

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 79-019-52

**1. Name of Property** (indicate preferred name)

historic Old Marlboro High School

other

## 2. Location

street and number 14524 Elm Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication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
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city, town	Upper Marlboro	state	MD	zip code	20772
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#### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Prince George's County Courthouse	liber	4411	folio	183
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city, town	Upper Marlboro	tax map	101	tax parcel	25	tax ID number	0192302
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## 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

X Other: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning Department

## 6. Classification

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

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## 7. Description

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

The Old Marlboro High School is located at 14524 Elm Street in downtown Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The building is sited to the west of the Old Marlboro Primary School (PG: 79-019-51) and south of Schoolhouse Pond. The school was constructed in two phases. The original main block, now located on the rear, was built in 1921 and the U-shaped Classical Revival-style addition was built in 1934. There are no secondary resources associated with this property.

### SCHOOL

The main block of the Old Marlboro High School is a two-story, ten-bay structure located on the northwest (rear) elevation of the present school. It was constructed in 1921 of parged concrete clad in white stucco.<sup>1</sup> A flat roof covers the building. The school originally had a Mission-style stepped parapet on the façade (southeast elevation).<sup>2</sup> The original front-gabled entrance has been covered by the 1934 Classical Revival-style addition. The northeast (side) elevation is twelve bays wide. A single-leaf wood door and four fixed one-light windows are located on the basement level. The windows on the first story are covered in plywood, while the five-light metal classroom windows are extant on the second story. The northwest (rear) elevation of the main block features four windows on the basement level covered in plywood. A centrally located double-leaf metal door is placed on the first story. Flanking either side of the entry are two five-light metal classroom windows. The northernmost two windows have been covered in plywood. Paired five-light metal classroom windows are located on the second story directly above the entry. Flanking either side of the paired windows are two metal classroom windows. The south (side) elevation is ten bays wide. Ten five-light metal classroom windows are located on the first and second stories. All windows on the main block of the school feature concrete lug sills and concrete lintels.

The addition, constructed on the façade (southeast elevation) of the main block in 1934, consisted of eight classrooms and an auditorium.<sup>3</sup> The addition was designed in the Classical Revival style. The two-story, seven-bay central portion of the addition has a rectangular plan. Set on a poured concrete foundation, the concrete-block structure is faced in five-course Flemish-bond brick. A flat roof with concrete parapet caps the structure. The façade is ornamented with a concrete and denticulated brick stringcourse located above the second story windows. A recessed concrete panel is located above the stringcourse. The outer bays of the façade of the addition are fenestrated by two single-leaf metal doors with Classical Revival-style concrete surrounds featuring fluted pilasters, an entablature, and ogee-molded cornice. Sited on the second story above the doors are eight-light octagonal windows with rowlock surrounds. The central bays of the façade feature five full-story multiple-light metal accordion windows with nine-light round-arched transoms. The window openings have brick voussiors, concrete keystones, and concrete sills. Soldier-course and header-course brick patterning is located

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<sup>1</sup> 1949 Sanborn Map, Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, Maryland, Sheet 3.

<sup>2</sup> Marina King, "Old Marlboro High School," (79-19-52) Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form (1986), 8:2.

<sup>3</sup> King, "Old Marlboro High School," 7:1.

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below the windows. Six engaged brick piers or buttresses with concrete capitals separate the central window bays.

The two-story wing on the northeast (side) elevation is constructed of concrete blocks faced in five-course Flemish-bond brick. The wing features an L-shaped plan. A concrete and denticulated brick stringcourse sited above the windows wraps around the façade and side elevation of the wing. The wing is covered by a flat roof with a concrete parapet wall. The three-bay façade features an inset entry with a double-leaf metal door. A three-course round-arched lintel is sited over the entry. A fixed 24-light metal window with rowlock sill is placed symmetrically over the entry. Two multi-light metal classroom windows with concrete sills are placed on the façade, east of the entry. The setback façade features a double-leaf metal door with a three-course round-arched lintel. A six-light transom is located above the entry and features a soldier-course lintel. Seven multi-light metal classroom windows with concrete sills are located on the northeast (side) elevation of the wing. The third window bay from the south is a blind window. Two large window openings on the northwest (rear) elevation of the wing are covered in plywood. Four large and one standard-sized window on the southwest (side) elevation are covered in plywood.

The one-story addition of the northwest (rear) elevation, sited between the northeast wing and two-story main block was constructed in 1934. It is fenestrated by three multi-light metal classroom windows with concrete sills, the outer two of which have been covered in plywood. A single-leaf metal door is sited on the western end.

The two-story wing on the southwest (side) elevation is constructed of concrete blocks faced in five-course Flemish-bond brick. The wing features an L-shaped plan. A concrete and denticulated brick stringcourse sited above the windows wraps around the façade and side elevation of the wing. The wing is covered by a flat roof with a concrete parapet wall. The two-bay façade features an inset entry with double-leaf metal door. A three-course round-arched lintel is sited over the entry. A fixed 24-light metal window with rowlock sill is located symmetrically over the entry. A multi-light metal classroom window with concrete sill is placed on the façade, west of the entry. The setback façade features a double-leaf metal door with a three-course round-arched lintel. A six-light transom is sited over the entry and features a soldier-course lintel. Five multi-light metal classroom windows with concrete sills are located on the southwest (side) elevation of the wing, between the two entries. Ten multi-light metal classroom windows with concrete sills are located on the southwest (side) elevation of the wing. The northwest (rear) elevation of the wing is fenestrated by three asymmetrically placed windows, all of which are covered in plywood.

