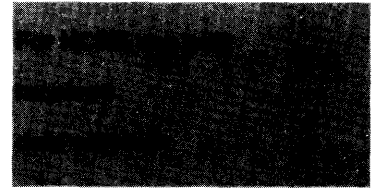


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Free School for Annearrundell County
and/or common ^{use this} Anne Arundel County Free School ~~(preferred)~~

2. Location

street & number 1298 Lavall Drive N/A not for publication
city, town Gambrills N/A vicinity of congressional district Fourth
state Maryland code 24 county Anne Arundel code 003

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Board of Education of Anne Arundel County
street & number 2644 Riva Road
city, town Annapolis N/A vicinity of state Maryland 21401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse
street & number Church Circle
city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1983 federal state county local
depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle
city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Anne Arundel County Free School is a 1½ story building constructed of brown sandstone, located within the modern residential subdivision of Lavall near Gambrills in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The principal (south) facade is of coursed ashlar; its five-bay width is the result of two building campaigns. The dimensions of the two westerly bays correspond with specifications contained in a 1724 document authorizing the construction of a school building; a ca. 1725 date is assigned to this section. The three easterly bays, including the central entrance, date from ca. 1815-1830. The building's current appearance results from a 1981 restoration representing the period of the easterly addition. Windows are glazed with 9/6 sash. Narrow shed dormers holding 4/2 sash pierce the wood-shingled gable roof, three on the south slope and two on the north. Upper gable ends are framed, and an interior chimney rises from each end. A simple classical cornice defines the eaves. Documentary, architectural, and archeological evidence provided the basis for the building's restoration. Current plans call for the complete restoration of the building, and the reconstruction of a vanished two-bay frame wing at the east end. The building is currently being restored to function as a museum.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

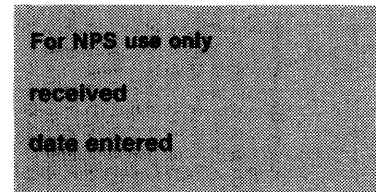
The Anne Arundel County Free School is a 1½ story building constructed of brown sandstone, located within the modern subdivision of Lavall near Gambrills in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The principal (south) facade is of coursed ashlar; its five-bay width is the result of two building campaigns. The dimensions of the two westerly bays correspond with specifications contained in a 1724 document authorizing the construction of a Free School.¹ A ca. 1725 date is assigned to this section. The three easterly bays, including the central entrance, date from ca. 1815-1830.

The building's current appearance is the result of a restoration carried out in 1981, which was based on documentary, architectural, and archeological evidence. This first phase sought to restore the building to its appearance at the period of the construction of the easterly addition, ca. 1815-1830. An upper story, of frame construction, dating from the building's conversion for residential use ca. 1870, was removed; the pitch of the reconstructed gable roof was determined by examination of an original rafter which had been re-used in the ca. 1870 raising. Future plans call for the complete interior and exterior restoration of the building, including the reconstruction of a vanished ca. 1800 frame wing. This wing is documented by archeological evidence² and early 20th century photographs.³ It is believed that the easterly stone addition was constructed to connect the earlier stone section with this two-bay frame unit which stood to its east.

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Anne Arundel County Free School
Anne Arundel Co., Maryland Item number 7 Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

All stone is a local soft rust-brown sandstone. The south facade of the original section is of coursed ashlar with very narrow joints. The north facade is of rubble with galleting in some joints. The west end is of rubble and the east wall of the original section was removed with the construction of the east addition ca. 1815-1830 but its foundation remains beneath the floor.⁴ The openings in the westerly bay, both north and south facades, were originally wide doors but they were reduced with rubble infill for the existing 9/6 windows with the construction of the east addition. The 9/6 windows in this bay, and in the easterly bay, have moderately thick frames of black walnut and they all represent the period of the east addition, to which they were restored in 1981.

All walls of the east addition are of rubble, utilizing many very large stones. The unfinished character of the east wall, together with the existence of a fireplace facing east, suggests that it was laid against an existing wall which leads to the conjecture that a now-missing frame section at the east end⁵ predated the present addition. The six-panel doors and door frames date from the 1981 restoration, their details being typical of the period in this region. The characteristic 9/6 windows remain in the two easterly bays of the south facade and in the single wider bay of the north facade. In the south facade the westerly of these two windows was a door; like its counterpart in the original section the wide opening was reduced with stone, in this case shortly after its original construction.

