

P.G. #87B-34
Woodville School
21500 Aquasco Road, Aquasco, Md.
Priv/Occ/Relig-Social/Good

1934

The Woodville schoolhouse is a one-story, three-room frame building with hip roof. Entrance is in the central bay of the main (west) facade; it is covered by a small canopy with one small window on each side. The rest of the west facade consists of two banks (one on each side of the central entrance) of five large 6/6 windows.

The first school for Blacks in the Aquasco area was built by the Freedmen's Bureau in 1868, almost certainly on the grounds of John Wesley Church. By 1877, however, the Board of School Commissioners built a school farther north at the entrance to the Thomas farm (present intersection of Dr. Bowen Road and Aquasco Road). This was a one-room frame building, which continued in use until 1934. In this year, the decision was made to build a new and larger school. The Board of Education purchased a two-and-one-half-acre lot, and construction was carried out by Emergency Relief Administration labor. The resulting three-room building was the largest rural school built for Blacks in Prince George's County up to that time. The school closed in 1955, and was sold to the St. John's Commandery #373; since that time, it has been used as a meeting place and social hall for the Black Catholic population of the Aquasco area.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Woodville "Colored" School

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 21500 Aquasco Road (Maryland Route 381) not for publication

city, town Aquasco vicinity of congressional district 4

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Social

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

name Knights of St. John Commandery #373

street & number 21500 Aquasco Road telephone no.:

city, town Aquasco state and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P. G. County Courthouse liber 2059

street & number Main Street folio 124

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input 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 Woodville schoolhouse is a one-story, three-room frame building with a hipped roof. The entrance is in the central bay of the (main) west facade; it is covered by a small pointed canopy, and flanked by one small six-pane window on each side. The rest of the west facade is taken up by two banks (one on each side of the central entrance) of five large 6/6 windows. A brick chimney rises from each of the north and south planes of the hipped roof.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. 87B-34

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History

Specific dates 1934 **Builder/Architect** Upman and Adams, Architects

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 location of the first school for Black children in Woodville (Aquasco) has not been definitely established, but it was very likely on the property of John Wesley Methodist Church. Freedmen's Bureau papers indicate that the schoolhouse was completed by 1868, and the three school trustees (Richard Douglas, James Gray, and Walter Thomas) were all trustees of John Wesley Methodist Church which had been established two years earlier. (See P.G. #87B-33). In any case, the Journal of the Board of School Commissioners indicates that a new Black elementary school was built in 1877 at the entrance to the Thomas farm, i.e., on the west side of the Aquasco Road near the present intersection of Dr. Bowen Road. This was a one-room frame school house (30' x 20') with a 33 desk capacity, blackboards and coal stove.

The 1877 Woodville school continued in steady use until 1934 when the decision was made to build a new and larger schoolhouse. The Board of Education purchased a 2 1/2 acre lot 100 yards north (and across the Aquasco Road) from the old school. Materials for the new "Woodville Colored School" were purchased by the Board, and construction was carried out by Emergency Relief Administration labor. The resulting three-room building was the largest rural school built for Blacks in Prince George's County up to that time.

The "Woodville Colored School" was closed in 1955, and auctioned in 1956. It was purchased by the St. John's Commandery #373, and since that time has been used as a meeting place and social hall for the Black Catholic population of the Aquasco area.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. 87B-34

P.G. Co. Deeds: #2059:124; #409:328
Bd. of School Commissioners Journals, 1865 - 1903
School Archives, Dept. of Plant Maintenance
Freedmen's Bureau Papers, 1867, 1868

