

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form
Intercounty Connector Project

DOE yes no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic Mount Pleasant School/Norbeck School

and/or common Norbeck Park

2. Location:

street & number 4101 Muncaster Mill Road not for publicationcity, town Norbeck vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification:

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> education <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 type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> other:
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> transportation

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

name Board of Education

street & number 850 Hungerford Drive

telephone no.:

city, town Rockville

state and zip code MD 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records Office of Montgomery County

liber 4924

street & number 50 Maryland Avenue

folio 154

city, town Rockville

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form/Norbeck Historic District

date 1977

 federal state county local

depository/survey records Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

ty, town Silver Spring

state MD

7. Description

Survey No. M: 23-113-2(PACS A18.1)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Resource Count: 1

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

The Mount Pleasant School/Norbeck School is a 1-story, 10-bay structure on the east side of Muncaster Mill Road in Norbeck, Montgomery County. Constructed between 1926 and 1928, the building was constructed as a 2-room, side-gable schoolhouse with bands of windows.

The structure has an asphalt shingle roof with a brick chimney. It is of wood-frame construction with wood clapboard siding, and it has a brick foundation. The windows are modern replacement windows, and are all 1/1 sash covered with metal grates.

The front, or south facade has two entrances with steel doors and front-gable entry porches. Leading to each entrance is a wood deck with a handicapped access ramp. There is one window in the basement level, which has been covered with plywood, and there are eight, double-hung windows on the first story. The current windows replaced bands of windows, although the door placement on this elevation reflects the historic appearance of the structure.

The west elevation has two, double-hung windows on the first story and a vent with metal louvers in the gable end. The windows replaced a band of three windows which were previously located on this elevation.

The rear, or north elevation has one window at the basement level, which has been covered with plywood and there are two, small double-hung windows on the first story.

The east elevation has two, double-hung windows on the first story and a vent with metal louvers in the gable end. The windows replaced a band of three windows which were previously located on this elevation.

Typical elements of an early twentieth century schoolhouse, including bands of windows, are no longer evident in this structure. Alterations to the property include alteration of the fenestration pattern, including the size, material, and placement of the windows, and installation of new siding. In addition, the interior of the structure maintains little evidence of its previous use.

There are no outbuildings associated with this structure.

The property is located on the east side of Muncaster Mill Road, with church buildings to both the south and west, and a cemetery to the east. A private lane borders the property to the north. The property's setting is suburban with considerable commercial development to the south and west.

8. Significance

Survey No. M: 23-113-2(PACS A18.1)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-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/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communication	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: African-	
				American culture	

Specific dates	1926-1928	Builder/Architect
check:	Applicable Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
	Applicable Exceptions: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
	Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

The first Mount Pleasant School/Norbeck School was built on a .2 hectare (.5 acre) of land sold to the Montgomery County Board of School Commissioners for five dollars by A.R. Wadsworth on October 2, 1872. The school at Norbeck was one of six schoolhouses built for African-American students in 1872 (Clarke & Brown 1978: 3). Between 1926 and 1928, however, the Mount Pleasant School was one of fifteen African-American schools replaced with new structures. At that time, the extant structure, a 2-room schoolhouse, was constructed on the site. Although the County government appropriated funds for the replacement of these schools, the amount was minimal and the majority of the funds were supplied by the Mount Pleasant community (Clarke & Brown 1978: 44). Since 1872 when A.R. Wadsworth sold the land to the school board, the size of the parcel containing the Mount Pleasant School has remained constant. The building remained in use as a school until the later half of the twentieth century, when the County adapted the building to a community center.

The nineteenth century community of Norbeck was composed of two separate but related communities; Mount Pleasant, the African-American settlement established by freed slaves on Muncaster Mill Road, and a white commercial crossroads settlement at the intersection of Norbeck Road and Georgia Avenue. The community also extended along Norbeck and Bradford Roads, east of the crossroads. The African-American settlement was oriented around the community church and school, while the white settlement centered around the post office, general store, and blacksmith shop. While remnants of both communities still exist, the environment in which they developed has been greatly altered over time.

