Capsule Summary
SM-734
St. Mary's Hall
St. Mary's City
Public 1908

St. Mary's Hall represents the oldest educational building remaining at St. Mary's College that survived the devastating fire of 1924. Also called the Music Hall, this excellent example of reserved classicism was erected in 1908 and dedicated in June of that year. Designed by George W. Corbitt and constructed by Elias Milburn, the one story brick building is dominated by the front portico. Supported by a four plain square columns with tri-partite capitals and barely visible bases, the closed bed pediment is richly ornamented by a full entablature replete with modillions. The building is currently used as a music and lecture hall and was recently renovated.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-734

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	St. Mary's Hall (preferred)
other	Music Hall

2. Location

street and number	Just W of intersection of Trinity Church Road and Old State House Road	__ not for publication
city, town	St. Mary's City	__ vicinity
county	St. Mary's	

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	State of Maryland, St. Mary's College				
street and number				telephone	N/a
city, town	St. Mary's City	state	Md	zip code	20686

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	St. Mary's County Courthouse	tax map and parcel	TM-63, P-3		
city, town	Leonardtown	liber	123	folio	329

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

_____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
_____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
_____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
_____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
_____ Other:_____

6. Classification

Category
_____district
__x__building(s)
_____structure
_____site
_____object

Ownership
_____public
__x__private
_____both

Current Function
_____agriculture
_____commerce/trade
_____defense
_____domestic
__x__education
_____funerary
_____government
_____health care
_____industry
_____landscape
_____recreation/culture
_____religion
_____social
_____transportation
_____work in progress
_____unknown
_____vacant/not in use
_____other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
__1__	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
__1__	_____	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
__0__

7. Description

Inventory No. SM-734

Condition

x excellent ___ deteriorated
___ good ___ ruins
___ fair ___ altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

St. Mary's Hall is beautifully situated on a plateau overlooking the St. Mary's River. Lying just west of the intersection of Old State House Road and Trinity Church Road, this educational building is oriented on a north/south axis. The building is approached via the parking lot located immediately to the south of Calvert Hall and just east of Trinity Church. The area immediately around the building consists of the St. Mary's College Garden of Remembrance (SM-740), a dormitory (Calvert Hall), Trinity Church, and the church's cemetery.

St. Mary's Hall represents a reserved example of the classical revival that occurred in the early twentieth century across America. Dedicated in June 1908, the one story, three bay, brick building features a gable roof sheathed with slate shingles. The roof is pierced by two interior end chimneys located on the east and west sides of the building. The exterior walls consist of bricks laid in a four-to-one common bond. Currently used as a concert and assembly hall, the building has been recently renovated.

The primary or south elevation is dominated by the front portico. Supported by a four plain square columns with tri-partite capitals and barely visible bases, the closed bed pediment is richly ornamented by a full entablature replete with modillions. The tympanum features a stucco interrupted by twelve vertical strips. It is also pierced by an elliptical window decorated with traceries of intersecting Gothic arches. The window is topped by a small keystone. The main entrance is approached via two steps that lead to a covered porch. The doorway consists of two three panel doors topped by an elliptical transom with a similar tracery design as that found on the tympanum. The architrave that surrounds the doorway creates a quoin-like effect that is topped with a keystone.

The main doorway is flanked on either side by double-hung sash windows that consist of two lower lights topped by sash that consists of five lights outlined by traceries formed by intersecting Gothic arches. Both windows are topped by elaborated brick compass arches that spring from imposts and meet at a keystone. The corners of the building are emphasized by brick quoins.

The other elevations were not investigated.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-734

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	x education	__ industry	__ philosophy
1800-1899	x architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__ politics/govemment
__ 1900-1999	__ art	__ entertainment/ recreation	__ landscape architecture	__ religion
__ 2000-	__ commerce	__ ethnic heritage	__ law	__ science
	__ communications	__ exploration/ settlement	__ literature	__ social history
	__ community planning		__ maritime history	__ transportation
	__ conservation		__ military	__ other:

Specific dates June 1908, dedicated **Architect/Builder** George W. Corbitt/Elias Milburn

Construction dates June 1908, dedicated

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____Maryland Register ____x____not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

