

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name West Nottingham Academy Historic District
other names/site number CE-1450

2. Location

street & number Intersection of Harrisville and Firetower Roads N/A not for publication
city, town Colora XX vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Cecil code 015 zip code 21917

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>3</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. 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. See continuation sheet.
Mark R. Edwards for J. Rodney Little 6/22/90
Signature of certifying official Date
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet. Mark J. Baker Entered in the National Register 7/26/1990
 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 Date of Action

6. Function or Use

CE-1450

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

DOMESTIC/single family dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Greek Revival

Gothic Revival

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls brick, stone

roof slate, asphalt

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

West Nottingham Academy historic district is located in north-western Cecil County, Maryland in the vicinity of the small, rural village of Colora. The academy complex, comprising approximately eighty-five acres, is characterized by a park-like setting of mature trees, a narrow stream, a small lake, and nineteenth and twentieth century buildings. Situated around the perimeter of the property on the highest ground, most of the buildings are oriented to face the small lake and stream. Firetower Road runs more or less parallel with the stream through the academy property. The principal historic buildings that comprise the district nomination include the Old Academy or Canteen (1864), a single-story, three-part Victorian brick building with a distinctive stick-decorated belfry; the Gayley House (c. 1830), a prominent two-and-a-half story Flemish and common bond brick dwelling that retains a large part of its Federal/Greek Revival woodwork; and Magraw Hall (1929), a large gambrel roofed stone administration building. Wiley House (c.1840), Becket House (c.1900), Hilltop House (c. 1900), the barn or old gym (c.1930), as well as the stone entrance and stone bridges are contributing historic buildings and structures. At the moment six other structures found on the campus were built after 1940.

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DESCRIPTION

West Nottingham Academy is situated on the west side of MD Route 276 and south of MD Route 269 in the vicinity of Colora, Cecil County, Maryland. The academy complex, comprising approximately eighty-five acres, is bounded by Liddell Road on the west. Firetower Road, a two-lane county road, runs through the center of the campus. Also dividing the campus is a narrow stream that has been dammed to create a small lake in the central part of the property. A gently rolling landscape characterizes the campus, which is enhanced with mature trees and shrubs.

The academy complex is defined by thirteen principal buildings, seven of which are considered historic in nature and contribute to the significance of this nomination. The other six primary structures are more modern buildings that have been added within the last thirty years and at this time do not add to the historic nature of academy as viewed by current National Register criteria.

The buildings of historic nature include the Canteen, now named the J. Paul Slaybaugh old academy building (1864), the Gayley House (c. 1830), Magraw Hall (1929), Wiley House (c. 1840), Bechtel House (c. 1900), the barn or old gym (c. 1930), and Hilltop House (c. 1900).

In addition to these buildings, a few structures increase the interest to the property. At the north gate to the academy is a rusticated granite entrance arch built around 1926 and dedicated to former academy students, Dr. Benjamin Rush and Richard Stockton, two signers of the Declaration of Independence. Two other stone structures, a road bridge erected in 1877 and a footbridge added around 1930 are complimentary additions to the property.

The more recent buildings are Finley Hall (c. 1958), Rowland Hall (c. 1961), the Ware Gymnasium (1964), Rush Hall (c. 1968), and a log cabin moved to the property during the 1950s to imitate Finley's early log school. A new student center, the C. Herbert Foutz building, is currently under construction. To a large degree the overall scheme of introducing new buildings to the campus has followed a philosophy of maintaining the historic park-like nature of the center of the property while clustering the more modern structures on the west side of the campus.

Standing nearby is the West Nottingham Presbyterian Church, however the church complex is not included within this nomination.

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

THE CANTEEN, 1864 with 1872 addition

The Canteen, newly renamed the J. Paul Slaybaugh Old Academy Building, stands in a grove of hardwood and pine trees next to the north entrance gate. Facing west the principal gable roofs are oriented on an east/west axis. The single-story, three-part, five-course common bond brick academy, erected in 1864, is supported by a fieldstone foundation, and the building is covered by a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof. The center section, with its gable facing front is flanked by a pair of one-room plan wings which were added to the main block in 1872-1873. In 1969, a fire damaged the back end of the building which was rebuilt in the same form the next year.

The west elevation of the old academy is a symmetrical facade with a projecting gable roofed vestibule. Granite steps rise to a round arched front entrance. The double front doors have been replaced. The side walls of the vestibule are pierced by arched four-over-four sash windows. Rising from the roof of the main block is a decorative Victorian belfry distinctive for its open framework, steeply pitched roof, and rooftop wooden finials. The flanking wings and hyphens are pierced by a combination of round arched six-over-four sash or two-over-two sash windows. A bulkhead entrance on the north end wing allows access to the partially excavated cellar. The foundation is pierced by several two-pane windows.

The north and south sides of the center section are three bays across with each bay marked by a round arched six-over-six sash window opening. This main body of this center section was rebuilt in stretcher bond with a sympathetic brick color.

The interior of the original front section is simply detailed with plain wooden surrounds framing the doors and windows.

GAYLEY HOUSE, c. 1830 with c. 1860 addition

The oldest house on the property is the headmaster's residence, known as the Gayley House during the past fifty to one hundred years. Named after the Reverend Samuel Gayley, former Presbyterian minister and principal of the academy (1867-1872), the two-and-a-half story Flemish and common bond brick house dates from the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Started c. 1830 as a side hall/ double-pile brick house with a shorter two-story service wing, the house was extended around 1860 with the two-story north end addition. The brick house is supported by a raised fieldstone foundation, and it is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. Attached to the south side is a two-story brick kitchen wing, and extending from the kitchen is a single story stuccoed utility and storage room.

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

The west (main) facade is a basically symmetrical five-bay elevation with a center double-door entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. The double-front door is topped by a seven-light transom and it is flanked by a long single panels. Sheltering the front door is a Tuscan columned portico. A seam to the left of the entrance indicates the shift in construction periods within the main house. The shift in brick bond also indicates different periods. The addition was erected in eleven-course common bond. Lighting the second floor are five six-over-six sash windows, and the attic is illuminated by three gabled dormers. Filling each dormer face is a pointed arch sash window flanked by fluted surrounds. The sides to the dormers are covered with weatherboards.

The east side of the main block is an asymmetrical elevation with a center six-panel door and flanking sash windows. The northernmost windows on both the first and second floors have been bricked up.

The south side of the house is partially covered by the two-story service wing, however a six-over-six sash window does pierce the upper gable end, and an interior end brick stack rises through the roof.

Built at the same time as the original house, the two-story service wing is a two-bay by one-room, five-course common bond brick structure lighted by six-over-six sash windows on each floor. Rising through the gable end is an interior end brick stack. The east side of the kitchen wing is covered by a shed roofed frame addition, and the south end is largely covered by the stuccoed utility room.

