

P.G. #87A-12
Poplar Hill School
19104 Croom Road, Aquasco, Md.
Priv/Occ/Social/Good

1936

The Poplar Hill School is a small, one-story gable-roofed frame building, three bays wide, with entrance into the third bay of the west facade. There is an exterior brick chimney at the north gable end. At the time of the Bi-County survey of 1974, this school-house had already been renovated and re-sided with aluminum. The windows, 6/6 at that time, have since been replaced with shorter, wider modern windows, and the siding has been replaced to accommodate them.

The first school at Poplar Hill was built in 1878, on land (across Croom Road from the present school) deeded to the Board of School Commissioners by freedman J. Allen Hawkins. It was called the Black Swamp School, and as the second "colored" school in Aquasco District, it served the local Black community for nearly sixty years. In 1935, the Board of Education heard a request from the Black community for a new school, and the present school building was finished in 1936. This new Poplar Hill School continued in use until it was closed in 1952; it was purchased by Prince George Lodge #1003 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. This group has renovated the building and continues to use it as a social center. Its site, with that of the original Black Swamp School, is significant because it has been for more than a century an important step in the progress of Black education.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Poplar Hill School

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 19104 Croom Road (Maryland Route 382) not for publication

city, town Aquasco Poplar Hill
 vicinity of / congressional district

state Maryland county P. G.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Social |

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

name Pride of Prince George Lodge #1003, BPOE and
 Loyal Ladies Temple #712

street & number 19104 Croome Road telephone no.:

city, town Aquasco state and zip code Md.

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P. G. Co. Courthouse liber 4421

street & number Main Street folio 415

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. 87A-12

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 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 | | |

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

The Poplar Hill school is a small one-story gable-roofed frame building. It is three bays wide, with entrance into the third bay of the west facade. There is a brick chimney at the north gable end.

At the time of the Bi-county survey of 1974, this modest schoolhouse had already been renovated, and re-sided with aluminum. The windows at that time were 6/6 but have since been replaced by shorter, wider modern windows, and the siding has been replaced to accommodate them.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. 87A-12

| 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"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History |

Specific dates: 1936

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 first school at Poplar Hill, on the road from Woodville to Magraders Ferry, was built in 1877/1878 on land which was sold to the Board of School Commissioners by J. Allen Hawkins. Hawkins was a freedman and former slave of John L. Turner. After Emancipation, he worked as a farm hand, and by 1868 was able to pay \$150 to Dr. Mathias Latimer for a 5 1/2 acre parcel of Latimer's "Cole Brook" plantation. Hawkins worked his new farm with his wife Charity, and their growing family, and in 1877, had one acre of his small farm surveyed and laid off for the site of a school for Black children. In June of 1877, the Board of School Commissioners ordered that the contract for building the school was to be advertised, and in August the Board received Hawkins' deed to the one-acre school lot. The deed specifically granted the school children use of Hawkins' spring, and J. Allen Hawkins served for many years as Trustee of the school.

The small one-room school which was built there circa 1878 was known as Black Swamp School, from its location near Black Swamp Creek. This little school house, "Colored" School #2 in the Aquasco District, served to educate the local Black children for nearly sixty years. In February of 1935, however, the Board of Education (successor to the Board of School Commissioners) entertained a request from the Black community near Poplar Hill for a new school building. A year later, the Board purchased from Ann R. Latimer, daughter of Dr. Mathias, another acre of land across the road (on the south side) from the old Black Swamp School. The new and larger school was finished within the year, and came to be known as Poplar Hill School. The old Black Swamp School was purchased and enlarged into a private residence.

Hill

Even the new Poplar/School was very small, considering that it was built as late as 1936, and it has not been discovered just why such a small building was erected. (Cf. the much larger Woodsville School #87B-34, built in 1834 at

at the end of the Rosenwald Fund era.) In any case, Poplar Hill School was closed in 1952, and sold to the Price of Prince George Lodge #1003 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; this group has renovated the building, and continues to use it as a social center.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Poplar Hill School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Rte. 382, near Power Lines

CITY, TOWN

(Poplar Hill) Aquasco

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Prince George's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES RESTRICTED
- YES UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

William F. Gray, et al?

