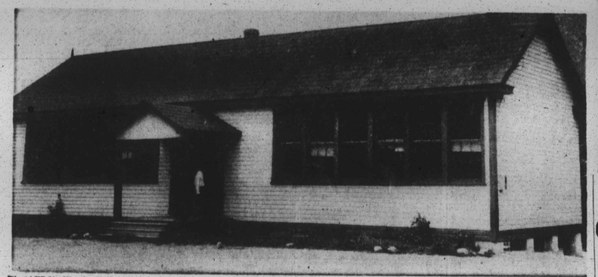
# FEATURE-SECTION

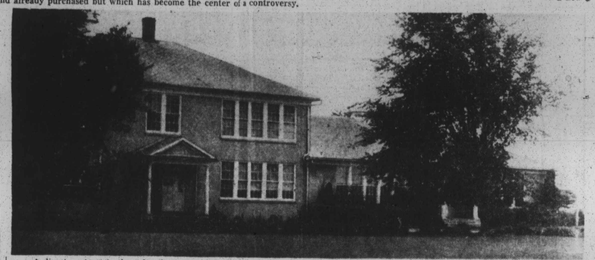
PICTURES ARTICLES

## CHARLES COUNTY CITIZENS FIGHT FOR BETTER SCHOOLS

Members of the citizens' committee for better schools in Charles County who led a delegation that appeared before the Board of Education recently to demand that their new consolidated elementary school be started at once. From left to right, are Carol S. Middleton, Charles S. Butler, J. Mosher Wells and Ollie R. Thomas.

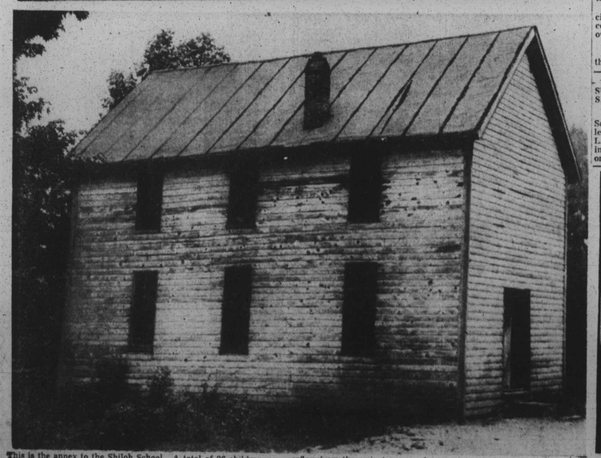
Part of the crowd of nearly 200 Charles County citizens who appeared before the Board of Education last week to demand immediate construction of a new 6 room school on land already purchased but which has become the center of a controversy.





A direct contrast to the colored structures shown, at left, is this modern, well appointed stucco consolidated school building used in Charles County for white children. In the back of this building are many types of recreational apparatus for the youngsters to play with while none of the colored schools in the area have any. This is a typical example of the seprate but equal theory practiced in Southern States.

The AFRO's Woody Taylor peeks into one of the two classrooms of the Tomkinsville, Md., elementary school, top photo, during an inspection tour last week. Mr. Taylor was covering the appearance of citizens before the School Board of Charles County to request an end to this type structure and the building of modern consolidated schools in the County for their children. At bottom is the Shiloh School between Newburg and La Plata, Md.



This is the annex to the Shiloh School. A total of 26 children, an overflow from the main two-room frame structure shown above, attends school upstairs in this building. The County Elks Lodge group uses upstairs for meetings until its new headquarters to be constructed in the future, is completed. There is one outdoor in the rear for girls and none for boys.

## Charles County Board Scorns Whites' Protests on Site for LaPlata School

LA PLATA, Md.— The Charles County Board of Education notified the committee fighting for better schools for colored children, Tuesday, that their six-room building would be constructed as early as possible on the site already purchased.

The county board purchased a 7½-acre tract of land between Wayside and Newburg, Md., to build the consolidated elementary school.

Construction of the structure was held up because officials of the 100-year-old Christ Church, white, and owners of the H.D. Henderson farm, also white, which is alleged to date back to the early 1800's and was a former plantation, protested.

**In People's Best Interest**

Charles S. Butler, chairman of the Citizens School Committee, told the AFRO Tuesday morning that J. T. Bowling, chairman of the board, told his committee at the County Courthouse, board headquarters, that "the structure will be built on the site purchased."

Butler added that the County Board of Education had met with the State board last Thursday and it was concluded at that meeting that it is in the best interest of the people that the school be built where it was originally intended to be.

This is a victory for the colored citizens of the 5th District, who compose over 80% of the land owners in that area.

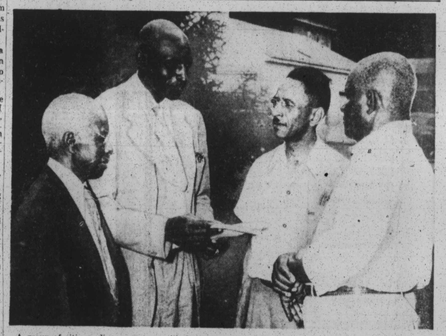
**Make Matter an Issue**

The committee, backed up with the presence of nearly 200 county residents, appeared before the county board last week and presented a 400-signature petition that demanded that building of the school be started on the proposed site immediately.

The board promised them an answer either Saturday or not later than Tuesday.

When they got no word on Saturday, the committee, composed of Mr. Butler, J. Mosher Wells, Charles Middleton and Cary Thomas, went to the Courthouse on Tuesday morning demanding an answer.

It was then that they were advised by Bowling of the favorable decision.



A group of citizens discuss strategy with Luther Stuckey, chairman of the Charles County Branch NAACP, second from left. From left to right, are James F. Brown, president of the County Fair Association; Mr. Stuckey, James T. Slater, and Benjamin H. Walton.

Inside view of the Shiloh School Annex. The building is rented by the Board of Education to house colored children who are unable to get into the main two-room building. In winter, according to testimony at a Board hearing last week, the building leaks; is cold; snow sifts in, and heating it is practically impossible. There are no similar makeshift arrangements for white children in Charles County.

**SUMMER SCHOOL CHOIR SINGS FOR FEDERATION**

ALBANY, Ga.—The Summer School Choir of Albany State College under the direction of James L. Elkins sang at the State meeting of the State Federation of colored women.

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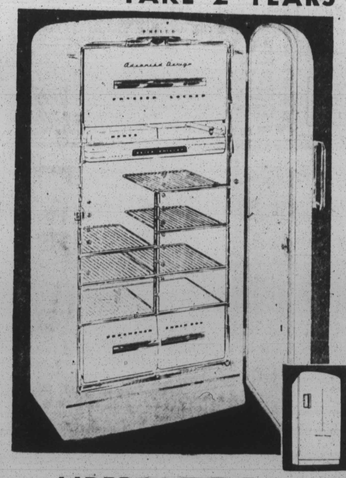

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