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl

organization History Division, M-NCPPC date May 1983

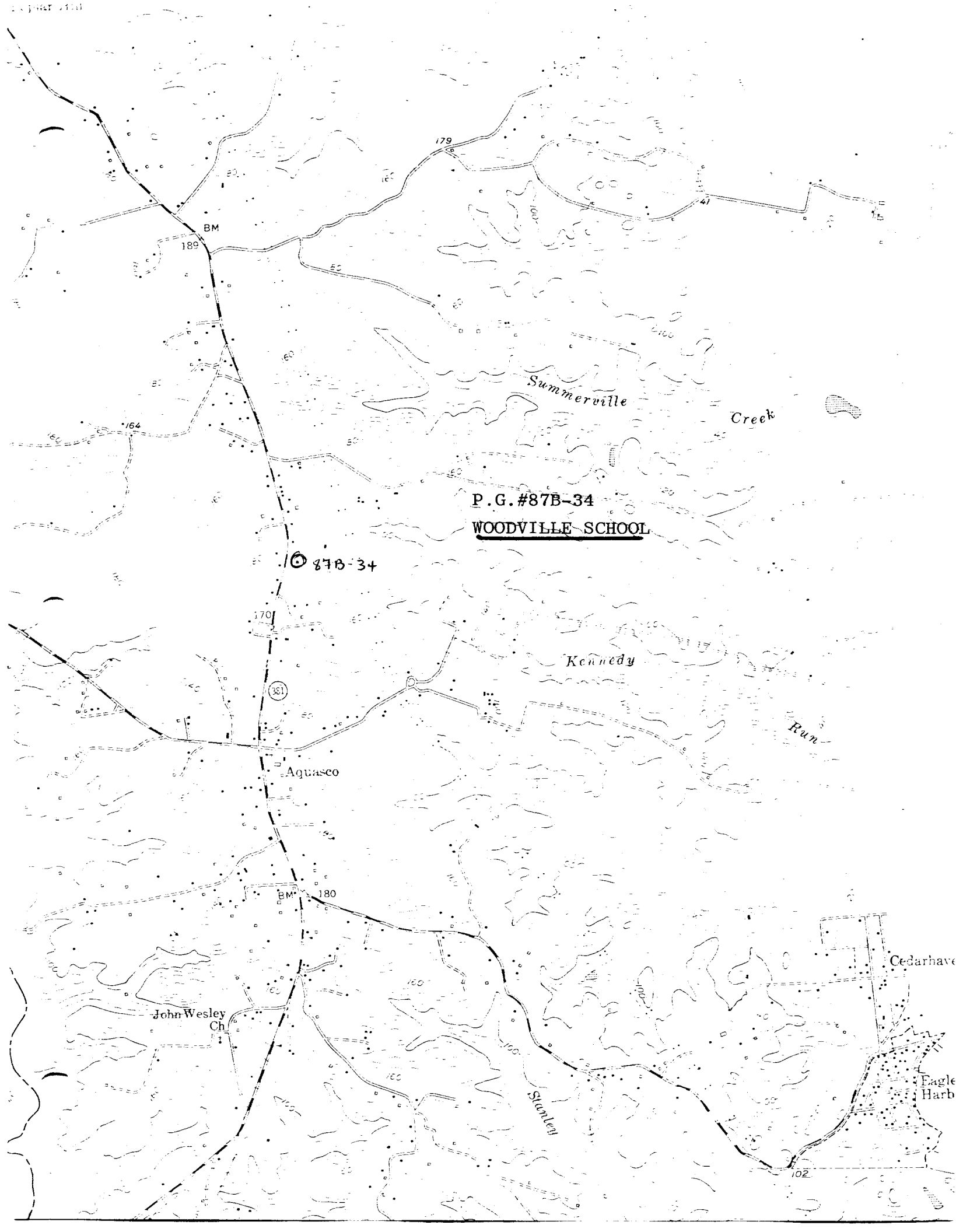
street & number 4811 Riverdale Road telephone 779-2011

city or town Riverdale state Maryland 20737

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



P.G. #87B-34

WOODVILLE SCHOOL

87B-34



P.G. # 87B-34

P.G. #87B-34

Woodville (Rosenwald) School
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1983
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.