

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 82A-019

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Boy's Village of Maryland Cemetery
other _____

2. Location

street and number 11301 Crain Highway _____ not for publication
city, town Cheltenham _____ vicinity
county Prince George's

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

name Maryland Veterans Commission
street and number 301 West Preston Street telephone _____
city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21201-2305

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 4616 folio 710
city, town Upper Marlboro tax map 127/A4 tax parcel 190 tax ID number 11 1160340

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	Contributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	_____ buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u>2</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	_____ structures
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funerary	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<u>2</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			<u>2</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 Boy's Village of Maryland Cemetery is located at 11301 Crain Highway in Cheltenham, Maryland. This cemetery is comprised of a two individual sections sited approximately 500 feet apart. The smaller Section 1 was established in the mid- to late nineteenth century; the larger Section 2 dates from the early twentieth century. It is likely that the smaller cemetery was the burial ground of inmates of the Boy's Village of Maryland House of Reformation. The resource is located within dense, mature woods on property now owned by the Cheltenham State Veterans Cemetery. The Cheltenham State Veterans Cemetery, which is located to the east, is an active cemetery established in 1976.

SECTION 1

This small section is located southwest of the cemetery maintenance building, approximately fifty feet from the tree line. The four identified granite headstones are arranged in one row aligned north to south. All of the markers have a segmental arch. Three of the headstones were legible.

The marker leaning against a mature oak reads:

Williams Jones / From Baltimore City / Died March 10, 1887 / Aged 17 Years

The short marker with footstone reads:

Anthony Johnson / From Baltimore Co / Died March 21, 1880 / Aged 11 Years

The short marker, without footstone, reads:

Ashbury Brown / From Annapolis. Md / Died April 5, 1887 / Aged 15 Years.

The ages of these markers, and the inscriptions indicating that the boys were from Baltimore, suggests that this was the original cemetery associated with the Boy's Village of Maryland. These were young men, the same age as the boys detained in the reformation facility. Depressions in the ground along the line of extant markers suggest that there are additional burials that are no longer marked.

SECTION 2

This section is located northwest of the cemetery administration building, approximately fifty feet from the tree line. Section 2 is sited southwest of Section 1. There are approximately eight rows of markers aligned southwest to northeast. The double-corner, concrete-block markers are composed of large aggregate and protrude from the ground by approximately five inches. None of the markers have inscriptions. Many of the markers have settled

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into the ground, making their identification impossible without excavation. Likewise, some markers have deteriorated completely due to the effects of exposure to water. Although the markers appear to date from the early twentieth century, this does not confirm when the burials took place. The concrete blocks could have replaced earlier markers or were placed as an afterthought because they are all the same form and material. It is unlikely that the approximately 100 people buried here all died at the same time. Moreover, whoever is buried there is unknown. The boys confined at the Boys Village of Maryland were young and in presumably good health.

INTEGRITY

The Boy's Village of Maryland maintains a low level of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Many of the markers are no longer extant, no longer in the ground, or in a state of deterioration. Despite this, the site does not face the prospect of disturbance as it is located within mature trees and now associated with property owned by the Cheltenham State Veterans Cemetery. Although the two small cemeteries are no longer associated with the reformation facility, this has not compromised its integrity of association, feeling, setting, and location.

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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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	late nineteenth century	Architect/Builder	n/a
Construction dates	late nineteenth century, early twentieth century		

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 Boy's Village of Maryland Cemetery is located on the west side of Crain Highway (US 301), south of the intersection of Surratts Road and Frank Tippet Road in Cheltenham. The Boy's Village of Maryland was one of the earliest and largest juvenile detention and reformation centers when it was established in 1870 as the "House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Boys." Enoch Pratt, a Baltimore businessman and philanthropist, was the main beneficiary of the institution. Although no longer associated with the Boy's Village of Maryland, this resource retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a cemetery for institutionalized African-American boys in Maryland.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Boy's Village of Maryland Cemetery is located in Cheltenham, which is located in southern Prince George's County between Old Crain Highway (US Route 301) and Maryland Route 5. The village developed as a result of the expansion of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad in the early 1870s. By this time, Cheltenham supported several stores, a railroad depot, the House of Reformation, Church of the Atonement (Episcopal), and new residential construction.¹ The community was named for the Bowie family's plantation of the same name, located southwest of the village. In 1922, construction of Crain Highway began, creating a direct route between Baltimore and southern Maryland. Completed in 1927, the highway ran directly through Cheltenham. Even with the new transportation route, growth in Cheltenham remained relatively slow until the construction of small subdivisions in the 1930s spurred by the growth of Washington, DC.