The community at the crossroads was established in the decade following the Civil War, which increased agricultural prosperity and an increased population created a greater demand in the area for goods and services. In addition to the growth of the local farm community, the area grew as a result of its location at the intersection of two of the oldest roads in the county, the Baltimore Road (Route 28/Norbeck Road) and the Washington-Brookeville Turnpike (Route 97/Georgia Avenue).

The years following emancipation brought reconstruction of society in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. While many African-Americans moved out of the counties, especially into the District of Columbia, others formed communities centered around a place of worship, such as Mount Pleasant near Norbeck in Montgomery County (M-NCPPC 1993: 13).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Mount Pleasant School/Norbeck School

SURVEY NO.: M: 23-113-2 (PACS A18.1)

ADDRESS: 4101 Muncaster Mill Road, Norbeck, Montgomery County, Maryland

8. Significance (Continued)

Mount Pleasant was founded circa 1866, by freed slaves of A.B. Wadsworth, an area farmer. The community was located on Muncaster Mill Road, on land donated or sold by Wadsworth to freed African-Americans. Mount Pleasant became a distinct, yet integral part of Norbeck, with most of its residents employed on surrounding farms (State Highway Administration & Maryland Historical Trust 1977).

In addition to establishing churches in their communities, African-Americans set about creating educational facilities. While public funding for schools for African-American children was not appropriated until the 1870s, classes began meeting in community churches in the 1860s (Hiebert & MacMaster 1976: 190). During the 1898-1899 school year, Montgomery County had a total of 114 public schools; 32 were for African-American children (Clarke & Brown 1978: 17).

From the beginning of the eighteenth century to the middle of the twentieth century, schools in rural America were invariably 1-room schools, such as the original Mount Pleasant School. If population increased in a rural area, however, two 1-room buildings could be joined together to form a larger building and then separated if the population began to decline. The level of funding provided by an area had a great impact on the kind of schools that its residents constructed.

The most recognizable form of rural school building is a front-gable structure with a 3-bay facade and three windows symmetrically arranged along each side. Such schools commonly had a bell tower located close to the front of the building and a chimney placed at the back of the roof. Most schools also had either a partial shed roof porch supported by wooden posts, or an enclosed entry porch. In most school buildings, the depth exceeded the width. In poorer areas such as Mount Pleasant, schools were simple structures, often with a side-gable roof, constructed of timber with board and batten siding. These schools usually had only one window in the front and one on each side. The Mount Pleasant School represents a combination of these elements, with a side-gable orientation and bands of windows (Gulliford 1991, 35-45).

The Mount Pleasant/Norbeck School was included in the National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form for the Norbeck Historic District, prepared by the State Highway Administration and Maryland Historical Trust in 1977, however this form did not provide architectural descriptions and significance statements for individual buildings. The Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places determined in 1978 that the area is too altered to constitute an historic district, but that the significance of individual buildings, including the Mount Pleasant School, should be considered.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey M:23-113-2 (PACS
A18.1)

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .2 hectare (.5 acres)
Quadrangle name Kensington, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Caroline Hall

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date December 1996

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Mount Pleasant School/Norbeck School

SURVEY NO.: M: 23-113-2 (PACS A18.1)

ADDRESS: 4101 Muncaster Mill Road, Norbeck, Montgomery County, Maryland

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Boyd, T.H.S. The History of Montgomery County, Maryland, From its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968.

Brugger, Robert A. Maryland, A Middle Temperament 1634-1980. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988.

Clarke, and Brown. History of the Black Public Schools of Montgomery County, Maryland. Washington: Vantage, 1978

Coleman, Margaret Marshall. Montgomery County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk and Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers, 1984, rev. 1990.

Farquhar, Roger Brooke. Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland. Washington: Judd and Detweiler, Inc., 1962.

Gulliford, Andrew. Country Schools in American Education. Washington D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1991

Hiebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington including County of Montgomery, Maryland. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, 1879; reprint, Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.

