

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

PG 86A-8

Survey: ~~PG# 86A-27-8~~ Building Date: 1853

Building Name: St. Thomas Church Rectory

Location: 10108 Croom Road, Upper Marlboro MD 20772

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description

St. Thomas' Rectory is a cross-gabled frame dwelling of cruciform plan. Its main block consists of a two-and-one-half-story, front-gabled section flanked on each side by a two-story side-gabled wing. Entrance is centered in the south gable front of the central block, through a door with three-pane transom and four-pane sidelights, sheltered by a one-story, hip-roof porch with turned, bracketed posts. High in the south gable front at loft level is a triangle-headed casement window. A one-story gabled kitchen wing extends from the east wing. The house has two interior brick chimneys, both of which have been recently rebuilt; original horizontal board siding is covered by rectangular cedar shingles stained white, and the brick foundation is parged with concrete. Interior trim on the first floor has been replaced, but on the second appears to be original. The staircase is located in the south central section and, because of the cruciform plan, is of unusual configuration; its materials indicate that it was redone early in the twentieth century, but it probably reflects the original stair configuration. The house stands on a knoll north of the historic St. Thomas Church, accessible by a long unpaved lane. East of the house stand a small dairy building and a garage, and to the north, the late nineteenth-century Sexton's House.

Significance:

St. Thomas' Church Rectory is a frame building of cruciform plan which is unusual in Prince George's County. It was built in 1852 and 1853, and the progress of its planning and construction is carefully recorded in the Vestry minutes for that time period. The contract with the builders, H. and J. Armstrong of Baltimore, survives, and the Vestry records give details as to the materials, measurements, and window configurations, etc., as well as the physical changes that were made (in, for example, the siding and the chimneys) before the first Rector, Samuel R. Gordon, could move in. (Gordon served as St. Thomas' priest from 1853 to 1882.) The Vestry minutes also record that the wing(s), originally one story high, were raised to the present two stories in 1887, and that further renovations were carried out in 1919. This building served as St. Thomas' Rectory for over a century; it was sold by the church as a private residence in 1964. Two other early-to-mid-nineteenth-century Episcopal rectories survive in Prince George's County: one of brick construction in 1829, the other of frame construction in 1849 and 1856, and each of an entirely different plan.

Acreage: 3.92 acres
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Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Thomas Church Rectory

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 10108 Croom Road not for publicationcity, town Upper Marlboro Croom vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u>X</u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>X</u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

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

name Michael & Catherine Kenney

street & number 10108 Croom Road telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro state and zip code MD 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 9864street & number 14735 Main Street folio 730

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Historic Sites & Districts Plan

date 1992 federal state X county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, M-NCPPC

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

7. Description

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

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

The Rectory:

The St. Thomas' Rectory is a cross-gabled frame dwelling of unusual cruciform plan; it stands on a knoll behind and north of the historic St. Thomas' Church, accessible by an unpaved lane.

The building is cruciform in plan, its main block consisting of a two-and-one-half-story front-gabled section flanked on each side by a two-story side-gabled wing. The entrance is centered in the south gable front of the central section, through a door with three-pane transom and four-pane sidelights. Sheltering this entrance is a one-story hip-roof porch with turned bracketed posts; the small jigsawn brackets are embellished with a diagonal spindle element. The porch is bounded by a plain railing, and has a poured concrete floor.

High in the south gable front at loft level is a triangle-headed casement window; each leaf of the window has four panes, the topmost of which is triangular. There is an identical casement window at third level in the corresponding north gable. These casement windows light a spacious attic space above the central cross-gabled section. Other windows in the building are 6/6 double-hung-sash, with narrow molded surrounds. Until the recent restoration work, the south facade of the house was fitted with dark green louvered shutters; these have been removed, and will be reinstalled in the future.

The east and west gable ends of the flanking sections are one bay deep. There is a one-story side-gabled kitchen wing attached at the east gable end. All of the building is sided with rectangular cedar shingles, recently stained white. The entire roof of the building, including that of the south porch, has recently been covered with new gray asbestos shingle.

There are two interior brick chimneys at the ridge, a small one at the east gable end and a wider corbelled brick chimney at the west line of the central cross-gabled section (the larger westerly chimney was rebuilt in 1853 to serve three fireplaces). Both chimneys have recently been rebuilt.

