

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 79-019-51

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Old Marlboro Primary School

other

2. Location

street and number 14554 Elm Street __ not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro __ vicinity

county Prince George's

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

name Prince George's County

street and number 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive telephone

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD zip code 20772

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 4411 folio 183

city, town Upper Marlboro tax map 101 tax parcel 25 tax ID number 03-0192302

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning Department

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	<u>1</u>	

7. Description

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Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

The Old Marlboro Primary School, located at 14554 Elm Street in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, is a Craftsman-style building with a bungalow form. Built in 1896, the Old Marlboro Primary School is unique within its neighborhood for its style and date of construction. The area surrounding the building consists primarily of large recently built government buildings. Sited between the Old Marlboro High School (PG: 79-019-52) and the Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery (PG: 79-019-22), just south of the Schoolhouse Pond, the Old Marlboro Primary School faces south overlooking the intersection of Governor Oden Bowie Drive and Elm Street.

SCHOOL

The Old Marlboro Primary School was constructed in 1896. The one-story, six-bay Craftsman-style building has a bungalow form. The wood-frame structure is set on a poured concrete foundation and capped by a side-gabled roof. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and features overhanging eaves. Square-butt wood shingles clad the schoolhouse, featuring corner boards. The structure features two exterior-end brick chimneys of stretcher-bond brick construction. All of the original windows have been replaced with vinyl-sash windows. The façade (south elevation) features a one-story, centrally located screened porch. Located on the same parcel of land as the Old Marlboro Primary School are two historic resources, the Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery (PG: 79-019-22) to the east, and the Old Marlboro High School (PG: 79-019-52) to the west.

The façade (south elevation) is marked by a centrally placed, projecting one-story, one-bay front-gabled roof porch. The porch is set on a stretcher-bond brick foundation, enclosed by screens, and features a gable end covered in imbricated wood shingles painted white. Located within the porch are a replacement wood door flanked to the east by a 6/6 vinyl-sash window. This window opening is not original, and based on its form and materials, appears to have been added c. 1975. Flanking either side of the porch are two 6/6 vinyl-sash windows with square-edge wood surrounds.

The west (side) elevation is dominated by a stretcher-bond brick chimney that pierces the overhanging eave of the southern slope of the roof. Fenestration consists of a projecting semi-octagonal bay window supported by wood brackets. The bay window has a replacement 12/12 vinyl-sash window flanked by 6/6 vinyl-sash windows. The windows have square-edge wood surrounds.

The one-story, six-bay north (rear) elevation consists of three additions. A two-bay shed roof addition is placed on the northwest corner of the main block. This addition has a roof line that projects off of the main block roof at a lower slope. A centrally located addition to the rear of the main block projects out as far as the northwest addition. This shed-roofed addition is not connected to the main block roofline; rather it projects out of the north (rear) elevation. This addition includes a door. The northeast segment addition has a roof line that extends off of the main block roof. A two-bay shed roof addition is also located on the northeast corner of the main block. This addition does not project as far as the northwest and central additions but does include an

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exterior-side brick chimney with a corbeled cap located between two window openings. A concrete stoop runs along the center and east additions. All of the window and door openings on the north (rear) elevation were covered with plywood at the time of the 2007 on-site survey. At the time of the 1986 on-site survey, fenestration on the north (rear) elevation consisted of 12/12 windows, 6/6 windows, and a single-leaf door.

The east (side) elevation is fenestrated by two 6/6 vinyl-sash windows with square-edged wood surrounds. A third window opening, the northernmost, has a bottom sash covered with plywood and a top sash supporting an air conditioning unit.

Multiple additions and alterations have taken place since the Old Marlboro Primary School's construction in 1896. A photo of the property, dated after 1896, reveals the Old Marlboro Primary School's substantially different original form. The façade (south elevation) featured an enclosed one-bay, two-story wing with an open bell tower capped by a pyramidal roof. Small gable dormers flanked the bell tower on the roof of the main block. Further, the rear elevation did not have any additions to it and the brick chimney on the west (side) elevation was not present.¹

The interior of the building was not accessible at the time of the 2007 on-site survey.

INTEGRITY

The Old Marlboro Primary School retains a low level of integrity. The replacement of the original windows, door, and the loss of the bell tower and dormers has compromised the integrity of materials, design, and workmanship. The schoolhouse maintains its integrity of location and setting as the Old Marlboro High School (PG: 79-019-52) and the Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery (PG: 79-019-22) remain associated with the property on which Old Marlboro Primary School is located. At the time of the 2007 on-site survey, the building stood vacant and in poor condition. As a result, the Old Marlboro Primary School's integrity of association and feeling have been lost.

