P.G. #86A-24 1903/1920's
Croome Industrial and Agricultural Institute of P.G. Co.
St. Thomas Church Road, Croom, Md.
Pub/Unocc/Site/Unexposed

Nothing remains of the original buildings of the Croom Industrial and Agricultural Institute except for the decaying ruins of the "Hall" on the west side of the lane leading to St. Simon's cemetery. At the northeast corner of the same tract of land (on the south side of St. Thomas' Church Road) are a few small frame buildings, which are remnants of the Croome Settlement School (which succeeded the Institute in 1919).

After St. Simon's Chapel was established (ca. 1894) for the Black members of St. Thomas' congregation, Suzanne Willes, sister of the Rector, began to offer religious instruction , thus beginning her involvement with the education of Black youth. By 1899, she had begun to solicit funds to establish a school for "colored" boys and girls, and for this purpose, in 1902, she purchased 60 acres of land and had a large hall and other necessary school buildings constructed on it. The Croome Industrial and Agricultural Institute was incorporated in 1903, and had as its goal "industrial education as a means of opening---wider avenues of employment to young colored men and women." By 1918, the Institute was in serious financial difficulties, and dissolution was ordered. The land was reconveyed to Miss Willes, who formed a similar corporation disconnected from the church. This new school, chartered in 1919, was called the Croome Settlement School. Students came from various parts of southern Maryland; the principal courses were scientific agriculture and household skills. The school closed in 1952. Although very little remains of either phase of the school, the site is very important for it represents a unique effort in the Negro education movement. For the first half of the twentieth century, the Croome establishment offered practical instruction to young Blacks in an effort to provide them entry into the work force.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #86A-24 Building Date: ca. early 20th c.

Building Name: Croom Industrial and Agricultural School

Location: 14401 St. Thomas Church Road, Croom

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Croom Industrial School is a two-story frame dwelling with a gable-front-and-wing plan, set on a tree-shaded knoll overlooking St. Thomas Church Road. The three bay north (main) gable end has entrance in the first bay through a door with a wide board surround. Windows are 2/2 double-hung-sash with wide board surrounds, flanked by green aluminum louvered shutters. The hipped roof entrance porch wraps around and continues on the west facade. The porch roof rests on square wood posts. The three bays of the west porch are enclosed to enlarge the interior north room. Two corbelled brick chimneys are set on the west roof slope. The structure is covered with aluminum siding and has an asphalt shingle roof. The poured cement foundation was added in 1925. The two bay north (rear) gable end has a second bay entrance into what was a class room. The east facade is complex, having two bays on the main block, and the projecting gable roof two-by-one bay east wing on the third bay. The building interior originally had an open plan, made up of two large classrooms and a kitchen and dining room. To the south (rear) and east of the house are several one story gable roof frame outbuildings built after 1925, used for classrooms and dormatories. An unpaved drive circles the house. Cedar trees line this drive. St. Simon's Church stood close to St. Thomas Church Road, west of the house.

Significance

The Croom Industrial School is significant for its vernacular architecture, and for its history as a school for negro children. St. Thomas Church rector Reverend Frank P. Willes' sister, Suzanne Willes, took up the cause of Negro education and in 1902 purchased 60 acres for a school. By 1903 a large hall and some smaller school buildings had been built. The Institute had financial difficulties by 1918, and dissolved and reformed as the Croome Settlement School. The small frame classroom buildings now on the site were constructed during the 1920's when the institution served as a home for District of Columbia Child Welfare Wards. It finally closed in 1952, and now serves as a residence for a family that had been connected with the settlement school. The dwelling on the school site served as classrooms and dormatories. Built before 1920, it is a plain vernacular dwelling, similar in plan to many late 19th and early 20th century dwellings in the County. The building has been further simplified in surface treatment by the addition of aluminum siding. It maintains its significance as the site of a unique effort in the Negro education movement.

Acreage: 1 acre

Survey No. PG-86A-24

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Croom Industrial and Agricultural Institute (preferred)

and/or common Croom Settlement School/Pinkney House

2. Location

street & number 14401 St. Thomas Church Rd., ___ not for publication

city, town Croom ___ vicinity of congressional district 4

state Md. county Prince George's

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	___ 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 George W. Pinkney

street & number 14401 St. Thomas Church Rd., telephone no.:

city, town Croom state and zip code Md. 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. County Courthouse liber #4659

street & number Main Street folio 412

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N.A.