In 1872, Enoch Pratt, a Baltimore businessman and philanthropist, purchased a 1,200-acre tract in Cheltenham as a place to which delinquent African-American boys of Baltimore could be sent for rehabilitation. Pratt and his wife, Maria, immediately conveyed 752 acres to the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children.² The institution was opened in January of 1873. The *1878 Hopkins Map* notates the "House of Reformation" with General John Watts Horn acting as superintendent.

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The first boys, thirteen in total, were housed in buildings associated with 752-acre parcel donated by Pratt in 1872. The first institutional buildings were constructed shortly thereafter. The facility originally operated more like a school than a prison. The boys worked the school farm and lived in dormitories, not cells. Recaning chairs was a specialty of the facility. The first superintendent, John Watts Horn, born 1834 in Dumfries, Scotland, was a Maryland veteran of the Civil War (1861-1865). Horn challenged the policy of placing African-American children in prison. He protested this policy fervently, and after retiring from the military with the rank of general, sought to seek the improvement of the condition of African-American youth.³ Section 1 of the Boy's Village cemetery dates from the late nineteenth century, possibly established during Horn's tenure.

In 1937, the institution was taken over by the State of Maryland. Section 2, which includes the concrete-block markers, was established during this period. The land on which the Boy's Village cemetery is located was conveyed to the Cheltenham State Veterans Commission in 1976 for use as a veterans' cemetery. It is likely that the Boy's Village of Maryland Cemetery was included with this transaction because the property would be developed into a new cemetery.⁴

The Cheltenham State Veterans Cemetery is currently active, while the Boy's Village of Maryland Cemetery is not.

¹ G.M. Hopkins, "*Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, Including the County of Prince George Maryland*" (Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1878).

² Enoch Pratt and Maria Pratt to House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children, Prince George's County Land Records, HB 6:248.

³ Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning Department Vertical Files. *PGEq* October 8, 1897.

⁴ State of Maryland to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene acting by and through the Board of Public Works of the State of Maryland to the Maryland Veterans Commission, Prince George's County Land Records ,4616:710.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Hopkins, G.M. *Prince George's County, from Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington*. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1878.
Owens, Christopher. "Boy's Village of Maryland and Cemetery" (PG: 82A-19) Maryland Historical Trust Worksheet: Nomination Form for the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1985.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 91.776
Acreage of historical setting 752
Quadrangle name Anacostia Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Boy's Village of Maryland Cemetery is located in Cheltenham on a 91.776-acre parcel, which was historically associated with The Boys' Village of Maryland. Currently, this resource is located on property owned by the Maryland Veterans Commission. Frank Tippett Road borders the property to the north. The eastern boundary follows Crain Highway (US 301). The northern boundary follows Surratts Road. The western boundary extends through mature woods. The Boys Village of Maryland Cemetery has been associated with Parcel 190 as noted on Tax Map 127/A4 since it was conveyed in 1976 to the Maryland Veterans Commission.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul Weishar, Architectural Historian		
organization	EHT Traceries, Inc. for M-NCPPC	date	March 2009
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
HB 6:248
June 9, 1872

Enoch Pratt and Maria Pratt to the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children. (752 acres)

Deed
4616:710
April 12, 1976

State of Maryland to the use of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, acting by and through the Board of Public Works of the State of Maryland to the Maryland Veterans Commission. (Portion of Boys Village of Maryland, 91.776 acres containing a graveyard as shown on a boundary and topographic survey prepared by Lorenzi, Dodds & Gunnill, Inc. and dated July 1975)

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Photo: Boy's Village of Maryland Cemetery, Cheltenham, Section 1, view looking northeast. (February 2009)

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Photo: Boy's Village of Maryland Cemetery, Cheltenham, Section 1, Marker, looking south. (February 2009)

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Photo: Boy's Village of Maryland Cemetery, Cheltenham, Section 1, Marker, looking east. (February 2009)

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Photo: Boy's Village of Maryland Cemetery, Cheltenham, Section 2, looking south. (February 2009)

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Photo: Boy's Village of Maryland Cemetery, Cheltenham, Section 2, Marker. (February 2009)