NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Baltimore County School No. 7
other names/site number Ashland School (preferred)

2. Location

street 200 Ashland Road
not for publication n/a city or town Cockeysville vicinity n/a
state Maryland code MD county Baltimore code 005 zip code 21030

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide x locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

7-13-00

Signature of certifying official Date

In my opinion, the property ✓ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register _____
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the National Register _____
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined not eligible for the National Register _____
____ removed from the National Register _____

____ other (explain): _____

_____ _____
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

_x_ private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

_x_ building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in National Register 0
Name of related multiple property listing n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: EDUCATION Sub: school
Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
roof Slate
walls Stone
other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

x A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

____ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

x C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

____ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
____ B removed from its original location.
____ C a birthplace or a grave.
____ D a cemetery.
____ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
____ F a commemorative property.
____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
EDUCATION
INDUSTRY

Period of Significance 1882-1929

Significant Dates 1882; 1929

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder Davis, Frank E., architect
Merryman, Robert G., builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
_x_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
_x_ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately one acre
USGS quadrangle Cockeysville, MD
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	358790	4372830	C			
B				D			

See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Steven C. Stoecklein
organization n/a date July, 1999
street & number 200 Ashland Road telephone (410) 925-6224
city or town Cockeysville state MD zip code 21030

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets
Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)
name Steven C. & Donna J. Stoecklein
street & number 200 Ashland Road telephone (410) 925-6224
city or town Cockeysville state MD zip code 21030

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Baltimore County School #7 was constructed in 1882 atop a hill at the intersection of Ashland Road and Paper Mill Road, at the entrance to the village of Ashland, associated with the Ashland Iron Works. The structure is built of rough cut marble ashlar from the nearby Butler/Beaver Dam Quarry. The exterior reflects the influence of the Queen Anne style with gabled windows, elaborate cornice work, fan-shaped attic vents at the roof peak, and numerous large banks of multi-paned windows.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Approximately 75 yards to the west of the property is the West Branch of the Gunpowder River; southwest of the property is the Ashland Presbyterian Church (1874). The school was built on land donated by the Ashland Iron Works to replace previous frame schoolhouse which had been provided free of charge by the company to the Board of County School Commissioners.

The interior of the building was altered in 1930 from the two-room schoolhouse configuration to that of an upscale private residence, still incorporating the 25-foot barrel-vaulted ceilings with exposed beams and trusses. Very attractive architectural details were added, such as a large foyer or reception hall paneled in Southern "gumwood" with Ebony beads with two sets of double French doors that lead into the two main rooms. The "great room" living room is wainscoted with the same "gumwood" paneling. All of the floors in the house are finished with 2" by 1" thick heart pine flooring all run on the diagonal. Also added in the 1930 conversion was an elegant stairway with unique wood and iron railings that lead to a loft that is encloseded by a glazed curtain wall with an unusual wedge-shaped door. Other notable features from the 1930 period are a beautiful stone fireplace with "Inglenook"-style sitting area across from it that together separate the dining room and great room. The dining room has several custom built in cabinets that are federal style and the walls are covered with a faux stone simulating varied stone blocks that was popularized in England in the 19th century.

The exterior has remained largely unaltered. When the school was rendered surplus in 1929 after 47 years of service it was purchased by a retired business executive and converted to a residence at a then-huge sum of $15,000.00. The exterior was altered merely by the extension of the front porch at this time and the addition of a large garage and guesthouse at the rear of the structure (both not connected to the main house). Sometime in the 1950-60 period a flat roofed "mudroom" was added off the kitchen at the

rear of the house. This inappropriate addition subsequently became deteriorated and was replaced with one better suited for the building, during a campaign of rehabilitation in 1999.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Ashland School is significant under Criterion C for its architectural character. Constructed in 1882 to the design of prominent Baltimore architect Frank E. Davis, it is a noteworthy example of the Queen Anne style applied to a rural school building. In its architectural elaboration and its substantial masonry construction, the building marks a departure from the standard frame school buildings that had been erected by the Baltimore County School Commissioners since the 1860s. Upon its removal from service in 1929, the interior of the building was remodeled as a private residence, and the high quality of the design and workmanship involved in this conversion is significant in its own right. The School derives additional significance under Criterion A for its association with the Ashland Iron Works, an early 19th century industrial enterprise in Baltimore County, and its company town; the school was constructed on property donated to the county by the iron company, and primarily served the children of immigrant iron workers resident in the company town.