St. Mary's Hall represents the oldest educational building remaining at St. Mary's College that survived the devastating fire of 1924. Also called the Music Hall, this excellent example of reserved classicism was erected in 1908 and dedicated in June of that year. Designed by George W. Corbitt and constructed by Elias Milburn, the one story brick building is dominated by the front portico. Supported by a four plain square columns with tri-partite capitals and barely visible bases, the closed bed pediment is richly ornamented by a full entablature replete with modillions. The building is currently used as a music and lecture hall and was recently renovated.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-734

Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

Fausz, J. Frederick. Monument School of the People. St. Mary's City: St. Mary's College, 1990.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	1 acre around St. Mary's Hall		
Acreage of historical setting	1 acre around St. Mary's Hall		
Quadrangle name	St. Mary's City	Quadrangle scale:	1:24 000

Verbal boundary description and justification

St. Mary's Hall is situated on a much larger tract that lies on the western bank of the St. Mary's River that is part of St. Mary's College. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber 123, Folio 329.

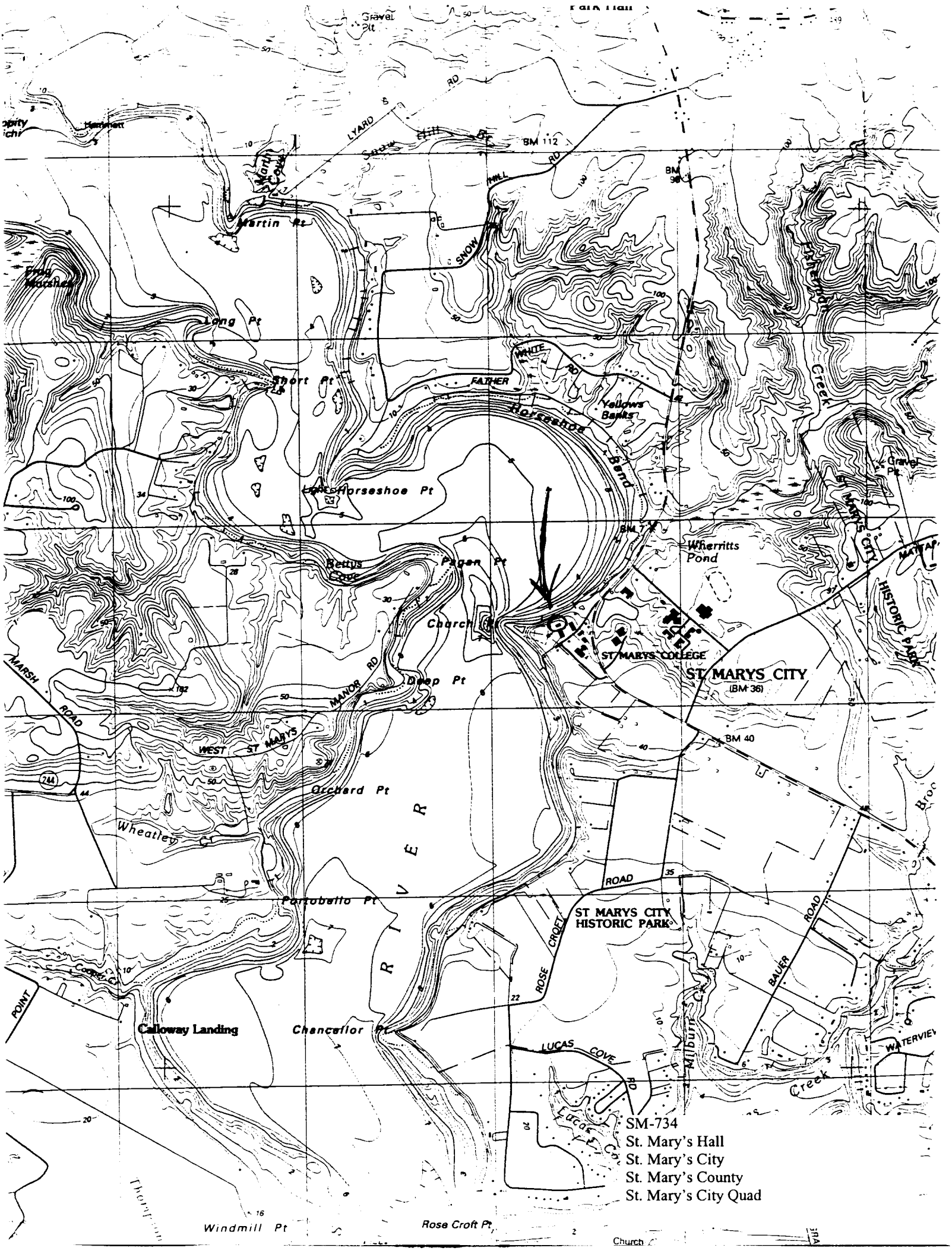
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Maryland

