

P. G. #74B-17

1876/1930

Mt. Nebo School

17310 Queen Anne Road, Upper Marlboro, Md.

Priv/Occ/Res/Excellent

The "colored schoolhouse" at Mt. Nebo was a simple one-story, two-bay gable-roofed frame structure. It was built on a slope, and its south gable end rested on brick piers; entrance was through the first bay of the east facade. In the 1930's, two additional bays were added to the north end of this original one-room schoolhouse, extending the roof ridge at the same height. In recent years, a second addition has extended the building an additional two bays to the north, and a cinder block foundation fills in where the brick piers once stood.

In June 1875, John P. Hopkins of Queen Anne, was appointed by the Board of County School Commissioners to select the site for a "colored" school near Florenceville, and within a month he chose a one-acre lot on the road to Queen Anne. Hopkins was contracted to build the school, and it was completed before the end of 1876. In the next year, Dr. William Lane Watkins (whose parents were from the Queen Anne area, but who had grown up and been educated in Massachusetts) became the first teacher at Mt. Nebo school. Watkins continued to teach at Mt. Nebo for thirty years, while maintaining his medical practice at his home in Queen Anne. In the 1930's the original one-room school was expanded to include a second room. Circa 1940, however, it was closed, and in 1954 was sold to its first private owner. Since that time, it has been converted into a private residence, and modern renovations, including synthetic siding, mask the building's historic identity.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Mt. Nebo School (Colored School House)

and/or common Colored School #1, District #7

## 2. Location

street & number 17310 Queen Anne Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro \_\_\_ vicinity of Queen Anne congressional district 4

state Maryland county Prince George's

## 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 type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Thomas N. Lanier

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. Co. Courthouse liber 4412

street & number Main Street folio 458

city, town Upper Marlboro, state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title NONE

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input 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.

The "colored school house" at Mt. Nebo was a simple one-story, two bay gable-roofed frame structure. It was built on a slope, and its south gable end rested on brick piers; entrance was through the 1st bay of the east facade.

In the 1930's, two additional bays were added to the north end of this original one-room schoolhouse, extending the roofline at the same height. By 1940, however, the school was closed and was subsequently converted into a private residence. In recent years, a cinder block foundation has been filled in where the brick piers once stood, and a two-bay addition, with a higher roofline, has been joined at the north gable end. These renovations, plus the addition of new synthetic siding, mask the building's historic identity.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. 74B-17

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1876/1930	Builder Architect
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or		
Applicable Exception:	<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 type="checkbox"/> local	

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

In June 1875, John P. Hopkins of Queen Anne was appointed by the Board of County School Commissioners to select the site for a "colored" school near Florenceville; a month later he had chosen a one-acre lot on the road from Queen Anne to Florenceville and the Board approved payment of \$75 to Henry W. Claggett for the chosen lot.<sup>1</sup> The deed from Claggett was executed 14 July 1875.<sup>2</sup>