RESOURCE HISTORY AND HISTORIC CONTEXT

School #7, District 8 at Ashland Iron Works represents a drastic departure from the standard school design that had been for years the norm in Baltimore County. In fact, it was the first individually-designed school built by the Baltimore County Board of School Commissioners with public funds on land donated by the Ashland Iron Works, proprietor Col. Wm. B. Franklin. Prominent Baltimore architect Frank E. Davis, one of the founding members of the Maryland Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, was commissioned to design the building, which was built by Robert G. Merryman. The structure is a fine and intact example of Queen Anne-style architecture of substantial masonry construction, employing marble from the Butler quarry (the same quarry used to construct the Washington Monument and many other prominent Washington, DC and Baltimore landmarks). It is also representative of the work of Frank E. Davis (1839-1921), a prolific architect in the Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia region. This schoolhouse is also important for its association with the company town of Ashland, as it was built to educate the children of mostly Irish and German iron workers. It is further noted that many community functions, meetings, and celebrations took place at Ashland School #7 during the 47 years it remained in service, on the hill, at the only entrance to the village.

The charter for the Ashland Iron Works was granted in the summer of 1844 to Christian Geiger, Philip Small, and Samuel Small; the Small brothers had interests in flour milling and dry goods based in York, Pennsylvania. By

the end of the year, Charles S. Gilmor of Baltimore and the owners of the Joppa Iron Works, Joseph W. Patterson and Edward Patterson, were brought into the company.

By 1850 the Ashland Iron Works employed 45 persons and produced 4,300 tons of pig iron annually from two furnaces representing a capital investment of $150,000. The company was the first in Baltimore County to utilize anthracite coal rather than charcoal. By 1860, capital had increased to $200,000, and 200 employees produced 8,000 tons of iron per year. The year 1865 saw production rise to 200 tons per week; the company numbered 250 hands, 200 railroad cars, and 80 to 100 horses and mules. Construction began in 1867 on a third furnace, which was brought into blast in 1871.

Ashland represented a technology midway between the primitive colonial furnaces and the great blast furnaces that went on line in the 1890s. The hot air blast was pumped by steam engines, although water power also was available from the Western Run.

The village developed by the company comprised a town office, a store, and some 65 workers' houses, including a row of two-story stone dwellings with a single room on each floor. The ironmaster or manager lived in a substantial brick mansion located near the station of the Northern Central Railway. By 1871 (and perhaps earlier), the company provided a building for use as a school for workers' children, without charge to the county school system. The Ashland Presbyterian Church, a stone Gothic Revival edifice at the west end of the town, was established in 1874 under the leadership of Col. Walter S. Franklin, manager of the Ashland works.

The present school was built in 1881 to replace the previous structure. The Minutes of the Board of School Commissioners of Baltimore County, meeting on May 13, 1878, show that Colonel Franklin proposed an addition to School No. 7, District No. 8, at Ashland. The minutes show that architect Frank E. Davis of Baltimore was authorized to make plans for a stone structure capable of seating 150 pupils.

Frank E. Davis (1839-1921) was one of Baltimore's most accomplished and prolific architects of the late nineteenth century. He apparently studied architecture in the office of William B. Reasin, and began his practice after Reasin's death in 1867. Davis was a founding member of the Baltimore Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (1870), and by the time he received the commission for the Ashland School he had established a substantial portfolio, including churches, commercial buildings, and institutional structures both in Baltimore and in Cumberland, Maryland. Most significant

among his works during this period were the Western Police Station (1871) at Pine and Saratoga streets; the State Normal School (1875) at Franklin Square; and two important city school buildings, Female Grammar and Primary School No. 1 (1875) and Male Grammar & Primary School No. 1 (1880), that faced each other on diagonally opposite corners of Fayette & Greene streets. Male School No. 1 survives, and has been rehabilitated by the University of Maryland Law School. Davis' architectural signature is distinctive during this period, particularly in his school and church designs; his eclectic exterior compositions often involve variations on multiple pedimented gables and sunburst-style vents, as seen at the Ashland School.

Robert G. Merryman was awarded the contract to build the school at Ashland at the sum of $4,388. The 1881 Annual Report of the Board of School Commissioners reported:

> At Ashland, in the Eighth District, a one-story stone building, with three class rooms, which will accommodate one hundred and fifty pupils. The school lot was donated to the board by the Ashland Iron Company and for ten years past, the building occupied by the school has been given free of rent by the same company.*

In addition to donating the lot, the iron company paid for hauling the stone for the new building, which was formally dedicated on December 18, 1881. Colonel Franklin hosted a reception at the ironmaster's house following the ceremonies. The Towson newspaper commented:

> The new building is one of the most suitable as it is one of the handsomest ever built by the School Board. The school is a live one and is patronized by Col. Franklin and other prominent citizens. As far as we could learn, there are no carpers at either the school system or its officials in that part of the school vineyard.*

Ironically, by the time this remarkable new amenity was added to the community, the economic viability of the Ashland operations had become increasingly uncertain. Demand for pig iron of the type produced by the Ashland works had begun to decline in the mid-1870s, and in 1884 President George Small announced the closure of the plant. Two years later, the Pennsylvania Steel Company took a lease on the furnace, but found it unprofitable, and early in 1890 all the raw materials remaining at Ashland were removed to their new plant at Sparrows Point. The obsolete town was sold in 1892; the equipment and fixtures were parceled out, and even the accumulated cinders were sold for road material.

