

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name University of Maryland Eastern Shore
other names S-429

2. Location

street & number 1 Backbone Road not for publication
city or town Princess Anne vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Somerset code 039 zip code 21853

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

[Signature] 8-2-05
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby, certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 - Determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 9-16-05

University of Maryland Eastern Shore (S-429)
Name of Property

Somerset County, Maryland
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8	6	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
9	6	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/College

EDUCATION/College

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS
Colonial Revival/Classical Revival/Beaux-Arts

foundation Brick, concrete
walls Brick

roof Slate
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION
 ARCHITECTURE
 ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK

Period of Significance

1886-1954

Significant Dates

1886

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

E. Wilson Booth, architect
 J. Roland Dashiell & Sons; Charles E. Brohawn Co.;
 Carl J. Williams & Sons, contractors

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 23.8 acres Princess Anne, MD quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1	8	4	4	0	0	4	5	4	2	2	9	3	0	0	3	1	8	4	3	9	9	2	1	4	2	2	8	9	4	4
	Zone			Easting						Northing							Zone			Easting						Northing					
2	1	8	4	4	0	1	7	9	4	2	2	9	1	2	7	4	1	8	4	3	9	7	9	6	4	2	2	9	1	2	7
	Zone			Easting						Northing							Zone			Easting						Northing					

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Baker Touart
Organization Consultant date January 2005
street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone (410) 651-1094
city or town Westover state MD zip code 21871

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et. seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Description Summary:

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore is located on the northeastern side of the town of Princess Anne, seat of Somerset County, Maryland. The historic approach to the campus is from the west, via Broad Street; the new University Boulevard links the campus with State Route 13 north of the town. The core of the campus complex focuses on a large rectangular green or quadrangle bordered with paved walks. The quadrangle is oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

The quadrangle is surrounded by major buildings erected between 1938 and 1954 that reflect variations of neoclassical and Colonial Revival styles that were favored by many educational institutions during the early to mid twentieth century. Exterior elevations are representative mainly of a variety of Colonial Revival designs recalling architectural massing and detailing from eighteenth century America. Several of these buildings are distinguished by colossal columned entrance porticos reflecting the resurgence of neoclassicism during the first half of the twentieth century. For the most part, the buildings are faced in brick laid in Flemish bond, and have gable roofs covered with slate. The buildings were designed by E. Wilson Booth, a local architect well known in the region for a range of residential, educational, and institutional structures.

At the southern corner of the district, a small fenced cemetery features grave markers honoring Benjamin Oliver Bird (1853-1897), the academy's first leader; his wife Portia E. Lovett Bird (1859-1899); Thomas Henry Kiah (1873-1936), the institution's fifth president; and his wife Mary Kiah (1879-1918).

The historic district comprises the core of a much larger campus. It contains eight contributing resources and one contributing site (the cemetery). Six non-contributing resources within the district postdate the period of significance.

General Description:

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore traces its history to 1886, when an academy was established to provide higher educational opportunities for black men and women on the Delmarva peninsula. The institution has grown to comprise an extensive campus of several hundred acres; the present campus is characterized by buildings erected over the course of the past seventy years. The 19th century buildings, including the original academy, are no longer standing, but they were sited in the area of the quadrangle upon which the historic core of the campus is focused.

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The campus is sited on level to slightly undulating land bounded by branches of the Manokin River. Principal access is provided by the newly-built University Boulevard, or via the original Broad Street entrance through Princess Anne.

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore historic district is located at the core of the much larger modern university campus. It is defined by a formal grouping of Colonial Revival and neoclassical brick-faced buildings erected between 1938 and 1954. These buildings are oriented to a generous rectangular grass quadrangle bordered by paved walks and studded with mature trees.

Defining the southwest end of the quadrangle is the principal administrative building, originally known as Maryland Hall, and now labeled John T. Williams Hall (#929 on the accompanying site plan). Erected in 1938-40, the two-and-a-half story, seven-bay, center hall main block is flanked on each end by slightly shorter two-and-a-half story, four-bay by three bay wings. The southwest (principal) elevation is a formal, symmetrical façade distinguished by a two-story square columned portico. Colonial Revival exterior features include Flemish bond brickwork, twelve-over-twelve sash windows, stone window sills, molded wood surrounds, and a modillion block cornice that stretches across the base of the gable roof. The southeast portico is shelters a wide double-door entrance topped by a sixteen-light transom and framed by a pedimented surround. The gable roof is defined by a series of five gabled dormers with [replacement] nine-over-nine sash windows. Tall brick chimney stacks rise through the gable ends of the main block. The flanking wings are detailed with a two-course belt course, twelve-over-twelve sash windows in jack-arched openings, and boxed cornices enriched with a dentiled bed molding. The northeast (rear) elevation, which faces the quadrangle, is an informal utilitarian façade dominated by a large two-story shed-roofed, blind wall brick extension of the main block at the center. The balance of the façade is defined by twelve-over-twelve sash windows framed by molded surrounds and a modillion block cornice.

