

WI-340 369  
English School  
Mardela Springs  
Private

1857

Relocated to the edge of Mardela Springs in 1983, the English school, originally known as the Gravenor school, is a single-story, gable-front frame structure that formerly stood in the nearby community of Spring Grove. Historic photographs of the building indicate that it was originally sheathed with board-and-batten siding and trimmed with a decorative fascia along the edge of the roof. Board-and-batten shutters protected the six-over-six sash windows. At some point during the late nineteenth century, the building was recovered with horizontal weatherboards and it was stripped of its Victorian decoration.

Following its relocation to Mardela Springs, the building was restored with the installation of a new yellow pine floor and a rebuilt gable roof. Original wide pine planks serve as a board wainscoting which encircles the room, and peg rails are fixed to the upper wall surface. The school interior also retains two blackboards.

Construction of the building is documented by a May 1857 deed transferring the property from Thomas Gravenor to school trustees, Walter Walker, Benjamin P. Gravenor and Thomas Gravenor himself. The description refers to,

*the new School house now built in School District No. Two in said County and situate near the branch running between the said Thomas Gravenor's and where Thomas English formerly lived of the other part. Witnesseth that the said Thomas Gravenor for the love and esteem he hath for education in said school district hath given granted and sold and by their presents doth give grant and sell unto the said Walter Walker, Benjamin P. Gravenor, and Thomas Gravenor as Trustees to said house and their Successors in office, one fourth of an acre of land to laid of (sic) in a suitable manner, convenient for the use of said house and on which it now stands...*

The school served the Spring Grove community until World War I, when the building no longer needed by the Wicomico County Board of Education and it was sold George English and relocated to his farm. In 1982 the schoolhouse was purchased by Howard and Louise Adkins for their museum complex.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: English Schoolhouse

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-~~340~~369

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s):  
Architecture  
Education
  
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
  
3. Chronological/Development Period(s):  
Agricultural-Industrial Transition  
1815-1870
  
4. Resource Type(s): Schoolhouse

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

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. WI-240369  
Magi No.  
DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

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

historic Gravenor School

and/or common English School

**2. Location**

street & number South side of Railroad Avenue \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Mardela Springs \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name J. Howard and Louise Adkins

street & number 1010 Camden Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21801

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. WI-340 369

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			1983

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

The English school, also known as the Gravenor school, stands on the south side of Railroad Avenue near its intersection with Brattan Street on the northern edge of Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story rectangular frame building was moved to this location on July 5, 1983 from a nearby community known as Spring Grove.

Built in 1857, this single-story, gable-front frame building is supported on a continuous brick foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with plain horizontal weatherboards. The medium pitched gable roof, rebuilt follows the move, is covered with asphalt shingles. A single flue brick stack pierces the roofline.

The north (main) elevation is pierced by a door opening centered on the wall. A late nineteenth century four-panel door is protected from the weather by a board-and-batten door. A plain surround frames the door opening. The edge of the roof has a slightly extended eave.

The east and west sides of the school are pierced by pairs of six-over-six sash windows flanked by louvered shutters. The rafter ends are enclosed within a boxed cornice. The rear wall is pierced by a six-over-six sash window that is flanked by louvered shutters.

The interior of the school was reworked following its relocation. A new yellow pine floor was laid in an effort to imitate the original. The perimeter of the room is fitted with wide horizontal board wainscoting below the window sill level. The wall surface above is plastered. Fixed to the south wall in each side of the window are blackboards.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-340 369

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates**      1857      **Builder/Architect**

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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.

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The school served the Spring Grove community until World War I, when the building was sold George English and relocated to his farm. In 1982 the schoolhouse was sold to

<sup>1</sup> Somerset County Land Record, LW 5/262, 27 May 1857 from the research compiled by J. Howard and Louise Adkins, no date, p. 1.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-340369

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

C 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

D 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

E 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

F 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

G 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

H 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

date 3/17/98

street & number P. O. Box 5

telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover

state Maryland 21871

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 HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

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SIGNIFICANCE

English School

Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland

Chain of title

Howard and Louise Adkins for their museum complex.<sup>2</sup>

The old school qualifies for listing in *Category A*, which identifies buildings that must be preserved due to their architectural and historical significance. Only a few mid nineteenth century one-room school buildings survive in Wicomico County.

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<sup>2</sup> J. Howard and Louise Adkins, "Gravenor-English School, Mardela Springs, Maryland," p. 1.

# BARREN CREEK

Dist No 1  
WICOMICO CO

RIVERTON P.O.