The interior of the main house is trimmed with a combination of Federal and Greek Revival woodwork. The main stair rises in the northeast corner of the house, and it is distinguished by a decorated stringer and a spiral curve end to the handrail. Rectangular balusters support a circular profile railing. Opening into the original rooms south of the hall are six-panel doors framed by fluted corner block surrounds. Both rooms, joined by a double door opening that pierces the center partition, are finished with Greek Revival style mantels with semi-detached columns supporting a paneled frieze and a thick mantel shelf. The east room or dining room is fitted with a built-in six-panel door cupboard next to the hearth. The room to the north of the hall extends the full depth of the house and is highlighted by a marble Civil War era mantel. The arched firebox is topped by triangular panels to each side of a cartouche-like ornament that fits under a molded shelf.

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

The original trim on the second floor has survived largely in place with an enclosed stair rising to the finished third floor. A six-panel attic door is fitted with a simple latch. The second floor of the main block is divided in a straightforward manner with a room at the head of the stair (now a bathroom) and two large bedrooms south of the hall. The bedrooms retain simple Greek Revival style mantels with built-in closets as well. An original early nineteenth century Carpenter Company box lock with a brass knob survives on the southwest bedroom room. A later door opening between the two room has been introduced. The second floor of the north end addition is divided into two rooms that have straightforward finishes.

The kitchen wing has been reworked to suit modern services, but a narrow winder stair has survived in the northwest corner of the room. A board door with thumb latch remains in place. The old hearth has been reworked in stone.

MAGRAW HALL, 1929

Magraw Hall, another of the principal academy buildings, stands across the academy grounds on the western side of the property. Facing east, the two-and-a-half story, nine-bay by three-bay, semi-coursed stone building is oriented on a north/south axis. Supported by a raised stone foundation with a slightly projecting watertable, the large rectangular structure is covered by a slate gambrel roof.

The east (main) elevation is a symmetrical nine-bay facade with a projecting entrance pavilion. The building is built into the south-facing slope of the hill with the cellar wall fully exposed on the south gable end. Fixed into the southeast corner of the building is a cut datestone with the years 1823, 1832, and 1929. Sheltering the front entrance is a Tuscan columned portico with a flat roof. Marking the second floor is a Palladian or Venetian type window distinguished with a cut-stone arch. Piercing the gable-front pediment is a round window defined with cut stone as well. The flanking six-over-six sash windows are topped by cut stone jack arches with smooth or rusticated exterior surfaces. The gambrel roof is marked by four gabled dormers to each side of the center pediment.

The gable ends of the building are dominated by pairs of interior end chimneys which frame the long rectangular structure. Metal exterior stairs have been erected on each end for fire safety precautions. The south gable end provides a secondary entrance from the adjacent parking lot.

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

The west (rear) elevation is an asymmetrical eight-bay facade with a slightly uneven fenestration of six-over-six sash windows. The third floor, however, is marked by seven gabled dormers that are spaced evenly. A center dormer is flanked by three closely set dormers on each side.

The interior of Magraw Hall is partitioned into small rooms on either side of a cross hall. The center stair hall provides access to narrow transverse halls to each side that serve the ends of the building. The basement provides space for the kitchen and cafeteria, while the administrative offices are located on the first floor. Dorm rooms are found on the second and third floors.

WILEY HOUSE, c. 1840

Wiley House, which stands at the north end of the campus near the entrance gate, has been associated with the academy since its construction. Dating to about 1840, the two-story, three-bay frame dwelling is supported by a fieldstone foundation, and it is sheathed with aluminum siding. The medium pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the nineteenth century dwelling is a two-and-a-half story frame addition supported by a concrete block foundation. Although the house has been remodeled to serve various needs through the years, the structure retains its basic exterior integrity. Some original nineteenth century woodwork survives inside.

BECHTEL HOUSE, c. 1900

Becktel House is a turn-of-the-twentieth century two-story three-bay frame house supported by a fieldstone foundation and covered with a pyramidal asbestos shingle roof. The west (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center sidelighted entrance and flanking single-pane sash windows. A Tuscan columned porch shelters the entrance as well as the flanking windows. The second floor is marked by a pair of single pane sash in the center and flanking sash windows to each side. Rising through the roof are tall interior side chimneys. A single-story bay window distinguishes the north side, and an enclosed shed roof addition stretches across the back of the house.

THE BARN (OLD GYM), c. 1930

A slightly later building of different shape and size is the barn, also known as the old gym. Built around 1930 of reused timber and stone taken from a bank barn, the single-story frame gym is supported on a raised semi-coursed fieldstone foundation. Sheathed with plain weatherboard siding, the rectangular structure is covered by a medium pitched wood shingle roof. The west (main) elevation is a symmetrical five-bay facade with a projecting gabled entrance bay. The front entrance is topped by an arched Venetian

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

type window, and pairs of twelve-over-twelve sash windows flank the entrance bay. Rising against the south gable end is an exterior stone and brick stove stack.

HILLTOP, c. 1900

Hilltop is located on the most elevated section of the campus at its northwest corner. This two-story, ell-shaped frame dwelling, initially erected around 1900, is supported by a fieldstone foundation and it is sheathed with weatherboard siding. The medium pitched asphalt shingle roof has extended eaves.

ENTRANCE ARCH AND GATE POSTS, c. 1926

Fixed at the northeast end of the property at its principal entrance is a rusticated granite arch and gate posts. The north face of the structure is marked by a bronze tablet to commemorate Richard Stockton and Dr. Benjamin Rush, two signers of the Declaration of Independence who attended the academy during the mid eighteenth century. The tablet was financed by the Captain Jeremiah Baker Chapter of the D.A.R. around 1926.

STONE FOOTBRIDGE, early twentieth century

Connected with the nearby stream and located along a walkway that joins the two sections of the campus is a stone footbridge erected during the early twentieth century, perhaps by CCC workers. The south side of the bridge wall carries a plaque that reads, "In Memory of Don J. C. Vale, 1906-1927."

STONE ROADBRIDGE, 1877

The stone road bridge at the south end of the small lake is a single-lane, semi-coursed stone bridge erected in 1877. The south side arch carries a keystone carved with the date.

NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES:

The other buildings that define the campus date from the last forty years. Finley Hall, located on the western ridge of the campus, is a two-story brick classroom building built around 1958. Nearby Rowland Hall followed in 1961. The Ware Gymnasium was built on the southeastern side of the campus near the former gym. Erected in 1964, the new gymnasium is a two-story brick structure covered with a low pitched gable roof. Rush Hall, the boys dormitory, was built a few years later in 1968.

