

CH-100
Pomfret Colored School
Pomfret vic.
Private

circa 1920

The "Pomfret Colored School" is a simple early-1920s frame schoolhouse that has been converted for domestic use. Erected in the early 1920s as an expansion of an existing African-American grade school, Pomfret Colored School retains its original form, interior stove flue, and pressed metal-shingle roof. It occupies a level, 1-acre lot among a small residential enclave on the west side of Marshall Corner Road near Pomfret.

The Pomfret Colored School is one of only a few remaining examples of African-American educational facilities from the era of segregation remaining in Charles County. Although converted to a residence during the 1950s, the former school retains its original form, and is still recognizable as a schoolhouse. The building served as a fourth through seventh grade school for African Americans between circa 1920 and circa 1950.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH-100

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Pomfret Colored School

common/other name _____

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2. Location

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street & number 5495 Holeshot Place not for publication _____
city or town Pomfret vicinity state Maryland code MD
county Charles code 017 zip code 20675

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing		Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes Name of Listing _____

No

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-100

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6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: School

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Early 20th Century Vernacular

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation pier: poured concrete
roof side gable: pressed metal shingles
walls frame: stucco (originally wood German siding)
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-100

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

Period of Significance circa 1920 - circa 1950

Significant Dates circa 1920

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation African American

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Charles County Retired Teachers Association, *A History of the One and Two-Room Schools in Charles County*, Unpublished manuscript, 1976.

Charles County Retired Teachers Association, *A Legacy: One- and Two-Room Schools in Charles County*, Unpublished manuscript, 1984.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*. La Plata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 1 acre

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property at 5495 Holeshot Place is designated as Parcel 183 on Map 22, Grid 21 on the Charles County Property Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The schoolhouse at 5495 Holeshot Place has been associated with Parcel 183, Map 22 since its construction circa 1920.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Kathryn Gettings Smith, Architectural Historian
organization Charles County Planning Dept. date Oct.14, 1998
street & number P.O. Box B telephone 301-645-0689
city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646
=====

12. Property Owner
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name Elmer H. and Susan A. Sanders
street & number 5485 Holeshot Place telephone 301-609-8521
city or town Pomfret state MD zip code 20675
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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-100

Section 7 Page 1

Pomfret School
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

The "Pomfret Colored School" is a simple early-1920s frame schoolhouse that has been converted for domestic use. Erected in the early 1920s as an expansion of an existing African-American grade school, Pomfret Colored School retains its original form, interior stove flue, and pressed metal-shingle roof. It occupies a level 1-acre lot among a small residential enclave on the west side of Marshall Corner Road near Pomfret.

The schoolhouse is located approximately 200 yards west of Marshall Corner Road on the east side of a gravel road known as Holeshot Place. The school faces the road and is set in a slight hollow. No trees grow on the 1-acre lot that encompasses the building.

A historic photograph of the school shows that, as built, it was a 1-story, side gable frame building clad in wood siding. A bank of six 6/6 double-hung wood sash windows extended across the front of the building and a single-leaf paneled wood door provided entry to the interior. A small stove flue broke the rear roof plane, and the roof terminated in open eaves. The building sat on a poured concrete pier foundation. A small shed roof portico sheltered the main entrance.

The schoolhouse has since been converted into a dwelling. On the exterior, the building was reclad in stucco, its banks of windows infilled, and the entrance moved. The pier foundation was infilled with concrete block, and the interior divided into several rooms with a finished loft space above stairs. Windows were added on the gable ends to light this upper story, and a 1-story, 2-bay frame porch with a gable roof was built over the new entrance.

Today the facade contains four irregular bays, including two single windows with the single-leaf entry door and a flanking tri-partite window set between them. The entry contains a 1960s-style flush wood door with three staggered lights, while the majority of the windows contain 1/1 wood sash, and are trimmed by square-edged wood casings. The gable ends are punctured by various windows. The south elevation contains three windows set in a triangular pattern, one lighting the upper half story and the others, the first story. The north gable end is pierced by two openings. One, located on the first story, contains paired 1/1 wood windows, while the other is set in the upper half story and holds a single 1/1 sash window.