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission, Room 4010/CAB

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

7. Description

Survey No. FC-86A-24

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X 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.

The Croom Industrial School is a two-story frame dwelling with a gable-front-and-wing plan. It is set on a tree-shaded knoll overlooking St. Thomas Church Road to its north.

The three bay north (main) gable end has entrance in the first bay through a door with a wide plain board surround, surmounted by a two-light transom. Windows are 2/2 double-hung-sash with wide board surrounds, flanked by green aluminum louvered shutters. The three bay hipped roof entrance porch, set on a poured cement base, wraps around and continues on the west facade. The porch roof rests on square wood posts set on high cement block bases. The porch cornice is deteriorated.

The first three bays of the five bay west facade are covered by the entrance porch. The porch was enclosed to enlarge the interior north room. The first two bays are set apart from the rear three. The last three bays are 6/6 sash windows rather than 2/2 sash. Two corbelled brick chimneys are set on the west roof slope.

The structure is covered with aluminum siding and has an asphalt shingle roof. The poured cement foundation was added in 1925, to enclose the crawl space beneath the building.

The two bay north (rear) gable end has a second bay entrance into what was a class room. The east facade is complex, having two bays on the main block, and the projecting gable roof two-by-one bay east wing on the third bay. A parged exterior chimney is centered on the east gable end of the wing. There is also a one story gable roof addition on the east gable end, with a bulkhead cellar entrance beneath it.

The building interior originally had an open plan, made up of two large classrooms and a kitchen and dining room. The north entrance entered directly into a classroom. A second classroom was directly behind it in what is now the kitchen and dining area. The school dining room and kitchen were in the east wing of the house. The upper floor was used for a dormatory.

To the south (rear) and east of the house are several one story gable roof frame outbuildings built after 1925, used by the school for classrooms and dormatories. There are three such buildings east of the house and two to the rear. An unpaved drive circles to the rear of the house and back out to the road. Cedar trees line this drive. Also to the south (rear) of the house is the site of what was the school auditorium. St. Simon's Church stood close to St. Thomas Church Road, west of the house.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG-86A-24

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	X 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	X other (specify) local history
		___ invention		

Specific dates **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.

The Croom Industrial School is significant for its vernacular architecture, and for its history as a training school for negro children. It also is closely connected with the history of St. Simon's, a black Episcopal Mission Chapel of St. Thomas Church, Croom.

St. Simon's Chapel was constructed in 1894 on the grounds of the St. Thomas Rectory, just north of St. Thomas Church, during the tenure of Reverend Frank P. Willes. Reverend Willis' two sisters, Suzanne and Katherine Willes, offered religious instruction at St. Simons. Suzanne Willes took up the cause of Negro education and by 1899 she began to solicit funds to establish an institute for the education of negro children. In 1902 she purchased 60 acres of land on the south side of St. Thomas Church Road to use for the establishment of a school. In the same year, St. Simon's received the services of a full-time black Episcopal priest, and the small wooden church building was moved to the 60 acre school tract. The building was placed close to and fronting on St. Thomas Church Road.

By 1903 a large hall and some smaller school buildings had been built and the Croom Industrial and Agricultural Institute of Prince George's County, Maryland was incorporated. It had as its chief object the "extension and improvement of industrial education as a means of opening better and wider avenues of employment to young colored men and women."

The Institute had financial difficulties by 1918, and the organization was dissolved and reformed as the Croome Settlement School. The Settlement School was to have no connection with the Episcopal Church. Suzanne Willes conveyed the now 45 acre property to the school's Board of Trustees, of which she was a member, in 1921. The small frame dormatory and classroom buildings now on the site were constructed during the 1920's. From the 1920's on, the institution served primarily as a home for District of Columbia Child Welfare Wards. In the 1940's it was again beset by finan-

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG-86A-24

See Notes, #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Brandywine, Section C **Quadrangle scale**

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

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 Marina King, Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Commission **date** September 1986

street & number 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive **telephone** 952-3520

city or town Upper Marlboro **state** Md.