Northwest of John T. Williams Hall is Bird Hall (#930), named after Benjamin O. Bird, the institution's first president. Constructed in 1938-40, the rectangular seven-bay by three-bay building is distinguished by Flemish bond brickwork, beveled water table, two-course belt course and a Colonial Revival cornice at the base of the steeply pitched hip roof. A single gabled dormer marks the short side of the hip roof while a series of three dormers define the long sides. The northeast entrance is defined by a Colonial Revival portico.

Northeast of Bird Hall facing the quadrangle is Somerset Hall (#938), constructed in 1940. Faced in Flemish bond brick, the two-and-a-half story, thirteen-bay main block is flanked by one-and-a-half story, three-bay wings. The main block has a colossal-columned Doric order

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portico with wood-sheathed tympanum pierced by a round window. Rows of nine-over-nine sash windows light the first floor and six-over-nine sash windows illuminate the second floor. Interior end brick chimney stacks rise through the roof. The wings are defined by nine-over-nine sash windows in openings with segmental arches. On the south wing the center bay holds an entrance framed by a Colonial Revival surround. The wings have gable roofs with modillion block cornices. The front roof slope of each wing has a modern arched shed dormer with a bank of seven six-over-six sash windows. The gable ends have exterior brick chimney stacks with paved shoulders. The northwest (rear) elevation is finished in a similar fashion with Colonial Revival brickwork and carpentry details. A single-story brick colonnade extends from the back of Somerset Hall to join it to Harford Hall (#939). Also built in 1940, Harford Hall is a two-and-a-half story, ten-bay Flemish bond brick building distinguished by a Doric columned portico.

Northeast of Somerset and Harford Halls is the John Alfred Banum Wilson Hall, the location of the Departments of English, Modern Languages, and Education (#901). Erected c. 1940, Wilson Hall was designed in a neoclassical format derived from a Greek or Roman temple. The two-story, five-bay Flemish bond brick-faced front is dominated by a series of six colossal Doric columns that rise to a plain entablature topped by a classical pediment pierced by a half-round lunette window. The triangular pediment is enriched with a block cornice. The southeast (main) elevation is a symmetrical five-bay facade with a center entrance framed by classical pilasters and topped by a ten-light transom.

Next in line along the north side of the quadrangle is the Frederick Douglass Library (#933-934). Erected in 1969 and subsequently expanded, the two-and-a-half story, eleven-bay, stretcher bond brick-faced building is supported on a raised foundation and is covered by a broad hip roof. A colossal-columned Doric order portico shelters the principal entrance, and six-over-nine sash windows light the first and second floors. The roof has a block cornice, and round arched louvered vents.

The northeast end of the quadrangle is dominated by Trigg Hall (#902), which houses the Department of Agricultural Science. Completed in 1954, Trigg Hall is sited atop an artificial terrace with a bold Ionic portico dominating the two-story, nine-bay center block. The main body of Trigg Hall is spanned by a broad hip roof, covered with slate, with brick chimneys rising through the apex of the hips. The roof and portico are enriched with a modillion block cornice. Eight-over-twelve and twelve-over-twelve sash windows light the first and second stories respectively. Flanking the main block are long two-story, five-bay hip roofed wings finished in similar, but less intricate, Colonial Revival details.

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The last major historic building facing the campus quadrangle is Murphy Hall, erected in 1943 (#935). Now the dormitory for the female honors students, Murphy Hall is a two-and-a-half story, nine-bay Flemish bond brick block with a projecting five-bay Doric columned portico. Centered within the portico is the front entrance, framed by a Colonial Revival scroll pediment surround featuring fluted Corinthian order pilasters. The main block has a beveled water table and two-course belt course; nine-over-nine sash windows define the first floor bays, with six-over-nine sash above. The base of the gable roof is finished with a modillion block cornice. Interior brick chimney stacks rise through the gable ends. The main block of Murphy Hall is flanked by story-and-a-half, three-bay wings featuring large exterior brick stacks with paved shoulders. The wings are lighted by six-over-nine sash windows, and gable roofed dormers are fitted with six-over-six sash. At the back of the 1943 building is a single-story frame colonnade connecting it with the two-story, fourteen-bay by three-bay brick annex (#936) built in 1964.