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

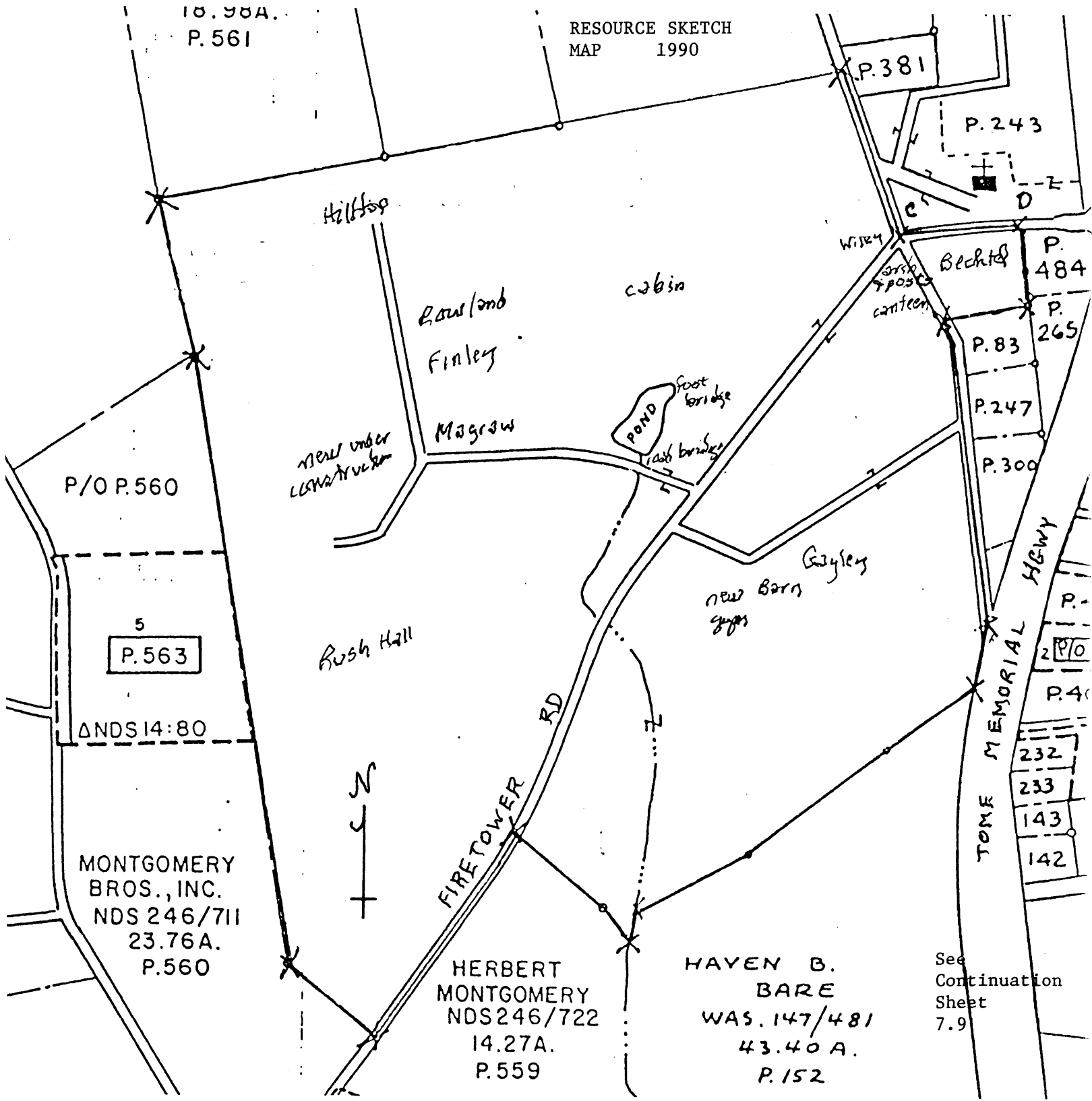
In an effort to create an impression of what the original Finley school might have looked like, a mid nineteenth century log house was dismantled and rebuilt on the academy property during the 1950s. Located downhill from Hilltop House, the Cabin is a single-story, v-notched log building supported on a concrete block foundation. A granite chimney rises on the west gable end, and a frame addition enlarges the cabin to the northwest.

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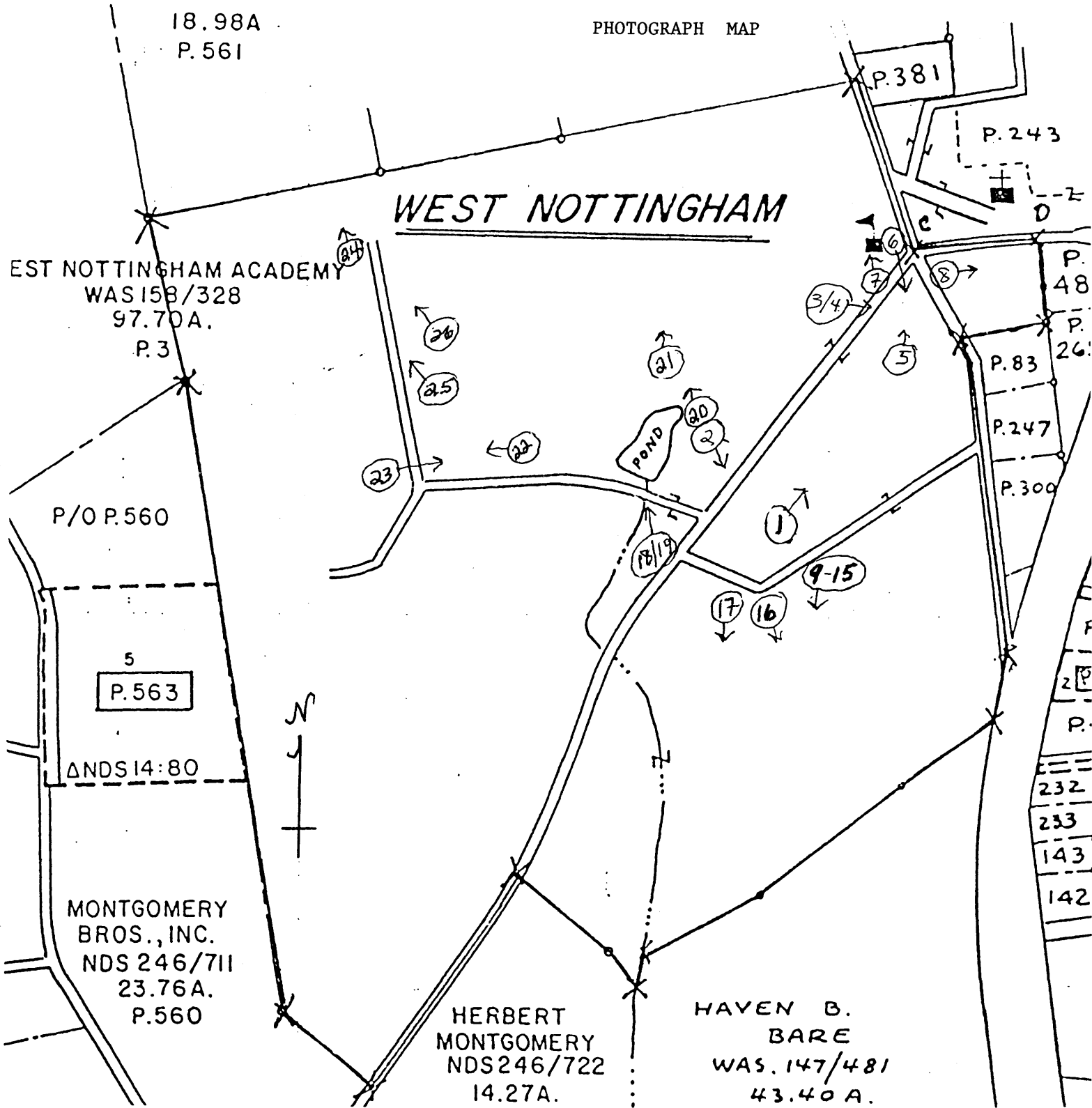