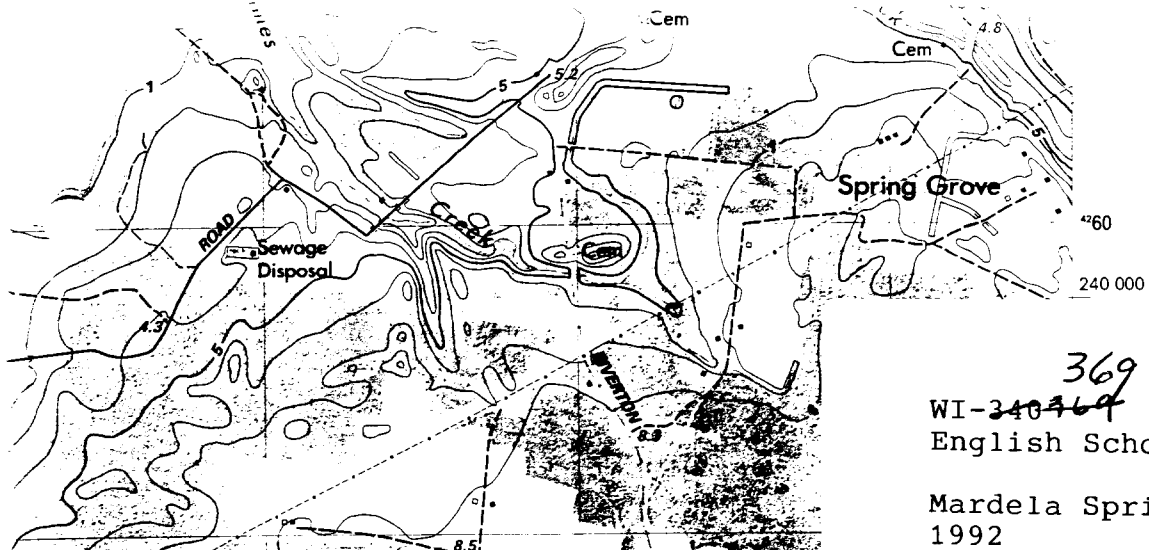
WI-348369  
English School

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas  
1877

VIENNA

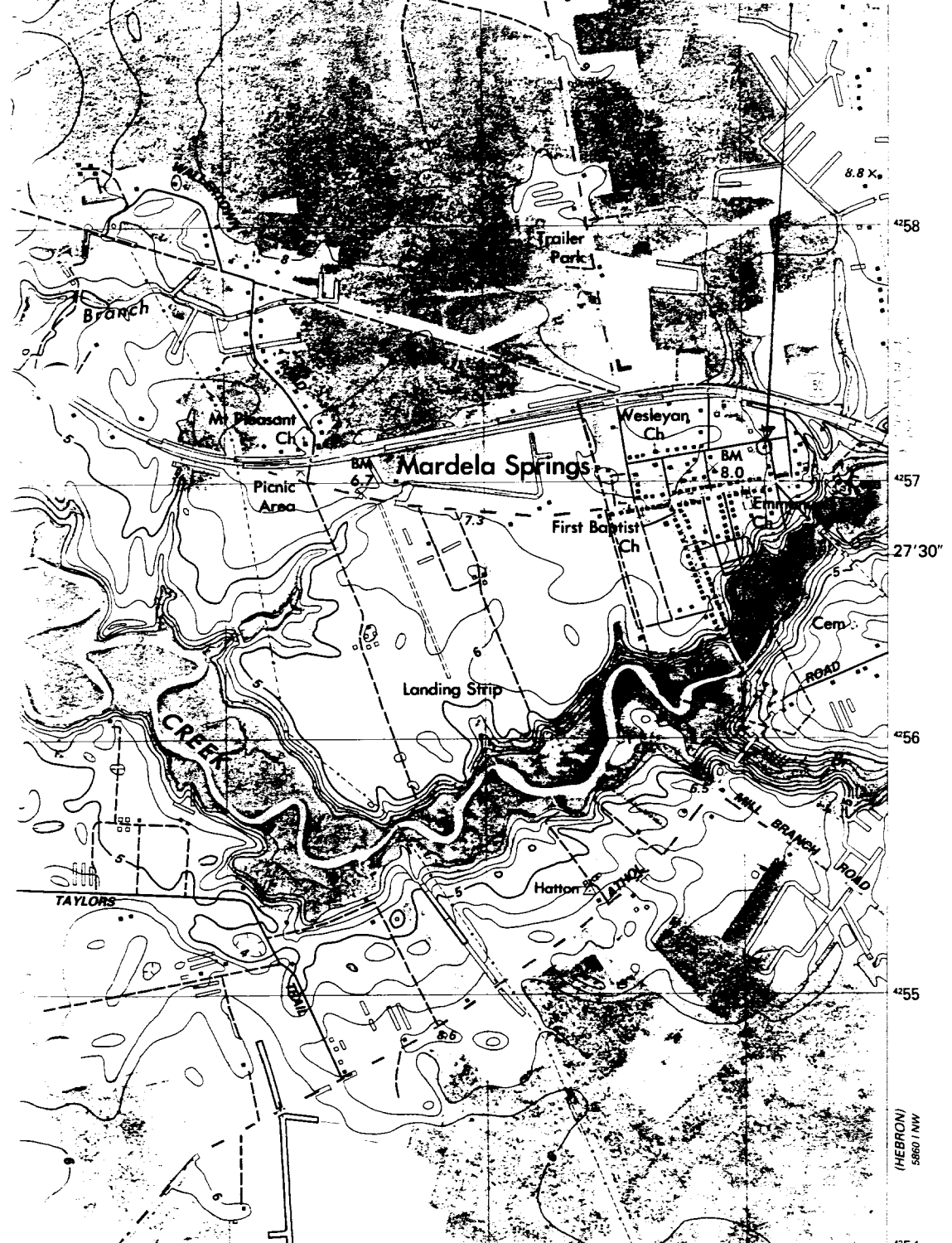




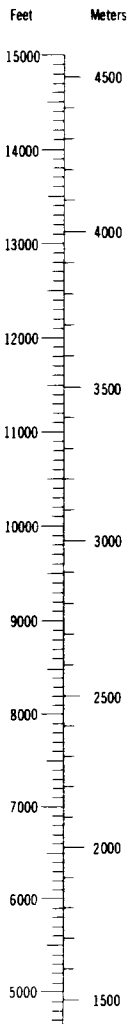


English Schoolhouse

Mardela Springs, MD Quadrangle  
1992



CONVERSION  
SCALES



(HEBRON)  
5860 1 NW