

CAPSULE SUMMARY

MIHP # D-851

Church Creek Forest Fire Tower
East side of Golden Hill Rd (MD Route 335)
Church Creek vicinity, Maryland
Constructed 1932

Public- within DNR's Department of Natural Resources, Dorchester County Forest Service property

The Church Creek Forest Fire Tower stands in a clearing on property utilized by the Dorchester County Forest Service, a subdivision of the State's DNR, approximately eight miles southwest of the town of Cambridge, in northwest Dorchester County, MD. Approaching the site from US Route 50 in Cambridge, one turns south on two lane Church Creek Road, MD Route 16. In the town of Church Creek, one turns south onto 1.5 lane Golden Hill Road (MD Route 335). The site is approximately 2.2 miles south of the town on the east side. On the 3.12 acre parcel, the tower is situated approximately forty feet away from the entrance on Golden Hill Road. The tower is highly visible and accessible from the road. There is a poultry farm located on the parcel to the north and cultivated fields are on all sides of the DNR property. Three miles to the south is the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.

The tower is associated with the statewide construction of forty-two towers to reduce fire danger, during the period 1915-1960s. Its steel structure is 120 feet in height, stilt-like, four legged, topped by a completely intact enclosed cab, which is reached by a trap door, accessible to the towermen and towerwomen by a stairway of 120-145 steps. It was not constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps and is in fair condition.

Built 1932, the Church Creek Tower is located on a DNR- owned property where there are the following additional structures related to services provided by the Forest Service. There is a gable roofed, frame dwelling, 1.5 stories, 52 feet by 27 feet, built c. 1961 and used as a residence by park personnel. There is a garage and office building, constructed c. 1980 for the Dorchester County Forest Service staff, and a small c. 1970 garage and storage building. The original c. 1932 towerman's office, once located approximately fifty feet east of the tower, was demolished 1955-59.

The tower does not appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Neither is the c. 1961 house a contributing historic resource to the property. The tower does embody a statewide initiative to fight forest fires, but it is not unique in its construction, and no people of significance are associated with the site.



CHURCH CREEK Forest Fire Tower
CHURCH CREEK vic.
DORCHESTER CO.



CHURCH CREEK FOREST FIRE TOWER
CHURCH CREEK VIC.
DUNCANSTON CO.