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8. Statement of Significance

CE-1450

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1864-1940

1864

Education

1928

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Significance of the West Nottingham Academy Historic District derives from the history of the institution. Founded in 1774, the West Nottingham Academy is the oldest operating boys boarding school in Maryland. Since its inception, West Nottingham Academy has prepared privileged boys for university life. Included among the early graduates are Benjamin Rush and Richard Stockton, signers of the Declaration of Independence. The campus, as it exists today, represents the institution's history from 1864, when a new academy building, presently known as the Canteen, was built, to about the start of World War II, when the highest enrollment was reached. West Nottingham Academy and other institutions of its type, the Tome School, also in Cecil County; Saint James School in Washington County; Charlotte Hall in St. Mary's County; and numerous others in the Baltimore vicinity, were the primary source of college preparatory work. Less than half of the institutions which existed by 1930 are still operating. Architecturally, two of the campus buildings have particular architectural significance. The 1864 academy building and the 1928 Magraw Hall are significant examples of academic institutional architecture. In Maryland, the 1864 building is the only known survivor of the small one story school buildings once found relatively commonly on academic campuses. The monumental Magraw Hall with its heavy Georgian decoration is a typical campus building for its period but one of the grander buildings in Cecil County. Cecil County is a rural county east of the Susquehanna River with only small hamlets and villages beyond Elkton, the county seat, which is a medium sized town.

See continuation sheet 8.1

for HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

9. Major Bibliographical References

CE-1450

- GAYLEY, REV. SAMUEL A., An Historical Sketch of the Lower West Nottingham Presbyterian Church. Philadelphia: Alfred Martien, 1865.
- JOHNSTON, GEORGE, History of Cecil County, Maryland. Elkton, Maryland: Published by the author, 1881.
- MILLER, ALICE E., Cecil County, Maryland, A Study in Local History. Port Deposit: Port Deposit Heritage, Inc., 1949.
- MILLS, SCOTT A., History of West Nottingham Academy, 1744-1981. Lanham, Maryland: Maryland Historical Press, 1985.
- MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES, Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 85 acres more or less
USGS quad Rising Sun, MD

UTM References

A	1 8	4 0 7 8 0 0	4 3 9 1 5 2 0	B	1 8	4 0 7 6 7 0	4 3 9 0 8 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 8	4 0 7 0 1 0	4 3 9 0 6 2 0	D	1 8	4 0 6 9 6 0	4 3 9 1 4 8 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet 10.1

Boundary Justification

The eighty-five acres included within this nomination are necessary for adequate protection of the academy buildings, and at the same time the acreage serves to protect the park-like environment and rural nature of the academy property. Adjacent parcels of academy land were not included since they did not add to the significance of the nomination.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 22 January 1990

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 301-651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland zip code 21871

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Development Period(s);

Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D.	1680-1815
Agricultural-Industrial Transition	1815-1870 A.D.
Industrial/Urban Dominance	1870-1930 A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s);

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning
Religion
Social/Educational/Cultural

Resource type;

Category: District

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

EDUCATION/Academy

Known Design Source: none

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West Nottingham Academy was founded in 1744 by Reverend Samuel Finley, an early Presbyterian minister who served later as the fifth president of Princeton University. The West Nottingham Presbyterian congregation, located first at a site north of the small village of Rising Sun, had organized as early as 1724 with the significant influx of Scotch-Irish settlers in northern Cecil County during the first quarter of the eighteenth century.(1)

During the Great Awakening of the 1730s and 1740s the West Nottingham congregation split into two groups, referred to generally as the "Old Lights" and "New Lights" or the "Old Side" and "New Side." (2) With an emphasis centered on revivalism and the evangelistic nature of the its leaders, the strong "New Light" West Nottingham congregation decided to erect their own church and submit a request to the New Light Presbytery of New Castle (now Delaware) for their own minister. Three years passed with various supply ministers until Reverend Samuel Finley arrived at West Nottingham in 1744 with an additional mission to begin a secondary school.

The early schoolhouse is believed to have been a log structure erected close to the "New Light" church north of Rising Sun. Following the basic educational traditions of the time, the early curriculum included instruction in the Latin and Greek classics, logic, arithmetic, geography, and geometry. Dr. Benjamin Rush, an early student, remembered in his writings that Finley taught, "several of the Arts and Sciences usually taught in colleges."(3) From a group of thirty-five students known to have been taught by Finley, sixteen were clergymen, twelve became physicians, six followed politics, and one became an explorer and map maker.(4)

After seventeen years of service to the West Nottingham church and academy, Finley decided to accept the president's position at Princeton in 1761. With Finley's departure from West Nottingham the school fell into a decline that was furthered by the social and financial instability surrounding the Revolution. Not only was the academy facing problems, but the West Nottingham Presbyterians had trouble keeping a permanent minister as well. Finally, in 1778, the two congregations appealed together to the New Castle Presbytery for a supply minister, an act that initiated a rejoining of the two congregations, officially recognized in 1792.(5)

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In 1796, the rejoined West Nottingham congregation decided to erect a new meeting house, however, indecision on a new location stalled construction for several years. Not until the intervention of the New Castle Presbytery about 1800 was a location confirmed. A four-acre parcel south of Rising Sun, the current site of the church, was chosen. On September 26, 1801, Andrew Ramsey officially conveyed two acres of land to church trustees, James Evans, Robert Evans, David Edmiston, and James Cummings. An additional two acres were purchased from Captain William Johnston.(6) Construction of a single-story stone church began around 1800, but the building was not finished until four years later. Reverend James Magraw was installed on April 3, 1804, as the first minister under the reunited congregation. He served the church until his death in 1835.