Martenet, Simon J. Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland. Baltimore, Maryland: Simon J. Martenet, 1865; reprint, Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society.

Tindall, George Brown. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1984.

State Highway Administration and Maryland Historical Trust. National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form: Norbeck Historic District. Baltimore and Annapolis, Maryland, 1977.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Mount Pleasant School/Norbeck School

SURVEY NO.: M: 23-113-2 (PACS A18.1)

ADDRESS: 4101 Muncaster Mill Road, Norbeck, Montgomery County, Maryland

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Verbal boundary description and justification:

The National Register boundaries of the Mount Pleasant School/Norbeck School follow the current property lines of Parcel P923 on Tax Map HS 342. This parcel is bounded on the east by the Mount Pleasant Church Cemetery, on the south by the Mount Pleasant Church, on the north by a private lane, and on the west by Muncaster Mill Road. The boundary includes the schoolhouse and an adjacent parking lot on the parcel. Since 1872 when A.R. Wadsworth sold this .2 hectare (.5 acre) parcel of land to the school board for the construction of the first Mount Pleasant School, the size of the parcel containing the Mount Pleasant School has remained constant. The building remained in use as a school until the later half of the twentieth century, when the County adapted the building to a community center.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Mount Pleasant School/Norbeck School

SURVEY NO.: M:23-113-2 (PACS A18.1)

ADDRESS: 4101 Muncaster Mill Road, Norbeck, Montgomery County, Maryland

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Social/Education/Cultural

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Building

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

School

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

Preparer:
P.A.C. Spero & Company
December 1996

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

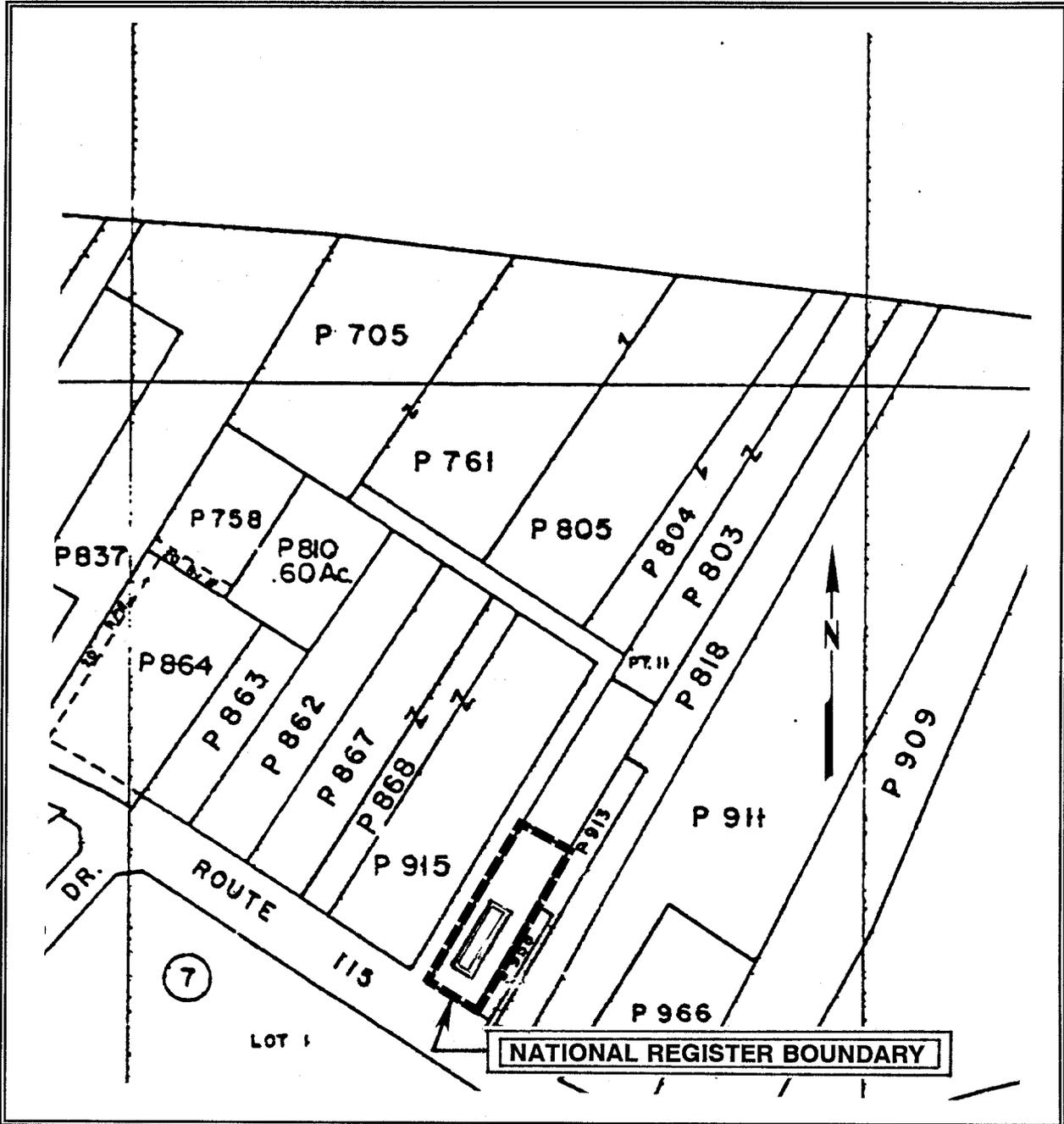
RESOURCE NAME: Mount Pleasant School/Norbeck School