In 1924, Baltimore furrier Mano Swartz purchased the entire village at auction. The Swartz family occupied the ironmaster's house, which burned in 1932.

The Ashland Public School had become obsolete by the late 1920s. In April, 1929, the building was sold to Pearl B. Phillips for $1,850. The building was then converted to a private residence; the existing interior appointments represent fine design and craftsmanship of the 1930s period.

The workers' housing was rented to low-income tenants until 1984, when substandard sanitary conditions forced its abandonment. The village has since been redeveloped.

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MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Periods:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, A. D. 1870-1939

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Education: school

Known Design Source: Davis, Frank E., architect

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McGrain, John W. From Pig Iron to Cotton Duck: A History of Manufacturing Villages in Baltimore County. Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1985.

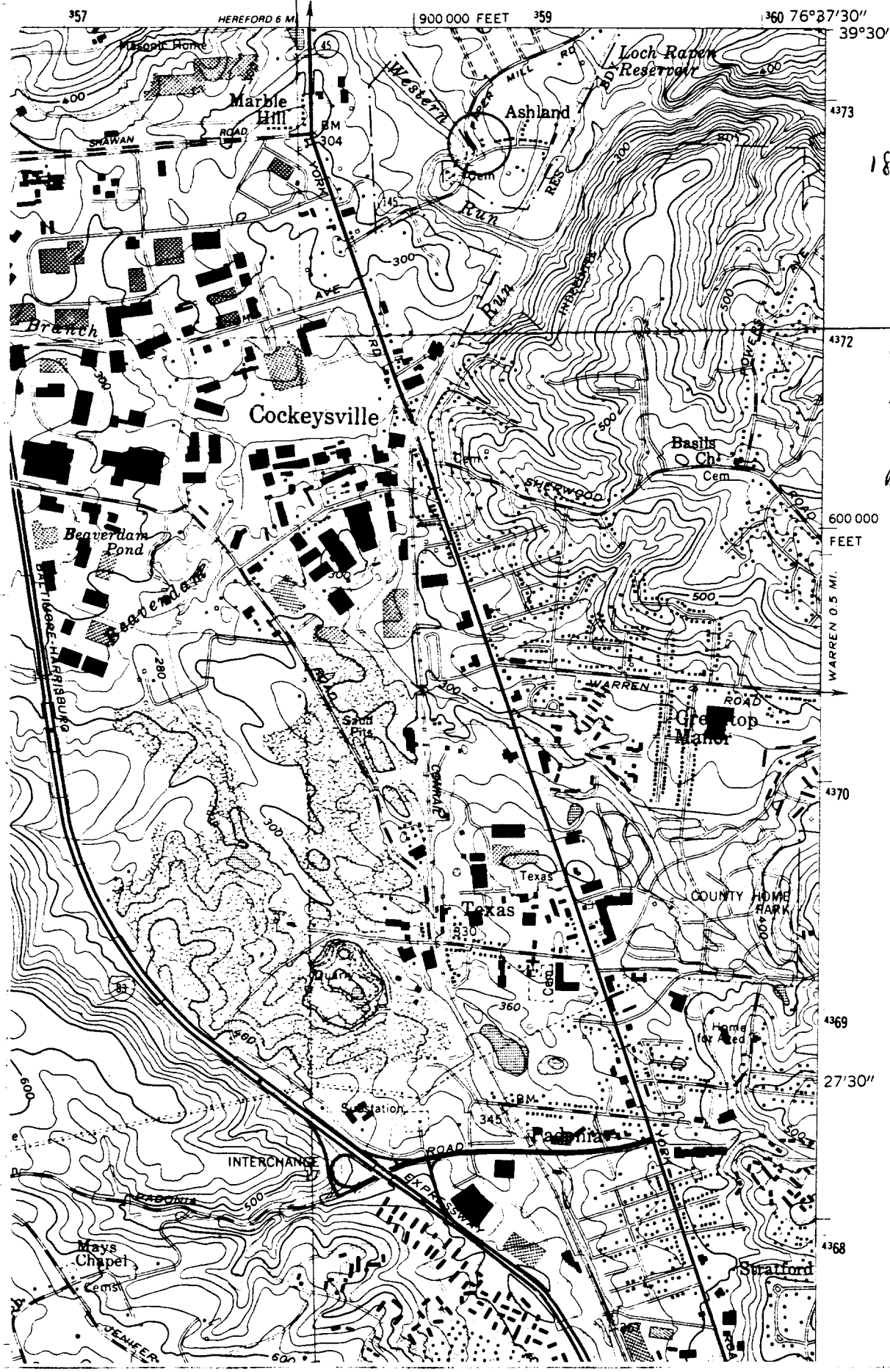
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is described in Liber SM 13550, folio 006, among the land records of Baltimore County.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property comprises the remnant of the parcel historically associated with the resource.

