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Capsule Summary
SM-739
Kent Hall
St. Mary's City
Public

1941

Just prior to World War 1, St. Mary's Seminary was in the midst of increasing enrollment. Overcrowding and inadequate facilities, however, became more and more apparent. In 1941, the Trustees hired architect Bernard Evander to erect a large, two story brick building on the sloping ridge overlooking St. Mary's River. The colonial-revival style educational building used a series of steel roof trusses to provide the open interior space necessary for the school's gymnasium. Since its construction, the building has been dramatically altered through a series of renovations that converted the gymnasium into classroom space.

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7. Description

Inventory No. SM-739

Condition

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.

Constructed on a northerly sloping grassy lawn, Kent Hall is located on the west side of Trinity Church Road, just south of its intersection with Point Lookout Road. Oriented on a north/south axis, this large educational building is part of St. Mary's College in St. Mary's City, Maryland. Kent Hall commands an extensive view of horseshoe bend and the St. Mary's River that lies just north and west of the building. The building features a parking lot on its north side, but is primarily approached via a brick walkway on its south side.

Built in 1940, and renovated in the late 1990s, Kent Hall is a seven bay, two story, brick colonial-revival educational building with a slate covered gable roof. The building, erected of bricks laid in a five-to-one common bond, rests on an English basement demarcated by a masonry watertable. The cornice consists of a full entablature with a plain frieze and enclosed eave replete with crown moldings. The gable roof, sheathed with slate shingles, is highlighted by raised parapets on either gable end. These parapets terminate near the ridge at a brick chimney flue. The front or south elevation, approached via a full complement of stairs, is composed of centrally located set of two six-panel doors flanked on either side by three large arched bays fenestrated by 42 light windows topped by a semi-circular fanlight consisting of 21 radiating lights. A similar arched bay lies above the doorway, but has been truncated by the entrance as it contains a 21 light window with full fanlight. On either end of these large bays is a recessed six-over-six, double-hung sash window. Each of these bays is interspersed by an engaged Tuscan column of brick that whose top and bottom is emphasized by a different form and color of masonry. Interestingly, the middle four columns have been painted to accentuate their supportive relationship to a fully enclosed pediment that projects from the exterior wall surface. The tympanum appears to be stuccoed. The basement, meanwhile, is fenestrated by a series of windows of various sash as well as a fire exit. In general these bays mirror the symmetrical pattern of the large windows above.

Other elevations were not observed.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-739

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

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Specific dates | March 21, 1941, dedicated | Architect/Builder | Bernard Evander |
| Construction dates | 1940-1941 | | |

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register 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.)

Just prior to World War I, St. Mary's Seminary was in the midst of increasing enrollment. Overcrowding and inadequate facilities, however, became more and more apparent. In 1941, the Trustees hired architect Bernard Evander to erect a large, two story brick building on the sloping ridge overlooking St. Mary's River. The colonial-revival style educational building used a series of steel roof trusses to provide the open interior space necessary for the school's gymnasium. Since its construction, the building has been dramatically altered through a series of renovations that converted the gymnasium into classroom space.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-739

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

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

10. Geographical Data

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

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

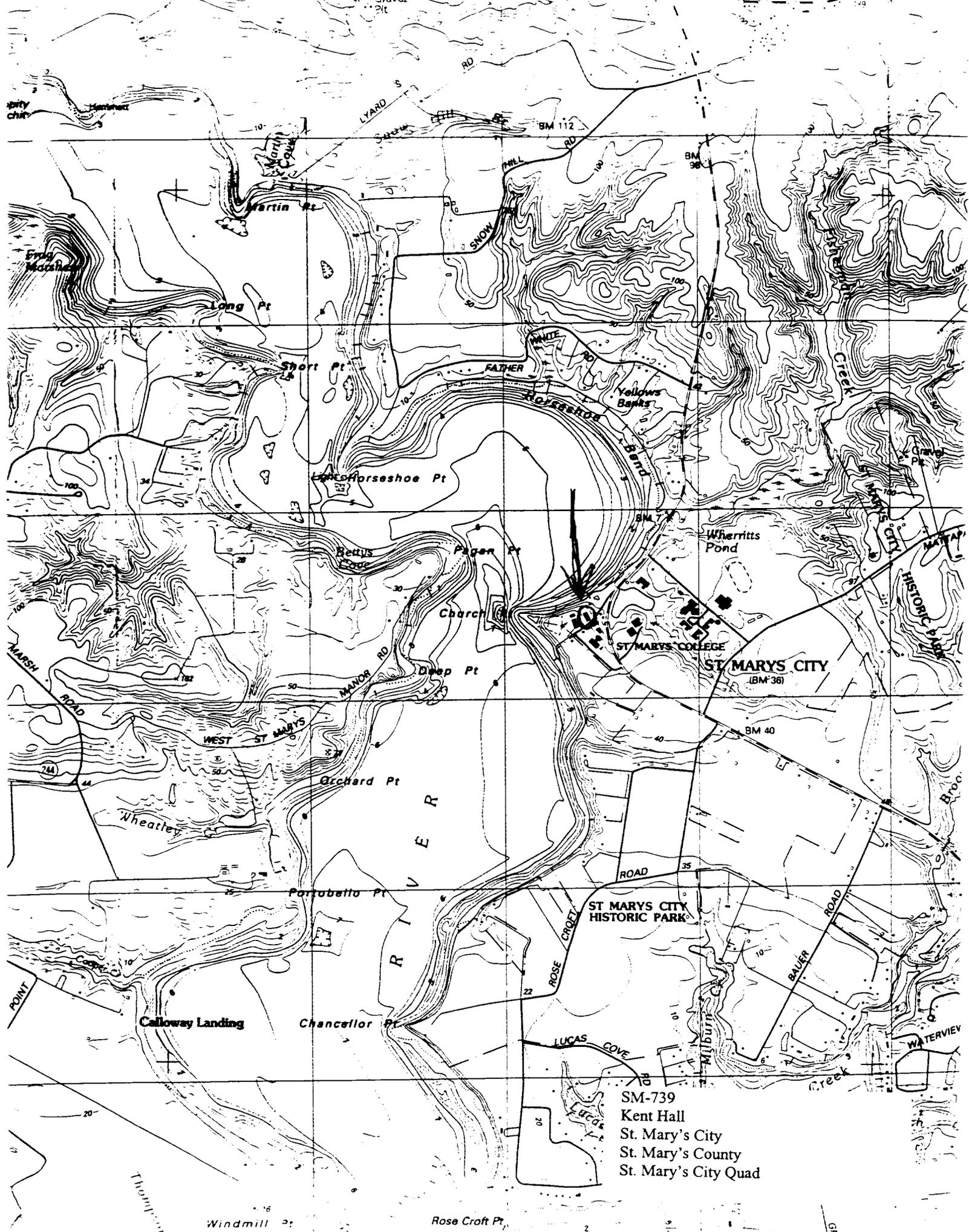
11. Form Prepared by

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|--------------|
| 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 | Leonardtwn | 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-739
 Kent Hall
 St. Mary's City
 St. Mary's County
 St. Mary's City Quad

Thompson

Windmill Pt

Rose Croft Pt

Church

GRA



SM-739

Kent Hall, St. Mary's College

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Rosette

Nov/99

MA 5110

L-Brig ME

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