

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #79-52 Building Date: 1921, 1934

Building Name: Old Marlboro High School

Location: Elm Street at Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, Md.

Public/Government/Occupied/Good/Restricted

Description

The Old Marlboro High School is complex in plan. The original two-story, ten-by-five bay rectangular structure was enlarged by the addition of a long one-and-one-half story brick wing to its front facade. The original high school had a south gable end entrance and a flat roof with a stepped parapet in the mission style. The east, west and north rear facade are still visible at the rear of the present structure. The new brick wing has a rectangular main block with seven bays on its south (main) facade, and is flanked by two lower three-bay blocks, two to the east and two to the west. The main block has a central arcade of five high windows surmounted by a fanlight. Brick buttresses separate the windows. The first and last bay are large doors with architrave surrounds and an entablature. Centered above each door is an octagonal window. A corbelled brick cornice band runs around the building, surmounted by a cement string course. Centered on the south facade, above the cornice is a long cement tablet embellished by an egg-shaped ornament at each end. The smaller blocks flanking the main block are set back, following the curve of the hillside. Each is three-by-five bays. The east-most block contains the main entrance. The hill on which the old school is located is dotted with mature trees and has a terrace. The small frame building which served as a public primary school is just east. The graves of Dr. William Beanes and his wife are east of the primary school building.

Significance

The buildings on the hill overlooking Upper Marlboro represent 150 years of public education. The 1930's high school is the latest in a series of schools on the site, beginning with the Upper Marlboro Academy in 1835. The hillside was known as Academy Hill, and Schoolhouse pond also took its name from the Academy. The hillside was the residence of Dr. William Beanes, well known for his kidnapping by British troops during the War of 1812. Dr. Beanes lived on the hill from 1779 until his death in 1828. His grave is marked by a monument, east of the school. In 1836 the Academy's Board of Trustees purchased the Beanes' property for \$1,360. A representative of the Academy reported to the State General Assembly annually, and the State provided money to the Academy for free education to indigent students. In July 1855 the Academy, with Dr. Beanes' House as the principal's residence, burnt to the ground. It was quickly rebuilt. In 1908 the Academy entered into an agreement with the County's Board of Education whereby the Academy's building and property would be used as a public high school. The Academy ceased its existence at this time. The mission-style two-story high school built in 1921 is still visible at the rear of the present building. In the early 1930's the Marlboro Home and School Association requested an 8 room addition and an auditorium for the Marlboro High School. The present building was added to the older one after 1934.

Page: 6.702 acres

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. P.G. #79-52

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Old Marlboro High School (preferred)

and/or common OMES (Old Marlboro Elementary School)

2. Location

street & number Elm Street ___ not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county

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 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 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"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Prince George's County

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro, state and zip code MD 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 4411

street & number Main Street folio 183

city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #79-52

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.

The Old Marlboro High School is situated on a hill overlooking School-house Pond to the north and downtown Upper Marlboro to the south. The building is complex in plan. The original two-story, ten-by-five bay rectangular structure was enlarged by the addition of a long one-and-one-half story brick structure to the south (front) facade of the earlier building. The plan of the school is "U" shaped, with the arms of the "U" projecting north, the old school building at its center.

The original high school had a south gable end entrance, now hidden by the newer south wing. The original building has a flat roof with a high stepped parapet in the mission style. The east and west facades and north (rear) facade are still visible at the rear of the present structure. The front cornice of the original structure is also visible above the roof of the new one. The original school is covered with white painted stucco. The windows are of five horizontal lights, surmounted by flat brick arches. There is a high square stuccoed chimney attached to the north (rear) facade.