The table on the following page lists the resources comprising the University of Maryland Eastern Shore historic district. It indicates the numerical designation on the accompanying site plan, resource name, construction date, and evaluation of its contribution to the significance of the district (C=Contributing, NC=Non-Contributing)

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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE LIST OF RESOURCES WITHIN HISTORIC DISTRICT

Map No.	Resource Name	Date	C/NC
929	John T. Williams Hall	1938-40	C
930	Byrd Hall	1938-40	C
938	Somerset Hall	1940	C
939	Harford Hall	1940	C
901	Wilson Hall	1940	C
933-934	Frederick Douglass Library	1969 and later	NC
902	Trigg Hall	1950-54	C
915	Tanner Airway Science Center	1963	NC
914	Charles C. Spaulding Hall	1963	NC
913	Benjamin Banneker Hall	1959	NC
922	George Washington Carver Hall	1972/1990	NC
935	John Murphy Hall	1943	C
936	Annex	1963	NC
WAT	Joseph Robert Waters Hall	1950	C
CEM	Campus Cemetery	Early-mid 20 th C	C

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Summary Statement of Significance:

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of higher education for African Americans in Maryland. The institution began as an academy established in 1886 in an effort to provide higher educational opportunities for black men and women in the region, and grew to become an integral part of the Maryland state university system. The University stands out as the only land-grant institution for black education on the Eastern Shore and one of two in Maryland that were begun during the late nineteenth century.

The early history of the school is closely tied to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which worked diligently to improve opportunities for blacks during the mid to late nineteenth century. In particular, the assistance of the Centenary Biblical Institute and the Delaware Conference of the Methodist Church were essential to its establishment and early development. The school's past is emblematic of the basic struggles experienced by the African-American population in pursuit of higher education during the period from the post-Civil War years until the mid twentieth century.

The district derives additional significance under Criterion C for its architecture, which is representative of the design and construction standards adopted by the State of Maryland for its university system during the mid twentieth century. The arrangement of buildings around a quadrangle reflects Beaux-Arts ideals applied to campus planning, and the choice of Colonial Revival and neoclassical-inspired designs symbolically expresses democratic and academic values. The buildings replaced the frame and brick structures that had defined the school grounds between 1886 and 1938, and brought the institution's physical plant more into parity with other elements of the State university system. The first phase of rebuilding was financed in part by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration; J. T. Williams (originally Maryland) and Bird Halls date from the 1938-40 WPA period. The University campus contains the largest and most diverse concentration of mid twentieth-century educational buildings on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland.

The period of significance, 1886-1954, extends from the foundation of the institution through the mid 20th century, during which time the historic core of the campus substantially achieved its present form.

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Resource History and Historic Context:

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore's organizational history dates to 1886 when the Delaware Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Centenary Biblical Institute of Baltimore City worked jointly in the formation of a branch school on the Eastern Shore for the education of black youth.

The Centenary Biblical Institute of Baltimore City, an outgrowth of the work advanced by the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was chartered in November 1867.¹ Initially intended to educate and train male ministers, the Institute added a teaching curriculum and began admitting female students in the 1870s. In 1879 Reverend John Franklin Goucher donated property at the corner of Fulton Street and Edmondson Avenue along with a generous \$5,000 matching gift for the construction and furnishing of a new institute. The new building was dedicated in May 1881.² By the school year of 1885-86, the institute had an enrollment of 226 students with 60 applicants for admission denied.³ At the same time, the institute's president, Reverend William Maslin Frysinger, proposed the formation of branch schools in the Methodist conferences in Delaware and Washington, D.C.⁴ The Delaware conference's branch was actually located in Maryland, on the east side of Princess Anne, the seat of Somerset County. Two Delaware conference ministers were clearly influential in the decision to locate the new school in Princess Anne: Reverend John R. Waters was the new minister of the John Wesley M. E. Church, commonly known as the Metropolitan M. E. Church, in Princess Anne, and Reverend John Alfred Banum Wilson, was at the time the minister on the Salisbury Circuit.