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

cial difficulties, and finally closed in 1952. The St. Simon's congregation merged with St. Thomas Church in 1964 and the Chapel stood vacant until it was finally razed in 1974. In 1964 the 45 acres of the settlement school was sold to the Prince George's County Board of Education.[1] One acre of property, containing what was left of the school buildings was held by private owners. It now serves as a residence for a family that had been connected with the settlement school.[2]

The large dwelling that remains on the school site served as classrooms and dormatories. Built before 1920, it is a plain vernacular dwelling, similar in plan to many late 19th and early 20th century dwellings built in the County. It is a simplified version of the Victorian vernacular farm dwelling, similar in its large size, two story height, frame construction, gable-front and wing plan and wide entrance porch, but lacking embellishments such as turned and bracketed porch posts, or roof and gable decoration. The building has been further simplified in surface treatment by the addition of aluminum siding. It maintains its significance as the site of a unique effort in the Negro education movement.

Notes

[1] P.G. #86A-12 and 24, Maryland Historic Trust Inventory forms, Susan Pearl, available at Historic Preservation Commission, Room 4010, County Administration Building, Upper Marlboro.

[2] Land Records of Prince George's County, 2547:410, 4659:412.

Survey No. P.G. #86A-24

Magi No. 1780005727

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Croom Industrial and Agricultural Institute of P. G. Co.

and/or common Croom Settlement School of Prince George's Co.

2. Location

street & number St. Thomas' Church Road ___ not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro ___ vicinity of Croom congressional district 4

state Maryland 20772 county Prince George's

3. Classification

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

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

name P. G. Co. Board of Education

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro state and zip code Md., 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P. G. Co. Courthouse liber 3086

street & number Main Street folio 482

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md. 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No P.G. #86A-24

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

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

Nothing remains of the original buildings of the Croom Industrial and Agricultural Institute except for the decaying ruins of the "Hall" on the west side of the lane leading to St. Simon's cemetery. This building was constructed ca. 1902.

On the south side of St. Thomas' Church Road at the northeast corner of the same tract of land stand a few small frame buildings, which are remnants of the second institution, the Croom Settlement School (which succeeded the Croom Industrial and Agricultural Institute in 1919).

8. Significance

Survey No.P.G. #86A-24

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	___ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1903, 1920's **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.

Rev. Frank P. Willes came to St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Croom, in 1892, and with him came his two sisters, Suzanne and Katharine. With the building of St. Simon's Chapel on the rectory grounds, the sisters offered religious instructions for the local black members of the congregation; thus began their involvement with the education of black youth. By 1896, the Sunday School at St. Simon's was flourishing, and by 1899, Susie Willes had begun to solicit funds not only locally, but from Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts, to establish an institute for the education of colored boys and girls. With the funds she collected she purchased 60 acres of land (in 1902) on the south side of St. Thomas' Church Road, (onto which St. Simon's Chapel was moved), and by 1903, she had built a large hall as well as other necessary school buildings. The Croome Industrial and Agricultural Institute of Prince George's County, Md., was incorporated in 1903, and had as its chief object the "extension and improvement of industrial education as a means of opening better and wider avenues of employment to young colored men and women." The Institute gave instructions in cooking, household economics, sewing and dressmaking, as well as scientific agriculture, and was managed by a Board of Trustees (which included the two Misses Willes).

By 1918, however, the Institute was in severe financial difficulty, and the trustees, then headed by Rev. Alfred Harding, filed a Petition for Dissolution. Susie Willes contested the petition; she admitted the insufficiency of funds but insisted that it was possible to continue the Institute. The Court of Equity, however, approved the dissolution, but had the property of the Institute (by then 45 acres) reconveyed to Susie Willes on the condition that she form a new corporation with purpose similar to the original; it was, however, to be "organized and managed, severed and disconnected in every way from the Protestant Episcopal Church."

