**CAPSULE SUMMARY**
**CT-1291**
**Lower Marlboro Hall**
**3911 Lower Marlboro Road**
**Lower Marlboro, Calvert County**
**Ca. 1930**
**Private**

Lower Marlboro Hall, located at 3911 Lower Marlboro Road in Lower Marlboro in Calvert County, Maryland, is situated on a level, grassy lot. Constructed circa 1930, the hall was the meeting place of the Patuxent Council No. 192 of the Junior Order United American Mechanics. The current building served as the Junior Order United American Mechanics meeting hall until 1964, when the property was conveyed to the Lower Marlboro Methodist Church. The Lower Marlboro Hall is an excellent example of the fraternal lodge in Calvert County.

The one-story, Craftsman-style wood-frame building is three bays wide and set on a rock-faced concrete-block foundation. It is clad in weatherboard and features a front-gabled entry vestibule. The front-gabled roof is clad in pressed metal shingles and is further detailed by wide eaves. Three interior-end brick chimneys with corbeled caps rise above the roofline. Borrowing from the Queen Anne style of architecture, the hall features scroll-sawn exposed rafter tails and kingpost-bargeboard in the gable ends. Other notable details include cornerboards and double-hung windows with mottled glass in the lower sashes and square-edged wood surrounds. The interior of the building, modestly detailed in the Colonial Revival style, is primarily a one-room hall with a stage and a rear section devoted to a kitchen and storage area. A circa 1965 manger, used by the church for holidays, is located to the northeast of the hall.

# Maryland Historical Trust
# Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-1291

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

| | |
|---|---|
| historic | Lower Marlboro Hall (preferred) |
| other | Lower Marlboro United Methodist Church |

## 2. Location

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| street and number | 3911 Lower Marlboro Road | ___ | not for publication |
| city, town | Lower Marlboro | ___ | vicinity |
| county | Calvert | | |

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

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| name | Mt. Harmony/Lower Marlboro United Methodist Church | | | | |
| street and number | 300 East Harmony Road | | | telephone | 410/257-2761 |
| city, town | Owings | state | MD | zip code | 20736 |

## 4. Location of Legal Description

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. | Calvert County Courthouse | tax map and parcel: | M14, P94 | | |
| city, town | Prince Frederic | liber | JLB | folio | 598 |

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

___ Contributing Resource in National Register District
___ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
___ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Recorded by HABS/HAER
___ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
___ Other _____

## 6. Classification

**Category**
___ district
X building(s)
___ structure
___ site
___ object

**Ownership**
___ public
X private
___ both

**Current Function**
___ agriculture
___ commerce/trade
___ defense
___ domestic
___ education
___ funerary
___ government
___ health care
___ industry
___ landscape
___ recreation/culture
X religion
___ social
___ transportation
___ work in progress
___ unknown
___ vacant/not in use
___ other: _____

**Resource Count**

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | 1 | structures |
| | | objects |
| 1 | 1 | Total |

**Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory**
0

# 7. Description

Inventory No. CT-1291

**Condition**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ___ | excellent | ___ | deteriorated |
| X | good | ___ | ruins |
| ___ | fair | ___ | altered |

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

Lower Marlboro Hall, constructed in the 1930s, is located at 3911 Lower Marlboro Road in Lower Marlboro in Calvert County, Maryland. It is situated on a level, grassy lot near the culmination of Lower Marlboro Road. The one-story, Craftsman-style wood-frame building is three bays wide and set on a rock-faced concrete-block foundation. It is clad in weatherboard and features a front-gabled entry vestibule. The front-gabled roof is clad in pressed metal shingles and is further detailed by wide eaves. Three interior-end brick chimneys with corbeled caps rise above the roofline. Borrowing from the Queen Anne style of architecture, the hall features scroll-sawn exposed rafter tails and kingpost-bargeboard in the gable ends. Other notable details include cornerboards and double-hung windows with mottled glass in the lower sashes and square-edged wood surrounds. The interior of the building, modestly detailed in the Colonial Revival style, is primarily a one-room hall with a stage and a rear section devoted to a kitchen and storage area. A circa 1965 manger, used by the church for holidays, is located to the northeast of the hall.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The three-bay-wide façade or south elevation of the meeting hall is dominated by the front-gabled, centrally located vestibule. Like the main block of the building it is clad in wood weatherboard and features a pressed metal shingle roof. Both the gable end of the hall and the vestibule feature kingpost-bargeboard. The main entry to the hall is through the double-leaf six-panel doors set within a square-edged wood surround. The original steps to the entry have been replaced by five concrete steps with a metal handrail. The vestibule is flanked by 2/2 windows.