On June 12, 1886, Rev. John A. B. Wilson purchased sixteen acres of the Olney plantation for \$2,000;⁵ a little over two months later, on August 24, he conveyed the same land to the "Centenary Biblical Institute of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Baltimore City."⁶ The 1886 deeds referred to a previous 1869 transfer between Beulah C. Hirst and James U. Dennis, which described the land as

¹ William P. Hytche, *Polishing the Diamond: A History of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore*. Four-G Publishers, Inc. Jackson, Mississippi, p. 3.

² The Centenary Biblical Institute's history is taken from Morgan State University Alumni Association's website, mssunaa.morgan.edu/traditions.htm.

³ Hytche, p. 12.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Somerset County Land Record, HFL 4/287, 12 June 1886.

⁶ Somerset County Land Record, HFL 4/309, 24 August 1886.

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all that part or portion of a tract or parcel of land commonly called & known as Olney in said County near the Town of Princess Anne, that lies West of a railing fence, that runs from the County Road to the land of Levin L. Waters, the said fence of railing fence, beginning at the west Gate Post that stands on the side of the County road and is seventy yards distant from the East side of the present yard fence enclosing the yard on the east side of the yard or lawn in which the dwelling house now stands, the said tract or parcel of land hereby conveyed containing sixteen acres, more or less...⁷

The sixteen acres included the Olney house and its outbuildings. Its proximity to Reverend Waters's church as well as the railroad and the steamboat wharf undoubtedly influenced the choice of the site for the future school. The Princess Anne branch of the Centenary Biblical Institute, also known as the Delaware Conference Academy, opened in September 1886 with an initial enrollment of nine students; that enrollment grew over the term to 37, thirteen of whom were young girls.⁸ A graduate and instructor from the Centenary Biblical Institute, Benjamin Oliver Bird (1853-1897), was the academy's first principal.

In April 1890, the Centenary Biblical Institute's name was changed to Morgan College, in honor of Reverend Lyttleton F. Morgan, a member of Centenary's board. Four months later, the federal government passed the second Morrill Act,⁹ stipulating assistance for higher education for Negro youths within the land-grant college system, and if not complied with funds for such institutions would be rescinded. At the end of the year, in December, the Maryland Agricultural College and Morgan College signed a contract making the Delaware Conference Academy the Eastern Branch of the Maryland Agricultural College, although it was familiarly known as the Princess Anne Academy, and administered alternately between the two parent institutions. In the contract, it was asserted that

The purpose and intent of this contract [is] to provide during its continuance for the youth of Maryland of the Colored Race like facilities for general education and especially for the instruction in agriculture and mechanic arts—conducted in a separate school to those provided for the white youth of Maryland, and to thus conform in spirit and letter to the provisions of the act of congress approved August 30, 1890, for the more complete endowment and support of the college for the benefit of agriculture and mechanic arts.¹⁰

⁷ Somerset County Land Record, LW 11/622, 8 November 1869.

⁸ Hytche, p. 46.

⁹ The first Morrill Act was passed on July 2, 1862 for the Endowment, Support and Maintenance of Colleges of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. The second Morrill Act (1890) was approved on March 15, 1892, which stipulated aid

¹⁰ Ellen Coxe and Bridget Deale, Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory form, S-116, December 1979.

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The Olney farmhouse was the principal building for the academy during its first decade of operation; other buildings were added to the complex as money became available through federal, state, and private contributions. In 1892-93 the Eliza F. Smith Home for Girls, a dormitory for the female students, was erected at Princess Anne Academy.¹¹ The large three-and-a-half story, three-bay by five-bay frame structure served as a dormitory and for other purposes until the mid twentieth-century rebuilding of the campus. In 1896, the Maryland state legislature made its first appropriation of funds for the Princess Anne Academy:

*An Act to appropriate a certain sum of money to aid Morgan College, a body corporate, duly incorporated for the education of the colored people, under the General Laws of Maryland, and an amendatory Act of the General Assembly of Maryland, passed at the January session of 1890, to be used for the erection at Princess Anne in Somerset County, Maryland, an additional building, to increase the facilities for the industrial education of the colored people of Maryland, as carried on by said college at Princess Anne.*¹²

A sum of \$2,500 was appropriated and awarded to Morgan College, and within the following year work began on an industrial arts building for the Princess Anne campus. The academy's principal, Benjamin O. Bird, did not live to see the industrial arts building started; he died on April 26, 1897. His widow, Portia E. Lovett Bird, led the school for the next two years until her death in 1899.