SURVEY NO.: M: 23-113-2 (PACS A18.1)

ADDRESS: 4101 Muncaster Mill Road, Norbeck, Montgomery County, Maryland

10. Geographical Data

Resource Sketch Map and National Register Boundary Map:



Intercounty Connector Project
Upgrade Existing Roads Alternative
Quad Kensington
Survey No. M:23-113-2 (PACS A18.1)
Property Name Mount Pleasant School/
Norbeck School





- 1 M: 23-113-2
- 2 Mount Pleasant School / Morbeck School
- 3 Montgomery County
- 4 Carolina Hall
- 5 June 1976
- 6 PAC Spin and Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave.,
Suite 412, Towson, MD 21284
- 7 north and west facades, 4101 Muncaster Mill
Rd.
- 8 1 of 4



1 M: 23-113-2

2 Mount Pleasant School / Norbeck School

3 Montgomery County

4 Caroline Hall

5 June 1976

6 PNC Spinn and Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave.,
Suite 412 Towson MD 21284

7 west facade, 401 Manchester Mill Rd.

8 2 of -



1 M: 23-113-2

2 Mount Pleasant School / Northbrook School

3 Montgomery County

4 Caroline Hall

5 June 1996

6 PAC Spew and Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave
Suite 412 Towson MD 21204

7 north facade, 4101 Manchester Mill Rd.

3 of 4



- 1 M-23-113-2
- 2 Mount Pleasant School / Norbeck School
- 3 Montgomery County
- 4 Cardine Hall
- 5 June 1996
- 6 PAC Speward Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave.,
Suite 412 Towson MD 21284
- east facade, 4101 Manchester Mill Rd.

3 4 of 4

Capsule Summary
for
Norbeck Colored School

June 1991

Mont. Co. survey prefix :
Site number : M. 23-113-2
Approx. building date : 1927
Town/town vicinity : Norbeck
Access : Public Private

Short Description of Site:

The Norbeck Colored School, now used as a community center, is a one-story building located on the north side of Muncaster Mill Road near the intersection of Muncaster Mill and Norbeck roads. While the building has retained its original form, it has been heavily altered. It is historically significant because it is one of the few remaining examples in the county of a group of schools erected in the 1920s with money from the Rosenwald Fund to provide improved educational facilities for black children.