The east elevation of the Lower Marlboro Hall is pierced by five 2/2 windows. Like those on the façade, they feature square-edged surrounds and mottled glass in the lower sash. An additional 2/2 window is set within the east wall of the vestibule. Further, there are two Craftsman-style three-light casement windows on this elevation. The foundation, which was infilled circa 1960 to create a partial basement, is lit by a single two-light fixed metal window. There is also a circa 1960 addition on this elevation that provides access to the basement. Constructed of concrete block, the addition features a shed roof and exposed rafter tails. There are no openings on the east elevation of the addition.

The north elevation of the hall features kingpost-bargeboard in the gable end, like the one seen on the façade. A single-leaf flush wood replacement door provides access to the kitchen and storage area in the rear of the hall. Like the other openings on the building, it is framed by a square-edged surround. The main block is also pierced by a 2/2 window. The circa 1960 addition also features a single-leaf flush door with a narrow wood surround on the north elevation.

The west elevation is similar to the east elevation, with five 2/2 windows and a 2/2 window in the vestibule. Likewise, it features two Craftsman-style three-light casement windows. The infilled foundation is also pierced by two two-light fixed metal windows.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the hall is primarily divided into two distinct spaces: the hall with a stage and the kitchen and storage area. The hall is modestly detailed in the Colonial Revival style of architecture, with details mostly confined to the stage. The floor of the hall is covered with two-inch-wide wood boards and the walls and the canted ceiling are clad with beaded wood paneling. The windows in the hall feature square-edged casements with an interior bead and a slightly rounded sill. The door casements are more modest, featuring a simple square-edged surround. The interior doors connect the hall to the vestibule and consist of double-leaf doors with five-horizontal panels, typical of the Craftsman style. The room is surrounded by ogee-molded crown molding with a flush entablature. The stoves have been removed from the chimneys and the stacks have been enclosed with beaded paneling.

The majority of the detailing in the hall is confined to the stage, which is accessed by three centrally located steps. The stage is framed by a round-arched opening with a keystone at the apex. Characteristic of the Colonial Revival style of architecture, the

arch is supported by paired Tuscan columns at each side. Set to the rear of the stage are two openings with five-panel, single-leaf wood doors that lead to the kitchen.

The kitchen and storage area is a utilitarian space with little detailing. It has been divided into four small rooms, the largest being used as the kitchen. One of the small rooms has been converted to a bathroom with an electric toilet, as there is no running water in the building. The remaining two areas are used as storage for the kitchen and stage props. All of these rooms are accessed by single-leaf, five-panel wood doors with brass knobs. Like the main hall, the kitchen, bathroom, and storage rooms feature two-inch-wide wood flooring and beaded wood paneling on the walls and ceilings. Additionally, the door and window casements are the same as those found throughout the hall. The primary difference in the detailing of the two spaces is the lack of crown molding in the kitchen and storage rooms.

There was no access to the basement at the time of the survey.

OUTBUILDINGS

The property is further enhanced by a circa 1965 manger that is used by the church for holiday displays. Standing one story in height and one bay in width, the wood-frame manger is set on a wood post foundation and features vertical-board cladding. The shed roof is clad in tarpaper. The manger is accessed by a large, canted opening and is entirely surrounded by wood fencing.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. CT-1291

| Period | Areas of Significance | Check and justify below | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __ 1600-1699 | __ agriculture | __ economics | __ health/medicine | __ performing arts |
| __ 1700-1799 | __ archeology | __ education | __ industry | __ philospohy |
| __ 1800-1899 | __ architecture | __ engineering | __ invention | __ politics/government |
| X 1900-1999 | __ art | __ entertainment/ recreation | __ landscape architecture | __ religion |
| __ 2000- | __ commerce | __ ethnic heritage | __ law | __ science |
| | __ communications | __ exploration/ settlement | __ literature | X social history |
| | __ community planning | | __ maritime industry | __ transportation |
| | __ conservation | | __ military | __ other: |

**Specific dates** c1930; 1964 **Architect/Builder** Uknown

**Construction dates** c1930; c1960

Evaluation for:

____ National Register ____ Maryland Register X not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Lower Marlboro Hall, located at 3911 Lower Marlboro Road in Lower Marlboro in Calvert County, Maryland, is situated on a level, grassy lot. Constructed circa 1930, the hall was the meeting place of the Patuxent Council No. 192 of the Junior Order United American Mechanics. The current building served as the Junior Order United American Mechanics meeting hall until 1964, when the property was conveyed to the Lower Marlboro Methodist Church. The Lower Marlboro Hall is an excellent example of the fraternal lodge in Calvert County.

