

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: PG#79-19-44a Building Date: 1926

Building Name: St. Mary's Schoolhouse

Location: 14908 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Private/Schoolhouse/Unoccupied/Deteriorated/Inaccessible

Description:

The St. Mary's Schoolhouse is a long side-gabled frame classroom building which stands on the grounds of St. Mary of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church in Upper Marlboro. The schoolhouse was one of two identical classroom buildings which faced each other across the schoolyard; the other no longer stands. The subject building is one story high and side-gabled, 72 by 20 feet, constructed of prefabricated panels of gray composition wallboard. Entrance is in the central bay of the main south facade, through a double door sheltered by a small front-gabled canopy supported by plain posts. Each leaf of the double door has three horizontal molded panels beneath three horizontal panes of glass. Originally, there was a bank of eight large windows (6/6 double hung sash) on each side of the central entrance, making a total of sixteen windows on the long south facade; alternate windows have in recent years been covered with wallboard, so that today only four windows are visible on each side of the entrance. The composition panels which form the walls of the building are joined together by means of battens: beaded boards and strips of molding used to cover the seams between panels. The eaves are punctuated by exposed rafters ends.

Significance:

St. Mary's School was established in 1925 by St. Mary of the Assumption Church, the center of Catholic worship in the County seat since the 1820s. The present St. Mary of the Assumption Church was built in 1898/99, and the Rectory immediately south of it in 1900. In 1924 the Parish decided to establish a parochial school in Upper Marlboro. Classes began in 1925, with Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary as instructors, in the old rectory/convent. Then in 1926, two prefabricated, fireproof, two-room class buildings were erected, facing each other across the rear churchyard; the northerly (subject) building housed first and second grades in one classroom and third and fourth grades in the other, while the southerly building housed fifth and sixth grades in one classroom and seventh and eighth grades in the other. St. Mary's School operated into the 1960s; it was the first Catholic day school in the County. The southerly building was demolished in the 1970s at the time of construction of Gov. Oden Bowie Drive. [The subject schoolhouse was demolished in September 1992.]

Acreage: 1.08 acre

St. Mary's Schoolhouse

PG#79-19-44a

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Periods:

Industrial/Urban Dominance - AD 1870-1930

Modern Period - 1930 to present

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

Social/Education/Cultural

Religion

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Town/County Seat

Historic Functions and Uses: Schoolhouse

Design Source: Unknown

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Mary's Schoolhouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 14908 Main Street not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro vicinity of congressional district 5

state MD county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 c/o Archbishop James Cardinal Hickey

street & number P.O. Box 29260 telephone no.:

city, town Washington D.C. state and zip code 20017

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber (235)

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 429)

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P.G. Historic Sites and Districts Plan

date 1981/1992 federal state county local

repository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Planning Dept., MNCPPC

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

7. Description

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

The St. Mary's Schoolhouse is a long side-gabled frame classroom building which stands on the grounds of and behind St. Mary of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church in Upper Marlboro. It is unusual for its large size and its composition siding.

The schoolhouse is the westernmost of two auxiliary buildings which are located on the northern perimeter of the parking lot behind (west of) the church and rectory buildings. (Cf. MHT Inventory form PG#79-19-44.) The schoolhouse was built in 1926, and was one of two identical classroom buildings which faced each other across the schoolyard. (The other no longer stands.) It is one story high and side-gabled, 72 by 20 feet, constructed of prefabricated panels of gray composition wallboard (possibly containing some asbestos). Entrance is in the central bay of the main south facade, through a double door sheltered by a small front-gabled canopy supported by plain posts. Each leaf of the double door has three horizontal molded panels beneath three horizontal panes of glass. Originally, there was a bank of eight large windows (6/6 double hung sash) on each side of the central entrance, making a total of sixteen windows on the long south facade; alternate windows have in recent years been covered with wallboard, so that today only four windows are visible on each side of the entrance. The composition panels which form the walls of the building are joined together by means of battens - beaded boards and strips of molding used to cover the seams between panels. The gable roof is covered with gray asbestos shingle, and the eaves are punctuated by exposed rafters. Two metal pipes rise from the south plane of the roof, flanking the central entrance and marking the two heating elements, one in each of the large classrooms. The building rests on a concrete foundation. In the front (south) the foundation is constructed of molded concrete block; in the rear (north), the foundation consists of two courses of plain concrete block. The sill beams are in deteriorating condition.

The interior of the school building consists of two large classrooms separated by a central entry hall. There was a furnace/heater located in the interior front corner of each classroom. Each classroom was lighted by the eight large windows on the south facade; there are no windows in the other

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

Specific dates 1926 **Builder/Architect**

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.