With the turn of the century came a new leader, Dr. Pezavia O'Connell, a Methodist minister who also held a doctoral degree in philosophy from the University of Pennsylvania. He stayed at Princess Anne Academy two years, and was succeeded by Frank J. Trigg (1850-1934), a graduate of the Hampton Institute. It was under Trigg's leadership that an expanded curriculum in teacher instruction as well as agricultural and industrial vocational training were broadened. Under Trigg's leadership, students were first offered practical instruction in the trades of wheelwrighting and blacksmithing.

In 1911 Thomas Henry Kiah (1873-1936), a graduate of both the Princess Anne Academy and Morgan College, became headmaster, and held the post for thirty-five years. Early in Kiah's tenure, in 1914, the first state appropriation to assist in the maintenance of the school was made in the sum of \$500,¹³ supplementing funds provided to Princess Anne Academy by Morgan College and the Methodist church. Financial resources remained in short supply, a condition that had prevailed since the school was founded.

¹¹ Dexter Smith and his wife of Massachusetts provided \$3,400 for the construction of the building in memory of their daughter.

¹² Laws of the General Assembly, 1896, Chapter 261 as quoted in Hytche, p. 270.

¹³ Hytche, p. 259.

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Tragedy struck in Spring 1919, when the old Olney house caught fire. The *Wicomico News* reported on May 1st following the incident:

The main building of the Princess Anne Academy, a branch of Morgan College about one half mile east of here, was destroyed by fire early this morning. The fire is supposed to have originated from an overheated stove in the laundry. The school is devoted to the education of colored youths, male and female, and the agricultural course is one of the leading branches taught at the institution. The fire destroyed the administrative offices, recreation room, dining hall, kitchen, and laundry. Tentative arrangements have been made to carry on the work for the balance of the school year, ending the latter part of May. There are about 125 boarding pupils at the school.

The building destroyed consisted of a center portion of brick, with two large frame wings. The center portion was one of the old landmarks of Somerset County, and has been known for more than 100 years as Olney Hall. The loss, estimated from \$15,000 to \$20,000, is partly covered by insurance.¹⁴

Repairs were made to the burned dwelling, and the Olney house, at least in part, remained a fixture on the campus until the late 1970s.

Also during Thomas Kiah's leadership, the State of Maryland formally purchased the Princess Anne Academy from Morgan College for \$100,000 in 1936, and the administration of the school was placed under the auspices of the University of Maryland,¹⁵ even though Morgan College continued to oversee its operation for another decade. During this ten-year period, Princess Anne Academy moved from the junior college status it had achieved in 1925 to become a full-fledged four-year institution. In 1936 full administrative control was transferred to the Board of Regents of the University of Maryland.

Beginning in the mid to late 1930s, the Princess Anne College entered a volatile period. Racial prejudices within the University system paradoxically resulted in substantial capital improvements; at the same time, a variety of studies and investigations placed the future of the institution in question.

In 1935 Harry Clifton Byrd, a Somerset County native born in Crisfield, was appointed acting president of the University of Maryland. One of the more pressing issues at hand when Harry Byrd took office in July of that year was a suit that had been filed against the university by Donald Gaines Murray. A black graduate of Amherst College, Murray was seeking enrollment

¹⁴ *Wicomico News*, May 1, 1919.

¹⁵ Hytche, p. 262.

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in the University of Maryland's law school since a law degree was not offered at Princess Anne. With the aid of Washington attorney Charles Hamilton Houston and a young Thurgood Marshall, Murray won the case and gained entrance into the University of Maryland in the fall of 1935; he graduated in 1938.

The Murray case galvanized President Byrd and the Board of Regents to begin planning for improvements to the infrastructure and operation of the Princess Anne school. Verbalizing the common prejudice of the time, President Byrd told a reporter with the *Baltimore Sun*, "If we don't do something about Princess Anne we're going to have to accept Negroes at College Park, where our girls are."¹⁶

The first improvements to the school's outward appearance and daily function came through the Works Progress Administration funding of three new brick structures, erected between 1938 and 1940. On April 8, 1938 the *Princess Anne Marylander and Herald* reported:

It was announced in Washington, Tuesday, that President Roosevelt has approved a grant of \$106,495 to be used at the Princess Anne Academy, located on the suburbs of this city, which is a colored land grant college, supervised by the University of Maryland. This amount with two other allocations, \$581,002 to be used at College Park and \$447,000 at the Baltimore School and properties of the University, when approved by the Comptroller General will be turned over to the State WPA heads for their uses.¹⁷

Two years later, the same newspaper described the dedication ceremonies:

Dedication exercises for three new buildings at Princess Anne College, Eastern Branch of the University of Maryland for colored students, was held in the new gymnasium last Thursday. Ceremonies began at 2:30 P.M. with Robert Alexander Grigsby, Dean of the college, acting as chairman.