The overall size of the reconstructed cornice follows evidence of the original discovered in the restoration of 1981 and the details are typical for the period in this region: bed moulding, soffit, fascia and crown moulding, all of classical profile. A level top to the stone west end wall, discovered in the restoration of 1981, suggested a frame gable rather than a stone one. The reconstructed frame gable is covered with flush, bevel-edge siding, typical of the period in this region and matching fragments found reused in the ca. 1870 second story. The weatherboarded east gable is an expedient enclosure, to be covered when the earlier east wing is reconstructed as planned. The roof is covered with wood shingles and the shed dormers are conjectural, those of the original section reflecting the quantity specified in the 1724 document authorizing the construction of a free school.

The doorways in the central bay of the extended south and north facades open into a single large unfinished space, the east wall of the original structure having been removed when the infilling easterly extension was made. Partitions once existed creating a central hall with a room on either side but the partitions, removed in the restoration of 1981, dated from the mid-nineteenth century (easterly partition) and early twentieth century (westerly partition), the latter a replacement of an unknown earlier predecessor. Moreover plaster applied directly to the stone walls indicated that at one time the interior was a single large space.

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Continuation sheet Anne Arundel County Free School
Anne Arundel Co., Maryland Item number 7 Page 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

A large fireplace was discovered at the west end in the 1981 restoration, hard in the northwest corner but parallel to the west end wall. A substantial portion of its brick firebox is original, of English bond, laid to create a smoke channel flanked by a shallow projecting pier. While both cheek walls of the fireplace were destroyed ca. 1870 (when the structure was altered as a residence and the second story was added) the overall width and height of the fireplace were clearly in evidence. The fireplace and its chimney stack were reconstructed in the 1981 restoration following this evidence.

A former small window in the north wall, close to the fireplace, inconclusively visible externally, was explained in the 1981 restoration. The opening was filled with stone, but to a thickness considerably less than that of the walls, leaving a niche exposed within the room. Its interior surfaces are plastered and handsplit wooden lathing nailed to the hewn wooden lintel with cut nails indicate an early nineteenth century date for the closing of this window.

Lintels for the wide doorways, north and south out of the original section, were at a lower elevation than lintels for the enlarged windows of the early nineteenth century alterations. They remain in place, cut for the taller windows.

The walls and ceilings originally were plastered, as evidenced by remaining plaster on the walls and some hand-wrought lathing nails in the ceiling, mostly replaced in at least two nineteenth century replastering efforts.

The original rafters of both the original structure and the early nineteenth century easterly extension were shortened and reused in the 1870 addition of the second story with new roof; and they were reused at a considerably shallower pitch. The reused rafters were seen to be of two distinct varieties, those from the original section hewn, those from the nineteenth century section pit-sawn. Mortises for former collar beams were aligned to the horizontal to determine the original pitch which conformed to the length originally specified. The loft story of the original section was plastered originally and some hand-wrought lathing nails remained on the fragments. The loft of the early nineteenth century extension was unfinished.

FOOTNOTES

¹ See Appendix A

² Dr. Kenneth Orr, An Intensive Archaeological Survey, July 1978

³ Photograph appears in James T. Wollon, Jr.'s Historic Structure Report, 31 December 1979

⁴ Orr, op. cit.

⁵ Wollon, op. cit.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1724;1815-1830;
restored 1981 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Applicable Criterion: A

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Anne Arundel Free School is significant for its association with the development of free public education in Maryland. In 1723 a law was enacted authorizing free schools in all Maryland counties and naming a Board of Visitors for each. The earliest section of the building known as the Anne Arundel County Free School corresponds in dimensions to specifications contained in a document of 1724 authorizing the construction of a free school in Anne Arundel County. The building remains on its original site, a parcel held by the first Board of Visitors in the county at the time of its establishment. The building was restored in 1981 to its appearance early in the 19th century. It is the only remaining structure associated with the earliest phase of the development of free public education in the State.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

In 1723¹ a law was enacted authorizing free schools in all Maryland counties and a Board of Visitors was named for each. The earliest records for the Anne Arundel County Free School are preserved² and they include decisions regarding land acquisition and the original building specifications of 1724³ which specified a building eighteen by twenty-five feet, the size of the earliest part of the existing structure. The land records⁴ indicate that this parcel of ground was part of the parcel held by the first Board of Visitors. This is the sole remaining structure of Maryland's original educational system.