St. Mary's School was established in 1925 by St. Mary of the Assumption Church, the center of Catholic worship in the County seat since the 1820s. The first St. Mary's church building, built in the 1820s, served the Catholic population of Upper Marlboro for nearly 75 years. In 1898, under the rectorship of Charles Trinkaus, the present brick church was built on the same site. Demolition of the old church began in May 1898, and two months later, the new cornerstone was laid. The new church building was designed by Hugh A. Campbell, Washington architect, and the Wyvill brothers of Upper Marlboro were contracted as builders. The new church was dedicated 28 May 1899 by Cardinal Gibbons.¹

In 1900, also under the rectorship of Father Trinkaus, the frame Rectory was built immediately south of the church. This building served as the residence of the priests until 1925 when it was converted into a convent for the teaching Sisters and classroom space before the parochial school was built.²

In 1924, under the rectorship of Father Francis Loughran, the Parish decided to establish a parochial school in Upper Marlboro. At that time, Father Loughran built a new rectory (the frame bungalow just west of the church, and the old (1900) rectory was converted for the use of teaching nuns. A group of Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary was brought in to

¹ Ibid; church records, St. Mary's Church; Stones and Bones, Cemetery Records of Prince George's County, Maryland, Prince George's County Genealogical Society, 1988; see also MHT Inventory Form PG#79-19-44.

² Church records, St. Mary's Church; see also MHT Inventory Form PG#79-19-44.

elevations of the building. There is a side door from each classroom, one in each gable end. The interior walls of the classrooms are formed the same way as the exterior walls, i.e., strips of multi-band molding cover the seams between the composition panels. (Some of these junctures are open to the weather, allowing the entrance of exterior light.) Floor boards are narrow (and warped), and baseboards are of plain board.

This building is the northerly of two identical classroom buildings which faced each other across the rear churchyard. The southerly building was demolished circa 1970, before the construction of Governor Oden Bowie Drive; the line of its concrete foundation can still be seen in the grass which borders the present parking lot. Near this location, at the south edge of the parking lot is a small gable-roof building of concrete block; now used for storage, this small structure may have originally housed the bathrooms for the school buildings.

Immediately east of the schoolhouse building is a hip-roof frame bungalow, built as a Rectory in 1926 and now used for meetings and Church activities; it is one-and-one-half stories, with German siding now painted terra-cotta red. It has a hip dormer in each of the east and west planes of the roof, and entrance is in the center bay of the main east facade. The building rests on a concrete foundation, and there is a below-grade entrance to the basement in the south foundation.

Both buildings stand on the northern perimeter of the church parking lot, part of the 1.08-acre property of St. Mary of the Assumption Church (PG#79-19-44) in Upper Marlboro.

NOTE: St. Mary's Schoolhouse was demolished at the end of September 1992.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

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reside in the converted rectory and to teach the first classes. These classes began in 1925 in the old rectory/convent. Then in 1926, two prefabricated, fireproof, two-room class buildings were erected, facing each other across the rear churchyard. Classes for white children began in 1926 in these two buildings: the northerly (subject) building housed first and second grades in one classroom, and third and fourth grades in the other, while the southerly building housed fifth and sixth grades in one classroom and seventh and eighth grades in the other. Black students at St. Mary's school were instructed at nearby Gibbons Hall, the old storehouse constructed in the 1870s by E. G. W. Hall of Darnall's Chance. Music classes continued to be taught in the convent building.³

A 1927 article in the Upper Marlboro newspaper describes the new complex of buildings at St. Mary's Church. "At St. Mary's Church, through the efforts of Rev. Father Loughran, a fire-proof Parochial School was constructed last year, seating about 100 pupils. In addition to the school building, Father Loughran built an attractive bungalow in the rear of the church to be used as the rectory, the former rectory building having been converted into a convent for the Sisters who have charge of the school."⁴

St. Mary's School operated into the 1960s when a new school building was constructed and opened just outside of Upper Marlboro on Route 202. Soon afterwards, when the construction of Governor Oden Bowie Drive was planned, the southerly school building was demolished, and the northerly structure was converted to storage use.

When St. Mary's Schoolhouse was built it was the only Catholic day school in the area. St. James School in Mount Rainier was established soon afterward, opening in August 1927;

³ Interviews with former students at St. Mary's school, August, September 1992; St. Mary's School 60th Anniversary Booklet, 1985.