Within a few years after his arrival Reverend James Magraw initiated the restart of Finley's early academy with the help of state appropriated funds through an education act passed in 1810. A board of trustees was formed in 1811, and a two-story brick building was erected east of the church on land donated by James Magraw. West Nottingham Academy trustees reopened the school to students in the fall of 1812.(7)

After James Magraw's sudden death in 1835, his twenty-six year old son, Samuel, assumed the principal's responsibilities. During his five-years as the head of the school, Samuel Magraw supervised the construction of a new academy since the 1811 building was damaged in a storm. Apparently this second structure stood until the third and present brick academy was erected in 1864. After Samuel Magraw left the academy in 1840, Reverend George Burrowes, the minister at the church since 1836, took the principal's post and managed the school's affairs until 1850.(8)

Following George Burrowes' ten-year stay of service the academy entered a less stable period before the Civil War. The decades of the 1850s and early 1860s were marked by six changes in leadership and a reduction in enrollment. While the graduating class of 1856 comprised fourteen students, the senior class diminished to six in 1857, and dropped to only a few between 1858 and 1863.(9)

In spite of these distressing enrollment statistics through the war years, the situation at the school was about to change. The installment of Samuel A. Gayley in 1856 as the minister to the West Nottingham Presbyterians was followed by the arrival of George K. Becktel in the fall of 1862. Graduating from Princeton, the young 23-year old Becktel was assisted by a energetic Samuel Gayley. Graduating seniors jumped to twenty-four in 1866 followed by steady increases in the next few years to forty-eight in 1869.(10)

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Part of the reason for the increased interest in the school was due to the construction of a new academy building in 1864. With generous contributions from many neighborhood landowners construction began on a single story, 45' by 25' brick building with three arched windows in the north and south sides and a double door entrance in the west end. Specifications also called for a slate roof. The academy trustees hoped the building would accommodate eighty to ninety students, and although enrollment never sustained high levels, the academy could boast sixty-two graduates in 1874. With these additional students, the trustees financed the construction of the one-room wings on each side of the main building in 1872-1873.(11) A cupola and bell along with new school furniture was added as well.

Until 1887 George Becktel served as the academy principal except for a five-year period when Samuel Gayley took the position between 1866 and 1872. Becktel returned in the fall of 1873 with the highest enrollment and a restored Maryland subsidy of \$500 that had been withdrawn in 1864. (12) Following Becktel's resignation in 1887, a new graduate of Lafayette College, John G. Conner, assumed the principal's position, which he held until 1902. During his period, girls were admitted to the school with the first female graduate in 1896.

After Conner left in 1902, the academy entered another uncertain time with numerous principals. Even through enrollment remained relatively steady the school became unpopular for boarding students. In an effort to enhance the academy property the old Magraw mansion property was purchased in 1906. Well-built in the local stone of Cecil County, the two-and-a-half story, five-bay farmhouse was the former residence of Adam R. Magraw, grandson of James James Magraw who reopened the school in 1812.(13) It was probably Adam Magraw who financed the construction of the stone bridge inscribed with the date 1877. Magraw's property is a prominent illustration in the Cecil County atlas published by Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson in 1877.(14)

Despite the impressive addition of the Magraw property the growth of the school was hampered during the first quarter of the century with frequent changes in leadership. Reports on the the condition of the school suggest a tangle of brush and briars had overtaken the grounds, and enrollment was limited to day students.

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In 1913, the academy trustees received a proposal from the Presbyterian Synod of Baltimore to establish a college at West Nottingham on the condition that the trustees turn the property over to the Synod of Baltimore free of debt. The plan was to finance the school with a \$150,000 endowment provided through the Presbyterian Board of Colleges in New York.(15) This proposal seemed sound to the academy board of trustees, and a committee was formed to raise money to pay off a \$7000 mortgage on the property. James J. Hanna, an 1883 graduate of the academy, was appointed chairman, and he decided to incur the debt himself. Another stipulation by the Synod of Baltimore was a change in the structure of the board of trustees. On December 27, 1915, a new board was created with thirteen new members, three of which had to be Cecil County residents. Although the Synod of Baltimore assumed control of the academy, the plan to establish a college was never realized.

Even with a new administrative structure, the future of the school remained in question during the early twentieth century. World War I, the influenza epidemic of 1918, and the lack of continuity in leadership all contributed to uncertain times for the country as well as the school. Despite its problems, J. Paul Slaybaugh arrived in West Nottingham in 1924 as the new headmaster with specific intentions to rebuild the popularity and prestige of old academy. Three years later, Slaybaugh's hard work and determination proved successful with an increased general enrollment and renewed interest in boarding students. The future of the academy looked promising in December 1927, however, during Christmas vacation the old Magraw mansion, then serving as the principal building, was destroyed by fire.

With the future of the academy once again uncertain, the board of trustees faced four alternative plans; (16)

1. Close the academy and pay as much as possible to creditors.
2. Rebuild Magraw house for \$37,500.
3. Rent a new cottage in the neighborhood to serve as a dormitory and conduct classes in the old academy building as before and also use the chapel of neighboring West Nottingham church as a classroom.
4. Sell the property, including the 260-acre farm, and move to the Washington suburbs as a country day school, possibly combined with boarding students.

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The initial decision of the board was to follow the third plan, although Paul Slaybaugh insisted on the alternative that proposed rebuilding the Magraw house. Although the board objected in the beginning they eventually reversed their opinion and entered into fund raising program to finance the reconstruction of Magraw. With substantial support from the Presbyterian church, a \$7,700 insurance policy, devoted assistance from former principal, John G. Conner, and the untiring efforts of Paul Slaybaugh, a new \$50,000 Magraw house was reopened on February 28, 1930. With Magraw house rebuilt, the academy entered a new period of prosperity. In addition the school purchased the old Presbyterian manse in 1930 from James J. Hanna in an effort to provide a permanent residence for the headmaster. It was named Gayley Hall after Samuel A. Gayley, a long-time pastor of West Nottingham church and president of the board of trustees.(17)

During the next fourteen years of Slaybaugh's tenure at West Nottingham his hard work was rewarded with the highest enrollment in the school's history. In 1941, the enrollment reached 111; 110 boys and only one girl. From Slaybaugh's devoted attention the school's reputation broadened to include a range of students from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., Virginia, New York, as well as Ohio and Connecticut.(18)

It seemed probable that with Slaybaugh's long years of hard work and increased interest in the school that West Nottingham held a secure footing for the future. However, this was not the case. The academy trustees found it difficult to fill Slaybaugh's position, and asked one of the instructors, Richard W. Holstein, to act as principal. This tentative arrangement lasted for three years with little hope of improvement as funding lagged and enrollment slid once more. With the academy again facing closure, the West Nottingham Presbyterians as well as other congregations contributed over \$6,000 to the school.(19)

Encouraged by the support of the Presbyterian Church the board of trustees conducted a search for a member of the Presbyterian clergy in hopes of garnering additional support. They were able to persuade Charles W. Blaker, a 34-year old minister who had a received an earlier degree in engineering, to accept the vacant headmaster's post. With Blaker, the board of trustees found another hardworking, devoted headmaster determined to revive the lagging circumstances of the school.

