony to Leonardtown's demise as the county's social/cultural center by the 1960s and 1970s.

SM-566, St. Mary's Theater
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period: Modern Period, 1930-present
Historic Period Theme: Architecture
Commerce

Resource Type

Category: Building
Historic Environment: Town
Historic Function and Use: Theater, Office
Known Design Source: None

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-566

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Mary's Theater

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 22740 Washington Street not for publication

city, town Leonardtown vicinity of congressional district 3

state Maryland county St. Mary's TM 133, P 472

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 type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" 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 Robert Leonard and Susan L. Miedzinski

street & number Box 348 telephone no.: (301) 475-5808

city, town Leonardtown state and zip code Maryland 20650

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber EWA 750

street & number folio 370

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-566

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" 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 St. Mary's Theater, constructed in 1956-1957, is located on the east side of Washington Street in the town square of Leonardtown, St. Mary's County, Maryland. Situated on a northeast sloping, 0.34 acre lot, the structure is situated on a short setback and flanked on the north and east by a parking lot, the south by a driveway, and the west by Washington Street.

The one story, three bay, stucco covered structure is divided into two discrete sections. The front section exhibits a flat roof. The rear section, in order to accommodate the movie facilities, projects well above the front section. The rear section, while also having a flat roof, gradually steps down towards the east.

The front or west elevation consists of three bays--a centrally located door with a broken pediment door surround flanked on either side by an eighteen light bay window with each window decorated with a pair of nonfunctional louvered shutters. A flared mansard roof, the wraps around the north and south sides, shades the front three bays and hides the flat roof of the front section. The rear section projects above the front section and exhibits a whitewashed brick wall pierced by a covered window or opening.

The north elevation is not pierced by any doors or windows. A vertical crack suggests that the front section of the theater was added at a later date. The original setback of the building, therefore, would have roughly been parallel to the neighboring St. Paul's Church (SM-274) and the Wesley Chapel (SM-530). The walls of the rear section are supported by vertical brick buttresses.

The east elevation features a single metal door and a set of french doors. Both of these doors are approached via a concrete porch with a shed roof. A wood railing encloses the porch.

The south elevation is very similar to the north elevation. A metal fire door pierces the center of the building and the walls are supported by brick buttresses.

The interior is presently divided into office space and houses the St. Mary's County Department of Planning and Zoning.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input checked="" 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 St. Mary's Theater is a one story structure located on the east side of Washington Street. Constructed in 1956-1957, the building was initially used as a movie theater but has also served as the C & P Office building, the Health Department office, and finally the Department of Planning and Zoning building. Because of these changing uses several changes to the building have obscured its original function. The theater's marquee, for instance, was removed when an addition to the front of the building was made and the interior has been divided into office space. Significant architectural elements of the building include the exposed brick buttresses on the building's north and south sides as well as the descending roof level of the building's rear section. While significantly altered, the St. Mary's Theater provides stark testimony to Leonardtown's demise as the county's social/cultural center by the 1960s and 1970s.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-566

Interview, Shirley Hayden, March 1997.
Interview, Fayreene Mattingly, March 1997.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .34 acres

Quadrangle name Leonardtown, Md

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

Same as per deed description.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County Planning and Zoning

date April 1997

street & number 22740 Washington Street

telephone (301) 475-4662

city or town Leonardtown

state Maryland

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/DHCO
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
-514-7100

SM-566, St. Mary's Theater
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Deed Reference: Liber EWA 750, Folio 370

Grantee: Robert Leonard and Susan C. and James Francis Miedzinski

Grantor: Robert Leonard Miedzinski, et al

Date: February 10, 1993

Notes: The property is listed as containing .34 acres and called the "C & P telephone" building.

Deed Reference: Liber 131, Folio 442

Grantee: Robert Leonard and Mary Lillian Miedzinski

Grantor: Robert Leonard and Mary Lillian Miedzinski, et al

Date: October 6, 1982

Notes: The property is listed as containing .34 acres and called the "St Mary's Theatre Lot" and the "C & P Telephone lot." The deed also notes that George W. Joy, Jr. surveyed the property, but the survey could not be found.