COCKEYSVILLE QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND—BALTIMORE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5663 II SE (PHOENIX)



18-358790-
4372830

BA-202
ASHLAND SCHOOL
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

BA-202
ASHLAND SCHOOL
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
PHOTO BY STEVE STOECKLEIN, 11/89
NEG AT MD SHPO

VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST

#1 OF 5

BA-202
ASHLAND SCHOOL
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
PHOTO BY STEVE STOECKLEIN, 11/99
NEG AT MD SHPO
SOUTH ELEVATION

#2 OF 5

BA-202
ASHLAND SCHOOL
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
PHOTO BY STEVE STOECKLEIN, 11/99
NEG AT MD SHPO
VIEW FROM NORTHWEST

#3 OF 5

BA-202

ASHLAND SCHOOL

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

PHOTO BY STEVE STOECKLEIN, 11/99

NEG AT MD SHPO

INTERIOR, FACING NORTHEAST

#4 OF 5

BA-202

ASHLAND SCHOOL
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
PHOTO BY STEVE STOECKLEIN, 11/99
NEG AT MD SHPO

DETAIL, STAIR AND GLAZED PARTITION

#5 OF 5

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

William Donald Schaefer
Governor

Jacqueline H. Rogers
Secretary, DHCD

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

operty/District Name: Ashland Public School No. 7 Survey Number: BA 202
200 Ashland Rd at Papermill Rd, Cockeysville

oject: MD 45 from MD145 to Belfast Rd Agency: FSHA

te visit by MHT Staff: X no ___ yes Name _____ Date _____

igibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended ___

iteria: X A ___ B X C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G X None

stification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

This one-story, three room stone structure was built in 1882 on land donated by the Ashland Iron Company. It was designed as Public School #7 by Frank E. Davis as a significant departure from the standard simple school design.

The school is important for its association with the company town of Ashland as it was built to educate the children of the mostly Irish iron workers. In addition, it is significant as one of the first architect-designed schools in Baltimore County, and one of the few extant buildings designed by Frank E. Davis.

ocumentation on the property/district is presented in: 1/8/91 letter from SHA to MHT - Contract No. B.331-101-471, MD 45 from MD 145 to Belfast Rd