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The improvements in the curriculum and the inclusion of boarding arrangements for girls during Blaker's tenure enhanced West Nottingham's chances for survival during the following decades. Another improvement in the school's later history is its acceptance of a black student in 1956, which was followed in the 1960s by additional enrollment of black boys and girls, as well as a few foreign students. Charles Blaker remained at West Nottingham until 1961 when he was replaced by the assistant headmaster, Norman Farnlof. In 1961, the academy enrollment had boosted to 123 boarding and 47 day students.(20)

To accommodate additional students and the need for modern classrooms, several new buildings were added to the campus during the 1950s and 1960s. Finley Hall, a new classroom building located north of Magraw Hall, contains three laboratories, an assembly room, a library, in addition to a dispensary and a teachers' lounge. Rowland Hall, a girl's dormitory, was built in 1958, while Rush Hall, another dormitory for boys, followed ten years later. In the meantime Ware Gymnasium was erected in 1964 to replace the old barn building.(21)

Since the academy's relocation in 1812, the institution has matriculated a diverse array of students that have entered various professions. Graduates of West Nottingham during the period 1820-1835 included twenty-five ministers, three lawyers, three educators, and five physicians. Prominent among the group were Nathan Covington Brooks of the class of 1824 who headed Baltimore's first high school and served as President of Baltimore Wesleyan Female College; John Scott, President of Washington and Jefferson College, and John A. Inglis, president of the convention that took South Carolina out of the Union at the beginning of the Civil War. Graduated in 1826 was Robert Mitchell Magraw who became later the first president of the Western Maryland Railroad.(22) A selection of graduates from the periods 1862-1887 and 1888-1902 are included in lists assembled by Scott Mills for his academy history. The school continues to be a preparatory institution for those entering various professional programs.

West Nottingham Academy has entered the last decade of the twentieth century with renewed interest and an energetic spirit to face the future. Currently underway is the construction of the C. Herbert Foutz Center, named after a long-time instructor and administrator, that will serve as a student center as well as new administrative offices. The Foutz building is part of a larger building and fund raising campaign aimed at improving the academy's educational standing as it faces the twenty-first century.

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West Nottingham Academy's history, written by Scott A. Mills, was aided to a great extent by original records and memorabilia collected through the efforts of a former headmaster, J. Paul Slaybaugh. These records, ranging in date from the eighteenth century through the early twentieth century are stored in vertical files in Magraw Hall, the academy administration building.

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FOOTNOTES

1 Scott A. Mills, History of West Nottingham Academy, 1744-1981., Lanham, Maryland: Maryland Historical Press, 1985), p. 1.

2 George Johnston, History of Cecil County, Maryland. Elkton, Maryland: Published by author, 1881; Reprint ed., 1956.

3 Mills, p. 12.

4 Mills, p. 21.

5 Mills, p. 37.

6 Johnston, pp. 281-282.

7 Mills, p. 42.

8 Mills, pp. 58-59.

9 Mills, p. 69.

10 Mills, pp. 73-74.

11 Mills, pp. 74-76.

12 Mills, pp. 72-75.

13 Mills, p. 80.

14 An Illustrated Atlas of Cecil County, Maryland. Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson, Philadelphia, PA., 1877, Reprint ed., no date.

15 Mills, p. 110.

16 Mills, p. 121.

17 Mills, pp. 121-124.

18 Mills, p. 127.

19 Mills, p. 161.

20 Mills, pp. 157-180.

21 Mills, pp. 174-175, p. 182, pp. 187-188.

22 Mills, pp. 53-54.

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Known Students at West Nottingham Academy (WNA) 1744-1761 (Cont.)

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<i>Student</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Last Year at WNA</i>	<i>Education**</i>	<i>Career</i>
John Henry*	Dorchester County, Md.	—	Princeton, Middle Temple (London)	Lawyer, Soldier, Maryland Governor, U.S. Senator, Member of Continental Congress
James Hunt	Virginia	—	Princeton	Minister, Teacher
Alexander Huston		—	Penn. U.	
Thomas King	Somerset County, Maryland	—		Landholder
William Kirkpatrick		1755 or 56	Princeton	Minister, One of founders of Wash. & Jeff. College
Alexander Martin*	Hunterdon County, N.J.	1753	Princeton A.B., A.M. & L.L.D.	Soldier, Politician, Col. of 2nd North Carolina Reg't, N.C. Governor, U.S. Senator, Member of Continental Congress
Alexander McWhorter*	Newcastle County, Del.	1756	Princeton, Yale, D.D.	Minister
John Morgan*	Philadelphia	1746, 47, or 48	Penn. U., Edinburgh U. Med. School	Physician, Co-Founder of Penn. Medical School
James Powers	Chester County, Pa.	1761	Princeton	Minister
Benjamin Rush*	Philadelphia	1759	Princeton, Edinburgh U. Med. School	Physician, Signer of Declaration of Independence, Founder of Dickinson College
Jacob Rush	Philadelphia	1761	Princeton, Middle Temple (London)	Lawyer, Philadelphia Judge
Thomas Ruston	Philadelphia	1759	Princeton, Edinburgh U. Med. School	Physician

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Known Students at West Nottingham Academy (WNA) 1744-1761 (Concluded)

EARLY ALUMNI

<i>Student</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Last Year at WNA</i>	<i>Education**</i>	<i>Career</i>
William Shippen*	Philadelphia	1751	Princeton, Edinburgh U. Med. School	Physician, Co-founder of Penn. Med. School
Archibold Scott	Scotland, Pa.	1760	Princeton	Minister
Jonathan Bayard Smith*	Philadelphia	1757	Princeton 1760	Soldier, Member of Continental Congress
Joseph Smith	Chester County, Pa.	1761	Princeton D.D.	Minister, Co-founder of Washington & Jefferson College
Richard Stockton*	Philadelphia	1746	Princeton	Lawyer, Politician, Signer of the Declaration of Independence
John Strain		1755		Minister
James Tilton*	Kent County, Del.	1761	Penn. U. Med. School	Physician
William Makey Tennent		1761	Princeton, Yale D.D.	Minister, Moderator of General Assembly of Presbyterian Church
William Tennent		—		Physician
James Waddell*	White Clay Creek, Pa.	—		Minister
Eleazar Whittlesey	Connecticut	1747	Princeton	Minister
William Williams	Accomack County, Virginia	c. 1759		Physician

* Biography appears in the Dictionary of American Biography on the basis of his contribution to American life.
 ** Princeton is used to refer to the College of New Jersey, which was officially renamed Princeton University in 1896.
 *** Son of Rev. Samuel Finley, Principal.