The one-story addition of the northwest (rear) elevation, sited between the southwest wing and two-story main block was constructed in 1934. It is fenestrated by a single-leaf metal door and a window opening infilled with brick.

The interior of the school was not accessible during the 2007 on-site survey.

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### INTEGRITY

The Old Marlboro High School maintains a high level of integrity. The building retains its integrity of materials and workmanship. The 1934 addition to the school, which includes the Classical Revival-style façade, does not compromise the school's integrity of design because it was built in the early twentieth century to house the expanding school population. Therefore, the 1934 addition has gained significance in its own right. The building maintains its integrity of location and setting sited in downtown Upper Marlboro. The building, no longer utilized as a school and currently vacant, has lost its integrity of feeling and association.



## 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 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 type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

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<b>Specific dates</b>	1921, 1934	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	Thomas H. Marsden, Hollyday and Stahl
<b>Construction dates</b>	1921, 1934		

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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 High School at 14524 Elm Street in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, is a fine example of early-twentieth-century educational architecture. Situated adjacent to the Old Marlboro Primary School (PG: 79-019-51) these buildings, sited on a hill overlooking Upper Marlboro, represent 150 years of public education. The Old Marlboro High School retains a high level of integrity and has sufficient integrity to convey its significance as an early-twentieth-century educational building, although it is no longer serves that purpose.

### HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Old Marlboro High School is located in the Town of Upper Marlboro, Maryland. 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.<sup>4</sup> By 1718, county residents petitioned to have the county seat moved from Charles Town to Upper Marlboro. Chosen for its location on the Western Branch of the Patuxent River, the area 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. In the 1760s, the first post office was established in the town.<sup>5</sup>

*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

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> Susan G. Pearl, "Upper Marlboro History" (August 2001), 1.

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education of boys, and one for girls.<sup>6</sup> The Old Marlboro High School is located on the same lot as the original school for girls.

The location of the Old Marlboro High School is noteworthy because it was the site of the home of Doctor William and Sarah Beanes. Doctor Barnes was a prominent citizen in Upper Marlboro: a physician, a major landowner, proprietor of the local grist mill, an accomplished scholar, and a popular gentleman. Beanes is best known for his role in Francis Scott Key's writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner." Beanes property in town was known as Academy Hill, said to be one of the finest houses in Upper Marlboro.<sup>7</sup> Following the death of Doctor Beanes in 1828, the land was conveyed to William N. Boteler.<sup>8</sup> The property was sold to Boteler to fulfill stipulations set forth by Doctor Beanes in his Will.<sup>9</sup> Prior to this however, the Upper Marlboro Academy had been established in 1835, with Boteler as one of its trustees. Perhaps Boteler later donated the site to the Academy, but there is no conveyance recorded.<sup>10</sup>

The Upper Marlboro Academy building was built c. 1860 and consisted of a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay wood-frame structure. A jerkinhead roof capped the building. An open cupola with a bell was centrally located on the roof ridge. The centrally located main entry featured a front-gabled portico. The main block of the current building was built in 1921 by Thomas H. Marsden for a price of \$38,000, and replaced the Upper Marlboro Academy. In 1934, the Classical Revival-style façade was constructed by Hollyday and Stahl for \$66,789.<sup>11</sup> The Old Marlboro High School operated until 1948, when classes were moved to the Frederick Sasscer High School to address overcrowding. The building continued to house primary school classes and the school administration until 1974.<sup>12</sup> Prince George's County currently owns the now vacant building.

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

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> John B. Brooke, Trustee of William Beanes, to William N. Boteler, Prince George's County Land Records, JBB 1:292.

<sup>9</sup> Will of Doctor William Beanes, Prince George's County Land Records, TT 1:432 #1810.

<sup>10</sup> Shirley Baltz, "William Beanes," (79-23), Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Files (1985), 4.

<sup>11</sup> King, "Old Marlboro High School," 7:1.

<sup>12</sup> "Memories of Marlboro High," *The Washington Post*, January 19, 2000, 16.





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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Baltz, Shirley. "William Beanes." (79-23), Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Files, 1985.  
Hopkins, G.M. *Prince George's County, from Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington*. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1878.  
King, Marina. "Old Marlboro High School." (79-19-52) Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form, 1986.  
King, Marina. "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.  
"Memories of Marlboro High." *The Washington Post*. January 19, 2000.  
Prince George's County Land Records.  
Pearl, Susan G. "Upper Marlboro History," August 2001, 1.  
Spiegel, Allen D. Ph.D. "The Role of A Physician in the Composition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" *Journal of Community Health* 20, no. 4, 1995, 368.  
1949 Sanborn Map, Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, Maryland, Sheet 3.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property	<u>less than one acre</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>less than one acre</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Upper Marlboro</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Old Marlboro High School is sited on less than an acre in downtown Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The lot is bounded on the north by Schoolhouse Pond and on the south by Elm Street. The school has been historically associated with Parcel 25 as noted on Tax Map 101 since its construction.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Saleh Van Erem, Architectural Historian		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	January 2008
street & number	1121 Fifth Street, NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

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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 LANDS 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 High School, façade, looking west. (August 2007)



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Photo: Old Marlboro High School, façade of the northeast wing, looking west. (August 2007)

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Photo: Old Marlboro High School, rear elevation of the northeast wing, looking east. (August 2007)



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Photo: Old Marlboro High School, west corner of the original main block, looking east. (August 2007)

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Photo: Old Marlboro High School, rear elevation of the southwest wing, looking southeast. (August 2007)

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Photo: Old Marlboro High School, façade of the southwest wing, looking north. (August 2007)