The new brick wing has a high rectangular main block with seven bays on its south (main) facade. It is flanked by two lower rectangular three-bay blocks, two to the east and two to the west. The main block has a central arcade of five high windows of 36 lights each, surmounted by a fan-light. Brick buttresses separate the windows. The first and last bay on the facade are large doors with architrave surrounds and an entablature. The surround detail is of cement. Centered above each door is an octagonal window. A corbelled brick cornice band runs around the building, surmounted by a cement string course. Centered on the south facade, above the cornice is a long cement tablet bearing no inscription, embellished by an egg-shaped ornament at each end.

The building is set on a cement foundation and has a cement water-table. The roof is flat. The brick work was laid in common bond.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History

Specific dates 1921, 1934 **Builder/Architect** Thomas H. Marsden/Hollyday & Stahl

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 complex of school buildings on the hill overlooking Elm and Water Streets in Upper Marlboro represents 150 years of public education in Prince George's County. The 1930's high school building is the latest in a succession of Prince George's County schools on the site, beginning with the incorporation of the Upper Marlboro Academy in 1835.¹ The hillside, which expanded farther to the east before the placement of Governor Oden Bowie Drive, was known as Academy Hill. Schoolhouse pond also took its name from the Upper Marlboro Academy.

The hillside was long prominent in Upper Marlboro because it was the residence of Dr. William Beanes. Beanes, a physician, farmer and miller, is well known for his kidnapping by British troops during the War of 1812. His release from the ship Minden was secured by his cousin, Francis Scott Key, but only after the battle at Fort McHenry, where Key wrote the words to "The Star Spangled Banner." Dr. Beanes had lived on the hill property from 1779 until his death in 1828. His grave site is marked by a monument, east of the school building.

In 1836 the president of the Upper Marlboro Academy's Board of Trustees was authorized to purchase the Beanes' property from a Mr. Roderick McGregor, for \$1,360. A Mr. Henry M. McGregor contracted to alter and add to the old Willaim Beanes dwelling for use as an Academy. The building was completed and ready for pupils on January 1, 1837. The school building used prior to that date was sold to the Vestry of the Trinity Church.² A representative of the Academy Board of Trustees reported to the State General Assembly annually,³ and the State provided an annual fund to the Academy, enabling it to provide free education to some indigent students. Tuition for most students was \$20 per year in 1835, and \$10 more for a mathematical education. The Academy admitted both boys and girls and in 1844 had 60 pupils, including some from Washington, D.C. and Baltimore.⁴

#7. (Continued)

The smaller blocks flanking the main block are successively set back, following the curve of the hillside. Each is approximately three-by-five bays. The east-most block contains the main entrance. Windows are of 24 lights. The brick and cement cornice treatment of the main block is repeated but simplified.

The hill on which the old high school is located is dotted with mature evergreen and hardwood trees and has a terrace. The small frame building which served as a public primary school and then as the high school principal's residence is just east of the high school. The graves of Dr. William Beanes and his wife are just east of the primary school building, shaded by a mature hardwood tree and enclosed by an iron picket fence with brick posts.

In July 1855 the Academy, with Dr. Beanes' House as a residence for the principal, burnt to the ground; however, with \$1,000 insurance from the Mutual Insurance Company of Baltimore County, a new Academy building was built quickly by Charles Ridgely, Jr. It opened in December 1855.⁵

In 1908 the Trustees of the Marlboro Academy entered into an agreement with the County's Board of Education whereby the Academy's building and property would be used as a public high school, subject to the state laws governing high schools.⁶ The Upper Marlboro Academy apparently ceased its existence at this time, and high school was held in the old Academy building.

Photographs exist of the old Academy building, probably the one built immediately after the 1855 fire. It was a large one-and-one-half-story frame building of three-by-five bays with a jerkin-head gable roof. Entrance was through double doors surmounted by a transom, in the building's south gable end. There was a central, open cupola on the roof ridge, containing a bell. This building served until the construction of a new high school on the site in 1921.

The mission-style two-story high school built in 1921 is still visible at the rear of the present building. It was built by Thomas H. Marsden for \$38,000,⁷ and is of masonry construction, with white-painted cement covering the exterior wall surface. It is a rectangular three-by-five bay building with a high stepped cornice. Entrance was through the south end.