THE FRATERNAL HALL IN CALVERT COUNTY

One of the most significant public meeting places in Calvert County are fraternal lodges, which also functioned as community halls. Through the years Calvert County has hosted a number of fraternal organizations, both national and regional. Whereas fraternal organizations in urban areas tend to be geared towards professional advancement, such organizations in rural locations like Calvert County with highly dispersed populations serve a more basic social function in bringing together individuals who might otherwise have little contact with their neighbors. Even in rural communities, however, fraternal organizations were a means to political recognition and commercial networking, and prominent local citizens invariably belong to one or several fraternal organizations. Fraternal organizations in Calvert County have traditionally been sexually and racially segregated, a condition which exists to the present day on a voluntary basis.

Historically, the largest and most well-established fraternal organization in the United States were the Freemasons, or Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, who built a fairly elaborate lodge in Prince Frederick where they had been established since 1869. Tracing their origins back to medieval guilds, the fraternal organization of Freemasons was formed in 1717 in London and spread to the American colonies with the founding of the first American lodge in Boston in 1733. Particularly popular among the enlightened patriot leaders of the Revolutionary War and early Federal period, Freemasons, united by their common belief in one creator, proclaim their dedication to brotherly love, or fraternity, "relief," or charity, and truth to himself, God, country, fellow man and family. (1)

The popularity of "secret" fraternal organizations in America gained momentum in the mid-19th century, and by the end of the century Masonic lodges had spread to rural areas throughout the country in great numbers. Far from being the only organization of its kind, the Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons were but one of a number of similar fraternities that arose in Calvert County during the period, including the Elks, Odd Fellows, the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, Knights of Pythias, Knights of Columbus and the Galilean Fishermen. These fraternal organizations took on a charitable and a social role in the local community, and many of them built halls throughout the county of varying forms and sizes reflecting the wealth and presence of the organization in that area. Furthermore, most fraternal organizations contained specific provisions for the financial assistance of sick or disabled members and their families and for assistance with funeral expenses for members. As with the American Legion

halls, lodges were frequently used by the local communities for social events and meetings, when larger spaces were needed.

Beginning in the late 19th and continuing into the early 20th centuries, the Junior Order United American Mechanics, or Jr. O. U. A. M., had a substantial presence in Calvert County. The parent organization of the Junior Order United American Mechanics, the United American Mechanics, was established in 1853 as a workingmen's organization committed to fighting against labor pressures from increasing immigration, specifically the Irish, German and Roman Catholics. (2) In 1885, the Junior Order broke from its parent organization and established itself as an independent group. Over the next half century as the numbers of immigrants to the United States increased fueling anxieties about "American" job security, the Junior Order United American Mechanics increased their membership significantly with those united against "the ignorant, the vicious and the lawless of the Old World as a constant menace to our institutions." (3) Membership was extended to literate white male American citizens between the ages of 16 and 50 "of good moral character" and who believed in a "Supreme Being as the Creator and Preserver of the Universe," provided he did not engage in the selling of "spirituous or malt liquors." (4) Initiation rites contained elaborate costume rituals and symbolic role playing centered around the principles of virtue, liberty and patriotism, with the initiate taking the role of the Puritan arriving in the New World, or of a soldier at camp. (5) Despite the obvious xenophobic and racist undertones, the Junior Order was a charitable organization dedicated to assisting "Americans" in obtaining employment and achieving in business, caring for sick or disabled members and the families of deceased members, supporting the National Orphans Home, and promoting the reading of the Bible in public schools. (6)

Although never near the size of the Freemasons, at the height of its popularity in the first half of the 20th century, the Junior Order boasted 200,000 members nationwide. (7) In Calvert County, the Junior Order appears to have been most prominent during the first half of the 20th century. During this period, at least three councils are known to have existed, including Smithville Council No. 196, Loyal Council No. 153 in Owings, and Patuxent Council No. 192 in Lower Marlboro. Furthermore, both the Owings and Lower Marlboro councils shared their halls with an organization called the Daughters of America, suggesting that this organization was the female counterpart to the Junior Order, of which only men could be members. By the close of the Second World War, however, many Junior Order halls began to close due to lack of membership, a trend that was occurring in Junior Order councils throughout the country.

HISTORY OF THE LOWER MARLBORO HALL

The Lower Marlboro Hall is located in Lower Marlboro in Calvert County, Maryland. Lower Marlboro was an early port of entry into Maryland and was established by an act of the Provincial Assembly in April 1706. By the middle of the 18th century, the town had grown to include warehouses, stores, taverns, a mill, racetrack, and a school, in addition to the many houses that supported the community. The town continued to prosper as an official port of entry and with the advent of steam power, steamboats began plying trade between the Chesapeake Bay and Baltimore. By the end of the 19th century, the town had grown to include several warehouses, a canning factory, a slaughter house, two mills, and several businesses, such as blacksmiths, tailors, cobblers, carpenters, and wheelwrights. At that time, there were also three churches serving the community, the Methodist Episcopal Church (also known as Largent's Chapel), St. John's Methodist Church, and the Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church South. (8)