The new corporation was called the Croom Settlement

#8 - SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

School of Prince George's County, and its charter of 1919 stated that its purpose was the "industrial and educational betterment of the colored boys and girls of Southern Maryland, said work to be on absolutely a non-sectarian foundation but broadly religious, the aim of the school being the Christian character of every pupil ....." In 1921 Susie Willes conveyed the 45 acre property to the Croom Settlement School. Several new frame school buildings were constructed during the 1920's which still stand today. Again, scientific agriculture and household skills were the principal courses offered by the school. Students came from various parts of Southern Maryland; the school also served for many years as a home for District of Columbia Child Welfare wards. The Croome Settlement School closed finally in 1952, and the ca. 45 acre property was sold in 1964 to the Prince George's County Board of Education.

Although very little physical evidence remains of the two phases of this school, its site is very important for it represents a unique effort in the Negro education movement. For the first half of the twentieth century, up to the eve of school desegregation, the Croome establishment offered practical instructions to young black people, at first under the wing of the Episcopal Church, and later as a non-sectarian venture, in an effort to provide them entry into the work force.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No P.G.#86A-24

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale _____

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

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 Susan G. Pearl

organization History Division, M-NCPPC date January 13, 1983

street & number 4811 Riverdale Road telephone 779-2011

city or town Riverdale state Maryland 20737

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.

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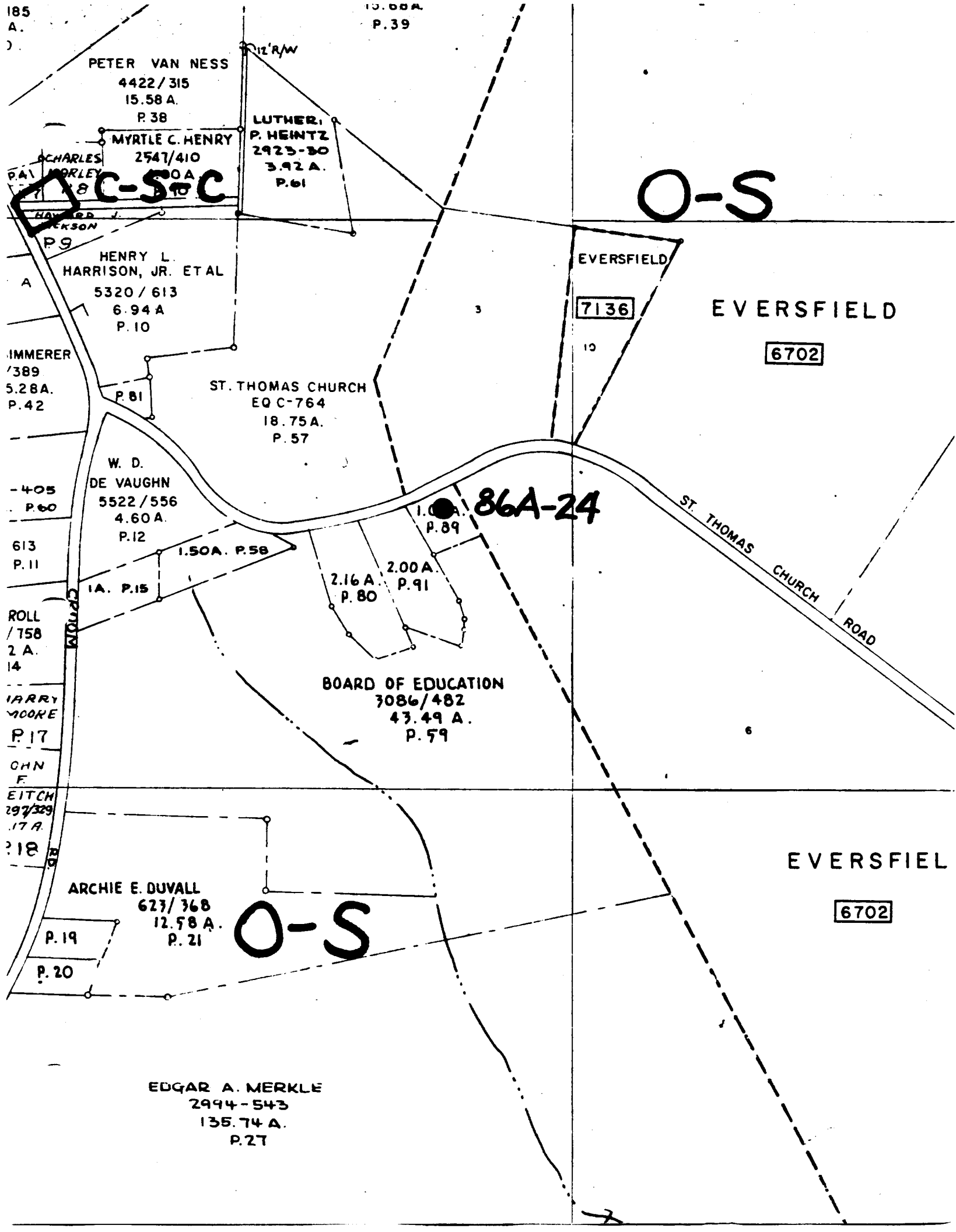
Chain of Title