Following its initial establishment and construction, references are sparse. In 1746 one John Wilmott, master of the Free School, advertised such useful and practical courses as merchant accounts, bookkeeping, navigation, writing, grammar, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, astronomy, survey, the use of globes, gunnery, physical defence and good management systems.⁵ It was a curriculum based on pragmatic considerations, more in line with practical ideas of the tobacco planter than a traditional classical curriculum espoused by churchmen of the day.

In 1781 an act was passed to enable the Visitors to qualify themselves to execute their trust.⁶ The Visitors were reminded that the former oath they had taken to God and King George III had been replaced with another oath to the Free State of Maryland. This law was sandwiched between two other laws, one to encourage the destroying of wolves and one related to a financial settlement for troops who had served in the Continental Army during the Revolution. It indicates that unsettled parts of the state were still a prey to wild predators of the forest and that Maryland was making a conscientious effort to reward the soldiers of the Revolution before the war ended.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Continuation Sheet #5

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1.396 acre

Quadrangle name Bowie, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>18</u>	<u>359060</u>	<u>4315440</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet #5

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James T. Wollon, Jr., A.I.A., Architect

organization

date 29 March 1983

street & number 600 Craigs Corner Road

telephone 301-879-6748

city or town Havre de Grace

state Maryland 21078

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

4-22-83

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 6/16/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet Anne Arundel County Free School
 Anne Arundel Co., Maryland Item number 8 Page 3

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

In 1795 new Visitors were appointed and the oath reinstated, quoted in the law word-for-word.⁷ A few nineteenth century references to the Free School have been found including one appointing Girard Hopkins as a Visitor;⁸ Girard was the father of the celebrated philanthropist Johns Hopkins whose birthplace was but a few miles north of the Free School. In 1908 the Visitors made application to the School Commissioners of Anne Arundel County to be absorbed into the public school system,⁹ and an Act of the Assembly was made to effect this change, authorizing the sale of the 148 acre property for the construction of a new public school nearby at Rutland.¹⁰ This law discusses the continuity of the school from 1723 to 1910 and testifies that

....Whereas the above named visitors erected a school house on said land and ever since that time up to the present day the said school property has been managed and governed by the duly qualified successors in office of said visitors.....

The Minutes of the Board of Visitors of the Free School 1816-1909 is a source believed to exist in the Maryland Hall of Records but it has been misplaced and cannot be located. It is believed to contain detailed information of the nineteenth century, including virtually all the additions and alterations identified at the site. Interviews of some of the oldest residents of the area indicate that the old Free School building was converted to a residence in the late nineteenth century and another frame structure was erected nearby on the same property.¹¹ This accounts for the existence of the residential staircase in the central hall and the entire second story.

The surrounding property has been developed with dwellings of above-average value and the developer donated a 1.396 acre lot containing the historic structure to the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County. A program of preservation and restoration is commencing under the aegis of a committee, in effect the successor to the original Board of Visitors, which will ensure the professionally-guided completion of the ongoing restoration and maintenance as well as staffing and furnishing for use as a place for public gatherings, demonstrations, and exhibits. These efforts are in response to the advocacy and research performed by the Anne Arundel County Retired Teachers Association. The Committee includes representatives of the Retired Teachers Association, the Board of Education, the county office of Planning and Zoning, the Maryland Historical Trust, Anne Arundel Heritage, Inc. and Lavall civic and Garden clubs in whose immediate community the property lies.

Comprehensive archeological investigations have been performed at the site.¹²

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National Park Service**

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Anne Arundel County Free School

Anne Arundel Co., Maryland

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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Page

4

FOOTNOTES

¹ Acts of the Assembly, Archives of Maryland, Volume XXXIV, Chapter XIX

² The Records Containing the Proceedings of the Visitors of the Free School for Annearrundell County 1724, Maryland Hall of Records G210

³ See Appendix A

⁴ See Appendix B

⁵ Maryland Gazette, May 27, 1746

⁶ Laws of Maryland, 1781, May (Lib. TBH No. A - Fol. 23)

⁷ Laws of Maryland, 1795, November Chapter LXVI (Lib. JG No. 2 - Fol. 366)

⁸ including Daniel R. Randall's "Notes on a Colonial Free School in Anne Arundel County with Side Lights Upon the Early Education of John Hopkins", Maryland Historical Magazine, September 1923.

⁹ Randall, op. cit.

¹⁰ Law of 1910, Acts of the Assembly, Chapter 577

¹¹ In the files of the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County

¹² Dr. Kenneth Orr, An Intensive Archaeological Survey, July 1978.

