

— Capsule Summary  
SM-570  
St. Inigoes African-American School  
St. Inigoes  
Private

c. 1900

The St. Inigoes school is a particularly important example of a large one story, one room schoolhouse that contains many of its original architectural finishes. Erected c. 1900, the school features a front vestibule, an interior entirely sheathed with thin tongue-and-groove boards, as well as a centrally located corbelled brick chimney flue. The first reference to the school is found in the list of school trustees published in the July 5, 1900 issue of the St. Mary's Beacon. The three trustees for the St. Inigoes "Colored" School at that time were, Joseph Washington, Christopher Butler, and R. Chesley, were appointed by the Board of School Commissioners.

— According to Elvira Gaskins, a teacher at the school in the early 1940s, the school was closed in the mid-1940s as schools were consolidated. During a telephone interview, Mrs. Gaskins also recalled that the school's appearance epitomized rural schools of the period. The interior of the school contained small blackboards on the walls, was lined with desks that held two to three students, and featured a vestibule that contained pegs for hanging coats and belongings as well as a water bucket for drinking water.

In the mid-1940s, the school was converted into a residence. During this transition the interior was divided into four rooms, the ceiling was lowered, and the windows were removed and replaced with smaller sash. Despite these alterations, much of the building's original fabric remains. When considered with the nearby Mt. Zion Church (SM-361), the St. Inigoes school played a critical role in the development of a tight-knit, early-twentieth century African American community.

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SM-570, St. Inigoes African-American School  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore  
Chronological/Developmental Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930  
Historic Period Theme: Architecture  
Education

Resource Type

Category: Building  
Historic Environment: Rural, Crossroads community  
Historic Function and Use: School, dwelling  
Known Design Source: None

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-570

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Inigoes African American School

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 17411 Mt. Zion Church Road  not for publication

city, town St. Inigoes  vicinity of congressional district 1

state Maryland county St. Mary's TM 67, P 327

**3. Classification**

| Category  | Ownership                                  | Status   | Present Use                                     |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied              | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture            | <input type="checkbox"/> museum            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                  | <b>Accessible</b>                              | <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 type="checkbox"/> no                    | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> other:            |

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

name St. Mary's County Commissioners

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Leonardtown state and zip code Maryland 20650

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse  no record listed  
 liber

street & number folio

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. SM-570

|  |                                       |   |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                       |
| <input 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 checked="" 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.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The St. Inigoes African-American School is located on the west side of Mt. Zion Church Road 0.1 mile south of the intersection of St. Inigoes Neck and Mt. Zion Church Road in St. Inigoes, Maryland. Oriented on an east/west axis, the school is situated on a easterly sloping one acre parcel. A large hole in the roof has greatly threatened the structural integrity of the building. The property also contains a shed roof privy.

The school building, constructed c. 1900, is a frame, one story, three bay, gable front structure with a rectangular plan and a steep gable roof. Situated on a foundation of locust posts, the building exhibits a braced frame of circular sawn members. All of the members are fastened to each other using wire nails. The entire building is clad with clapboard fastened with wire nails as well. The school has also received several modest decorative treatments. All four corners of the building, for instance, exhibit beaded corner boards and the cornice is enclosed using beaded wallboard. The roof is covered with raised seam metal and an interior, corbelled brick chimney projects from the center of the roof.

The east or primary elevation of the school features a projecting vestibule with a small gable roof. The vestibule features one bay--a wood panel door. On the main body of the school building and flanking the vestibule on each side is one six-over-six, double-hung sash windows.

The north elevation of the vestibule features a single six-over-six window, while the school's main section displays three, symmetrically placed, six-over-six windows. These windows, are replacements of earlier, significantly larger sash, however. The original size of each bay is indicated by the presence of scabbed clapboard and German or drop siding around the smaller windows. The windows on the west and south elevations were replaced in a similar fashion.

The west elevation features two, six-over-six windows. While clapboard was used again to close up the space around the newer sash, the original window trim survives on the southern most window.

The south elevation features two, six-over-six windows. The third or centrally located window has been totally removed. In its place, an exterior end cinder block chimney flue has been installed.