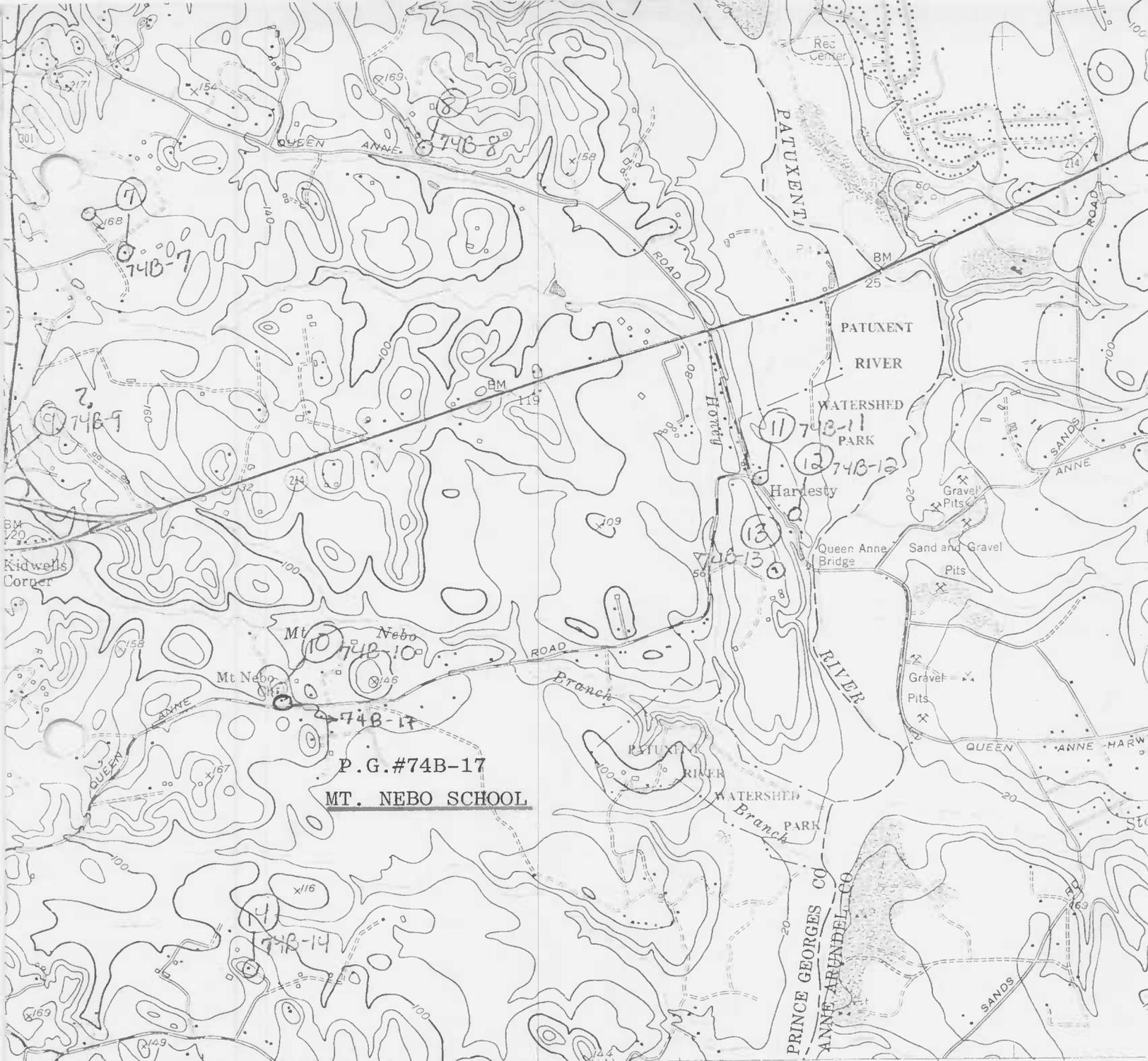
John P. Hopkins was contracted to build the school, and by mid-1876, it was nearly completed. Circa 1877, Dr. William Lane Watkins (whose parents had come from the Queen Anne area but who had grown up and been educated in Massachusetts) became the first teacher at the Mt. Nebo school. Watkins continued to teach at Mt. Nebo for thirty years, while maintaining his medical practice at his home in Queen Anne.<sup>3</sup>

In the 1930's, the original one-room schoolhouse was expanded to include a second room, but was finally closed, circa 1940. In 1954, the Board of Education sold it to its first private owner; since that time, the school building has been renovated and is presently used as a private residence.

- (1) Journal - Board of School Commissioners Vol. 1 1865-1903  
10 June 1875, 19 July 1875, pp 102, 103
- (2) P. G. Deeds HB #10:353
- (3) Interview with Harry Watkins, Queen Anne, Md. Dec. 1982

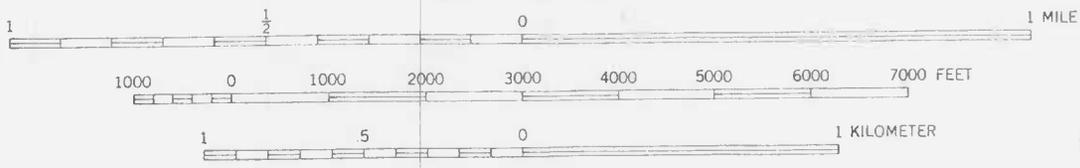






80 000 FEET      42'30"      352      353      (BRISTOL)      354      355      40'

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Boundary lines  
 information av



P. G. #74B-17

Mt. Nebo School  
Prince George's County, Md.  
Susan G. Pearl  
January 1983  
Southwest 3/4 elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.