The Bethel Methodist Church South was established in the 1880s in Lower Marlboro. On land purchased from Daniel and Margaret Ann Boyd for $100 on April 25, 1882, the trustees of the church established, "a place of Divine Worship for the use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church South." (9) This church was located on the same parcel of land on which the Lower Marlboro Hall currently stands. The church retained ownership of the 13,338 square feet of property until 1895, when it was sold to Thomas Younger and James W. Gibson, Jr. for $500. Younger deeded his share of the property to Gibson in 1898. Land records indicate that at some time during Gibson's ownership, the building, then known as the Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church South, was demolished. Following Gibson's death, the property was sold by his heirs, jointly with the Eastern Shore Trust Company, which held the mortgage, to the Patuxent Council No. 192, Junior Order United American Mechanics for

$2,000 on March 6, 1930. The property was enhanced under their ownership and the current Lower Marlboro Hall was erected in the 1930s for their use.

In 1964, the trustees of the Junior Order United American Mechanics, Patuxent Council No. 192 sold the property to the Lower Marlboro Methodist Church. According to deeds, a resolution was passed by the organization to sell the building on November 16, 1963. The trustees of the organization at that time were Lloyd B. Gibson, Carroll E. King, and Arthur W. Jones. The terms of the sale stated that the building must be used for the benefit of the Lower Marlboro Methodist Church, "so long as the said Church is regularly used as a place of worship and in the event that such use shall ever cease, then this grant shall become null and void and title to the premises shall vest in Patuxent Council No. 72, Daughters of America, in fee simple." Further, the deed specified that both Council No. 192 and No. 72 reserved the right to hold meetings on the premises and that Patuxent Council No. 192 of the Junior Order United American Mechanics could continue to use the northwesternmost room in the meeting hall for storage.

In the ensuing years, the Patuxent Council No. 192 of the Junior Order United American Mechanics has become obsolete. The building is solely used by the Mt. Harmon/Lower Marlboro United Methodist Church as a meeting hall. Primarily, the space is used by the church for Christmas pageants and occasionally for potluck dinners.

CHAIN OF TITLE

April 25, 1882: Daniel Boyd and Margaret Ann Boyd to Henry C. Ireland, J. W. Boyd, William Boyd, Samuel B. Wilson, and Agabus H. Bowen
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber SS 5, Folio 394

July 1, 1895: Trustees of Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church South, Henry C. Ireland, John B. Lyons, Joseph T. Lyons, William J. Bowen, and Charles F. Stevens to Thomas J. Younger and James W. Gibson, Jr.
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber TBT 5, Folio 295

August 12, 1898: Thomas J. Younger, Jr. to James W. Gibson, Jr.
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber TBT 5, Folio 319

March 2, 1930: Merle L. and Anna E. Gibson, James C. Gibson, Marie G. and Wilton L. Kerr, Alice Ruth and Russell O. Bowen, and the Eastern Shore Trust Company to Patuxent Council No. 192, Junior Order United American Mechanics
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber AAH 23, Folio 573

March 6, 1964: Trustees of Patuxent Council No. 192, Junior Order United American Mechanics, consisting of Lloyd B. Gibson, Carroll E. King, and Arthur W. Jones to Lower Marlboro Methodist Church
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber JLB 63, Folio 598

ENDNOTES

1. "The Principles of Freemasonry," on the World Wide Web at www.masonicfax.com/principles.htm.
2. "Junior Order United American Mechanics," on the World Wide Web at www.bessel.org/jouam.htm.

3. "Constitution, By-Laws, Order of Business and Rules of Order of the State Council of Maryland, Junior Order of United American Mechanics; also Constitution, By-Laws, Order of Business and Rules of Order of Subordinate Councils," revised 1922, Special Collections, Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, MD, p. 5.
4. "Junior Order United American Mechanics Official Application for Membership," 1930, Special Collections, Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, MD.
5. Ritual of the Junior Order United American Mechanics, 1909, Special Collections, Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, MD.
6. "Constitution, By-Laws of the Junior Order," p. 5.
7. "Junior Order United American Mechanics."
8. The Swampoodle Book, (Lower Marlboro, MD: n. p., 1983), pp. 18-19.
9. Land Records of Calvert County, Liber SS 5, Folio 394, Calvert County Courthouse, Prince Frederick, MD.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-1291

See continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Acreage of surveyed property | 0.30 Acres | | |
| Acreage of historical setting | 0.30 Acres | | |
| Quadrangle name | Lower Marlboro | Quadrangle scale | 1:24,000 |

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Lower Marlboro Hall has been associated with Parcel 94, as denoted on Tax Map 14, since its construction in the 1930s.