The dedicatory addresses were delivered by Mrs. Crystal Byrd Fauset, daughter of Professor B. O. Byrd (sic), first principal of the Princess Anne Academy...Dr. H. C. Byrd, President of the University of Maryland, a native of Somerset County, graced the occasion with "Our Purpose." Words of acceptance were heard from the Hon. W. P. Cole, Chairman of the Building Commission of the Board Regents, U. of M., and Dr. W. W. Skinner, Chairman of the same Board, Col. E. W. Clarke, Active Commissioner of Public Works, Federal Works Agency, also spoke. Somerset County and the Eastern Shore was represented by a native son, J. Millard Tawes, State Comptroller...¹⁸

¹⁶ *Baltimore Sun*, 2.5.1937.

¹⁷ *Marylander and Herald*, 8 April 1938, "WPA GRANT APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT."

¹⁸ *Marylander and Herald*, 26 April 1940, "P A College Buildings Are Dedicated Thurs."

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The April 1940 dedication ceremony marked an important milestone for the school. Three new buildings, Maryland Hall, Bird Hall, and Kiah Hall, substantially improved its facilities, and marked a step toward parity with other elements of the state university system. The buildings were designed by local architect E. Wilson Booth.¹⁹ Booth had received design and construction training under his father, W. E. Booth, a prominent Wicomico County builder during the first quarter of the twentieth century. E. Wilson Booth established an office in Salisbury, and became well known in the region for a variety of institutional, commercial, and residential projects. The buildings were constructed by Salisbury contractor, J. Roland Dashiell.²⁰

As America entered into World War II, enrollment at the Princess Anne College, its unofficial new name since the early 1930s, decreased to a low of 50 students in 1944.²¹ Once the peace was declared in 1945, enrollment started to regain its pre-war level.

Despite disappointing enrollment figures during World War II, the campus was improved with the construction of a new brick residence hall for female students in 1942-43, also designed by E. Wilson Booth. Named in honor of John Murphy, publisher of the first African-American newspaper, the large two-and-a-half story brick dormitory was constructed some distance away from the buildings erected by the WPA a few years earlier. Its position, however, on a perpendicular axis to Maryland Hall clearly established the beginning of a quadrangle plan. All of the major building projects that followed in the next quarter century were oriented to the center green. This arrangement reflects Beaux-Arts ideals applied to campus planning, and the choice of Colonial Revival and neoclassical-inspired designs symbolically expresses democratic and academic values. These principles are characteristic of public and private collegiate design during the period.

The post-war years ushered in a new series of inspections and reviews of the public higher educational institutions in Maryland. In 1945 the Marbury Commission was authorized to assess the merits of white and black colleges. When the Marbury Commission filed its report two years later it recommended the closure of the Princess Anne College in favor of improving the facilities at Morgan State inasmuch as the state, in the commission's opinion, had shown little progress in developing the Princess Anne College as a first-rate school. In the same year, in 1947, Dr. John Taylor Williams became the seventh head of the school, and fought diligently for its future.

¹⁹ University of Maryland Board of Regents Minutes, Program of Dedication, 4.19.1940, p. 965.

²⁰ University of Maryland, Board of Regents Minutes, Dedication Program, 3.15.1940, pp. 955-56.

²¹ Hytche, p. 140.

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Despite the Marbury Commission's closure recommendation, Harry Clifton Byrd—still president of the University of Maryland—responded to continued pressure to admit black students to College Park by pressing for further improvements to the Princess Anne College. He had the institution's name changed to Maryland State College, and maneuvered the legislature into quadrupling the state's investment in the campus. As a result, several large structures were added to the quadrangle complex. In 1950, Somerset Hall, a men's dormitory, and Joseph Robert Waters Hall, a new dining facility, were erected across from each other adjacent to Maryland Hall. Four years later, at the northeast end of the quadrangle, Trigg Hall was built, and named after the school's fourth headmaster. Architect E. Wilson Booth's design featured a colossal columned Ionic order portico fronting a hip roofed brick main block; the two-story, nine-bay building was sited atop an artificial hill in order to provide a more prominent principal elevation.

In 1954, the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools granted Maryland State College accreditation as an autonomous institution of higher learning. In the same year, the college was admitted to the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The 1954 academic year closed with a commencement address delivered by former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.²² In spite of these achievements Dr. Williams struggled with funding and social issues, particularly during the 1960s as demonstrations for civil rights took place on campus and in Princess Anne.