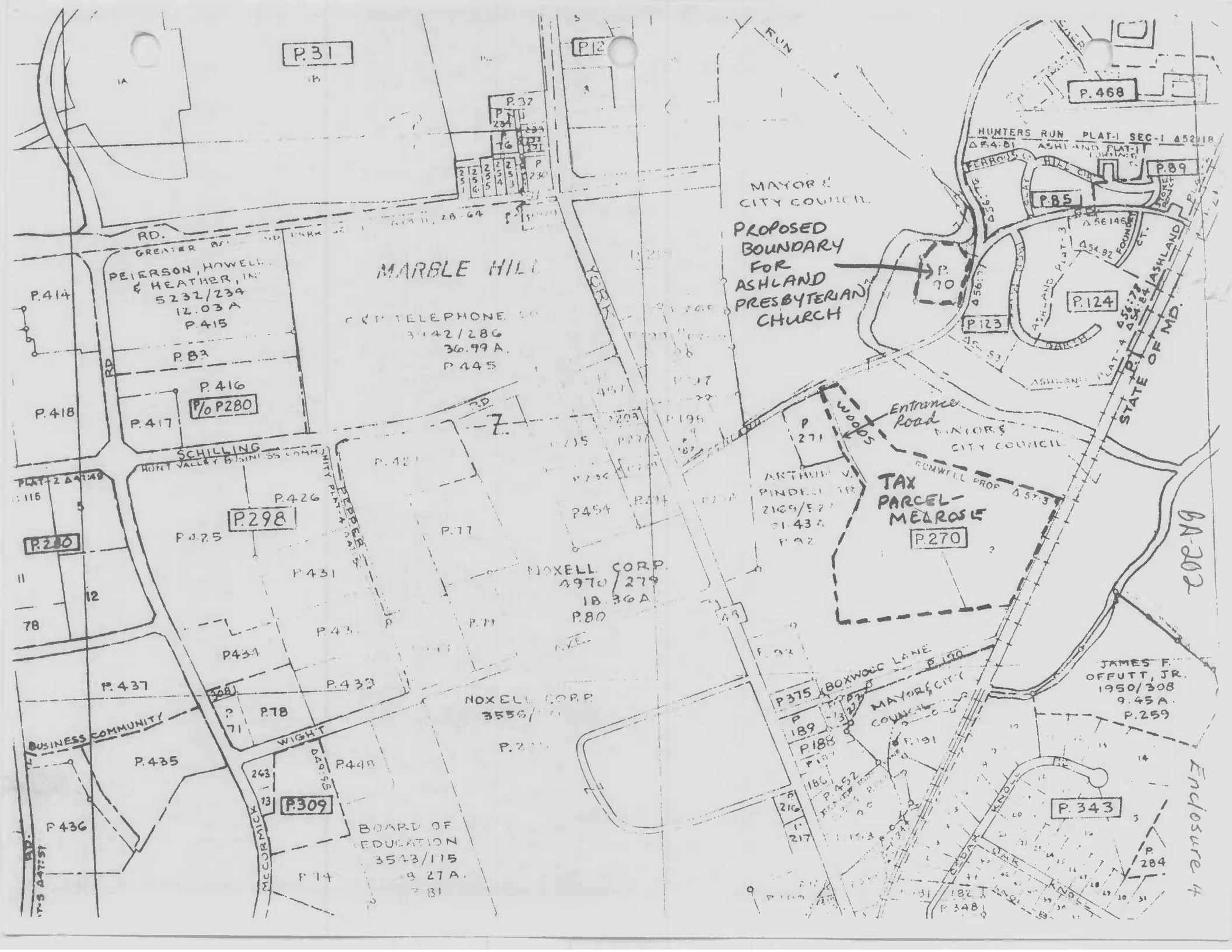
repared by: Rita Suffness

Elizabeth Hannold 2/27/91
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: ___ yes ___ no X not applicable

_____ _____
Reviewer, NR program Date

jmg



P.31
P.12
P.468
HUNTERS RUN PLAT-1 SEC-1
ASHLAND PLAT-1
P.89
P.85
MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL
PROPOSED BOUNDARY FOR ASHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P.90
P.124
P.123
ASHLAND PLAT-3
ASHLAND PLAT-4
STATE OF MD.
RD.
GREATER BALTIMORE PARK
PEIERSON, HOWELL & HEATHER, INC.
5232/234
12.03 A
P.415
MARBLE HILL
C&P TELEPHONE CO.
3942/286
36.99 A.
P.445
P.414
P.83
P.416
P/o P280
P.418
P.417
SCHILLING
HUNT VALLEY BUSINESS COMMUNITY
YORK
Entrance Road
WOODS
MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL
TAX PARCEL-MELROSE
P.270
P.271
ARTHUR V. PINDELL JR.
2169/527
21.43 A
P.92
P.426
P.298
P.425
P.280
P.431
P.77
P.454
NOXELL CORP.
4970/279
18.36 A
P.80
P.434
P.437
P.433
P.78
P.71
NOXELL CORP.
3556/
BUSINESS COMMUNITY
WIGHT
P.435
P.448
P.309
P.436
BOARD OF EDUCATION
3543/115
8.27 A.
P.81
McCORMICK
P.375
BOXWOOD LANE
MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL
P.189
P.188
P.191
P.452
P.216
P.217
JAMES F. OFFUTT, JR.
1950/308
9.45 A.
P.259
P.343
P.284
P.348
BA-202
Enclosure 4

BA-202

Enclosure 1
Melrose (BA77)

Enclosure 2-BA201
Ashland ~~School~~ Church

Enclosure 3-BA202
Ashland Pub. School

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. BA 202
Magi No. 030202
DOE ___yes x no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Ashland Public School

and/or common School 7 District 8

2. Location

street & number 200 Ashland Road ___ not for publication

city, town Ashland x vicinity of congressional district Councilmanic District No. 3 2

state MD county Baltimore County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	x occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
x building(s)	x private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	x private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	x yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	x not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Mr. Steven C. and Donna Stoecklein

street & number 200 Ashland Road telephone no.: 410-925-6224

city, town Cockeysville state and zip code MD 21030

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building liber SM 13550

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue folio 1

city, town Towson state MD 21204

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title "Ashland Public School," Maryland Historical Trust Inventory

date March 20, 1968 ___ federal x state x county ___ local

ository for survey records 100 Community Place

city, town Crownsville state MD 21030

7. Description

Survey No. BA 202

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	_X_ deteriorated	_x_ unaltered	_x_ original site
___ good	___ ruins	___ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