## 11. Form Prepared By

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| name/title | R. Weidlich and C. Albee, Architectural Historians | | |
| organization | E.H.T. Traceries, Inc. | dat | 8/28/02 |
| street and number | 1121 Fifth Street, N.W. | telephone | 202/393-1199 |
| city or town | Washington | stat DC | zip code 20001 |

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust
# Maryland Inventory of
# Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-1291

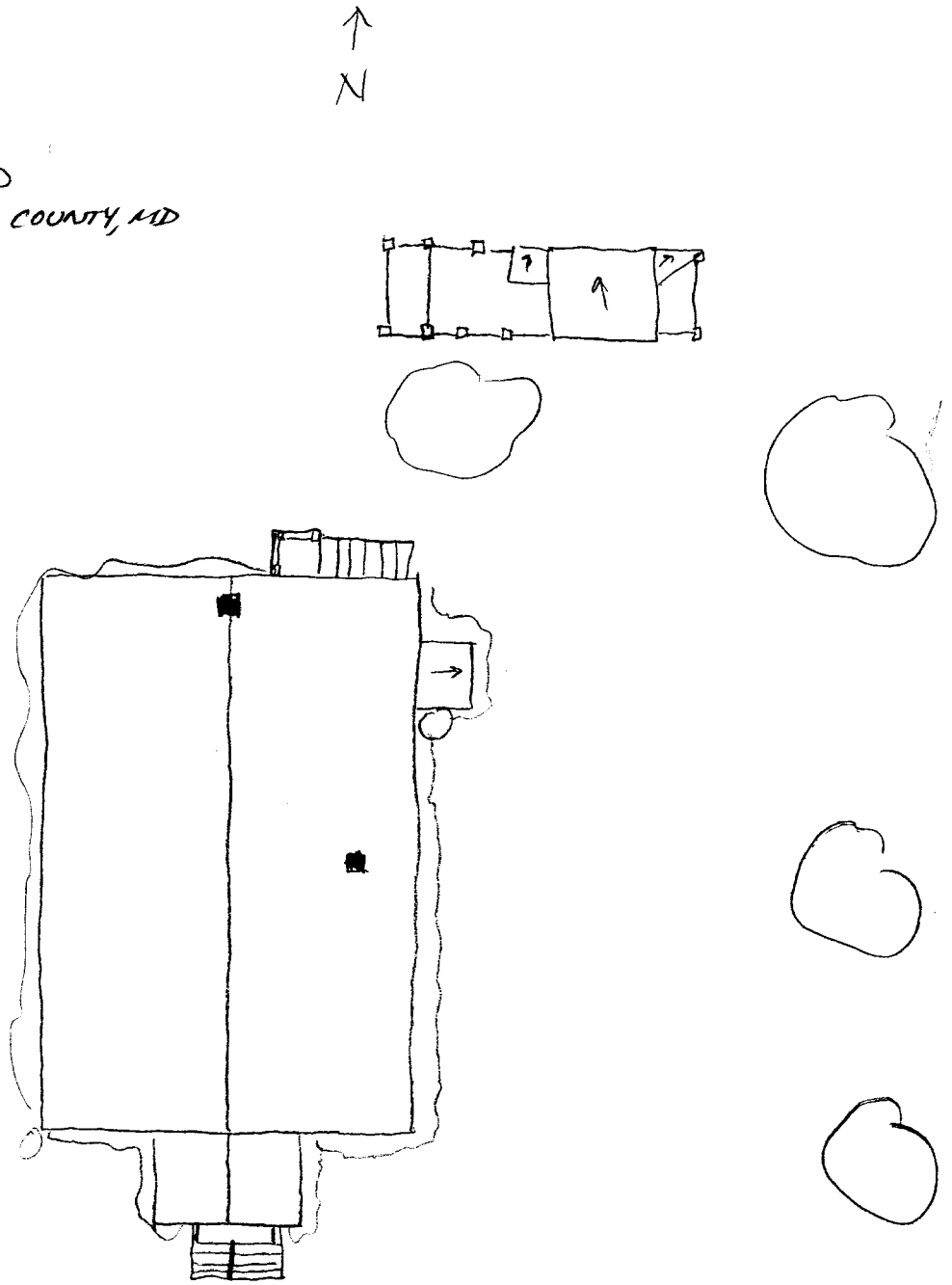
Name Lower Marlboro Hall (preferred)
Continuation Sheet
Number 9 Page 1

Ritual of the Junior Order United American Mechanics, 1909, Special Collections, Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, Maryland