The building rests on a brick foundation, parged with concrete; this foundation encloses a basement under the central cross-gabled section only. It is accessible from

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the exterior by a small gabled entry on the east elevation of the south gable front, and from the interior by a flight of steps beneath the main staircase.

The interior of the building exhibits the cruciform plan, with the south projection taken up by a stairhall, the north projection by the living room, and the west and east wings by parlor and dining room respectively. An opening in the east wall of the dining room leads into the modern kitchen. The open-string, three-run stair rises just east of the front door, turns 90 degrees and rises along the east wall of the stairhall, then turns again to the second story. It has a turned newel with spherical cap of dark stained wood, and turned balusters painted white. Intermediate newel posts, generally in pairs, are identical to the principal newel. On the second story, the well-lighted and spacious stairhall is defined on the east by a continuation of the stair components; a stair of similar treatment rises along the east wall of the second-story stairhall, turns 90 degrees, and leads into the attic above the central section of the house. Because of the cruciform plan of the dwelling, this multi-part staircase is of unusual plan; it may well reflect the original design of the stair as approved by the Vestry in 1852, but its decorative elements have clearly been replaced, perhaps in the renovations of 1919.

Interior trim of the second story appears to be intact, and may well be original. Doors and windows have architrave moldings with reverse ogee and astragal bordered by a plain rectangular backband. Doors have four vertical panels. Trim on the first story has been removed and replaced by late Victorian reproduction moldings: narrow multi-band with small bull's-eye cornerblocks. Although these moldings are new (applied in 1995), they were chosen to match moldings on the wooden mantel which was removed from the west wall of the living room in the central section.

The immediate grounds:

A short distance east of the kitchen wing is a small gable-roof dairy building; from the entrance in its east gable front, steps lead down to a lower level, where concrete troughs allow for cooling of foods. The building is covered with gray asphalt shingle, and has a concrete foundation. The building is presently used for storage. Just east of the dairy building is a small, shed-roof storage shed.

The unpaved drive ends in a circle (enclosing a small garden space) just south of the house. Fronting on this circle is a small front-gabled garage structure with vertical siding. Just south of the house, there are several cedars on the west, and a holly and several more cedars on the east. There are woods along the perimeter of the property to east, west and south, and a horse paddock to the north.

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An old logging road splits off from the drive approximately 50 yards west of the house, and leads north to a turn-of-the-century tenant house (Sexton's House) and a modern stable building; a large and ancient oak marks the intersection of the logging road with the drive.

The Sexton's House:

At the north edge of the paddock stands a two-story, side-gabled tenant house of wood frame construction, in seriously deteriorating condition. It is presently being used for the storage of hay. Immediately to its east is a modern shed-roof stable with two horse-stalls.

This old tenant house is known as the Sexton's House, and reportedly served as the dwelling of the church sexton; it appears to have been built at the end of the nineteenth century, possibly soon after the demolition (in the spring of 1887) of the old log building on the Rectory property. The Sexton's House is sheathed with horizontal board siding, missing in many places. The balloon framing is clearly visible where some of the siding is missing. On the interior, much of the lath is exposed, and is clearly circular sawn; all walls of the interior spaces were plastered. The plan of the dwelling consists of two unequal spaces on each floor, the larger being the easterly one. The principal entrance in the south facade, although nearly centered, leads into the east parlor. A narrow stair rises in the northeast corner of this parlor along the north wall. There is a stove chimney in the west wall of the east room, served by a corbelled brick chimney off center at the ridge. The building stands on brick piers, and the sill beams are badly deteriorated.

The paddock between the Rectory and the Sexton's House is defined by a board fence with electric-shock wiring.

8. Significance

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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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1853 Builder/Architect H & J Armstrong

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

St. Thomas' Church Rectory is a frame building of cruciform plan which is unusual in Prince George's County. It served as the residence of the parish priest for more than a century, beginning from the time when St. Thomas' was designated as an independent parish.