Analysis of Evaluation
for
Norbeck Colored School

M:23-113-2

June 1991

Value Descr.			
Outstanding			
Considerable			✓
Moderate			
Minor	✓	✓	
Evaluation Criteria	Arch. Signif.	Arch. Integrity	Historical Signif.

Procedure:

Rating = $\frac{\# \text{ of Boxes Selected}}{12} \times 100$

0 - 25 % = Unqualified
 25 - 50 % = Minimal
 50 - 75 % = Mid-level
 75 - 100% = Good
 90 - 100% = Natl. Reg. (with possible exceptions)

Rating for this site: Minimal

Criteria:

Arch. Significance - that quality which embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose component may lack individual distinction.

Historical Significance - that quality present in sites associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history.

Arch. Integrity - determined by the number of architectural changes to the site...using the following list as a guide...(and) noting other unusual changes.

Detrimental Changes (depending on the quality of its original character):

- ___ new or relocated chimney
- ___ rebuilt foundation
- ___ new porch
- ___ original windows changed (at a later, but still historical, date)
- ___ modern windows in original frames
- ___ original windows intact but extra ones added
- ___ change in shape or size of window openings
- ___ lack of outbuildings
- ___ aluminum siding (unless original architraves and trim are retained)
- ___ asphalt or asbestos siding (over original siding)
- ___ recent change of location

Critical Changes:

- ___ aluminum siding added; architraves eliminated
- ___ additions engulfing or removing portions of original building

Value Descriptions

Outstanding - distinguished; of particular import. to Md. historic & arch. past.

Considerable - deserving of recognition; contributes to the understanding of history or architectural heritage represented in Maryland

Moderate - commonality...lack of historic signif. or arch. style, except if scarce

Minor - unimportant or inferior; little arch. worth and absence of hist. importance

Site Information Summary

for

Norbeck Colored School

M:23-113-2

June 1991

Site number :
Co. tax account number :
Street address : 4101 Muncaster Mill Road
Name of property owner : Montgomery County Board of Education
Addr. of property owner : 850 Hungerford Road
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Historic Preservation Master Plan Recommendation:

Historic Preservation Ordinance Criteria

(1) *Historical and cultural significance.* The historic resource:

- a. Has character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the county, state or nation;
- b. Is the site of a significant historic event;
- c. Is identified with a person or group of persons who influenced society;
- d. Exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, political or historic heritage of the county and its communities.

(2) *Architectural and design significance.* The historic resource:

- a. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction;
- b. Represents the work of a master;
- c. Possesses high artistic values;
- d. Represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- e. Represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or county due to its singular physical characteristic or landscape.

Environmental Setting Recommendation:

Entire parcel.

Survey No. M:23-113-2

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Norbeck Colored School

and/or common Norbeck Recreation Center

2. Location

street & number 4101 Muncaster Mill Road _____ not for publication

city, town Norbeck _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 8

state Maryland _____ county Montgomery

3. Classification

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

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

name Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission

street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone no.: (301) 495-4600

city, town Silver Spring state and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber EBP 18

street & number _____ folio 433

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Montgomery County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1978 _____ federal state county _____ local

depository for survey records Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission

city, town 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring state Maryland

M:23-113-2

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

Significance: This building has been heavily altered. The existing windows are smaller than the original and rectangular in shape, replacing the square ribbon windows with many lights that existed in the original school (cf. attached photograph, "Norbeck Colored School Before Exterior Alterations"). The windows have no architraves and are covered with modern metal grilles. Porches have been replaced with modern materials and handicapped ramps. Earlier German siding has been replaced with modern wood stained siding. The building has retained its original form, however.

Description: The Norbeck school building is a one-story side-gabled ten-bay by two-bay structure which faces southeast; it is located on the north side of Muncaster Mill Road near the intersection of Muncaster Mill and Norbeck Roads. Two doors on the southeast elevation have small gabled hoods; they both lead to a classroom containing three windows. A chimney through the roof and two windows are located in the center of the building. Two small windows are centered on the gable end of the building facing the street, the southwest elevation. The foundation of the building is brick.