In the early 1930's the Marlboro Home and School Association requested of the School Board an eight room addition and an auditorium for the Marlboro High School. The present building was added to the front facade of the older high school, after 1934. The contract was awarded to Hollyday and Stahl for a bid of \$66,789.⁸

Notes:

1 The Academy was incorporated by an Act of the General Assembly passed at December Session, 1835, Chapter 204.

2 Proceedings of the Board of Trustees of the Upper Marlboro Academy, 1835-1886. Available at the Prince George's County Board of Education, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

3 "Address of Caleb Magruder II, Thursday, May 19, 1921, at the dedication of the high school erected upon the site of Upper Marlboro Academy, Prince George's County Maryland", page 4.

4 Ibid. pg. 5.

5 Planter's Advocate, July 25, 1855, Local and Personal, "Fire-The Academy Burnt".

6 Records of the Board of County School Commissioners, 1865-1903, Board of Education Building, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, April 7, 1908.

7 Ibid. September 14, 1920.

8 Ibid. October 11, 1921.

Chain of Title

Upper Marlboro Schools
P.G. #79-51
P.G. #79-52

CC 2:646
14 Aug 1779
Deed

For 2,000 pounds William Sprigg Bowie to William Beanes. 1 acre adjoining Upper Marlboro together with all dwelling houses, out houses and improvements.

JRM 2:167
7 June 1793
Will

In love and affection, William Beanes, Sr., to William Beanes, Jr., physician. 1 acre adjoining Upper Marlboro on which William Beanes, Jr., now resides, same purchased from William Sprigg Bowie.

TT 1:432
#1810
15 Oct 1828
Will of
Dr. William Beanes, Jr.

By second codicil, dwelling house and grounds devised to Phillip Key. After the death of Colmore Beanes should be held in trust for Key, to become his when he has issue. If he dies without issue, property to be sold.

JBB 1:292
16 Jan 1841
Deed

John B. Brooke, trustee to sell the property of Dr. William Beanes, to William N. Boteler. For \$2,914, the former dwelling of Dr. William Beanes and all the grounds, garden, buildings and enclosures attached thereto; also the mill, meadows and lands adjoining.

JWB 5:359
5 Dec 1885
Deed

Trustees of the Upper Marlboro Academy to the Board of County School Commissioners. For \$400 grantors convey part of the Academy grounds on which for some years past the Board has maintained a public school for females, the two sections separated by a plank fence.

4411:183
5 Sept 1974
Deed

Board of Education of Prince George's County to Prince George's County, Maryland. 6.702 acres, with right to the pond. Known as Bell's Meadows; same grantors acquired by JWB 5:359, 141:232 and 453:71.