Ashland Public School designed in 1878 is a stone structure in a High Victorian Style with heavy bracketing and polychrome slate roofing, a very imaginative design for a school that was dedicated in 1881. It is the work of the same architect as Trinity Church Rectory in Towson and many schools in both city and county. The Towson paper in 1881 described the school as 27 by 57 feet with a stone wing of one story, 42 feet in length, one story, covered with slate. There was no further description. (1) A photograph in the Towson public library "Heritage" collection" shows a group at the Ashland school in the ca. 1910 era, long dresses and shirtwaists on the women and girls, and the windows appear as casement types with very small lozenge shaped lights. A picture of the entire school appears in the history of iron manufacture demonstrating that even about 1910 there were the two distinct pavilions with a central entrance. (2)

In the 1930s when the school was depicted in a real estate brochure, there were the same two pavilions facing the road. The gable peaks of these pavilions are infilled with wooden sunbursts, which probably date from the 1880s. The tall side windows topped with dormers were also part of the original design, as demonstrated in the 1910 postcard. A cartoon in the *Jeffersonian* on September 20, 1924, at the time of the town auction showed the school house much as it is today. The first residential owner, Pearl B. Phillips, issued some real estate literature reporting that the house had enjoyed $15,000 in repairs to make it a home for a retired businessman. Ms. Phillips noted that the walls were marble, ranging from 18 to 24 inches thick. (3) The grounds were heavily landscaped in the post-1929 alterations, and various rooms were carved out of the school space. The 1930s brochure shows both a garage and a woodshed.

NOTES:

1. "Ashland Public School—A Handsome New House Dedicated," *Maryland Journal*, Towson, December 24, 1881, p. 3.

2. John W. McGrain, *From Pig Iron to Cotton Duck* (Towson, 1985), p. 44. The photograph is from a postcard published by Kauffman of Baltimore.

3. Pearl B. Phillips, "Own This Home for $90.00 A Month," undated real estate brochure, 1930s.

1980s Rendering, Ashland Public School, by the Strutt Group

8. Significance

Survey No. BA 202

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	x architecture	x education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
x 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1881 **Builder/Architect** R. H. Merryman/ Frank E. Davis

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B __C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state __local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The stone public school building at Ashland is an excellent example of the work of a well known city architect and its origin is fixed by school board minutes and newspaper items. The Minutes of the Board of School Commissioners, meeting on May 13, 1878, show that Colonel Walter W. Franklin, manager of the Ashland Iron Company, proposed an addition to School No. 7, District No. 8, at Ashland. The minutes show that architect Frank E. Davis of Baltimore was authorized to make plans for three schools, including a stone structure capable of seating 150 pupils. Thomas C. Bruff was to advertise for bids on construction. A few pages later, the minutes show that Davis was paid $153.58. A few pages more showed that Robert G. Merryman was awarded the contract to build the school at Ashland at the sum of $4,388. (1)

The Towson newspaper also reported on the award:

> Contracts for building new schools at Ashland and Uppercoe—the former For $4,388, and the latter for $1,791—were awarded to R.G. Merryman. (2)

The annual report of the Board of School Commissioners of Baltimore County contained the following:

> At Ashland, in the Eighth District, a one-story stone building, with three class rooms, which will accommodate one hundred and fifty pupils. The school lot was donated to the board by the Ashland Iron Company and for ten years past, the building occupied by the school has been given free of rent by the same company. (3)

The same annual report (for the year 1881) listed School No. 7 as a "stone house", not yet completed, costing $1,250.58. (4) Elsewhere in the report was a listing of teachers, including Ida R. Parkison and G. Clinton Hanna at Ashland (5)

The Ashland Iron Company had been started in 1844 and carried on into the 1880s, almost to the time when the great steel plant at Sparrows Point was started. Ashland represented a technology midway between the primitive colonial furnaces and the great blast furnaces that went on line in the 1890s. There were three firebrick stacks at Ashland, encased in iron jackets; sometimes the hot air blast was pumped by steam engines, although there was also waterpower available too. (6) After many shutdowns and attempts to get back into production, the Baltimore Sun reported on January 17, 1888, that the Ashland Steel Works "blew out last night and the work was stopped." The paper blamed the situation on the Reading strike and the "scarcity of coal." Early in 1890, the Steelton Company gathered up all its supplies of ore and took the raw material to Sparrows Point. (7) The Ashland housing was rehabbed into upscale residential space in the early 1980s after serving for many years as substandard housing for rather poor people.