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Selected West Nottingham Students, 1862-1887

	<i>Last Nottingham Year</i>	<i>Other Education</i>	<i>Career</i>
Harry D. Barnes	1886		Medicine
E. Ambrose Bechtel	1883	Johns Hopkins A.B.	Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Tulane University
George A. Bram	1885		Medicine
Robert S. Brookings	1866	None	Public Servant. Economist. Philanthropist. Founder of Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.
Howard Bryant	1878		President, Baltimore City Council
J. T. Brown	1862		Medicine
George H. Buck	c. 1870-1875		Business. Wholesale lumber, Port Deposit
George A. Cameron	1882		Medicine
Harry E. Clemson	—		Medicine, Cecil County
Mary L. Clendenin	1901	Baltimore Womans College A.B.	Educator. Teacher at West Nottingham Academy
James Polk Cooley			Farmer. State Senator, South Dakota
A. A. Crothers	c. 1881		Medicine
Austin L. Crothers	1875		Governor of Maryland
Charles C. Crothers	—		Lawyer. State Senator, Elkton, Cecil County
R. R. Crothers	c. 1866		Medicine
Henry C. Deaver	1881		Surgeon
John B. Deaver	1875	Pennsylvania 1877, Pennsylvania Medical School 1878	Surgeon and Professor, Pennsylvania University; President, American College of Surgeons
Henry K. Denlinger	1884		Minister
W. A. Eckels	1879		Medicine
William Steel Evans	1864		Prosecuting Attorney, Cecil County
Joseph Lane Finley	1880		Medicine
John M. T. Finney, Jr.	—		Medicine

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Selected West Nottingham Students, 1862-1887 (Cont.)

	<i>Last Nottingham Year</i>	<i>Other Education</i>	<i>Career</i>
James Gayley	1872	Lafayette 1876	Metallurgist. Managing Director, Carnegie Steel; Vice President, U.S. Steel Corporation
Oliver C. Gayley	—		Civil Engineer. First Vice President of Pressed Steel Car Co., Pittsburgh
William C. Gayley	1874		Medicine
Edward A. Gillespie	1881		Businessman. Nottingham, Penn.
Frank Gillespie	1884		Medicine
Sidney Hall	1875		Banker. Vice President, U.S. Fidelity & Guaranty Co., Baltimore
James J. Hanna	1883		Businessman. West Nottingham Board of Trustees
A. Lewis Hyde	1874		Minister
Wesley M. Hyde	1870	Lafayette 1873	Minister, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland
John H. Jenness	1879		Medicine
Cecil Kirk	1887		Clerk of Court, Cecil County, elected 1909
Joseph Lort	1864		Medicine
Hiram R. McCullough	1870		Vice President, Chicago and Northwestern Railroad
Benjamin F. Mackall	1870		Pharmacist. As lay reader founded two Episcopal Churches in Fargo, N.D., and Moorhead, Minn.
William Hollingsworth Mackall	1874	Lafayette 1879	Banker. Mayor of Elkton
S. P. Nickle	1882		Medicine
Charles B. Osborne	1874		Farmer, Businessman. West Nottingham Board of Trustees
Alpheus Lee Porter	1885		Medicine
D. M. Regan	1887		Medicine
C. S. Reynolds	1878		Medicine
Harry F. Richards	—		Banker. Vice-President, Integrity Trust, Philadelphia

BECHTEL AND GAYLEY, 1862-1887

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Selected West Nottingham Students, 1862-1887 (Cont.)

	<i>Last Nottingham Year</i>	<i>Other Education</i>	<i>Career</i>
James N. Richards	1866	Michigan Univ.	Medicine. Fallsington, Pa.
Joseph T. Richards	1864		Chief Engineer for Maintenance, Pennsylvania Railroad
Lewis H. Richards	1867		Lawyer. Media, Pa.
D. H. Richardson	1869		Medicine
J. M. H. Rowland	1886		Obstetrician. Dean, University of Maryland Medical School
Henry Rumer, D. D.	1869	Lafayette 1873 Princeton Theological Seminary 1876	Pastor of White Clay Creek Presbyterian Church, Vice-President of West Nottingham Board of Trustees
Frank Sheppard	1878		Life Insurance. Trustee and supporter of West Nottingham Academy.
Gordon G. Sill	1876		Pharmacist. Rising Sun, Maryland
John B. Slicer	1881		Medicine
William B. Steele	1875	Lafayette 1879	Business. Port Deposit, Maryland. Appointed Trustee of academy in 1891 and served until late 1930s. Probably longest service in academy history.
Arthur H. Stump	1875	St. John's	Judge of Supreme Bench, Baltimore
George Stump	1870		Medicine
Kurtz Taylor	1882		Cecil County Treasurer, elected 1909
Peter E. Tome	1879		Lawyer. City Comptroller, Baltimore
William T. Warburton	1870	Delaware College 1871	Banker. Lawyer. Founded Second National Bank, Elkton, Cecil County
Rowland Watts	1882	Washington College	Educator. Associate Superintendent of Baltimore Public Schools; Dean of Men, Western Maryland College. Medicine
Webster White	1877		Educator. Principal of Maryland and Pennsylvania public schools, state legislator

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Careers of West Nottingham Students, 1888-1902

<i>Last West Nottingham Year</i>	<i>Career</i>
Chester R. Atkinson 1902	Mining Engineer
John Leonard Baer 1898	Anthropologist at Smithsonian. Died in 1924 during Darien Expedition in Panama.
Arthur G. Barrett 1891	Medicine
Henry S. Breckinridge 1900	Assistant Secretary of War in President Wilson's cabinet, Lt-Col US Army, World War I
Howard Brown 1893	Medicine
Frances Dickey 1901	Teacher
Horace C. Gillespie 1892	Headmaster, West Nottingham Academy, 1908-1911
A. M. Hanna 1888	Banker
William G. Jack 1899	Medicine. Bank President
Walter T. Johnson 1894	Lawyer
Robert H. Kay 1902	Superintendent of Coal Mines for Thropp Co. in Saxton, Pa.
Walter B. Kirk 1888	Medicine, Graduated from Maryland Univ. Medical School, Baltimore.
Russell H. McCullough 1892	Medicine
John H. Magraw 1892	Lawyer
John Alison Nesbitt 1897	Chaplain in France, World War I. President of Board of Trustees, West Nottingham Academy, 1928-1937. Pastor, Catonsville Presbyterian Church
James L. Nesbitt 1901	Lawyer
Charles Rea 1889	Medicine
G. Hampton Richards 1900	Medicine. Volunteer with British and Doctor with U.S. Rainbow Division in World War I.
Harry F. Richards 1893	Banker. Treasurer of Federal Trust Company, Philadelphia
Earnest S. Rowland 1892	Medicine
Thomas B. Shannon 1891	Minister
Cecil C. Squier 1889	Lawyer
Roger J. Whiteford 1902	Lawyer. Named General Counsel of FHA by President Roosevelt in 1935
J. B. Wiley 1889	Educator. Teacher, West Nottingham Academy; Principal, Red Bank, N.J. High School; Superintendent of Schools, Morristown, N.J.
Franklin P. Williams 1897	Naval Officer
S. Taylor Wilson 1889	Businessman. President, Trippett & Wood Co. (Manufacturer of Iron Bridges & Standpipes)