By 1967, President Williams had grown weary of the overall conditions and arrangements at the school, and seeking to ensure its long-term viability, petitioned the state that the institution be designated as a bonafide branch of the university system. After a long and exhaustive study, the petition was approved with the passage of a legislative bill making the Maryland State College the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, effective July 1, 1970. This new status obligated the Board of Regents of the University of Maryland to provide the such leadership and funding as was necessary to upgrade the Eastern Shore campus to the level of other university branches. This new period was marked by the construction of several new facilities including George Washington Carver Hall, a new home for the Department of Natural Science, in 1972, and the Ella Fitzgerald Center for the Performing Arts, completed in 1974. The Carver Science building was the last major structure to be erected on the quadrangle.

Concurrent with the goals of the University of Maryland to develop its Eastern Shore campus was an ambitious program to expand Salisbury State College, located less than fifteen miles north of Princess Anne. These conflicting expansion agendas led to duplication of curricula and programs between the two institutions, with UMES incurring a significant loss of growth in enrollment. Other evaluations of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore during

²² Hytche, p. 266.

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the mid 1970s, known as the Rosenberg Commission in 1975 and the Donaldson Report a year later, recommended merging Salisbury State College with the University and closing the Princess Anne campus. During the 1970s, the school was led by Dr. Archie L. Buffkins and Dr. William P. Hytche, and the top position was at that point known as Chancellor. Dr. Buffkins' association with the university was relatively short, his service lasted four years between 1971 and 1975. Dr. Hytche took over as acting Chancellor in 1975-76 and afterwards assumed the Chancellor's post until 1997. Dr. Hytche's association with the school began in the Mathematics Department in 1960.²³ Dr. Hytche took over the leadership duties just as the Rosenberg Commission and Donaldson Report were making their recommendations to merge the Salisbury State College and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. The movement to merge the two schools was controversial and a final decision was stalled with further investigation in 1977 by the Webb Task Force, which ultimately decided not to close U.M.E.S., but rather, recommended the relocation of certain programs from College Park to Princess Anne, thereby upgrading some of its student offerings. In the fall catalogue of 1978, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore offered new undergraduate programs in construction management technology, hotel and restaurant management, environmental science, poultry technology and management, elementary/special education, computer science/data processing, engineering technology, and physical therapy. One master's program in guidance and counseling was offered at U.M.E.S. alone, and a joint program in agricultural and extension education was shared between Princess Anne and College Park.²⁴

In spite of the expansion in program offerings, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore remained under scrutiny by state review boards, and a 1981 report authored by Dr. Malcolm Moos recommended again the closure or merger of the institution. However, almost simultaneously with the Moos Report, federal legislation—the National Agricultural, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act—was passed in 1981 authorizing funding to upgrade facilities on the nation's historic land-grant institutions. Areas of priority within this funding included improved facilities for food and agricultural sciences. Substantial federal funding was leveraged to attract private gifts; one of the largest was secured in 1987 from Richard A. Henson. With funding and endowments no longer in question, steady improvements to the older buildings as well as the construction of new facilities have extended the campus well beyond the mid twentieth century quadrangle.

²³ Hytche, pp. 183-185.

²⁴ Hytche, p. 206.