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church was constructed between 1742 and 1745 to serve as the "chapel-of-ease" of St. Paul's Church in Baden; it was built in the area known as Croom, following the same design plan on which St. Paul's had been built a decade earlier. For just over a century, St. Thomas' was served by the same priest who served St. Paul's, until 1850 when St. Thomas' became its own parish. Reverend John Eversfield, the priest who served both churches for nearly 50 years during the eighteenth century, lived on his own property midway between the two churches. During the early years of the nineteenth century, Reverend Thomas John Claggett resided at his home plantation just north of the chapel-of-ease at Croom. After Claggett's retirement, a series of short-term rectors served St. Paul's Parish, most residing on their own farms near the main church in Baden. Then in 1849, the St. Paul's Vestry minutes record that, after considerable discussion, a Rectory was established in Woodville (Aquasco). Woodville was the location of the new St. Mary's "lower" chapel of St. Paul's Parish; this chapel had been built in 1848, and the fact that the Rectory for St. Paul's and St. Mary's was built adjoining the mission chapel rather than the parish church was doubtless because three of St. Paul's eight Vestrymen resided in Woodville. In fact, the location of the St. Paul's Rectory so far to the south may well have provided the incentive for the breaking away of the northerly St. Thomas' congregation into a separate parish. Consequently, there was no Rectory built near the "upper" chapel-of-ease until after the establishment of St. Thomas' Parish in 1850.¹

¹ See Pearl, S.G., "The Established Church in Prince George's County, 1692-1776" in *Historic Contexts in Prince George's County*, M-NCPPC, 1991; Inventory forms for St.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

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The construction of the present building was first planned by the Vestry of the newly established St. Thomas' Parish in 1852, and construction began in 1853; the progress of its planning and construction is carefully recorded in the Vestry minutes for that time period. In August 1852, the Vestry contracted with H. and J. Armstrong of Baltimore to build a parsonage with a two-story main block, 22 by 18 feet, and, on each side, a 14 by 16 foot one-story wing (thus constituting a cruciform floor-plan). The main block was to have two windows on the first story, and two on the second (lighting the "small room at the head of the stairs"); there were to be two windows in each of the wings. All windows were to have 12 lights. The front door was to be flanked by sidelights, typical of the period.²

There was to be a 12 by 14 foot kitchen (including a pantry) built as a shed on one of the wings; the kitchen was to have two doors, the pantry one door, and each was to have one window. All roofs were to be "finished off in cottage stile [sic] with projecting eaves"; the weatherboard siding was to be upright with a strip over each seam (i.e., board-and-batten). There were to be Venetian blinds on the front (south) windows, and panel shutters in the back (north). All was to be completed for \$1400.³

Apparently the Vestry was not completely satisfied with the plans; in August 1853, the Vestry decided that the weatherboarding should be taken down, dressed, and put on again horizontally (the work to be done for not more than \$75 by John T. Berry, a parishioner and Vestryman who lived at nearby Brookefield of the Berrys). In September of 1853, the Vestry decided that the east chimney should be replaced, and a month later that the west chimney should be taken down and replaced with a three-flue chimney. (The west chimney, unlike the east chimney, is located between the main block and the wing and **not** at the end of the wing; it served fireplaces in both main block and wing on the first story. The provision of a third flue at this date suggests that the Vestry was already planning to add a second story to the west wing; this second-story room was not added until

Thomas' Church, PG#86A-27-7, and St. Mary's Rectory, PG#87B-36-8a; conversation with Franklin Robinson, Jr., St. Thomas' Parish historian, April 1997.

² St. Thomas' Church Vestry Minutes (available at Church office and at Maryland State Archives), August 1852; contract between the Vestry and H. & J. Armstrong, August 1852.

³ Ibid.

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-Statement of Significance (continued)

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1887.)⁴

The first Rector to live in the St. Thomas' Rectory was Samuel R. Gordon, who served as St. Thomas' Rector from 1853 to 1882. Gordon was a bachelor, who lived by himself in the Rectory building; he owned no slaves, but employed a number of free blacks who worked at the Rectory. Reverend Gordon was apparently one of the main financial contributors to the construction and finishing of the Rectory.⁵

In the years following the finishing of the Rectory (1854-1857), a meathouse, stable and icehouse were built on the Rectory grounds. In 1858 New York architect J. W. Priest was contracted to begin the plans for renovation of St. Thomas' Church itself; the Vestry was therefore much involved in changes to the church building, and no entries regarding the Rectory appeared in the Vestry minutes until the 1880s. In January of 1887, the minutes record that the Vestry had agreed to raise the west wing of the Rectory "one room higher", the work to be completed in the early spring; although the minutes fail to record the raising of the east wing, that project must have been carried out at the same time; a photograph from the turn of the century (during Reverend Willes' tenure) shows both wings a full two stories high.⁶ This is essentially the form of the building which survives today.