The school was formally dedicated on December 18, 1881. The Towson paper reported that Colonel Walter W. Franklin of the Iron Company had paid for hauling the stones. After the ceremonies, Colonel Franklin invited the out of town visitors to a reception at the ironmaster's house. "The new building is one of the most suitable as it is one of the handsomest ever built by the School Board. The school is a live one and is patronized by Col. Franklin and other prominent citizens. As far as we could learn, there are no carpers at either the school system or its officials in that part of the school vineyard." ((8)

Ashland shut down as an iron town in the late 1880s and its fixtures were sold. Later owners even found it possible to sell the accumulated cinders for road metal. In 1924, the entire village was auctioned, and purchased by Mano Swartz, the Baltimore City furrier. The Swartz family kept the property until the early 1980s, being faced in the end with the legal requirement to either demolish the housing or install modern sewer links, because the seepage wended its way to Loch Raven. At that point, developer Kimberly Strutt redeveloped the housing area. In the same years, the Northern Central Railroad, once the lifeline of the iron works, had been washed out by tropical storms and was reborn as the hike-and-bike trail.

The Ashland Public School was obsolete by the late 1920s. A manuscript list of the old one- and two-room schools furnished to the LPC by Jim Kraft of the Board of Education shows that the school was sold to Pearl B. Phillips On April 9, 1929, for $1,850. (9)

A professional advertising brochure apparently issued by Ms. Phillips sometime in the 1930s reported on the extensive improvements made to the building and states that in the winter of 1931 she refused an offer of $25,000, The undated brochure, probably published later in the great depression offered the former school at $15,000. (10) There have been quite a number of owners in the second half of the 20th century. At one time an owner

installed a basement tank for raising frogs, which were once marketable to the medical community for pregnancy tests. In the 1980s, the house was in the hands of the Strutt Group, which also refurbished the school as it did the company town office, company store, and workers' housing. The school was priced at just under $300,000 in June 1987. (11) There have been a number of zoning issues involving this premises in the past, various efforts to have a small business of some kind or a professional office.

NOTES:

1. "Minutes of Board of County School Commissioners, " meeting of May 13, 1878, folios 73,76, 81,

2. *Baltimore County Union*, Towson, July 9, 1881.

3. *Report of the Board of School Commissioners for the Year Ending 1881* (Towson, 1882), p. 6.

4. *Report of the Board, 1881*, p. 34.

5. *Report of the Board, 1881*, p. 30.

6, John W. McGrain, From Pig Iron to Cotton Duck (Towson, 1985), pp. 34-48.

