

DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Maryland</b>
COUNTY: <b>Dorchester</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>SEP 11 1975</b>

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Rock School (Preferred)**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Stanley Institute**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**State Route 16**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Cambridge**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**First**

STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24** COUNTY: **Dorchester** CODE: **019**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>vacant</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <b>being restored</b>			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Rock Community Improvement League**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Route 1, Box 165**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Cambridge, Maryland**

STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Dorchester County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**High Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Cambridge, Maryland**

STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Maryland**

COUNTY: **Dorchester**

ENTRY NUMBER: **SEP 11 1975**

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DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rock Elementary School is located about two miles southwest of Cambridge, Maryland on Md. Route 16. It stands at the south-east corner of the intersection of Md. Route 16 and Bayly Road and faces the Rock Methodist Church and cemetery from the opposite side of the road.

The exterior plan of Rock School is characteristic of the many one-room schoolhouses that were built throughout Maryland from the early nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries. It is a rectangular (29 feet by 17 feet), one-story, gable-roofed frame building with a small one-bay, one-story entrance vestibule on its end facade. The structure is three bays long on both sides, excluding a single window on both sides of the projecting vestibule. The six windows on the side elevations of the main block are of six over six sash while those of the vestibule are of four over four. On the front of the vestibule is a centered paneled door; above, within the gable of the main block, is a small four pane window. (The sash in all of the windows has been temporarily removed and the openings boarded shut until current renovations are completed.) The gable roofs of both parts are wood shingled and have simple boxed cornices with returns. An open belfry once stood at the front end of the main roof and is to be replaced. At the opposite end of the roof ridge stands a brick stove chimney. The building stands on wood piers, about eighteen inches above ground level. Several of the piers have been replaced with brick in recent years.

The interior of Rock School has experienced various minor alterations and the basic fabric, though deteriorated, appears to remain fairly intact. The windows are framed by unornamented board surrounds. The ceiling is sheathed with narrow beaded boards and the walls are similarly wainscoted up to the height of the window sills. The plaster on the walls above the wainscoting, however, was removed within the last decade and replaced with plasterboard. The interior walls of the entrance vestibule are presently sheathed with horizontal boards which may or may not be original. None of the early furnishings remain but three original blackboards still occupy their proper locations and in the northwest corner there is a cater-cornered library case.

The site of the Rock School is void of any formally planted shrubbery or trees. A double privy and a tool shed stand near the end of the building. Both of these are in poor repair.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1865

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering          | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry             | osophy                                  | <u>Black History</u>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | itarian                                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1867 the building known as Rock School was moved to its present location from a site near Church Creek, Dorchester County. As most of the existing fabric appears to date from about the mid-and late nineteenth century it is believed that the building, when moved, was dismantled and its parts utilized in the construction of the existing building. If the structure was moved intact, as an informally prepared history of the school suggests, then it was probably constructed just a few years previous to the move. If the latter is true then its present appearance, both interior and exterior, may have resulted from renovations made after the building was re-sited.

Throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century the building served as both a church and school until the erection of the present Rock Methodist Church later in the nineteenth century. Serving the black residents of the area, it was presided over by an elected Board of Trustees. The first President of the Board was Ezekrial Stanley and for many years the school was called the Stanley Institute in his honor.

The Rock School is one of Maryland's oldest schools organized and maintained by a black community. The history of this simple building is thus of immeasurable significance to the history of black social development in Maryland.

The Rock Community Improvement League, owner of the school and its site, is composed of area residents, many of whom are descended from the school's original founders. The school represents to them a physical reminder of their heritage and there is a strongly supported local movement to restore the building for the use of the League. The school will be maintained as a memorial to the many black men who graduated from this modest facility and went on to become successful in their various endeavors. Most notable among these personalities is Dr. Thomas Kiah (1873-1936), who also studied at Cornell and Columbia Universities and became a principal of the Princess Anne Academy, now the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore. Twelve other graduates became Methodist ministers and served the Delaware Annual Conference.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Records of the Board of Trustees of Stanley Institute  
 Land Records of Dorchester County  
 History of Rock School, An Informal Report by William H. Kiah,  
 Acting President, Rock Community Improvement League

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	38 °	32 '	42 "
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	76 °	06 '	10 "
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
J. Richard Rivoire, Architectural Historian/ William H. Kiah  
 ORGANIZATION: ment League DATE: 1/10/75  
Maryland Historical Trust/ Rock Community Improve-  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
21 State Circle/ Route 1, Box 165  
 CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis/ Cambridge STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:  
 National  State  Local   
 Name John N. Pearce  
 Acting Title State Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland  
 Date June 12, 1975

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.  
A. R. Maclean  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 Date 9/11/75  
 ATTEST:  
W. Shultz  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date SEP 8 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ROCK SCHOOL