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National Park Service

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Continuation sheet Anne Arundel County Free School
Anne Arundel Co., Maryland Item number 9 and 10 Page 5

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Acts of the Assembly, Archives of Maryland, Vol. 34, Ch. 19, 1723; Ch. 577, 1910

Laws of Maryland, Lib. TBH No. A - Fol. 23, May, 1781; Lib. JG No. 2 - Fol. 366,
November, 1795.

Maryland Gazette, May 27, 1746.

Orr, Kenneth, The Conjectured First Free School of Anne Arundel County: An
Intensive Archeological Survey, July 1978. (On file at MHT).

Randall, Daniel R. "Notes on a Colonial Free School in Anne Arundel County with
Side Lights Upon the Early Education of Johns Hopkins," Maryland Historical
Magazine, 1923.

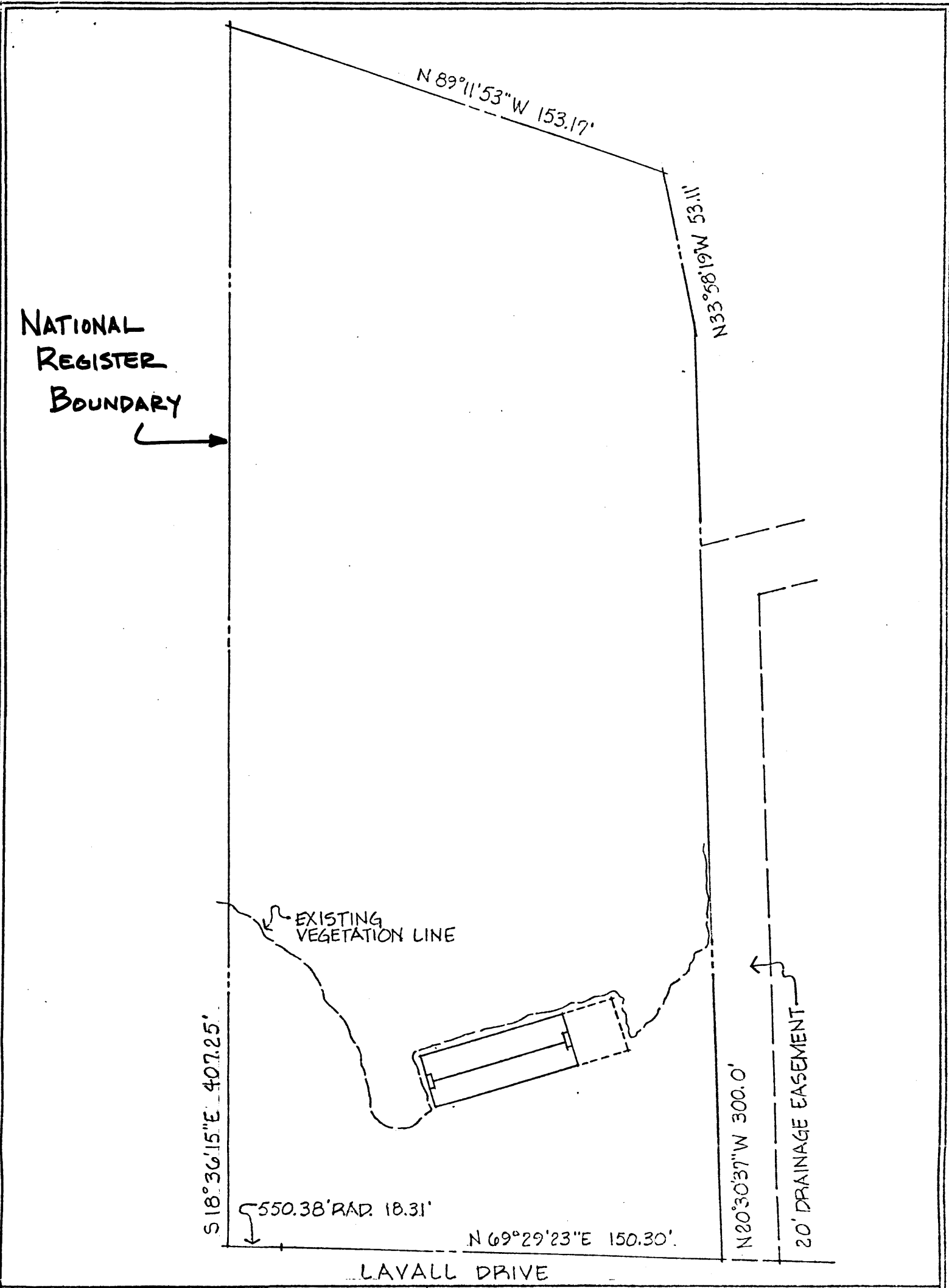
Wollon, James T., Jr., A.I.A., Historic Structure Report, December 31, 1979.
(On file at MHT).