R-U

MA 2-P.18

R-80

STATE OF MARYLAND
5156/83
6.39
P.250

6201

119013

119012 MALBOROUGH TOWNE APTS.

SCHOOL HOUSE POND

O-S

M.N.C.P. & P.C.
4413/241
8.05 A

P.G.CO.
4411/183
11.00A.
P.258

R-55

R-T

C-O

6201

8621

6639

79-51-52

R-55

79-56

R-R

C-S-C

725

79-55

R-80

BOARD OF ED.
18C-15
1C.21A
P.52

T.VAN CLAGETT
2509-174
3.21A.
P.56

P.G.CO.
COMM.
3190/520
5.48A
P.266

O-S

FLOOD CONTR
2125/414

I-1

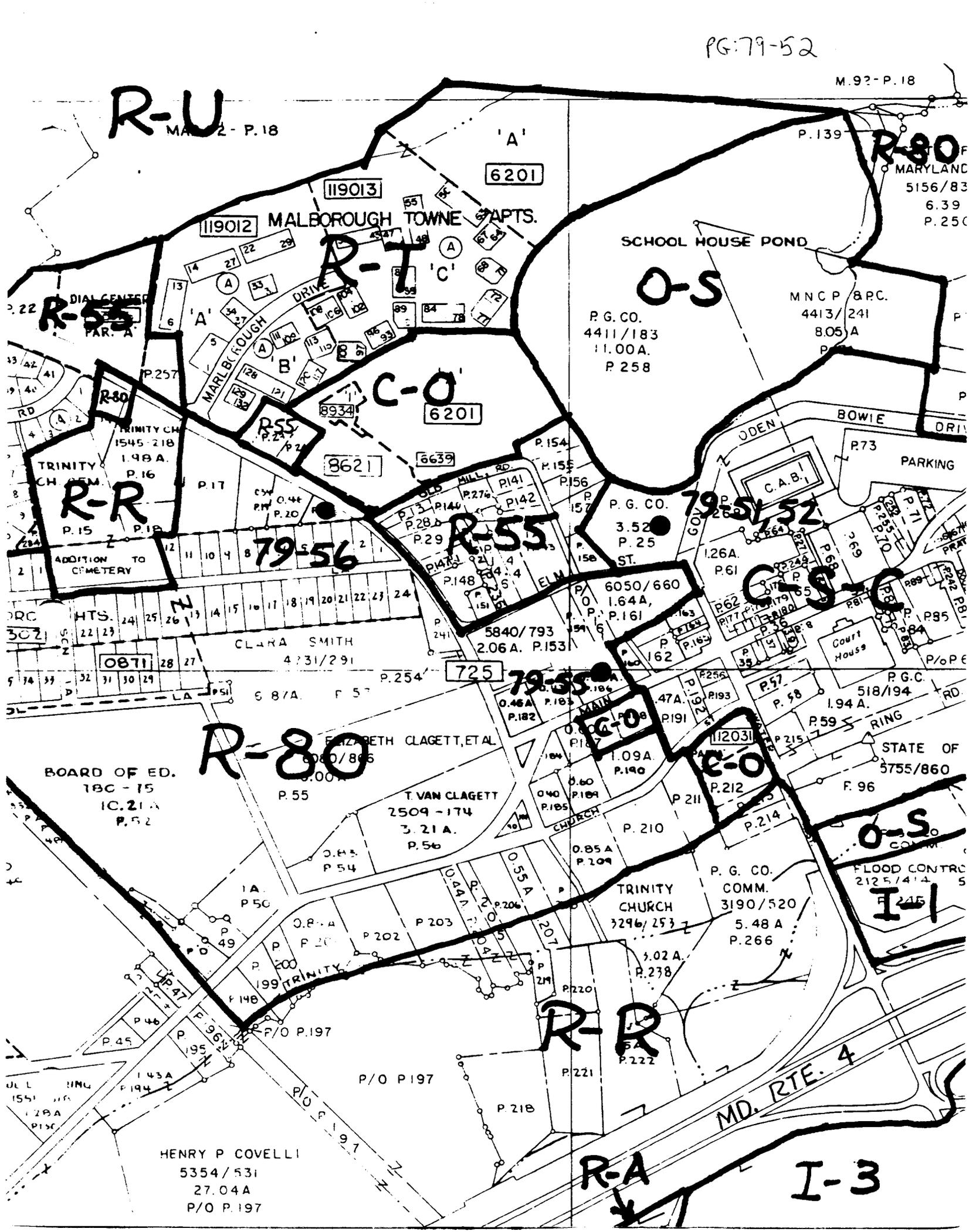
R-R

HENRY P COVELLI
5354/531
27.04A
P/O P.197

R-A

I-3

MD. RTE. 4





P.G.#79-52

Old Marlboro High School
Prince George's County, MD

Marina King

January 1986

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



Old Marlboro High School P.G.#79-52
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
January 1986
North elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



Old Marlboro High School
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
January 1986
Northwest elevation

P.G.#79-52

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD