

BA-126
MAGI #0301264502

BALTIMORE COUNTY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Old House, OLDFIELDS SCHOOL

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

ED X
HEREFORD QUAD

STREET & NUMBER

1500 Glencoe Road

3rd Councilmanic District

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Glencoe

X VICINITY OF

2nd Congressional District

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME OLDFIELDS SCHOOL, INC.
c/o Mr. Hawley Rogers, Headmaster

Telephone #: 472-4800

STREET & NUMBER

1500 Glencoe Road

CITY, TOWN

Glencoe

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21152

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courts Building

Liber #: JW B 1609

Folio #: 482

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Baltimore County Historic Sites Inventory MHT Inventory No.
Maryland Historical Trust BA 126

DATE

On-going since 1964

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

BA-126 entered MHT-AS1 7/27/65

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"OLD HOUSE" at OLDFIELDS SCHOOL is that part of a rambling complex of buildings from which this prestigious girls' boarding school took its start. The structure is a frame double tenant house, and has undergone some changes.

Old House is 2-1/2 stories, 4 bays wide, and has been expanded with a shed dormer and rooms have been added at the rear to provide additional space once used as a dormitory. On the west end, a large frame residence in clapboard and shingle adjoins the original tenant house and is called "New House" (1906). On the east end of Old House is a one-story sunroom built in 1920 as a dining room. The rear facade is almost entirely lost in additional construction.

The front facade has a ground level porch supported by posts running across the full width of the house. At the first-story level, there are four windows with louvered shutters and two paneled doors. The second-story windows are also provided with shutters. Windows at both levels are double-hung 6-on-6 sash types. The windows in the shed dormer form three groups with three casement windows in each group.

Inside Old House, the original tenant house rooms on the first story are called the "Old Parlors" and notable features are slanted ceilings marking the undersides of stairways at either end of the house. There are also fireplaces, chair rails, and low doorways. The parlors present a simple appearance and are tastefully furnished. The west parlor leads into the headmaster's office in New House, and New House continues on an axis perpendicular to Old House and leads on through various passages into a range of school buildings erected in a number of stages.

Old House is the only structure on the campus nominated to the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input 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 Unknown

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"OLD HOUSE," one of the cherished landmarks of Oldfields School, was originally a double tenant house, and is estimated to date from the early part of the 19th Century.

The present campus is part of a 1600-acre tract first surveyed in 1727 for John Tailor and given the name "Taylor's [sic] Purchase." In 1759, some of that grant was repatented by Amon Richards under the name "Taylor's Purchase Resurveyed." Charles Ridgely came into some of the property and in 1770 demised it to William Lux. Ridgely and his son-in-law Lux were partners in the Northampton Furnace near the present Pine Ridge Golf Course and there is a tradition at Oldfields that there was a charcoal burner's hut on the grounds—charcoal being the chief fuel for primitive iron furnaces.

The 1783 tax list shows John Ridgely with 1.060 acres of Taylor's Purchase (and only 25 Pounds worth of improvements) while Darby Lux owned 550 acres, improved to the extent of 956 Pounds.

The involved history of the property is recited in a deed of 1847, and apparently the portion of this land that became the nucleus of the school site was at the time of the 1798 tax list in the hands of William Lux, who was charged with "one old dwelling house of log, very indifferent." The tenant on that 555-acre tract was Amos Ogden. William Lux mortgaged his part of Taylor's Purchase and following his default, Samuel Moale was appointed trustee and sold the place at public auction held on September 4, 1806. Highest bidder was Amos Ogden (1).

Ogden died in 1817 and the property passed to Sarah Burke, who became Sarah Wheeler, wife of Benjamin Wheeler (2). In 1822, Benjamin Wheeler deeded 158 acres to Abraham Green (3). Abraham Green bequeathed the property to Jemima Johnson in 1831. Some 16 years later, Jemima Johnson or Johnston sold to George Austen whose daughter founded the school (4).

In all these transactions, clues are lacking in regard to the small tenant house submerged in so large an estate. A search of three Baltimore newspapers in the month before the 1806 auction sale has failed to produce the trustee's advertisement describing the property.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Austen, a partner in the Baltimore furniture firm of Austen and ^{Hess} Niss, had retired in 1845 and he acquired large holdings near a village that came to be called Glencoe but was then Love's Switch. His main farm was Felstone or Filston, named for the ancestral place of his English forebears (5). This estate is not shown on the 1850 map by J. C. Sidney, but in the 1877 atlas plate of District 10, Edward Austen is shown as owner of "Old Fields."

The name "Oldfields" was selected after the Civil War by George Austen's daughter Alice (Mrs. John) McMurrin. Miss Mary W. C. McCulloch cites family tradition that the "Old House" had been occupied by the Shock family, probably without title, prior to George Austen's arrival.

Edward Austen was son of George Austen and had been given the property in 1865 for natural love and affection (6). George Austen's daughter, Mrs. Anna Austen McCulloch, wife of John Sears McCulloch, came with her family to live at Glencoe in 1867. Mr. McCulloch was a New York maritime lawyer, but he had fallen into poor health and was going blind. Mrs. McCulloch started a private school in the parlor of a double tenant house (now known as Old House) and her first ten pupils included her own seven children.

The school prospered and Mrs. McCulloch developed a system of education that was well ahead of her time. The family was Episcopalian, but the school was never an official church institution. The students were taken to chapel in horse-drawn vehicles to Saint James on Monkton-Manor Road, but in 1870 Mrs. McCulloch persuaded her uncle to donate land across Glencoe Road for a place of worship. That structure was built in 1871 as Immanuel Church (MHT Inventory No. BA 127). A path led directly from Oldfields School to Immanuel.

Mrs. McCulloch was the first school administrator to add chemistry to a girls' school program and about 1878 she introduced horseback riding. She also advocated student government. Oldfields was the first girls' school to have a gymnasium and that structure, listed as 33 by 100 feet, in the 1918 tax ledger is now an auditorium and an appendage of the Old House-New House range of buildings.

Mrs. McCulloch's daughter Anna Green McCulloch, helped manage the school and was fully in charge by 1904; she was long known as "Miss Nan." Her brother, Duncan McCulloch, who had come to Glencoe as a child, became an Episcopal minister and was eventually rector of Immanuel across the road. The Rev. Duncan McCulloch controlled the school finances for a time and eventually became principal in 1907. The tax lists of 1911 and 1918 show Mr. McCulloch as personal owner of the school, which by 1918 had become a complex of eight buildings.

A third generation of the founding family participated in the running of the school in the persons of Miss Mary McCulloch and Duncan McCulloch, Jr.

In 1926, Oldfields was incorporated and its charter stated that the corporation was

to carry on a school for girls which will preserve the traditional character of the school founded and conducted for many years by Mrs. Anna Austen McCulloch succeeded by her children, the Rev. Duncan McCulloch and Miss Anna Greene McCulloch laying particular emphasis upon the development of Christian character as well as a sound and liberal education (7).

The connection with the founding family ended in 1962 with the death of Dundan McCulloch, Jr. The school has continued to the present as a non-profit institution governed by a self-perpetuating board of 16 trustees composed of parents, past parents, and alumnae. The school announced in 1977 that it would take a limited number of day students. Present enrollment is approximately 93. Admission to Oldfields is non-discriminatory, based on academic record and recommendations from past school principals. Some 20% of the students are on scholarship aid.

The most famous Oldfields alumna is probably the Duchess of Windsor, who described her stay from 1912 to 1914 in an upstairs bedroom of Old House as a "sedate and really uneventful two years." The former Miss Warfield added that she was not interested in academic things. Present Oldfields students almost all go on to college rather than turning immediately to the foundation of families (8).

Notes:

1. B.C. Deeds, WG 93:47.
2. B.C. Wills, WB 10:376.
3. B.C. Deeds, WG 165:343.
4. B.C. Deeds, AWB 385:345.
5. T. J. Scharf, History of Baltimore City and County (Philadelphia, 1881), p. 909.
6. B.C. Deeds, JHL 43:407.
7. B.C. Incorporations, WPC 8:63, received for record, February 1, 1926.
8. Randi Henderson, "Duchess's Old School Will Take Day Students," Sun, April 15, 1977, p. B-1.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Oldfields School," pamphlet issued by school, 1977.
Unpublished ms. of school history, in possession of Oldfields teacher,
Mary Hassett.
Other data from Miss Mary W. C. McCulloch, Glencoe, December 21, 1977.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 200

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

N/A

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE None COUNTY None

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John W. McGrain, Executive Secretary

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Commission

DATE

November 1977

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

TELEPHONE

494-3495

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438