The windows and doors have been replaced, and the windows covered with metal grilles. New stained wood siding covers the building and any architraves which may have existed at the windows. Original shed hoods over the doors have been replaced, and new treated-lumber porches and handicapped access ramps have been added. The asphalted driveway covers whatever yard may have existed.

Researcher: Susan Escherich, May 24, 1991

8. Significance

Survey No. M:23-113-2

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History

Specific dates 1927 Builder/Architect Community built/none

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 Norbeck Colored School is significant because it is one of eight remaining schools out of a group of 15 that were erected in the late 1920s with the aid of philanthropic funds; it is an early black elementary school which served both as a church and school for the nineteenth century black community of Mount Pleasant; it was one of the first structures to serve the black community as a neighborhood facility when it ceased being a school in 1951; and it is representative of the period in the county's history when schools were segregated. As such, it is an important part of the county's black history.

"The Norbeck Colored School is located in Norbeck, Maryland, which, in the mid-nineteenth century, was an important rural crossroads community. Norbeck was actually composed of two separate but related communities: Mount Pleasant, a black residential settlement established by freed slaves on Muncaster Mill Road, and a white commercial settlement at the crossroads of two of the oldest roads in the county, Baltimore Road (now Route 28, Norbeck Road) and the Washington-Brookeville Turnpike (now Route 97, Georgia Avenue); both were major thoroughfares by the early nineteenth century. The community also extended along Norbeck and Bradford Roads, east of the crossroads. The black settlement was oriented around the Methodist Episcopal Church and school, the white around a post office, general store and blacksmith shop. While remnants of both communities still exist, the environment in which they developed has changed from rural to suburban.

"Mount Pleasant was founded by the freed slaves of A.B. Wadsworth, an area farmer, around 1862. The community was situated on Muncaster Mill Road on lots donated or sold to the former slaves by Wadsworth; Mount Pleasant church and the school (now a community center) were also built on donated land. Mount Pleasant became a distinct, yet integral, part of Norbeck, with most of its residents working on the surrounding farms.

(cont.)

#8. Significance (cont.)

2

Norbeck Colored School

"Allowing for some infill growth, Norbeck was fully developed by 1879. It remained rural and agrarian until the post-World War II era brought increased development to northern Montgomery County. Within the last 20 years, much of the farmland around Norbeck has been converted to residential use. The busy roads and housing developments which today mark the Norbeck area are in sharp contrast to the rural, agrarian environment which existed when the community was founded."¹

In 1872, A.B. Wadsworth sold 1/2 acre of land to the county school commissioners for \$5.00 for use as the site of a school for black children; the school was built in the same year.² Thus, Norbeck was one of the first communities in the county to have a publicly-supported school for black children after the passage of state legislation in 1872 authorizing the use of public funds for black education.

The first school building on the site (which was destroyed by fire in 1925, rebuilt, and then demolished to make way for the existing structure) was also used by the Mount Pleasant Church until 1890.³ As one author has noted

"The black school and the black church were the centers of community activities; they often shared the same building. The preacher and the teacher were the community leaders..."⁴

Prior to the passage of the landmark legislation of 1872 (which appropriated \$50,000 for black schools in the state, with approximately \$2,000 of that earmarked for Montgomery County) black education in Montgomery County was privately supported, with county Quakers taking a leading role in the movement. The Quakers held classes for black children and adults for some 50 years before the establishment of publicly-funded schools and were responsible for the establishment of the Sharp Street Industrial School in Sandy Spring, Maryland in the mid-nineteenth century.

The existing building dates from 1927, when funds were made available from the Julius Rosenwald Fund to improve black educational facilities in the county. The Montgomery County Board of Education's report for December, 1928 noted that

"...in the recent building program, new, modern type buildings for colored children have been erected with the aid of the Rosenwald Fund and contributions from communities..."⁵

¹ Eileen McGuckian, Maryland Historical Trust, "State Historic Sites Inventory Form", 1977

² Montgomery County Land Records, EBP 18/433.