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated property are shown on the attached site plan,
drawn to the scale of 1" = 40'.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property consists of a single lot within a modern residential
subdivision; this acreage represents the full extent of the property which retains
association with the structure and approximates its historic setting.

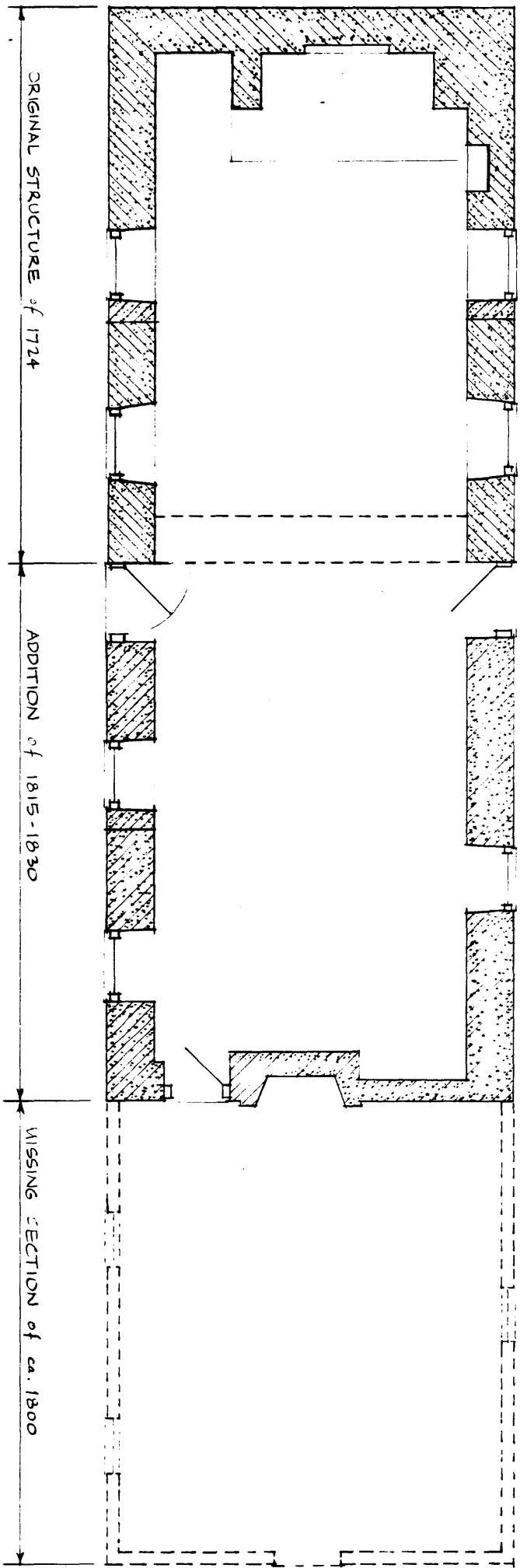


ANNE ARUNDEL FREE SCHOOL
 ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY DAVIDSONVILLE
 EASEMENT EXHIBIT NO. 2

SITE PLAN
 SCALE: 1" = 40'-0"
 PREPARED: 5/75 JC
 MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST



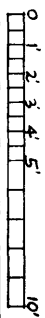
SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE WITH THE M.H.T. GRANTOR *SH* GRANTEE



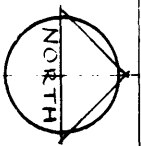
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY FREE SCHOOL

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



DRAWN BY JAMES T. WOLLOTON, JR., AIA, 30 MARCH 1985



A P P E N D I X A

Anne Arundel County Free School

O R I G I N A L S P E C I F I C A T I O N

from The Records Containing the Proceedings of the Visitors of the Free School for Annearrundell County 1724 filed in the State of Maryland Hall of Records as G210.