The interior of the school remains largely intact. The school contains only one entrance located on the east side of the building. This door permitted entry into a small vestibule. The vestibule then disseminated students into the building through two door-less entries. Both of these entries exhibit surrounds with plain corner block and trim. The present interior of the school has been divided into four distinct rooms and the ceiling lowered to minimize the need for heating.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-570

| 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/<br>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 |
|--|-------------------|
| check: Applicable Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D<br>and/or  |                   |
| Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G |                   |
| Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local  |                   |

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The St. Inigoes school is a particularly important example of a large one story, one room schoolhouse that contains many of its original architectural finishes. Erected c. 1900, the school features a front vestibule, an interior entirely sheathed with thin tongue-and-groove boards, as well as a centrally located corbelled brick chimney flue. The first reference to the school is found in the list of school trustees published in the July 5, 1900 issue of the St. Mary's Beacon. The three trustees for the St. Inigoes "Colored" School, Joseph Washington, Christopher Butler, and R. Chesley, were appointed by the Board of School Commissioners. The school is also mentioned as a neighboring property in a deed dated January 18, 1916 between A. E. Thomas Lilburn and the Rising Star Tabernacle, National Order of Galilean Fisherman, Number 15--a fraternal organization.

According to Elvira Gaskins, a teacher at the school in the early 1940s, the school was closed in the mid-1940s as schools were consolidated. During a telephone interview, Mrs. Gaskins also recalled that the school's appearance epitomized rural schools of the period. The interior of the school contained blackboards on the west side, was lined with desks that held two to three students, and featured a vestibule that contained pegs for hanging coats and belongings as well as a water bucket for drinking water.

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# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-570

Mrs. Elvira Gaskins, Interview, February, 1997.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 1 acre

Quadrangle name St. Mary's City, Md

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| A | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|   | Zone                 | Easting              | Northing             |

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| B | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|   | Zone                 | Easting              | Northing             |

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| C | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| D | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| E | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| F | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| G | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| H | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

## Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

## 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 Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County Planning and Zoning

date April 1997

street & number 22740 Washington Street

telephone (301) 475-4662

city or town Leonardtown

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.

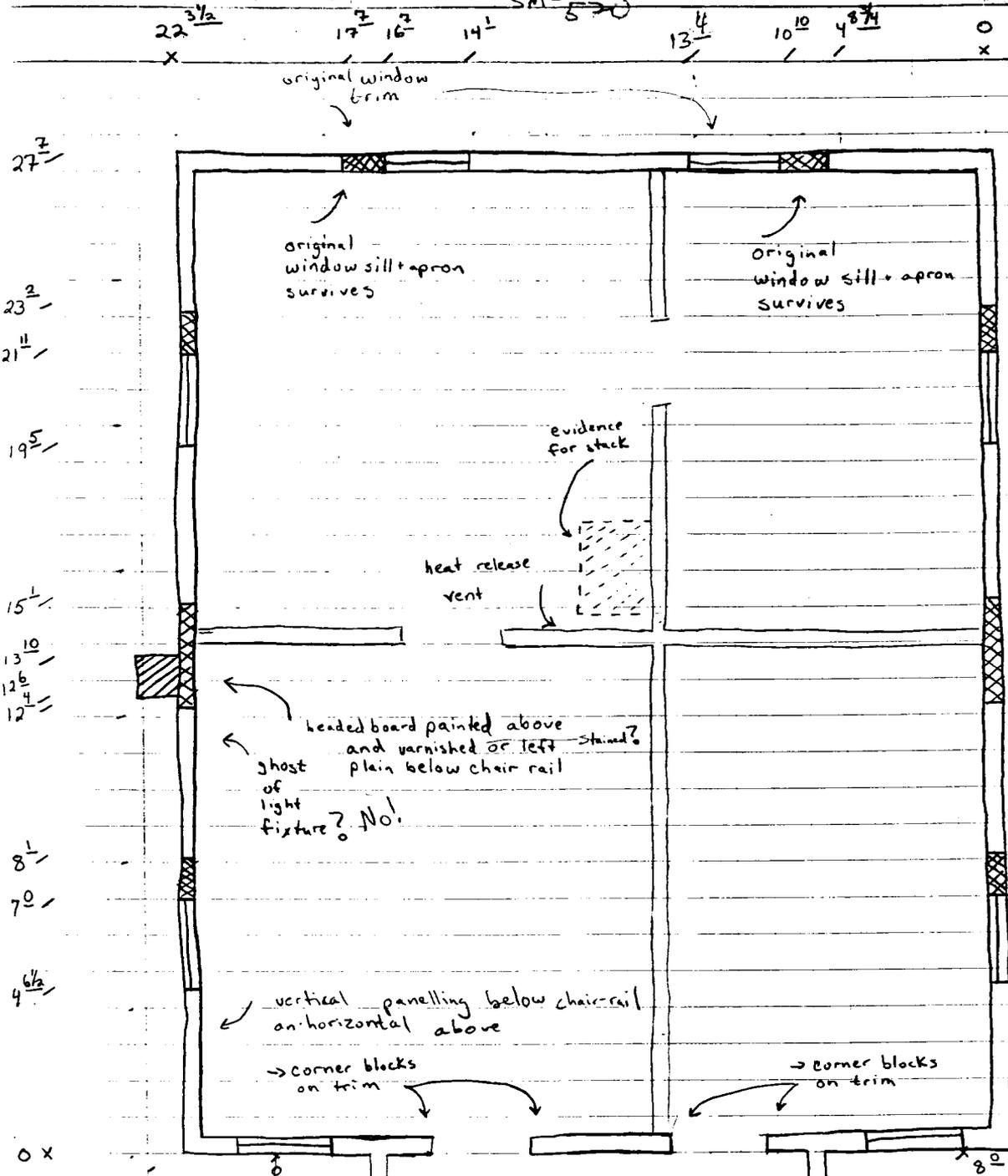
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
 Shaw House  
 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORIC SITES  
 DIVISION OF  
 100 COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032  
 514-7600