Croom Industrial School
P.G. #86A-~~27~~24

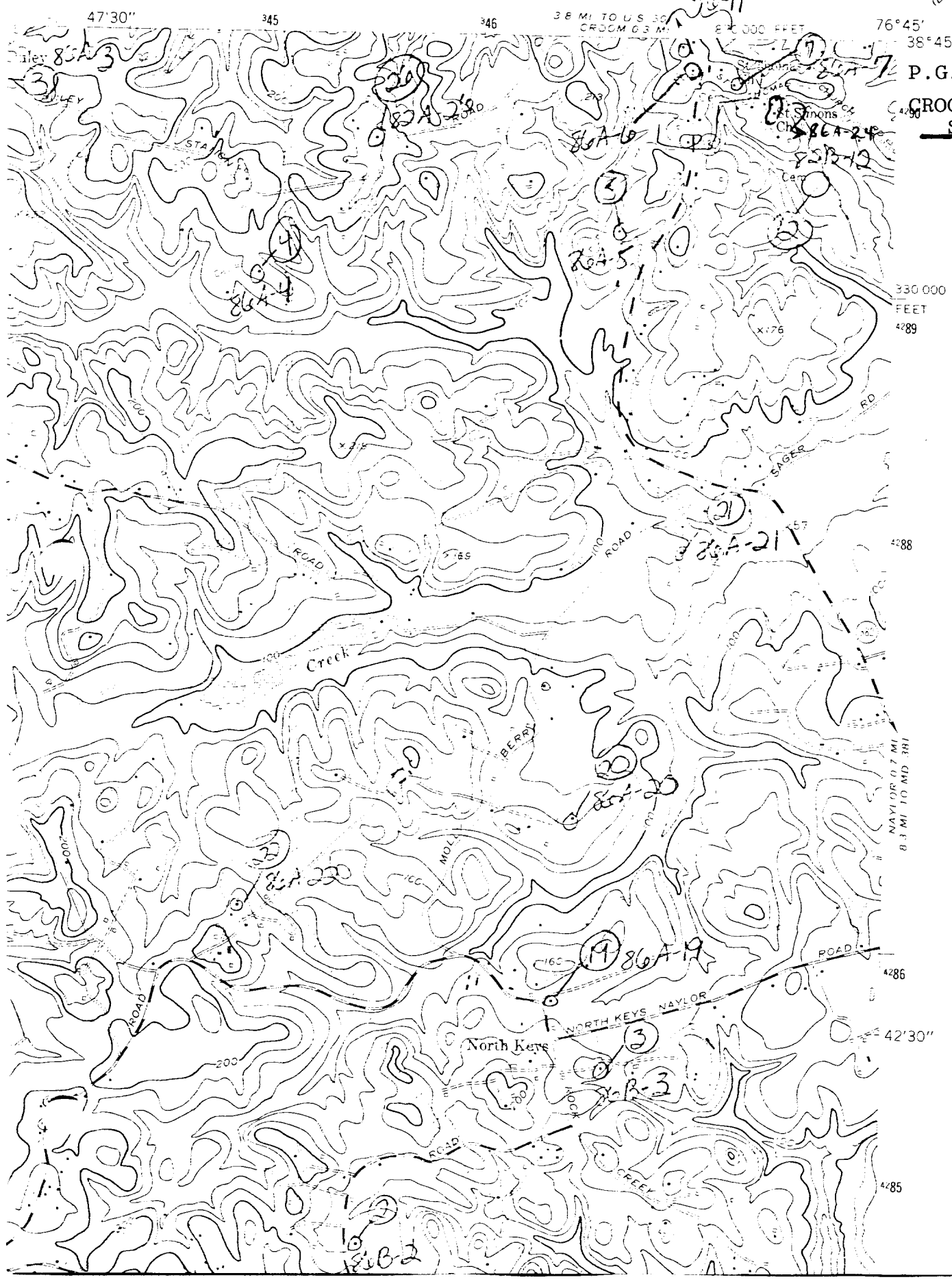
4659:412 13 July 1976 Deed	Myrtle Catherine Henry to George W. and Catherine Tomes Pinkney. For $10 grantor conveys that parcel obtained from Mae C. Henry and Barrington Henry by deed dated March 8, 1961, 2547:410, Item 2. Contains 1 acre with improvements.
2547:410 8 Mar 1961 Deed	Mae C. and Barrington G. Henry to Myrtle Catherine Henry. For $10 grantors convey that parcel obtained from Joseph L. and Mary L. Gallaway, 16 March 1953, 1599:554. Item 2: Lot of 1 acre, same obtained by Richard and Henry Gallway from Susie Willes, March 17, 1926, 244:290 and other tracts.
244:290 17 Mar 1926 Deed	Susie Willes, unmarried, to Rachel A. Henry. For $10 grantor conveys that tract of 1 acre conveyed to Susie Willes from Ida R. Brady Sept. 7, 1915, 115:329. Together with improvements.
115:329 7 Sept. 1915 Deed	Ida R. Brady and S. Bernard Brady to Susie Willes. For $700 grantors convey that parcel in Nottingham District, 1 acre, same parcel conveyed to Ida Brady October 5, 1908, 47:537. Together with improvements.
47:537 5 Oct 1908 Deed	Sara R. Devaughn for $200 grants to Ida R. Brady that tract in Nottingham District of 1 acre. Obtained from R. H. Hooe September 13, 1900, 3:113.