The rear of the building is pierced by four openings. The southernmost of these contains a single-leaf panel-and-light wood door, while the remaining three enclose single 1/1 wood sash

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-100

Section 7 Page 2

Pomfret School
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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windows. The parged chimney flue remains in its original position.

At some point after the initial conversion from schoolhouse to dwelling, the building was again remodeled, and beaded wood siding attached across the west elevation. The west face of the gable roof was also replaced with standing seam metal roofing. Evidence also remains of a gable-roof portico that once sheltered the west entrance.

OUTBUILDINGS:

A single non-historic shed accompanies the former schoolhouse on its 1-acre lot. This 1-story frame structure features a low-pitched gable front roof, wood shingle cladding on its front, and a cross-braced barn-style single door. The shed appears to date to the 1960s or 1970s.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-100

Section 8 Page 1

Pomfret School
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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Erected around 1920, the Pomfret Colored School is one of only a few remaining examples of African-American educational facilities from the era of segregation. Although converted to a residence during the 1950s, the former school retains its original form, and is still somewhat recognizable as a schoolhouse. The building served as a fourth through seventh grade school for African Americans between circa 1920 and circa 1950.

Early education in Charles County was conducted by private tutors in private homes or in small schoolhouses located on private plantations. The earliest public schools in Charles County date to the second quarter of the 19th century. Before this, private funds and property were utilized to run the few schools in the County. It was not until the 1850s that the County's school board became active in purchasing lands and paying for the construction of public primary schools. By 1860, the county had thirty-two schools, all housed in log or frame one-room schoolhouses. Public education was not, however, offered to African Americans in the County until after the Civil War. By 1868, six "colored" schools were in operation in Charles County. This number grew to fifteen by 1874, and again to 24 by 1879. By 1899, however, the number of public schools devoted to educating African Americans had reached only thirty, while there were 45 public schools for white children.¹ This amounted to approximately one school for every 65 African-American students, while white students enjoyed a ratio of one school for every 34 white students.

Pomfret Colored School was originally established sometime after 1901 when Samuel Freeman (see Freeman House, CH-155), a local African-American landholder donated a small tract upon which to erect the school. The original building no longer stands, but was once located west of the present building, and was described as "a box-shaped building with two windows on either side and one entrance."² The toilet facilities were located in two, gender divided, outhouses. This first Pomfret school building was constructed by local men under the leadership of John Briscoe.³

By the early 1920s, the African-American population in the area had

¹ Charles County Retired Teachers, 1976: pp.1-2; 5-12.

² Charles County Retired Teachers, 1984: pp.39-40.

³ Idem.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-100

Section 8 Page 2

Pomfret School
name of property
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county and state

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grown as had the demand for higher levels of education. Therefore, with the help of the Julius Rosenwald Foundation, a philanthropic organization set up by the chairman of the Sears, Roebuck Company to aid in the education of poor children, the County erected a new school building at Pomfret to house the fourth through seventh grades.⁴ This new building constituted an expansion of the original school, which continued to house the first through fourth grade students.

The modest 1920s classroom building was heated by a single wood-burning stove and a nearby well supplied the school with water. Two of the early teachers at the school were Georgia C. Lucas and Estella Burkhead. Both were appointed to teach at Pomfret in 1926, each one being in charge of one of the two classroom buildings.⁵

The school continued to operate into the 1940s. According to deed records the property on which the present building stands was not officially transferred to the Charles County Board of Education until 1947, at which time Cecelia and Charles H. Jones conveyed the title. Shortly after this, in 1951, the Board of Education relinquished the property, selling it to Guy R. and Evelyn T. Beatty for \$100 at public auction. The property was again sold at auction in 1969 to J. Horace and Alverta Berry for \$8,200. It is apparent that between 1951 and 1969, the Beatty's converted the building into a dwelling, as is stated in a newspaper advertisement of the 1969 public auction. In this advertisement the property is described as being improved by a "one (1) story, six-room frame dwelling with modern conveniences."⁶

The Berrys continued to own the former schoolhouse and its 1-acre parcel until 1974 when they sold it to Walter Xavier Sanders and Regina Willet Sanders. The property remains in the Sanders family.