Then, the Visitors appointed to meet at Annap[olis]
Thursday the 13.th day of August 1724 --

Then likewise, the Visitors, agreed w.th Cap[tain?] Gassoway, to build a School House, and took a Bond of [said] Gassoway, for his Compliance wth the s^d agreem^t. w.^h [?] follows, Viz^t _____

Articles of Agreem^t made & Cov[enanted]
and Between, the Rev.^d M^r. Joseph Colebatch, Sam^l. Yo[ung],
William Loch, Esq:^{rs} Cap.ⁿ Daniel Mariarte, M^r. Rich. Wa[rfield]
M^r. Charles Hammond, & M^r. John Beale, Gen^m. Visitors [?]
Ann-Arrund:^{ll} County School of the one part, and M^r. Th[omas]
Gassoway of the same County Gentl^m. of the other part as [?]

Impris The said Thomas Gassoway, for and in consid:ⁿ of the s[um of]
One hundred and thirty pounds Currant Money of Maryla[nd ?]
undertakes to build a School House, twenty five foot in l[ength]
Eighteen foot wide, the rafters Sixteen foot in length, a [shed]
the length of the said house, ten foot in Width, a passage [in]
said shedd, w:th four Doors Viz. one leading out of the gre[at room
into the said shedd, and one to each room of the Shedd, [all]

pannelled Doors, and the other to be at the Front of the [shed,]
to lay the floors above and below in the house and s[hed,]
Carry up a pair of Stairs in the large room, make a [closet]
under the stairs aforesaid, two large Windows in th[e front]
of the great Room, a large Window at the End of the [great]
Room, two Windows in the Front of the Shedd, one [in the]
closet, two Dormant Windows, one Front Door, and one Ditto [at]
[the] head of the Stairs, a Partition in the Chamber, the large
Room to be lined wth planck, the Chamber and Shedd to be --
plaistered, as likewise the sealing over head of the great Room
to be plaistered, a Stack of Chimneys wth three fire places, the
lower fire place to be seven foot in the clear, and the Chamber
Chimney to be four foot--House and Shedd to be shingled, with
good thick shingles, the said house and shedd to be underpinn'd
wth good Brick or Stone, and to glaze all the Windows aforesaid
and to fix the same into bastard Sash frames, - to get Sills for
the said House and Shedd, out of the heart of White Oack
and to be in bigness, ten Inches one way, and Eight the
other, and [the] other part of the Frame, to be of a Suitable
bigness for such a house, to be well framed,--The said
Gassoway to do the worck, Worckman like, finding everything
[?] said use Compleating and finishing the said work at his own
[han]d and charge"-----

The said Gassoway [sic] Rev.^d M^r. Joseph Colebatch, Sam Young
and William Loch, Esq^{rs}: Cap.ⁿ Daniel Mariarte, M^r. Richard
Warfield, M^r. Charles Hammond, & M^r. John Beale, Gent.ⁿ

Visitors of the School afores^d undertake upon the aforesaid
Thomas Gassoway compleating, and finishing, the work in
[a mann]er and form as above and hereaft[er m]entioned wo[rk.]

A P P E N D I X B

Anne Arundel County Free School

CHAIN OF TITLE*

<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Liber</u>	<u>Folio</u>
Board of Education of Anne Arundel County	Lavall Inc.	Oct. 9, 1975	2804	725
Lavall Inc.	The Green Hill Co.	Jan. 4, 1974	2648	822
The Green Hill Co.	Morris Lynsky, et. al.	Sept. 29, 1958	G.T.C. 1249	141
Agreement of conveyance and of distribution of property among Myer Lynsky's sole heirs		Oct. 1, 1956	G.T.C. 1069	142
(Louis M. Strauss was appointed Administrator of the Orphans Court and appointed trustee with power and authority to convey property in Anne Arundel County and elsewhere in order to distribute the property of Myer Lynsky, who died leaving no last will and testament. All of Mr. Lynsky's real property was conveyed to his sole heirs - Morris Lynsky, et. al.)				
Myer Lynsky	Benjamin F. and Bertha P. Van Horne	Sept. 3, 1940	J.H.H. 225	121
Benjamin F. Van Horne, et. al.	Fanny E. and Luther L. McKenney	May 21, 1915	G.W. 118	90
Fanny E. and Luther L. McKenney	Anne Arundel County Free School (Visitors Board of)	March 24, 1911	G.W. 84	47
Anne Arundel County Free School (Visitors Board of)	Richard Snowden	June 19, 1724	S.Y. 1	36

*Title research done by Theresa von Adelung, Anne Arundel County Office
of Planning and Zoning