³ Nina Clarke and Lillian Brown, History of the Black Public Schools of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1872-1961. (New York: Vantage Press, 1978) p.183.

⁴ Richard MacMaster, A Grateful Remembrance, p.246.

⁵ Clarke and Brown, p.44.

#8. Significance (cont.)

3

Norbeck Colored School

The Fund was instrumental in improving the lives of blacks in the early decades of the twentieth century:

"The Rosenwald Fund was a sum of money set aside to improve the opportunities of black people in America. It was created by Julius Rosenwald, an American merchant and philanthropist. The fund contributed to construction of more than 5,000 schools for black children which included 217 teacher's homes and 163 shops for vocational training. This fund contributed \$4,364,869, the black people gave \$4,725,871 in cash, labor, and materials to build these buildings in 15 southern states. The fund also contributed to public health, higher education, research, and school libraries for blacks."⁶

Included in the list of 15 new one- and two-room schools built with Rosenwald Fund money was a two-room frame structure in Norbeck, the existing building on Muncaster Mill Road.

For several years after the school opened, there was only one teacher; one room was used for grades 1-6 and the other served as a coat closet and storeroom for wood. The building was located on a small tract with very little play room. A former teacher at the school remembered that:

"There were no inside facilities, water, or central heat. We had free books but never any new ones. These books were dirty, ragged, marked in, and often had pages missing. I don't think the teacher had anything to do with ordering supplies. As I remember, they used whatever was sent. In the new school there were two teachers. Grades began with first and continued through seventh."⁷

The Norbeck Colored School at one time housed as many as 85 students in grades one through seven. Closed in August, 1951, (three years before court-ordered school integration) the building was transferred to the county government in August, 1954 for use as a community recreation center.

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Social/Educational/Cultural
2. Geographic Organization: Piedmont (Montgomery County)
3. Development Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance
1870-1930 A.D.
4. Resource Type(s): School

⁶ Clarke and Brown, p. 43.

Clarke and Brown, p. 166.

#9. Major Biographical References**Norbeck Colored School**

Clarke, Nina H. and Brown, Lillian B., History of the Black Public Schools of Montgomery County, Maryland 1872-1961. New York: Vantage Press, 1978.

MacMaster, Richard and Hiebert, Ray Eldon, A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

McGuckian, Eileen, Maryland Historical Trust Survey Form for Norbeck, 1977.

Montgomery County, Maryland, Land Records.

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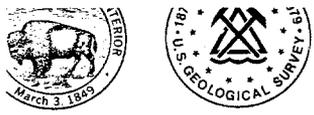
**NORBECK
COLORED
SCHOOL**