⁴ Idem.

⁵ Idem.

⁶ *The Times-Crescent*, February 6, 1969: p. A-6.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-100

Pomfret School
name of property
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county and state

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-
1930
Modern Period, 1930-present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

EDUCATION

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): EDUCATION/School

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-100

Pomfret School
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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Chain of Title:

October 2, 1906: Mary E. Robinson, et al. (heirs of Godfrey Clark) to Cecelia Jones
8.5 acres, Cecelia Jones's siblings convey their interest in land inherited from their father to her
Charles County Land Records
Liber FDM 18 Folio 100

December 26, 1947: Cecelia & Charles H. Jones to The Board of County School Commissioners
\$10
1 acre near Pomfret Post Office
Formerly owned by Godfrey Clark & descended to Cecelia Jones & others
Charles County Land Records
Liber FDM 18 Folio 591

December 13, 1951: Board of Education of Charles County to Guy R. & Evelyn T. Beatty
\$100.00
1 acre surveyed by S. Henry Cox
Charles County Land Records
Liber 101 Folio 63

May 6, 1969: Edward S. Digges, Attorney to J. Horace & Alverta Berry
1 acre
\$8,200
Public sale held March 4, 1969 as result of default on mortgage of Guy R. & Evelyn T. Beatty
Charles County Land Records
Liber PCM 204 Folio 551

August 3, 1970: J. Horace & Alverta Berry to Dorothy C. Burch (later Pilkerton) & Floyd N. Thompson
\$10
1 acre
Charles County Land Records
Liber 222 Folio 142

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
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Inventory No. CH-100

Pomfret School
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April 20, 1972: Floyd N. Thompson & Dorothy C.
Pilkerton to J. Horace & Alverta
Berry
\$10
1 acre
Charles County Land Records
Liber 254 Folio 22

October 2, 1972: J. Horace & Alverta Berry to Andrew
J. & Elizabeth Seger
1 acre
Segers indebted to Berrys for
\$19,000
Charles County Land Records
Liber 264 Folio 579

March 6, 1974: Andrew & Elizabeth Seger to J.
Horace & Alverta Berry
1 acre
Mortgage
Charles County Land Records
Liber 264 Folio 581

April 25, 1974: Frank G. Perrin, Assignee of
Mortgage from Andrew J. & Elizabeth
J. Seger to J. Horace & Alverta
Berry
\$12,000
Charles County Land Records
Liber 336 Folio 87

June 10, 1974: J. Horace & Alverta B. Berry to
Walter X. & Regina Willet Sanders
\$10
1 acre
Charles County Land Records
Liber 343 Folio 99