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Prince George's County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This building appears to have been a one-room, rural schoolhouse-that has since been remodeled into a private home. It has a three-bay main (south) facade, with the doorway in the east end-bay. The other openings here are two, centrally-placed, 6/6 windows. A newer brick flue sits on the exterior west wall. Clapboard and aluminum siding, and asphalt-shingle roof.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Seems to have been a one-room school early in this century.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION _____

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

6/11/74

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

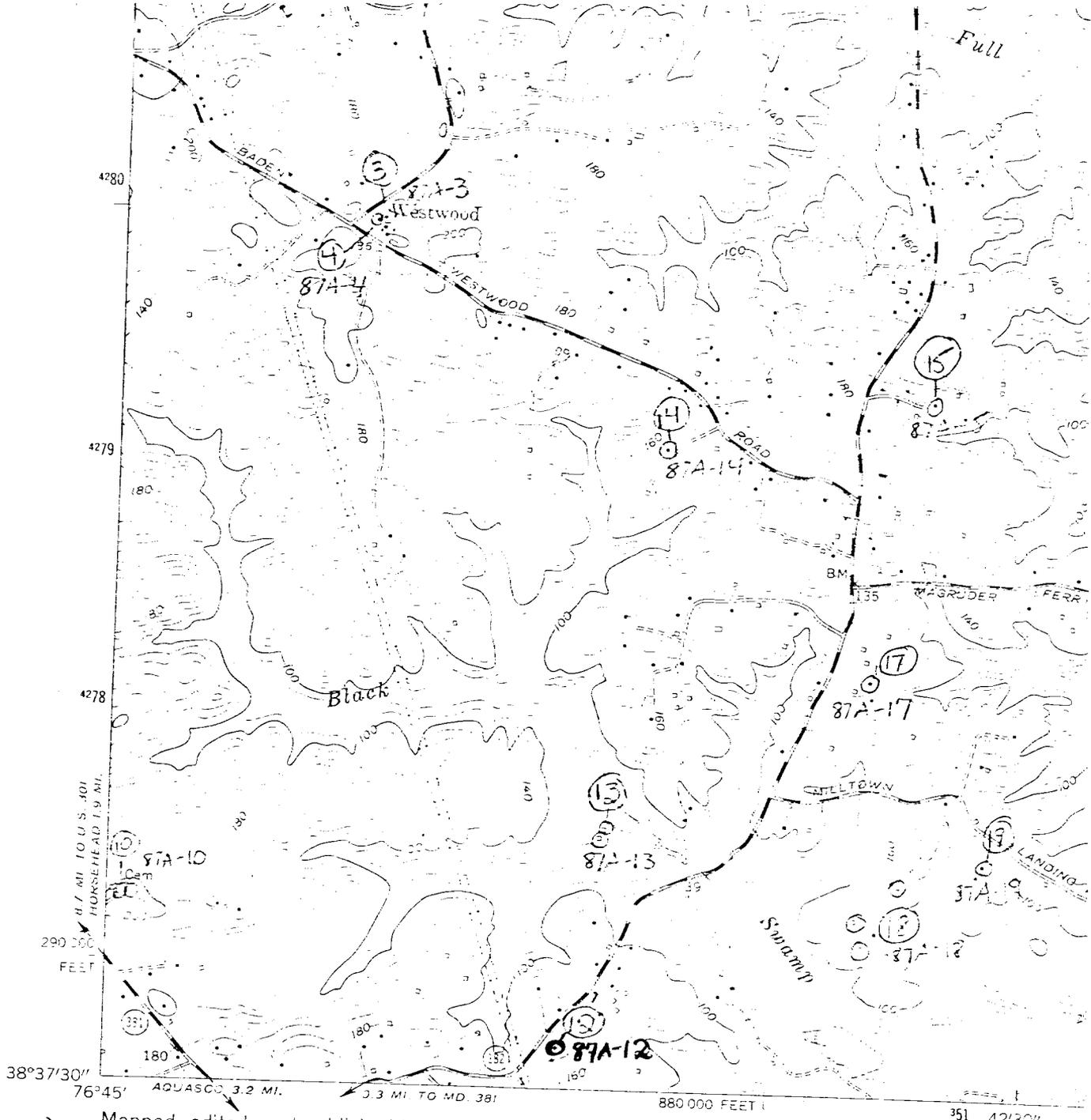
STATE

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
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438



(HUGHESVILLE)
5661 III SE

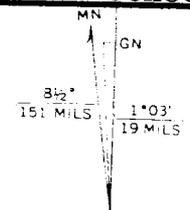
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

P.G.#87A-12

Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs taken 1953. Topography enlarged from 1:62,500 scale map of Prince Frederick quadrangle, 15-minute series. Original map by plane-table surveys 1934-1935. Revised 1953

POPLAR HILL SCHOOL

Hydrography from USC&GS chart 539, dated 1951



Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other source data. This information not from original map edition 1953



NAME OLD SCHOOLHOUSE? POPLAR HILL #87A-12

LOCATION RTE. 382 + POWER LINES, AQUASCO, MD.

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 6/11/74

M. ADYER



P. G. #87A-12

Poplar Hill School
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1983
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.