SM-570, St. Inigoes African-American Schoolhouse  
St. Mary's County  
7.1 Description

Three of the rooms have provisions to conduct the flow of heat around the house. The southwest room, for instance, features a small heat vent for heat from the southeast room to travel. The northeast room, however, was probably the coldest room as it is furthest from the stove in the southeast room and contains no provisions for the passage of heated air. These interior changes were probably made in the late 1940s when the school was converted into a house. Prior to these changes the main body of the school was one room. The walls were sheathed with beaded wallboard that changes directions at the chair-rail. The wallboard changes from a horizontal direction above the chair-rail to a vertical direction below. Evidence suggests that the wallboard above the chair rail was painted, while below it was left unfinished or varnished. The original window trim does not survive for any of the windows except for the sills and aprons of the west elevation windows.

Drawn By:  
 Kirk Ranzetta  
 Jack Bowes



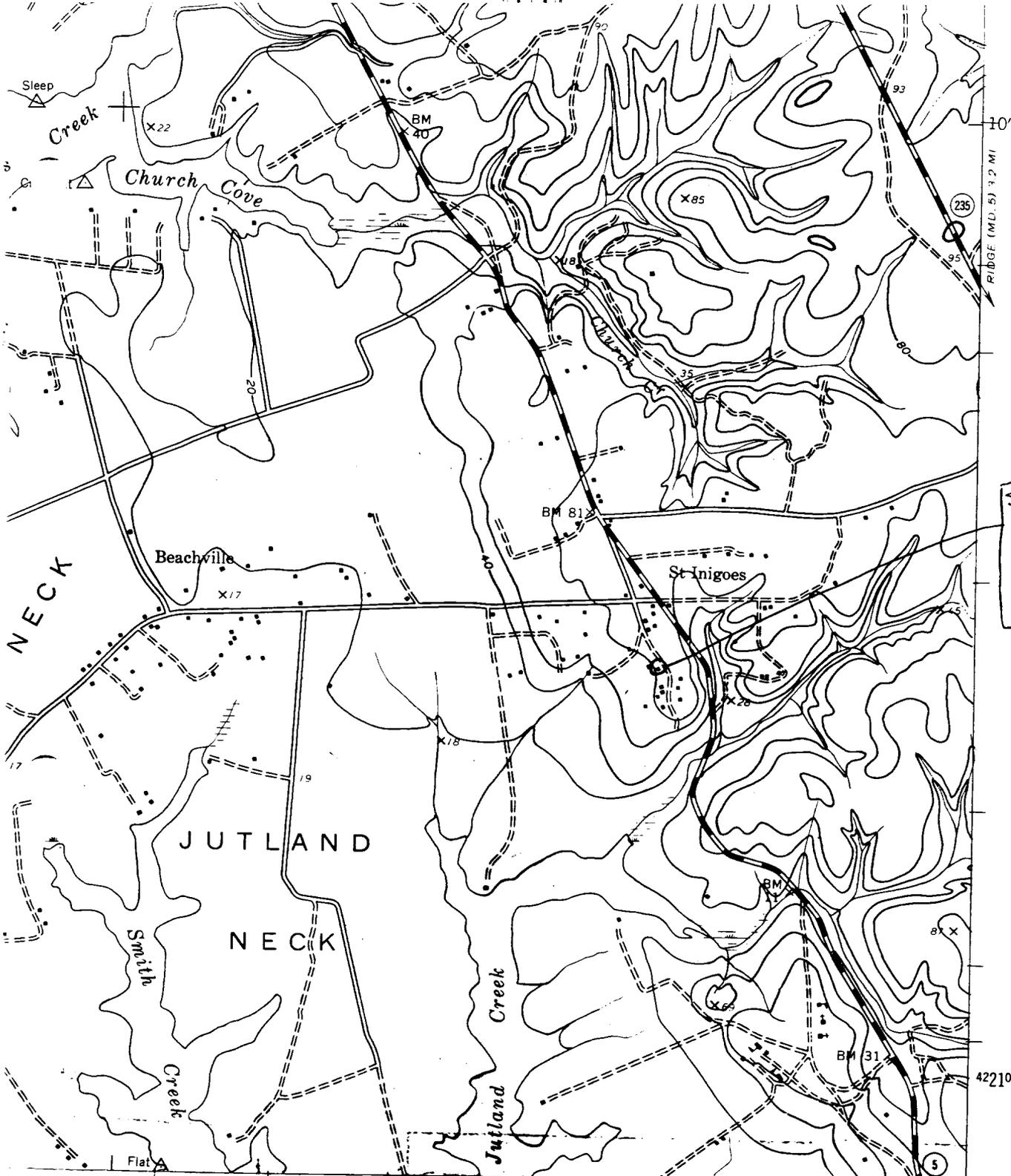
- > common rafters w/ lapped ties -> butted
- > roof still covered w/ original raised sea metal roof
- > ceiling dropped from 10' to