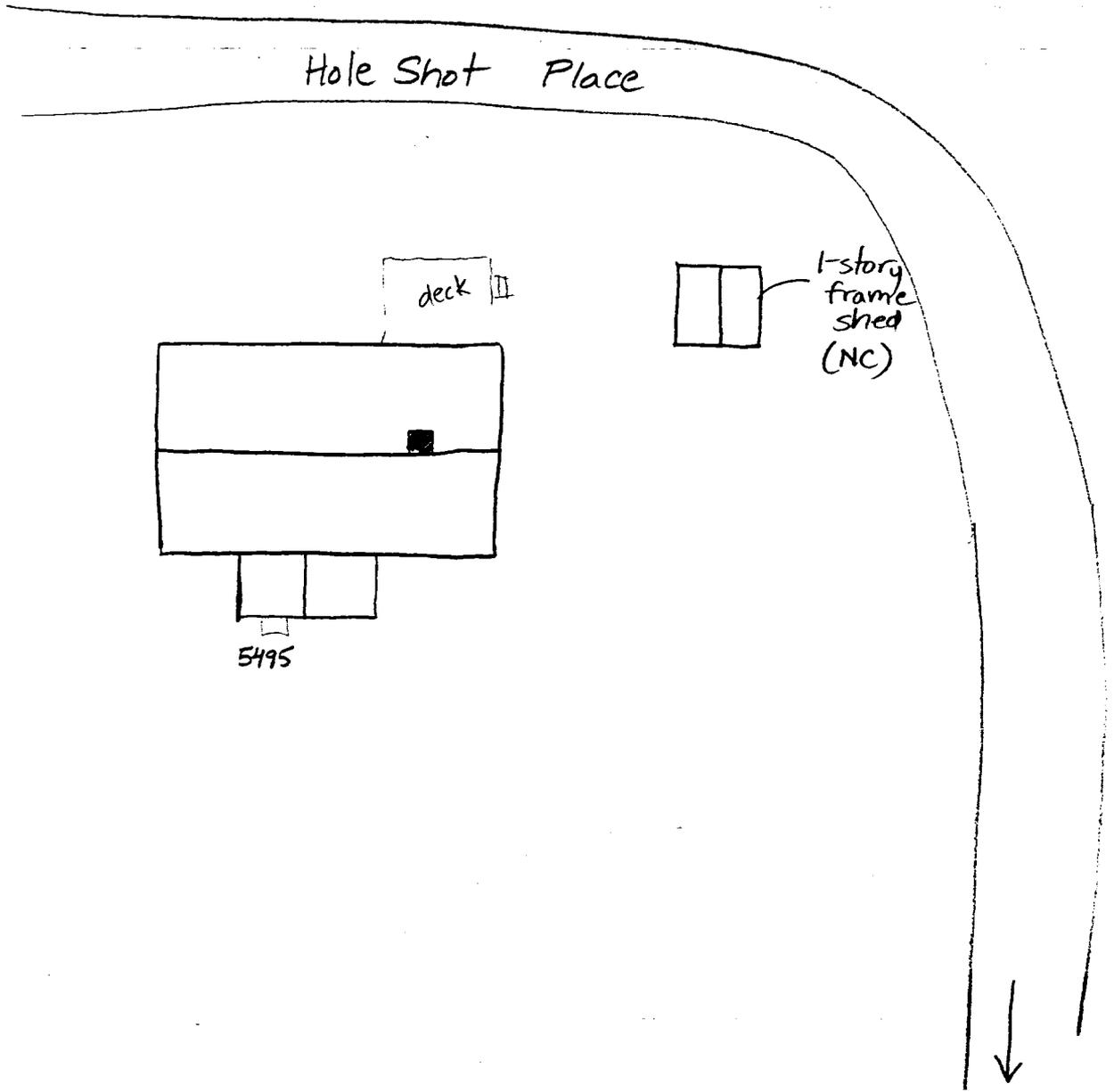
August 20, 1987: Walter X. Sanders to Elmer & Susan
A. Sanders
\$9,730.44
1 acre
Charles County Land Records
Liber 1241 Folio 80