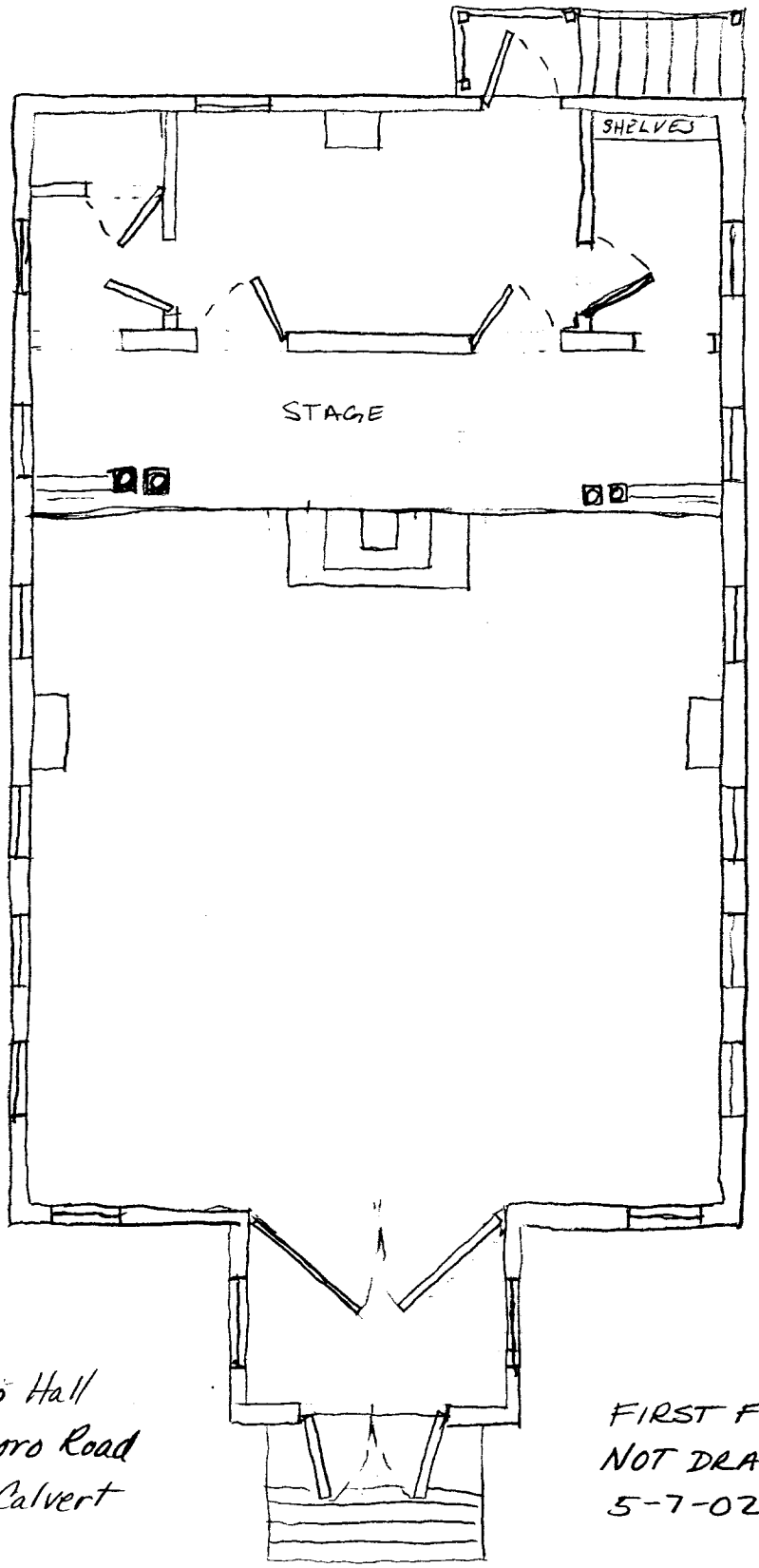
CT-1291

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
CT-1291
LOWER MARLBORO HALL
8911 LOWER MARLBORO ROAD
LOWER MARLBORO, CALVERT COUNTY, MD

5-7-02



CT-1291




CT-1291
Lower Marlboro Hall
2911 Lower Marlboro Road
Lower Marlboro, Calvert County, MD