In that same year, 1887, it was decided to pull down the old log house at the Rectory. (This may have been the old sexton's house, possibly replaced soon afterwards by the existing tenant house which stands to the north of the paddock today, and known as the "Sexton's House.")⁷

There is a brief reference to the Rectory in the memoirs of Thomas John Chew Williams, great-grandson of Bishop Thomas John Claggett. Williams was born in 1851, and lived part of his childhood at the Bishop's plantation house "Croome". In his memoirs, written in 1924, he described a visit to the St. Thomas' Rectory during the rectorship of Samuel Gordon (Rector of St. Thomas' 1853-1882). Although Williams did not indicate the year the year of his visit, it

⁴ Vestry minutes, August 1853 through September 1857.

⁵ Reverend S. R. Gordon's *Journal*, 1852 ff.

⁶ Vestry minutes, January through April 1887; this turn-of-the-century photograph shows that the kitchen also was two stories high, lower than the east wing adjoining it.

⁷ Vestry minutes, February 1887.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

was during his adult years, so it was presumably after the end of the Civil War. "Mr. Gordon was a good and a learned man and good company. He lived alone in his rectory. Many years afterwards. . . I spent the night with Mr. Gordon. It was bitter cold and there was little warmth in the house. I arose about daybreak, hoping to find a place to get warm. I found the kitchen in a grove some distance from the rectory. The servants lived here, and here I found a roaring open fire. I had spent the first half of the night talking to Mr. Gordon and the last half shivering in bed . . ." The kitchen building noted by Mr. Williams no longer stands; it was probably a multi-purpose building including a servants' dwelling, separate from the attached kitchen described in the Vestry records. (Reverend Gordon opposed slavery; in the years before the Civil War, work at the Rectory was done by free blacks who lived on the property.)⁸

In the 1890s, during the rectorship (1892-1903) of Frank P. Willes, the Rectory grounds became the religious and educational center for the black members of St. Thomas' congregation. In 1894, a small frame chapel, St. Simon's, was built for black communicants, and religious instruction was offered by Suzanne and Katharine Willes, sisters of the Rector. By 1896, the church school at St. Simon's was flourishing, a success which led to the establishment of the Croom Industrial and Agricultural Institute by Suzanne Willes a few years later. In 1902, the congregation of St. Simon's petitioned the Bishop of Washington for a full-time black priest, and the Reverend August Jensen was installed in that year. Soon after his arrival, the chapel was moved on rolling logs to the south side of St. Thomas Church Road; within the next few years, a minister's house was built on the land adjoining the chapel, and a cemetery was laid out a short distance to the south. (St. Simon's congregation merged again with the white congregation of St. Thomas' in 1964, and the frame chapel was demolished in 1972. St. Simon's cemetery is still actively maintained.)⁹

The Vestry records indicate that renovations were carried out at the St. Thomas' Rectory in 1919, but they give no details of the work undertaken. Based on observation of the current building, it is likely that these renovations included the rebuilding with period materials of the staircase in the main block of the house; this might explain the replacement of the original "cherry rails and balustrades." The 1919 work may also have included the application of cedar shingles over the original siding, excavation of a small cellar beneath the front of the central block, and the construction of an exterior entrance to that cellar by

⁸ Williams, Thomas J. Chew, *Memoirs*, 1924, unpublished (manuscript on file in Historic Preservation Section library, M-NCPPC); conversation with historian Robinson, April 1997.

⁹ See Inventory Forms PG#86A-12, and #86A-27-24.

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means of the small gabled entry on the east side of the center block. At some time after the turn of this century, the kitchen wing was rebuilt to its current one-story configuration, and the foundation of the entire building was parged with a concrete facing; these projects may also have been part of the 1919 repair program.¹⁰

A new residence for the Rector of St. Thomas' was purchased in the 1960's, and the old Rectory, by then in deteriorating condition, particularly from termite damage, was sold by the Vestry as a private residence. (In order to sell it, the Vestry had to establish title, by Equity Court decree, to the land on which it stood. The land had been purchased by the Vestry in the 1850s just before the Rectory was built, but a deed for it had until 1963 never been executed.) In 1994, the present owners purchased the 3.9 acres including the Rectory, its immediate outbuildings and the Sexton's House, and began renovation work to make the house livable.¹¹ The brick chimneys have been rebuilt, some windows (in the rear) have been replaced, termite-damaged sill beams have been replaced, and the foundation has been reinforced. A new asbestos-shingle roof is now in place, and the cedar-shingle siding has been stained white. The louvered shutters, which in this century have framed the windows of the south facade, have been removed, and will be repainted and reinstalled in the future.