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

10/98

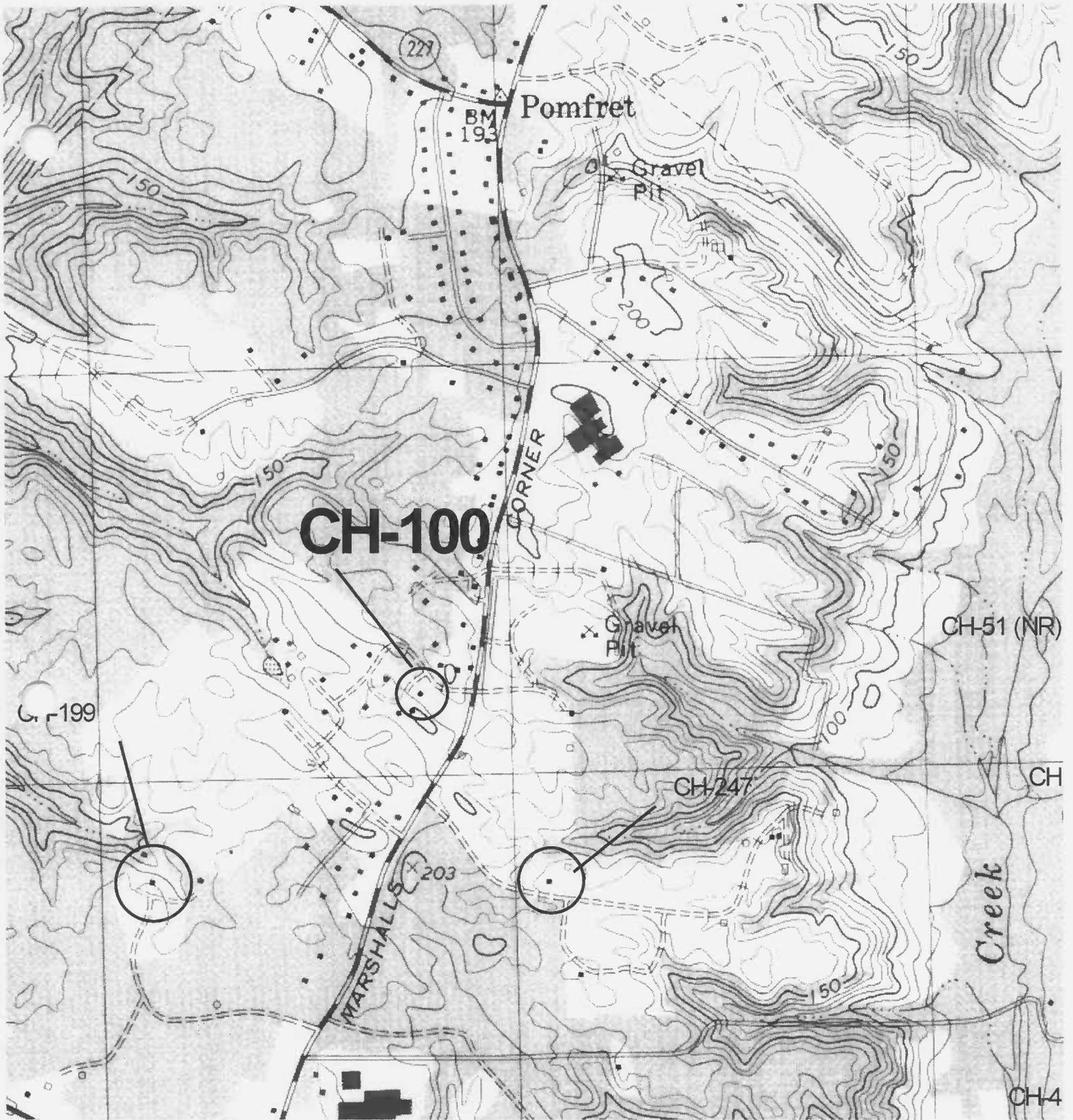
POMFRET COLDRED SCHOOL
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
POMFRET VIC.
5495 Hole Shot Place