FIRST FLOOR N↑
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE
5-7-02

Lower Marlboro Road



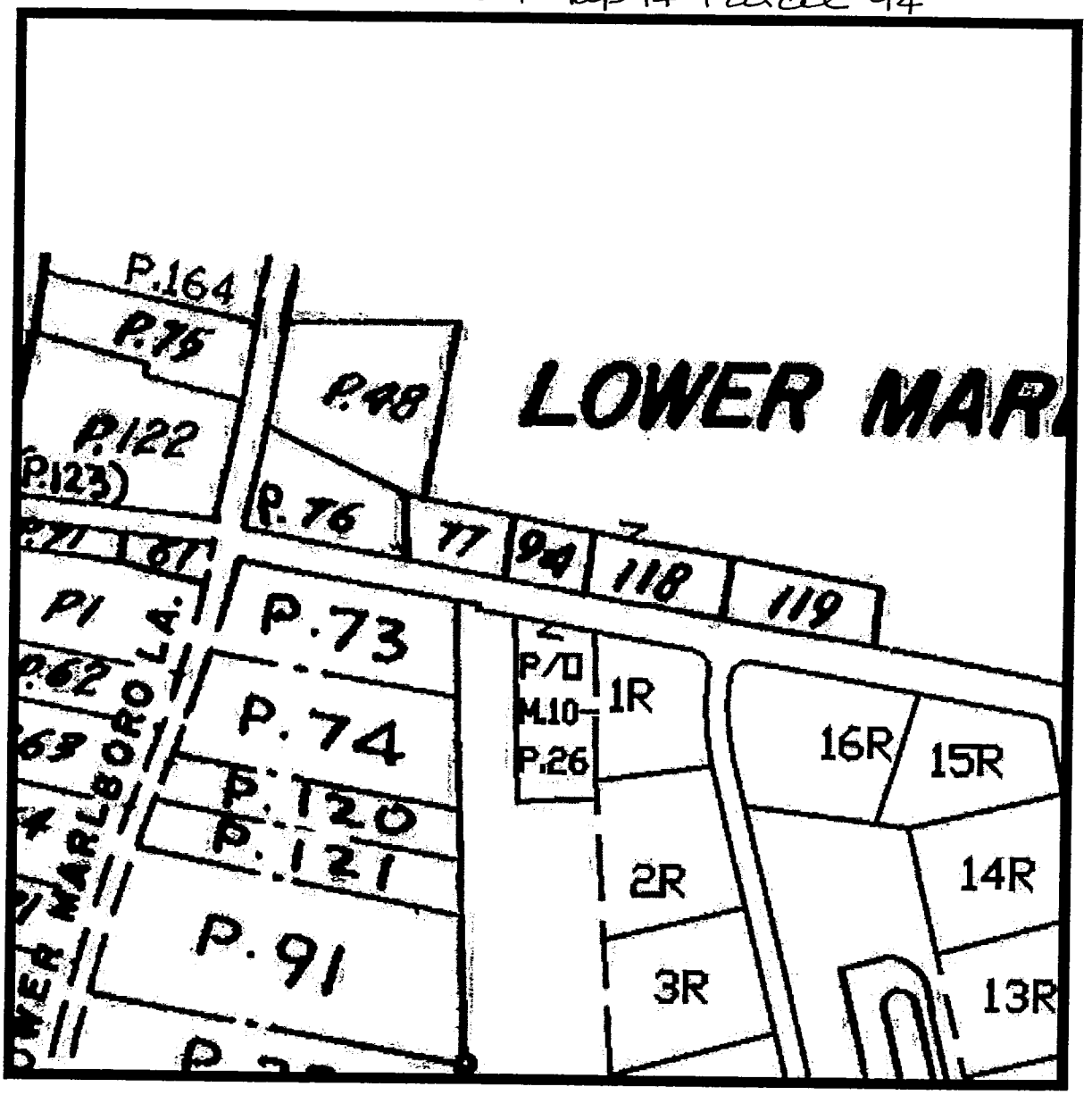
(8)