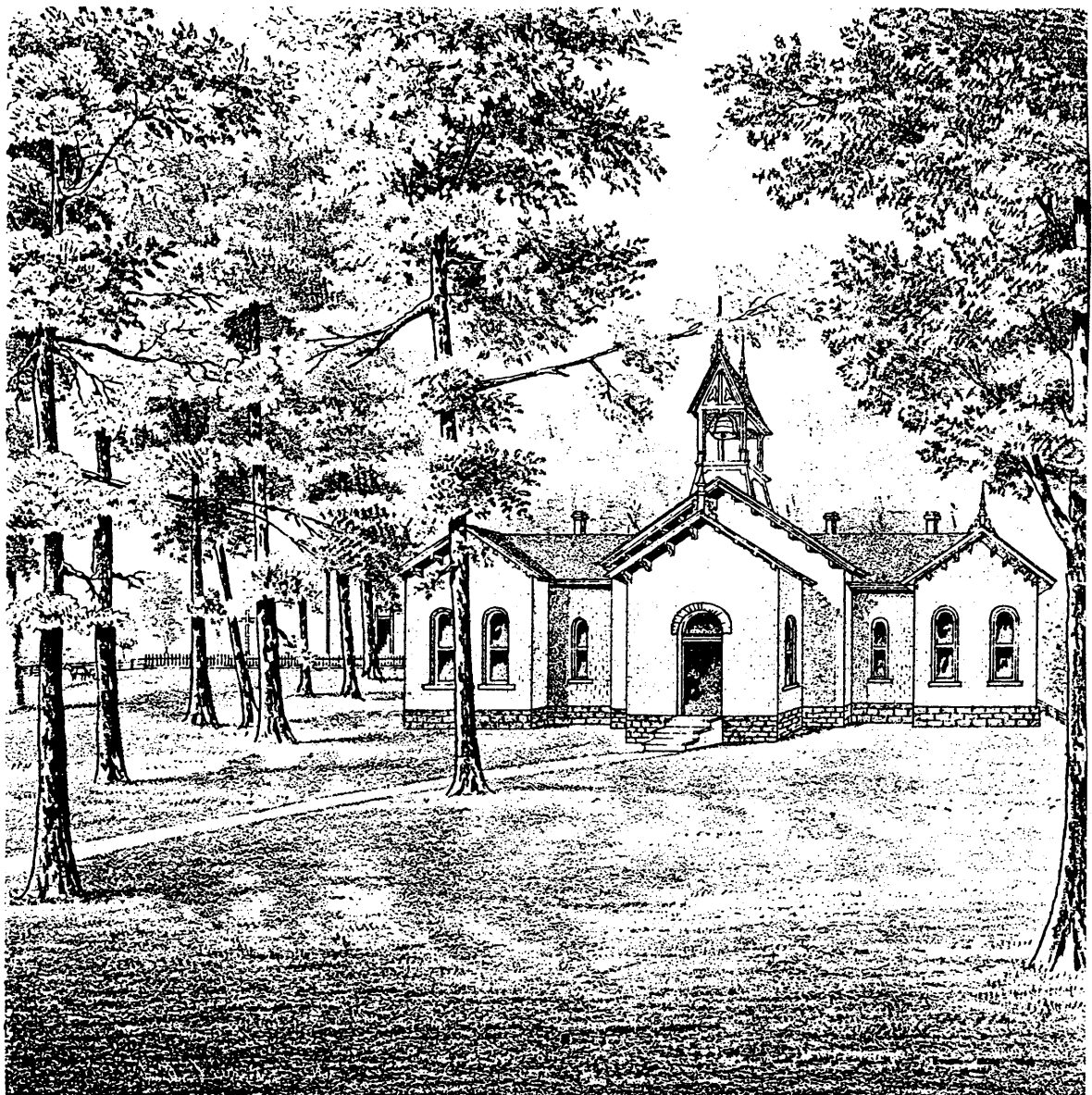
See Continuation Sheet No. 8.14

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source: An Illustrated Atlas of Cecil County, Maryland. Philadelphia: Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson, 1877. Reprint edition, no date.



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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at point (A) as designated on the accompanying Cecil County tax map, coincident with the southwestern corner of the Montgomery Bros. Inc 18.98-acre parcel and heading in a easterly direction for 1350' along the southern line of the aforesaid parcel and continuing along the southern line of an adjacent parcel owned by the West Nottingham Academy (parcel no. 562) to the southeast corner of said academy parcel, thence across academy property in the same direction for approximately 900' to a middle point in the Harrisville Road marked (B), thence in a southerly line by and with the aforesaid road for approximately 600' to a point marked (C) in the intersection of Harrisville and Firetower roads, thence due east with Firetower Road for 375' to a point on the road marked (D), thence due south by and with an eastern line of the academy property behind Becktel house for approximately 225' to a corner in the academy property, thence due west for approximately 300' to a point in Harrisville Road marked (E), thence by and with the Harrisville Road for approximately 975' to a point along MD 276 marked (F), thence by and with the western edge of MD 276 to a point coincident with the northeastern corner of the property of Haven B. Bare (parcel no. 152), thence in a southwesterly direction for approximately 1350' running along the northern boundary of the Bare parcel to the middle of a stream that separates the Bare parcel from an adjacent 14.27-acre parcel of Herbert Montgomery (no. 559), thence in a southerly direction by and with the said stream for approximately 75' to the northeast corner of the aforesaid Montgomery parcel, thence by and with the northern line of the Montgomery parcel in a northwesterly direction for approximately 450' to a middle point in Firetower Road, marked (G), thence by and with Firetower Road in a southwesterly direction for approximately 750' to a point in the said road marked (H) which is coincident with the southeastern corner of another parcel of Montgomery Bros. Inc. (parcel no. 560), thence by and with the eastern boundary of said parcel for approximately 375' to a point marked (I), thence by and with the western boundary of the academy property in a northerly direction for approximately 1950' to a point marked (J), thence across the academy property in a northerly direction for approximately 525' to the place of beginning marked (A), containing 85 acres more or less.

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