¹ Photo, "Marlboro School After 1896," Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Files.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Local History</u>

Specific dates	1896	Architect/Builder	Benjamin Wesley Cranford
Construction dates	1896, 1921		

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Marlboro Primary School at 14554 Elm Street in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, is a typical example of late-nineteenth-century educational architecture. Noteworthy for the role it played in education, the Old Marlboro Primary School is most significant for the role it played in the early years of public education for girls in Prince George's County. Situated adjacent to the Old Marlboro High School (PG: 79-019-52), these buildings sited on a hill overlooking Upper Marlboro represent 150 years of public education. The Old Marlboro Primary School maintains a low level of integrity due to its replacement materials and multiple additions, and as a result, does not retain sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a late-nineteenth-century schoolhouse.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Old Marlboro Primary School is located in the Town of Upper Marlboro. Located in central Prince George's County, the town of Upper Marlboro was established when the General Assembly of the Province of Maryland passed the "Act for the Advancement of Trade and Erecting Ports and Towns" in 1706 and 1707 in order to establish commercial centers in Maryland.² The town was already a gathering place for merchants, who often spent their time at Robert Robertson's tavern, established in 1703.³

By 1718, county residents petitioned to have the county seat moved from Charles Town to Upper Marlboro, which was completed in 1721.⁴ Chosen for its location on the Western Branch of the Patuxent River, the area

² Marina King, "The Tobacco Industry in Prince George's County, 1680-1940," in *Historic Contexts in Prince George's County: Short Papers on Settlement Patterns, Transportation and Cultural History* (Upper Marlboro, MD: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 1991), 69-71.

³ Susan G. Pearl, "Early Taverns in Prince George's County, 1703-1862," in *Historic Contexts in Prince George's County: Short Papers on Settlement Patterns, Transportation and Cultural History* (Upper Marlboro, MD: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 1991), 61-64.

⁴ Pearl, "Early Towns," 2.

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was thought to be a convenient trading location. Upper Marlboro, with its designation as the county seat, soon became the social, political, and commercial center of Prince George's County. The first courthouse was constructed in 1721 and was later replaced in 1798. The completion of the Assembly Hall in the 1750s provided opportunities for social events, including balls, concerts, plays, and opera productions. In the 1760s, the first post office was established in the town.⁵

Martenet's Map of 1861 shows a well-developed small town, primarily centered on Main Street. Most of the residential buildings are located to the west, while the commercial development was located in the east around the court house. Just a few years later in 1878, the Hopkins map documents considerable new growth in the town. Many new residences and stores were constructed, along with two new public schools, one for the education of boys, and one for girls.⁶ The Old Marlboro Primary School is located on the same lot as the original public school.

The location of the Old Marlboro Primary School is noteworthy because it was the site of the home of Doctor William and Sarah Beane. Born in 1749, by the 1814 Doctor Beane was the most prominent citizen in Upper Marlboro: a physician, a major landowner, proprietor of the local grist mill, an accomplished scholar, and a popular gentleman. Beane is best known for his passive role in Francis Scott Key's writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner." Beane's property in town was known as Academy Hill, the finest house in town.⁷ Following the death of Doctor Beane in 1828, the land was conveyed to William N. Boteler in 1841.⁸ The property was sold to Boteler to fulfill stipulations set forth by Doctor Beane in his will.⁹ The Upper Marlboro Academy had been established in 1835 and Boteler served as a trustee. Perhaps Boteler later donated the site to the Academy, but there is no conveyance recorded.¹⁰

The Old Marlboro Primary School was constructed by local house carpenter, Benjamin Wesley Cranford.¹¹ The public school for girls opened for the first day of classes October 30, 1896.¹² The Old Marlboro Primary School replaced another school house built in 1867 on the site. There are examples of contemporary school for

⁵ Susan G. Pearl, "Upper Marlboro History" (August 2001), 1.

⁶ G.M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, Including the County of Prince George Maryland* (Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1878).

⁷ Allen D. Spiegel, Ph.D. "The Role of A Physician in the Composition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" *Journal of Community Health* 20, no. 4 (1995): 368.

⁸ John B. Brooke, Trustee of William Beane, to William N. Boteler, Prince George's County Land Records, JBB 1:292.

⁹ Will of Doctor William Beane, Prince George's County Land Records, TT 1:432 #1810.

¹⁰ Shirley Baltz, "William Beane," (79-23), Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Files (1985), 4.