CT-1291

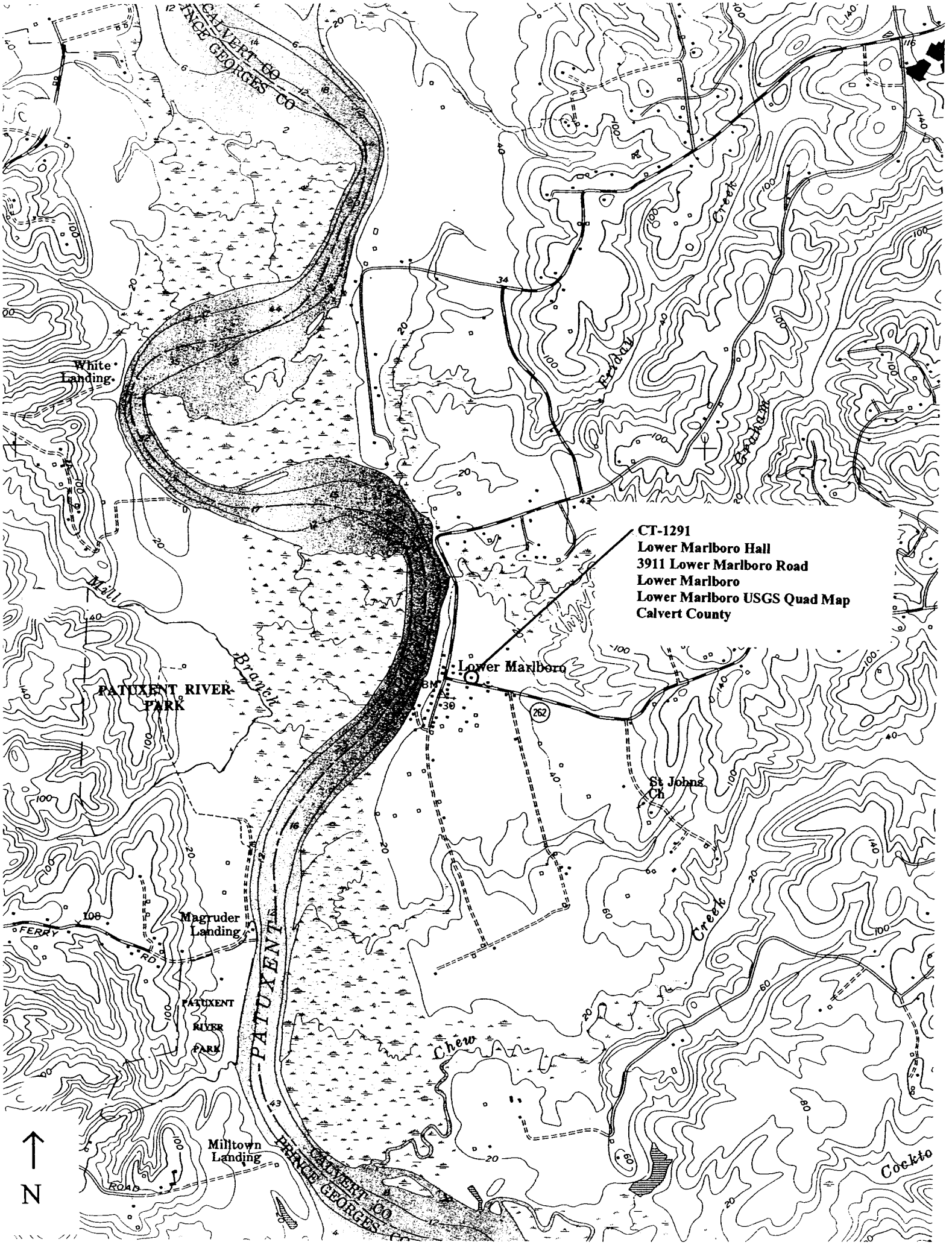
**Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation**
**CALVERT COUNTY**
**Real Property Data Search**

Go Back
View Map
New Search

**District** - 02**Account Number** - 113643 Map 14 Parcel 94




Property maps provided courtesy of the Maryland Department of Planning ©2001.
For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning web site at www.mdp.state.md.us


CT-1291
Lower Marlboro Hall
3911 Lower Marlboro Road
Lower Marlboro
Lower Marlboro USGS Quad Map
Calvert County
Lower Marlboro
White Landing
PATUXENT RIVER PARK
Magruder Landing
PATUXENT RIVER PARK
Milltown Landing
St Johns Ch
PATUXENT
Mill Branch
Chew Creek
Friday Creek
Graham Creek
Cockto
CALVERT CO
PRINCE GEORGES CO
FERRY RD
ROAD
262
N

LOWER MARLBORO CHURCH

CT-1291
Lower Marlboro Hall
3911 Lower Marlboro Road
Calvert County, MD
EHT Traceries
May 2002
Maryland SHPO
South Elevation, Looking North

1 OF 8

CT-1291
Lower Marlboro Hall
3911 Lower Marlboro Road
Calvert County, MD
EHT Traceries
May 2002
Maryland SHPO
East Elevation, Looking NW

2 of 8

CT-1291
Lower Marlboro Hall
3911 Lower Marlboro Road
Calvert County, MD
EHT Traceries
May 2002
Maryland SHPO
North Elevation, Looking South

3 of 8

CT-1291
Lower Marlboro Hall
3911 Lower Marlboro Road
Calvert County, MD
EHT Traceries
May 2002
Maryland SHPO
West Elevation, Looking NE

4 OF 8

CT-1291
Lower Marlboro Hall
3911 Lower Marlboro Road
Calvert County, MD
EHT Traceries
May 2002
Maryland SHPO
Interior, 1ST Floor, Hall, Looking South

5 OF 8

CT-1291
Lower Marlboro Hall
3911 Lower Marlboro Road
Calvert County, MD
EHT Traceries
May 2002
Maryland SHPO
Interior, 1st Floor, Hall, Looking North

6 OF 8

CT-1291
Lower Marlboro Hall
3911 Lower Marlboro Road
Calvert County, MD
EHT Traceries
May 2002
Maryland SHPO
Interior, 1ST Floor, Kitchen, Looking West

7 OF 8

CT-1291
Lower Marlboro Hall
3911 Lower Marlboro Road
Calvert County, MD
EHT Traceries
May 2002
Maryland SHPO
Shed, South Elevation, Looking North

8 OF 8