Deed Reference: Liber CBG 68, Folio 378

Grantee: Robert Leonard and Mary Lillian Miedzinski

Grantor: Jack and Goluem K. Fruchtman, et ux

Date: April 10, 1957

Deed Reference: Liber CBG 63, Folio 61

Grantee: Robert Leonard and Mary Lillian Miedzinski

Grantor: Kenneth B. and Loraine H. Duke

Date: May 21, 1956

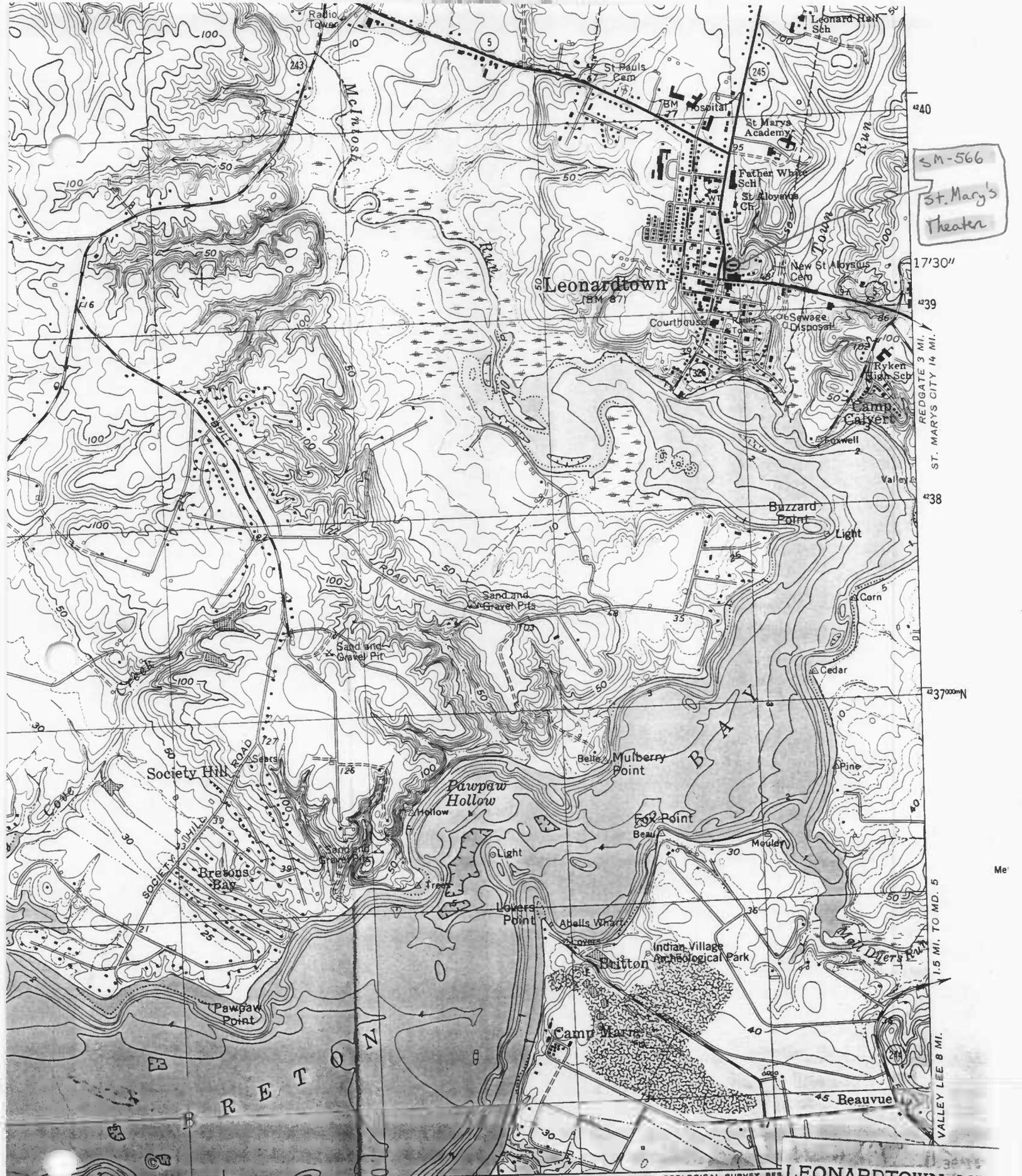
Notes: The property consists of .34 acres and is described as the "St. Mary's Theatre Lot."

Deed Reference: Liber CBG 49, Folio 322

Grantee: Kenneth B. and Loraine H. Duke

Grantor: Mary R. Fowler

Date: January 1, 1954



SM-566
St. Mary's
Theater

LEONARDTOWN, MD.

SW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
38076-C6-TB-024

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty _____
- Medium-duty _____
- 1963
- BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982
- U PHOTOREVISED 1984
- DMA 5660 1 SW-SERIES 1333
- () State Route



54 40' 55 56 57 58

420
17°30'
439
438

REDGATE 3 MI.
ST. MARYS CITY 14 MI.

1.5 MI. TO MD. 5
VALLEY LEE 8 MI.