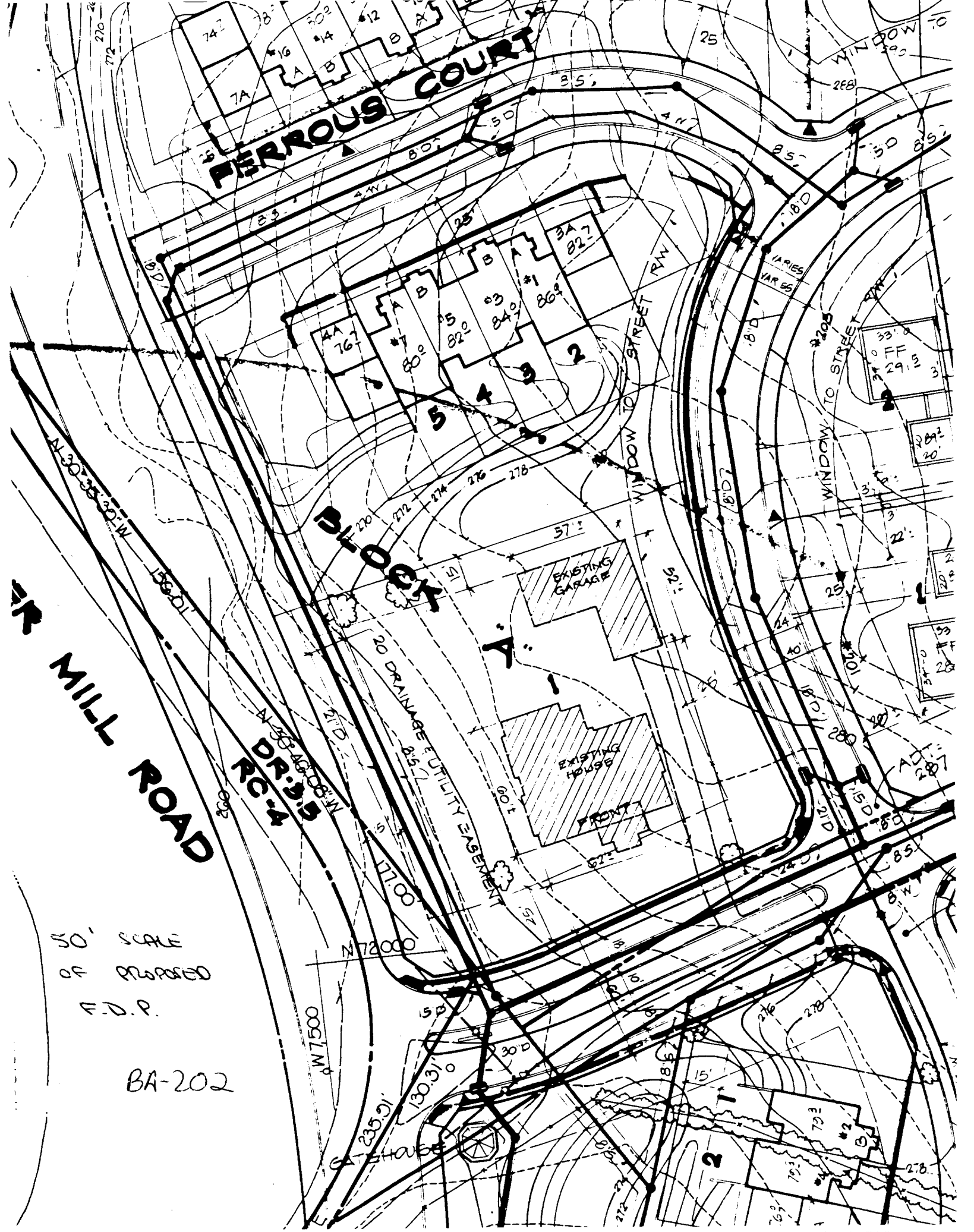
7. Baltimore County Democrat, April 26, 1890.

8. *Maryland Journal*, Towson, December 24, 1881.

9. Untitled chart of surplus schools, Baltimore County Board of Education. Also, Baltimore County Deeds, 820:146.

10. Pearl B. Phillips, "Own This Home for $90.00 A Month," undated real estate brochure, 1930s.

11. Jennifer Brandlon, "Restored Unusual Buildings Hot Items on Home Market," *Towson Times*, June 3, 1987.


FERROUS COURT
BLOCK "A"
MILL ROAD
EXISTING GARAGE
EXISTING HOUSE
FRONT
20 DRAINAGE UTILITY EASEMENT
WINDOW TO STREET R/W
GATEHOUSE
N 72000
W 7500
DR-3.5
RC-4
50' SCALE
OF PROPOSED
F.D.P.
BA-202

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA 202

Minutes of Board of Baltimore County School Commissioners, Superintendants Office, 6901 North Charles Street, Towson.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ~~0.87 acre~~

Quadrangle name ~~Cockeysville~~, Md

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot at corner of Ashland Road and Paper Mill Road. See Tax Map 42 Grid 16, Parcel P85.

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

state	None	code	county		code
state	None	code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McGrain, County Historian

organization Office of Planning

date September 10, 1999

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue

telephone 410-887-3495

city or town Towson

state MD 21204

Form 10-445
(5-62)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Baltimore
TOWN VICINITY Dist. VIII
STREET NO. Ashland & Paper Mill Rds.

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE
PRESENT OWNER
PRESENT USE
WALL CONSTRUCTION
NO. OF STORIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY BA-~~203~~ 202

2. NAME Ashland Public School

DATE OR PERIOD 1881
STYLE
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

One story, three room, stone structure. Land donated by the Ashland Iron Company. Presently converted into an attractive private home.

(second HABS report)
E. Frances Offutt
HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
March 20, 1968

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

DATE OF RECORD

Form 10-445
(5 62)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Baltimore Co.
TOWN Cockeysville VICINITY Dist. VIII
STREET NO. Ashland & Paper Mill Rds.

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE school
PRESENT OWNER
PRESENT USE residence
WALL CONSTRUCTION stone
NO. OF STORIES 1 story

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY BA-~~203~~ 202

2. NAME Ashland Public School
DATE OR PERIOD 1881
STYLE
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

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6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Baltimore Co. Hist. Soc.
Agriculture Bldg.
Texas, Md.

DATE OF RECORD March 20, 1968