⁴ Enquirer-Gazette, 25 November 1927.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
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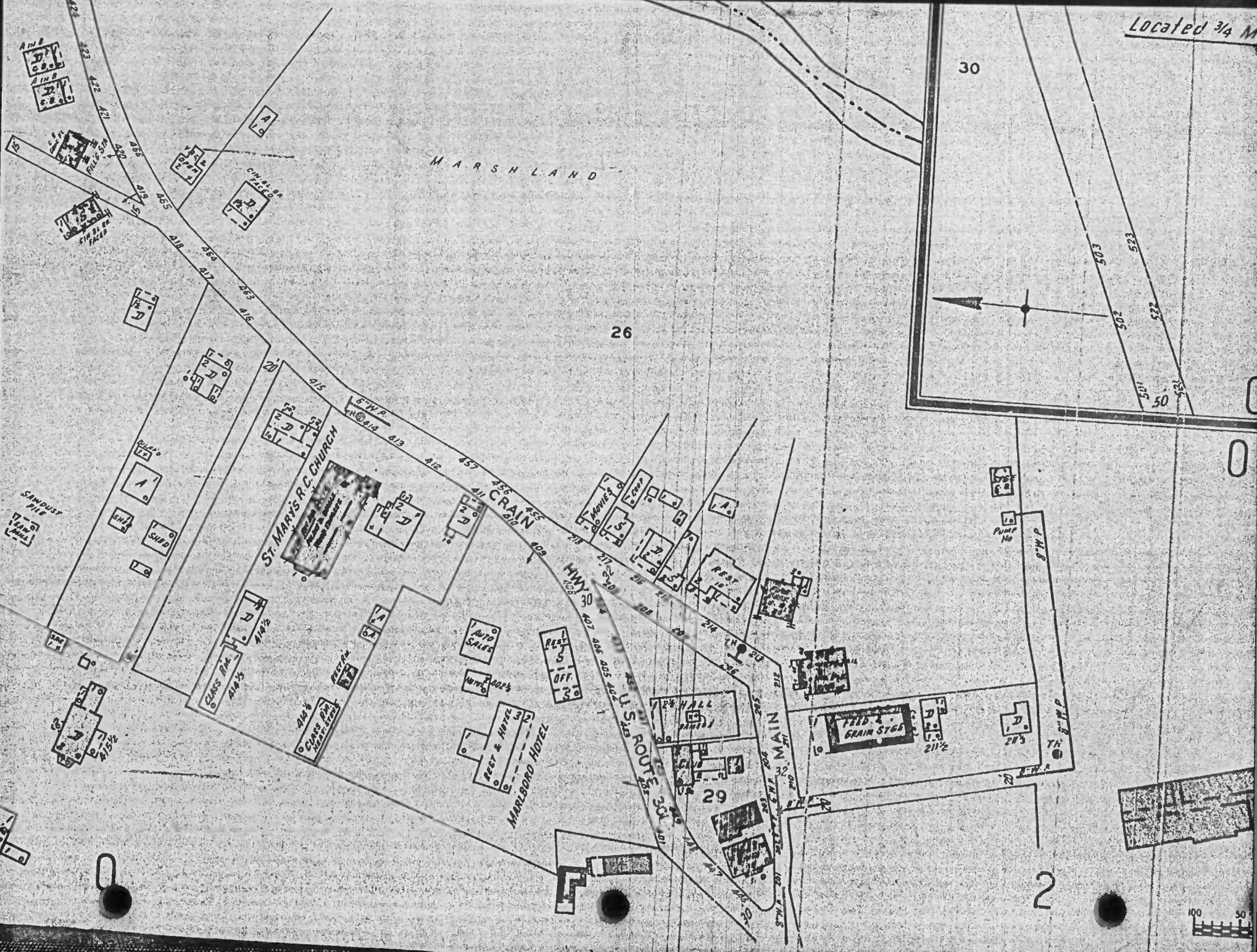
St. Jerome's in Hyattsville opened in 1942.⁵ The only surviving schoolhouse in Prince George's County which can be physically compared to St. Mary's is the roughly contemporary (1934) Woodville School.⁶ St. Mary's School has the distinction of being the first Catholic school established in Prince George's County.

⁵ Conversation with Deacon Bernier, archivist of the Archdiocese of Washington.

⁶ See MHT Inventory Form PG#87B-34.

Located 3/4 M

UPPER MERIDIAN 1941 SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP





St. Mary's School

Upper Marlboro, Md. (PGC)

Susan St. Paul

September 1992

View for SSW

Fig:



PG # 79-17-44a

St. Mary's School
Prince Georges Co MD
Anna K. Pearl
Antenna, west classroom

8/92

NO SAPD

233



Pk # 79-19-44a

St. Mary's School
Pawnee, Texas Co. MO

Susan L. Lane

August 1912

South of road

40 SPPU

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