CH-100



* NC = Non-Contributing

To Marshalls
Corner Road



Pomfret Colored School
Charles County, MD

CH-100

PORT TOBACCO, MD QUAD



CH-100

POMFRET COLORED SCHOOL

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING SW

1 OF 3



CH-100

POMFRET COLORED SCHOOL

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

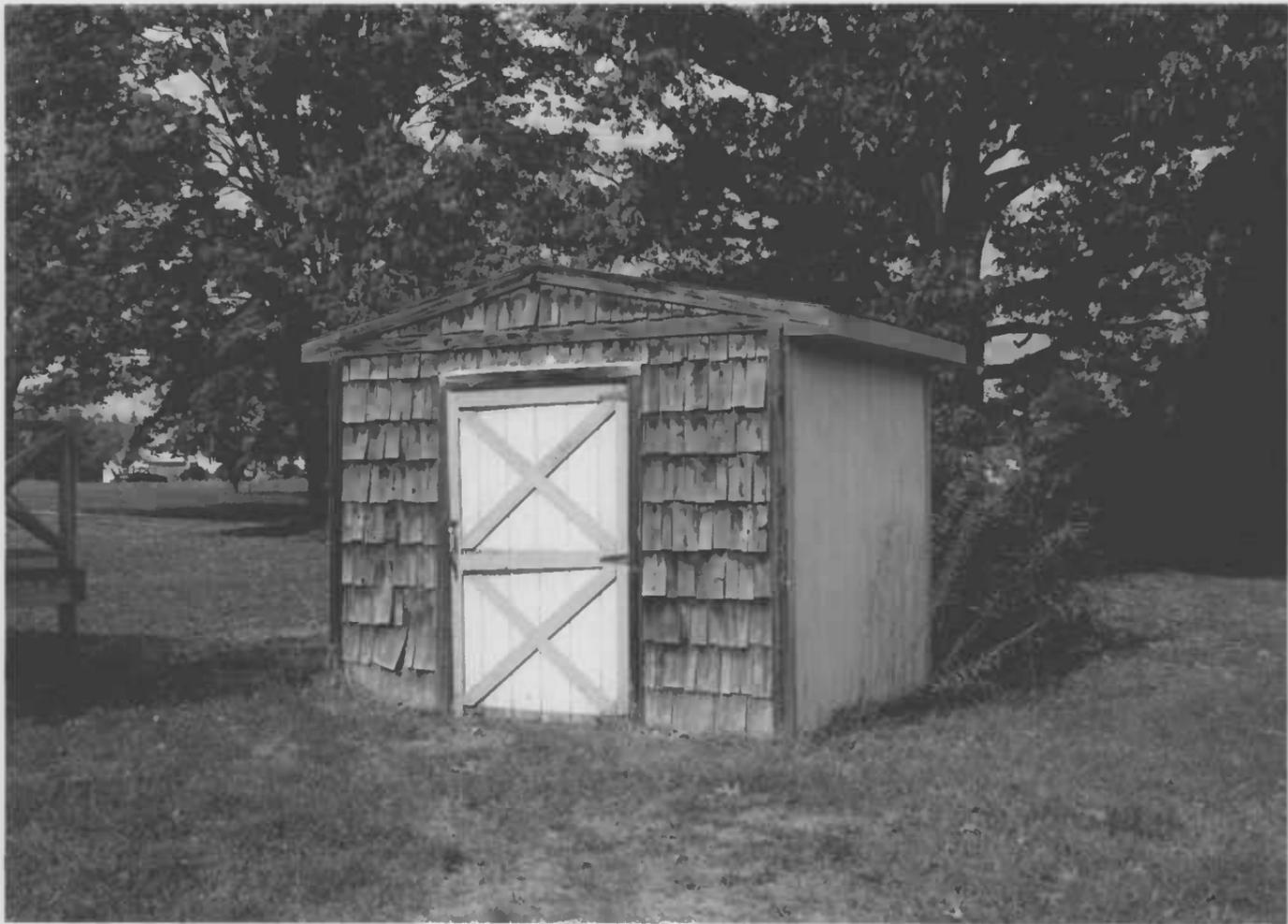
K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING NE

2 OF 3



CH-100

PDMFRET COLORED SCHOOL

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

SHED - LOOKING SW

3 OF 3