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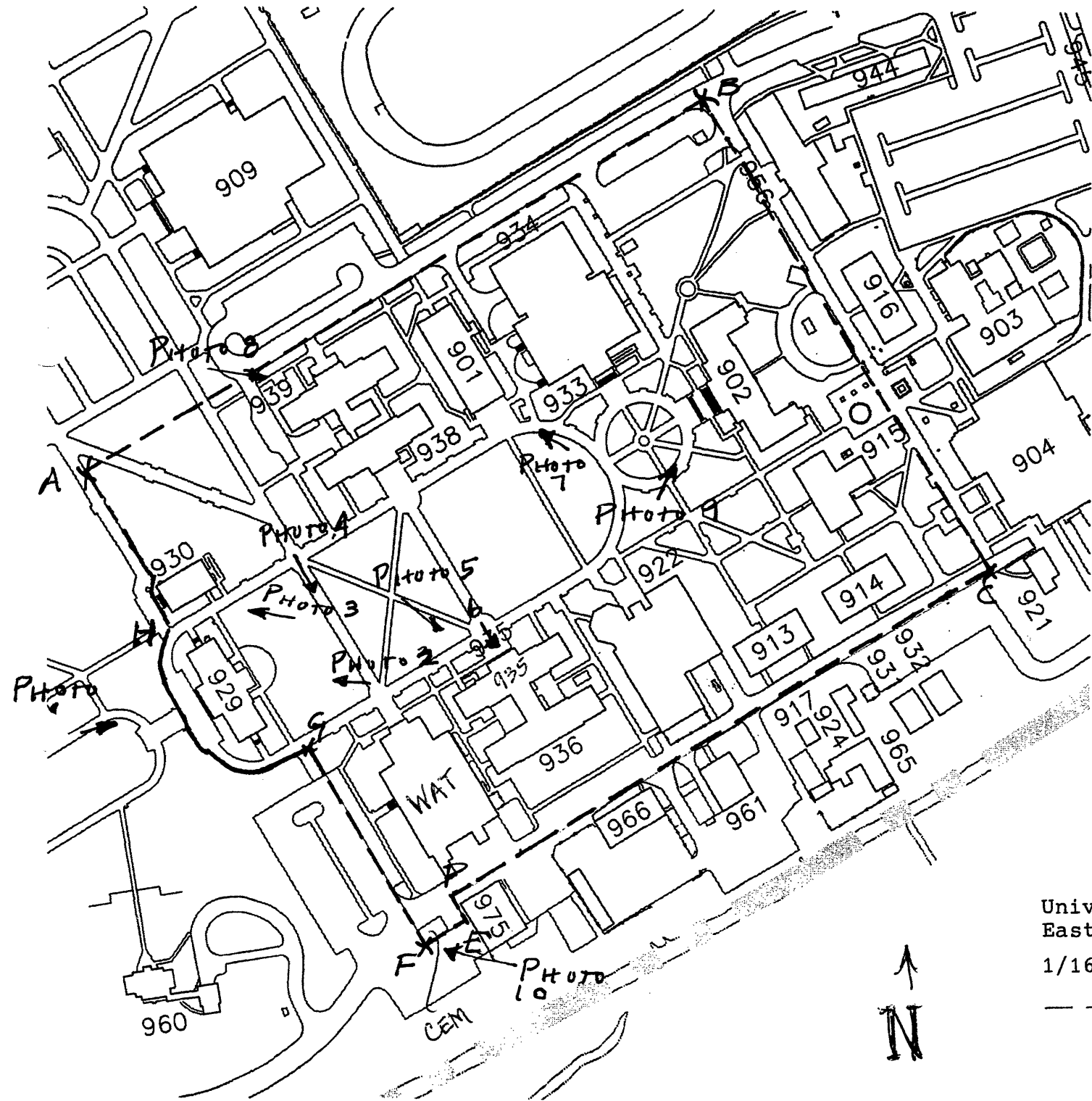
Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point marked A on the 1/16"=1' site plan which accompanies this documentation located at the curb of the sidewalk northwest of Bird Hall and in line with course of the sidewalk on the north side of Harford Hall, heading in a northeasterly direction for the distance of approximately 1200 feet by and with the curb of said sidewalk to a point marked B on said site plan, thence in a southeasterly direction by and with the curb of the sidewalk for the distance of approximately 864' to a point marked C on said site plan located on the south curb line of Backbone Road, thence in a southwesterly direction for approximately 1170' to a point marked D on said site plan, beyond the University's Public Safety building in line with the northeast boundary of the campus cemetery, thence in a southeasterly direction for approximately 30 feet to a point marked E on the said site plan, which is located in the parking lot on a line coincidental to the southern border of the campus cemetery, thence in a southwesterly course approximately 48' across said parking lot and in line with the south side of the cemetery to a point marked F, thence in a northwesterly course along the west side of said cemetery and across the adjacent parking lot for the distance of approximately 350' to a point marked G on said site plan and coincidental with the edge of the sidewalk surrounding the J. T. Williams Hall, thence in a curvilinear course by and with the south, west, and north sides of the said sidewalk for approximately 425' to a point marked H on said site plan, thence in a northwesterly course by and with the edge of the sidewalk past Bird Hall for the distance of approximately 250' to the point marked A on the site plan, the place of beginning, containing 23.80 acres more or less.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore historic district is drawn to distinguish the historic core of the university campus with its earliest and most prominent buildings representing the institution's development through the mid-twentieth century. The line is drawn around the central quadrangle of the campus using streets and walkways as boundary references.

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University of Maryland
Eastern Shore Site Plan

1/16"=1'

----- Historic District
Boundary