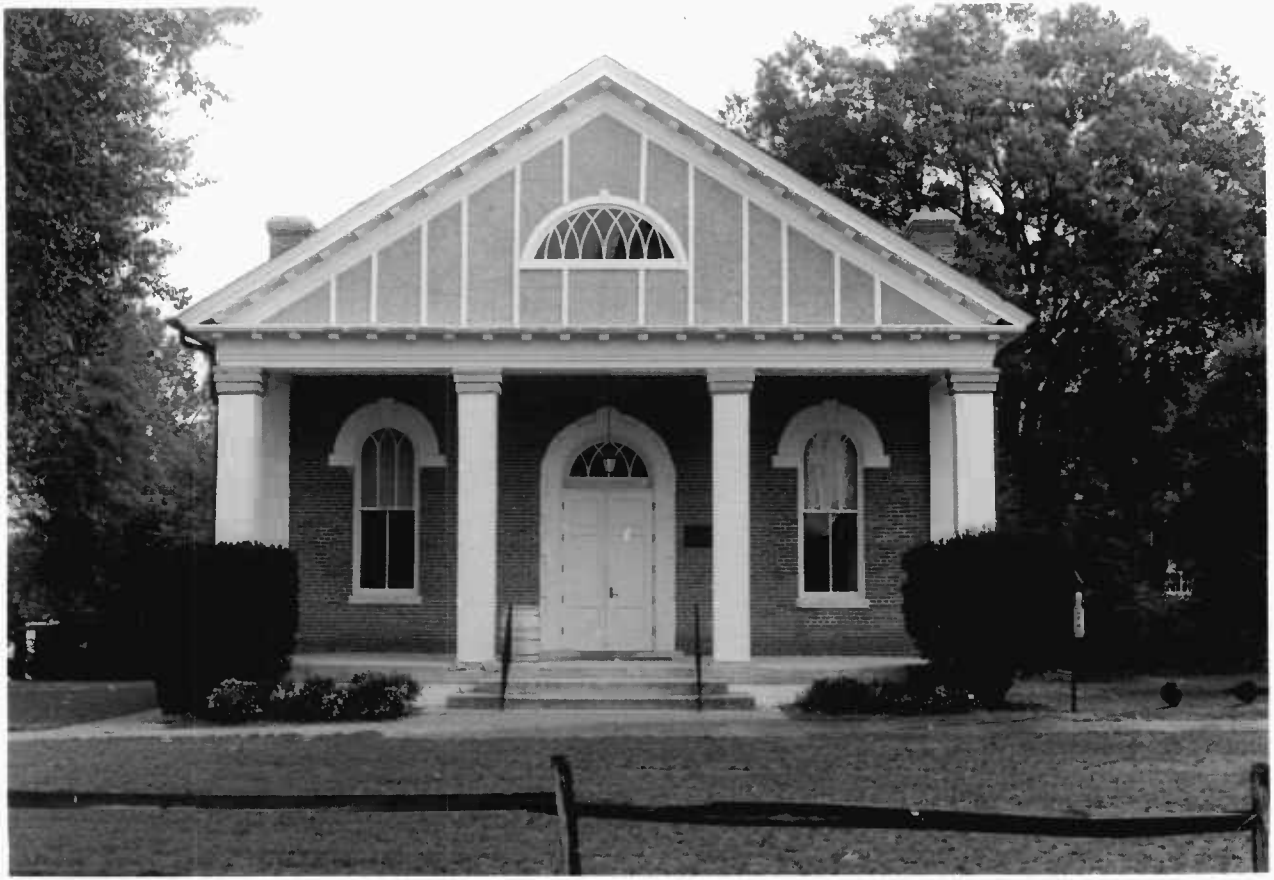
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



SM-734
St. Mary's Hall
St. Mary's City
St. Mary's County
St. Mary's City Quad



SM-734
St. Mary's Hall
St Mary's County, Md
Kirk Ranzetta
Nov 1999
Md SHPO
Elevation Music Hall
1 of 1