¹¹ 1880 U.S. Federal Census, Upper Marlboro, Prince Georges, Maryland; Series T9, Roll 513, Family History Film 1254513, Page 55.1000, Enumeration District 122, Benjamin Wesley Cranford.

¹² Susan G. Pearl, "Old Marlboro Primary School," (PG: 79-19-51) Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form (1995), 8:2.

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girls established during the later half of the nineteenth century. In Baltimore, the Oldfields School is founded by Anna Austen McCulloch in Glencoe, Maryland, making it the state's oldest girls' boarding school.¹³ The construction of a school for girls in Upper Marlboro at the end of the nineteenth century was not unique in the state of Maryland but was certainly a notable event in the history of Prince George's County.

The school continued to function as a public school for girls until 1921. It was at this time the Old Marlboro High School was constructed adjacent to the Old Marlboro Primary School. This precipitated the conversion of the Old Marlboro Primary School into the residence for the high school principal and his family. It is at this time that the building was altered significantly. The centered projecting entrance wing on the building was altered to a simple screened entrance porch. The two small dormers flanking the entrance wing on the south slope of the roof were removed and two brick chimneys, one exterior-end, one exterior-side, added.¹⁴

At the time of the 2007 on-site survey the Old Marlboro Primary School was vacant and was in poor condition.

¹³ The National Coalition of Girls' Schools, "Milestones in Girl's Education," <http://www.ncgs.org/type0.php?pid=48>, (accessed October 18, 2007).

¹⁴ Susan G. Pearl, "Old Marlboro Primary School," (PG: 79-19-51) Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form (1995), 8:2.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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- 1880 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule). Online: The Generations Network, Inc., 2007. Subscription database. Digital scan of original records in the National Archives, Washington, DC. <http://www.ancestry.com>.
- Baltz, Shirley. "William Beanes" (79-23), Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Files, 1985.
- Denny, George D. *Proud Past Promising Future. Cities and Towns in Prince George's County, Maryland*. Brentwood, MD: Dilden Company, 1997.
- Jenson, Joseph E. "166 Years Ago This Month... William Beanes: The Doctor Behind 'The Star Spangled Banner'" *Maryland State Medical Journal* (1980): 60.
- Pearl, Susan G. "Old Marlboro Primary School" (PG: 79-19-51), Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form, 1995.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>3.522</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>6.702</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Upper Marlboro</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Old Marlboro Primary School is located on a 3.522-acre parcel. The schoolhouse is situated at the top of a sloping lot, with grass terraces to the south and east down to the roadway below. Elm Street forms the southern boundary of the property while Governor Oden Bowie Drive forms the east boundary. Schoolhouse Pond is located down an embankment, forming the north boundary. The west boundary of the property is marked by Old Mill Road. The Old Marlboro High School (PG: 79-019-52) is located to the west while the Doctor William and Sarah Beanes Cemetery (PG: 79-019-22) is situated to the east. The building has been associated with Parcel 25 as noted on Tax Map 101 since its construction.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul Weishar, Architectural Historian		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	November, 2007
street & number	1121 Fifth Street, NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

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CHAIN OF TITLE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY LAND RECORDS

Deed CC 2:646
August 14, 1779

William Sprigg Bowie to William Beanes, 1 acre adjoining Upper Marlboro together with all dwelling houses, out houses and improvements.

Will JRM 2:167
June 7, 1793

William Beanes, Sr. to William Beanes, Jr., 1 acre adjoining Upper Marlboro.

Will TT 1:432
#1810
October 15, 1828

By second codicil, dwelling house and grounds devised to Phillip Key. After the death of Colmore Beanes should be held in trust for Key, to become his when he has issue. If he dies without issue, property to be sold.

Deed JBB 1:292
January 16, 1841

John B. Brooke, Trustee to sell the property of Doctor William Beanes to William N. Boteler, all the grounds, garden, buildings, and enclosures attached thereto; also the mill, meadows, and lands adjoining.

Deed JWB 5:359
December 5, 1885

Trustees of the Upper Marlboro Academy to the Board of County School Commissioners, part of the Academy grounds on which for some years past the Board has maintained a public school for females.

Deed 4411:183
September 5, 1974

Board of Education of Prince George's County to Prince George's Maryland, 6.702 acres, with right to the pond. Known as Bell's Meadows; same grantors acquired by JWB 5:359, 141:232 and 453:71.