185
A.
15.68A.
P.39
12'R/W
PETER VAN NESS
4422/315
15.58 A.
P.38
MYRTLE C. HENRY
2547/410
LUTHER I.
P. HEINTZ
2923-30
3.92 A.
P.61
CHARLES
C-S-C
O-S
P.9
HENRY L.
HARRISON, JR. ET AL
5320/613
6.94 A
P.10
EVERSFIELD
7136
EVERSFIELD
6702
IMMERER
/389
5.28A.
P.42
P.81
ST. THOMAS CHURCH
EQ C-764
18.75A.
P.57
W. D.
DE VAUGHN
5522/556
4.60 A.
P.12
-405
P.60
613
P.11
1.50A. P.58
1A. P.15
86A-24
P.89
2.16 A.
P.80
2.00 A.
P.91
ST. THOMAS CHURCH ROAD
ROLL
/758
2 A.
14
BOARD OF EDUCATION
3086/482
43.49 A.
P.59
HARRY
MOORE
P.17
CHN
F.
EITCH
297/329
.17 A.
P.18
EVERSFIEL
6702
ARCHIE E. DUVALL
623/368
12.58 A.
P.21
O-S
P.19
P.20
EDGAR A. MERKLE
2994-543
135.74 A.
P.27

BRANDYWINE QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

P.G.# 86A-24

CROOME INSTITUTE SITE



P.G. #86A-24

Croom Industrial School
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
April 1986
North elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

P.G. #86A-24

Croom Industrial School
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
April 1986
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

P.G. #86A-24

Croom Industrial School
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
April 1986
South elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

P.G. #86A-24

Croom Industrial School
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
April 1986
Outbuilding, east
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

P.G. # 86.A-24

P. G. #86A-24

Croome Industrial/Agricultural Institute
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
January 1983
View to east
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.

P.G. #86A-24

P. G. #86A-24

Croome Industrial/Agricultural Institute
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
January 1983
View to south
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.