- > all sashes repl. 6 ob dhs
- > beaded wall bo. (not matchstick!)
- > foundation of 10 posts + circula sawn frame (w/ intermediate sill)
- > reused interior window trim
- > beaded corner
- > larger windows re same of the space fitted w/ reused siding
- > enclosed cornice enclosed w/ beaded tongue + groove bo
- > original window height was 67
- > clapboard attached via wire nails grey

main: 27 3/8 x 22 3/2  
 vestibule: 12 3/8 x 8 0/8

1900-1901 St. Inigoes Board of Trustees  
 Joseph Washington  
 Interior Exterior

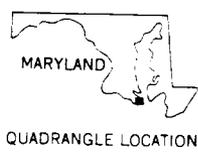
- themes
- > heating
  - > ornament
  - > reused mater
  - > educational

4 9/16 7 6 12 3/8



SM-570  
St. Inigoes  
African-American  
School

1 MILE  
ET



INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON, D. C. 1962  
MR 1316  
379000m. E.  
RIDGE (MD. 235) 0.7 MI

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
 Medium-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
 Unimproved dirt - - - - -  
 ○ State Route

ST. MARYS CITY, MD.  
NW/4 POINT LOOKOUT 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3807.5—W7622.5/7.5

1943

(POINT LOOKOUT)



SM-570

St. Ignace African American Schoolhouse

St. Mary's County

Kirk Kazzella

W. d. S#PO

Re. elevation

1/6/2