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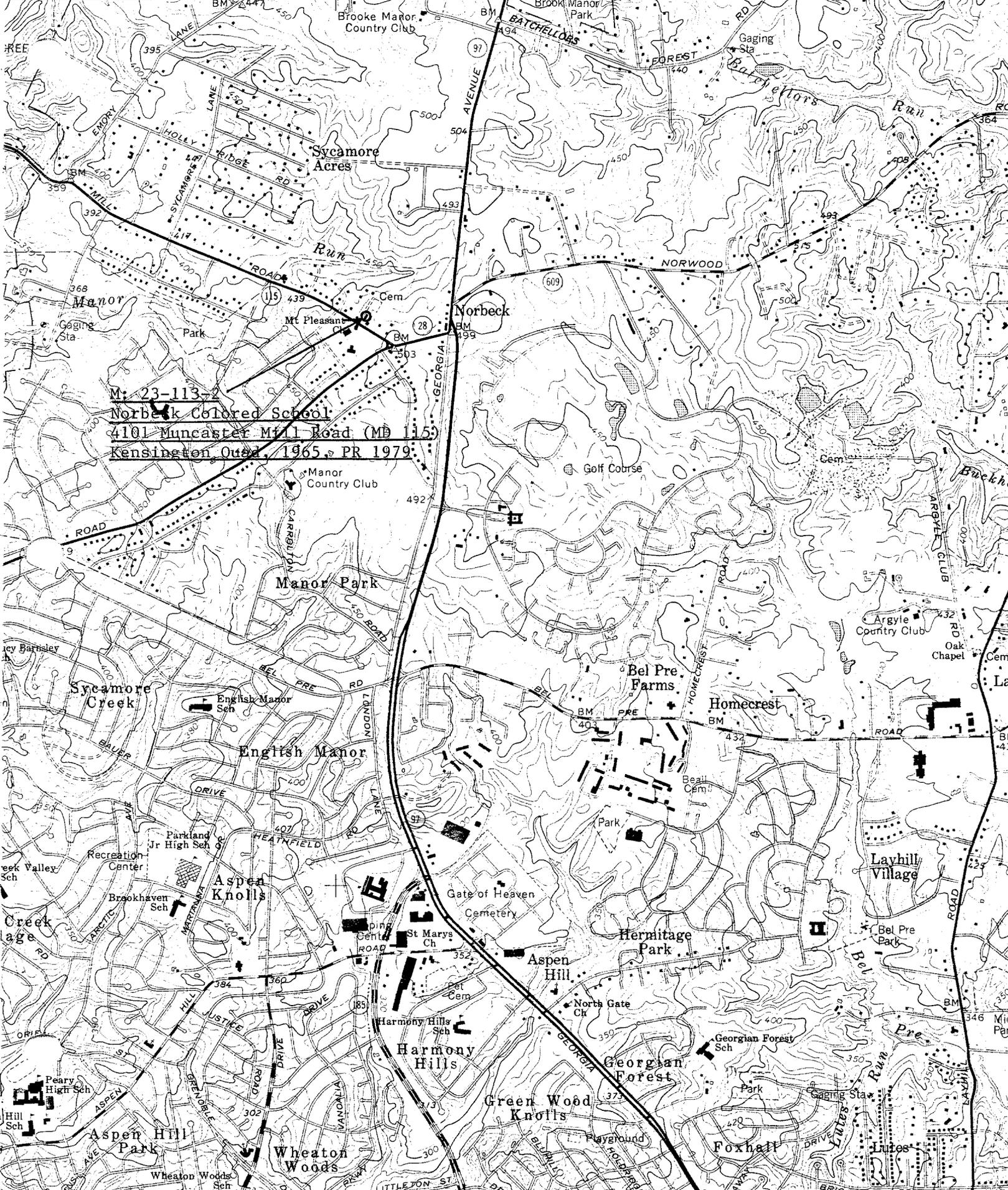
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LOT 1

P. A. O'BOYLE



319 5' 320 COOKSVILLE 15 MI. OLNEY 2 MI. 321 5562 II NE (SANDY SPRING) 322 323



M: 23-113-2
Norbeck Colored School
4101 Muncaster Mill Road (MD 115)
Kensington Quad, 1965, PR 1979



4101
Herbeck Park

M: 23-113-7

Norbeck Colored School

Mont Co. MD

by L. Snyderman 4/91

Neg Mont Co Hist Pres Comm.

School - SW elev



M: 23-113-7

Norbeck Colored School

Mont Co MD

by L. Snyderman 6/91

Neg Mont Co Hist Pres Comm

School - Main (SE) elev.



M: 25-113-7

Norbeck Colored School

Mont. Co. MD

by L. Saydeman 6/91

Neg - Mont Co. Hist. Pres Comm.

Setting - looking east



M. 23-1137

Norbeck Colored School

Mont Co MD

by L. Snyderman 6/91

Neg Mont Co Hist Pres Comm
School - NE etc



M: 23-113-7

Norbeck Colored School

Mont Co MD

by L. Snyderman 6/91

Neg - Mont. Co. Hist Pres Comm

School - NW elev.



M: 23-113-2

Norbeck Colored School

Mont Co MD

by L. Snyderman - 6/91

Neg - Mont Co. Hist Pres. Comm

School NE elev