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Photo: Old Marlboro Primary School, view of façade (south elevation), looking north. (August 2007)

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Photo: Old Marlboro Primary School, view of the southwest corner, looking northeast. (August 2007)

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Photo: Old Marlboro Primary School, view of the northwest corner, looking southeast. (August 2007)

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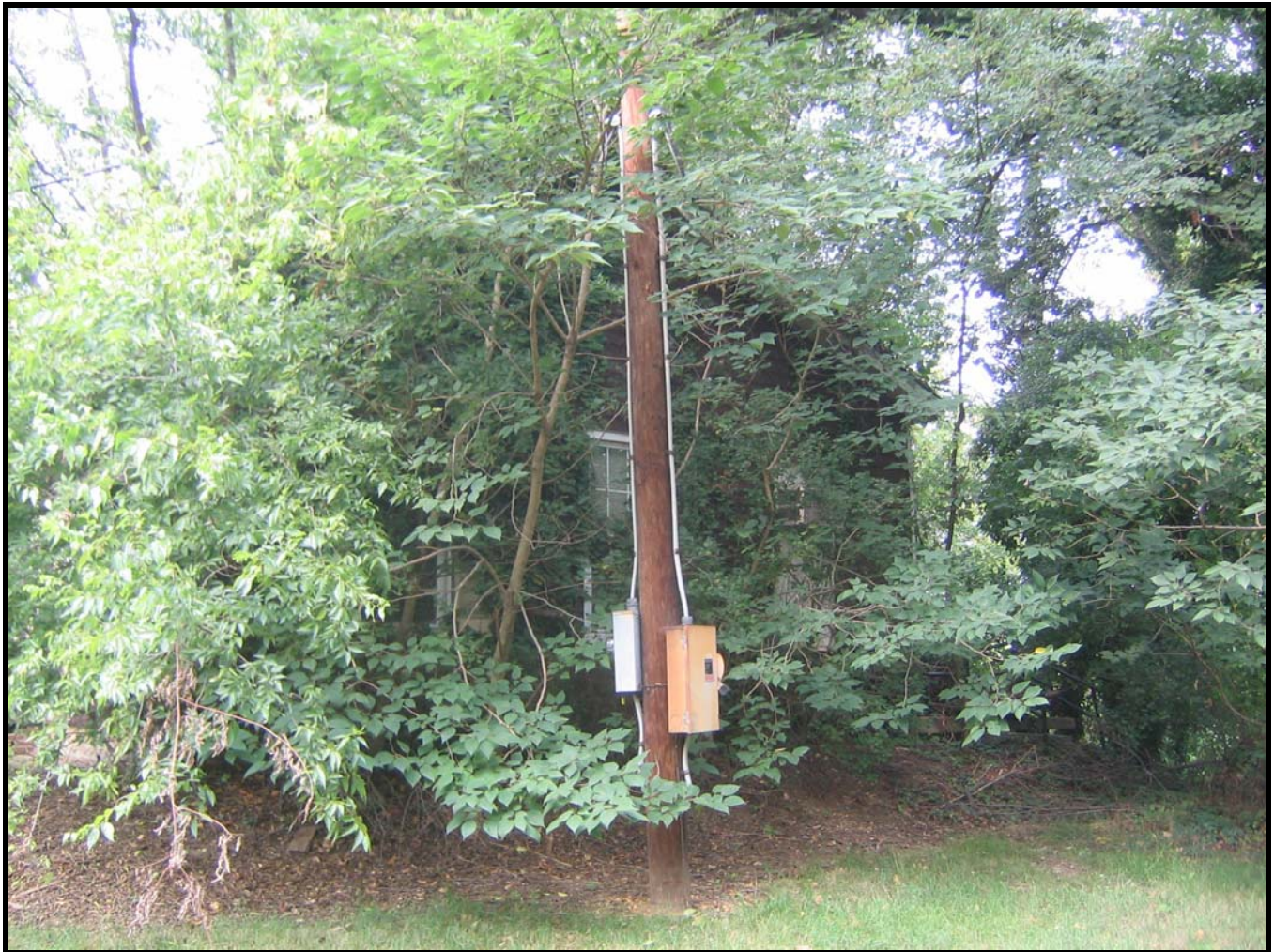


Photo: Old Marlboro Primary School, view of the east (side) elevation, looking northwest. (August 2007)

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Photo: Old Marlboro Primary School, view of the façade (south elevation), looking north. (Date unknown)¹⁵

¹⁵ George D. Denny, *Proud Past Promising Future. Cities and Towns in Prince George's County, Maryland* (Brentwood, MD: Dilden Company, 1997), 353.