The Rectory at St. Thomas' is a unusual example in Prince George's County of a parsonage or minister's house of the mid-nineteenth century, and unique in its cruciform plan. It is one of three early-to-mid nineteenth-century Episcopal Rectory buildings surviving in Prince George's County, but is unlike either of the other two.

The Rectory at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Collington was built to serve as the residence of the priest who served both St. Barnabas' (the parish church) and the Forest Chapel (the chapel-of-ease) of Queen Anne Parish in central Prince George's County. It was built in 1829 on the grounds of the mission chapel rather than of the parish church; it was built on the side-hall-and-double-parlor plan, one of the most popular house forms of the early nineteenth century, but, unlike most others, was built of brick. This small but substantial house was the home of the priest who regularly travelled the eight-mile distance between church and chapel, until the Queen Anne Parish was divided in 1844, and the chapel became the church of the new, Holy Trinity, Parish. The brick Rectory

¹⁰ Vestry Records, October 1919 to January 1922.

¹¹ Prince George's County Equity C-764; Prince George's County Deed #9864:730; conversations with new owners April 1995 and April 1997.

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building continued to serve, as it still does, as the home of Holy Trinity's rector. A new rectory was built (in 1847) on the grounds of the older, St. Barnabas' Church. (The Rectory at St. Barnabas' was destroyed by fire in 1880, and another was built to the west of the church; the present Rectory dates from approximately 1890.)¹²

The Rectory building at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Aquasco was built to serve as the residence of the priest who served both St. Paul's (the parish church in Baden) and the chapel-of-ease (St. Mary's) of St. Paul's Parish in southeastern Prince George's County. In a situation similar to that of Queen Anne Parish, the Rectory was built on the grounds of the mission chapel rather than of the parish church. St. Mary's Chapel was built in the village of Woodville (now known as Aquasco) in 1848 as a chapel-of-ease for St. Paul's Parish, six miles south of St. Paul's, the Parish church, in Baden. The Rectory at St. Mary's was begun in the following year as a square framed dwelling of the side-hall-and-double-parlor plan; it was enlarged and completed in the late 1850s during the rectorship of John Hamilton Chew (grandson of Bishop Claggett). The Vestry records reflect the difficulties of decision (in 1848 and 1849) about the location of the Rectory; although the Vestry originally planned to build the Rectory near the Parish Church in Baden, the final decision was to build it on the grounds of the just established "lower chapel," as the "most advantageous location." The Rectory at St. Mary's served as the residence of the St. Paul's Parish priest for well over a century, and is now a private residence.¹³

The Rectory at St. Thomas', Croom, is unique in Prince George's County for its cruciform plan, as well as for the Vestry records which detail its planning and construction. Through its association with the historic St. Thomas' Church, the Rectory exemplifies the social, religious and historical heritage of the County in its rural communities. The Rectory has been altered by the installation of several modern windows in the rear, and by the rebuilding of the brick chimneys. The original horizontal siding has been covered with cedar shingles typical of a later period (ca. 1920), although this siding does not detract from the building's historic appearance. The interior has also been altered, particularly on the first story, but some original and historic material remains. In spite of these alterations, the building still embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction, and is particularly important because it is the only historic dwelling surviving in the County which exemplifies the cruciform plan.

¹² See Inventory form PG#71A-9a & b.

¹³ See Inventory form and National Register nomination PG#87B-36-8a.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. ~~86A-27-8~~

Cf. Chain of Title
Cf. Notes, Item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3.92 acres

Tax Map 128, parcel 61

Quadrangle name Upper Marlboro, MD. Sec. I

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
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tate	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Section M-NCPPC date September 1985, April 1997

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Dr. telephone 952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

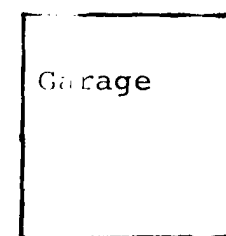
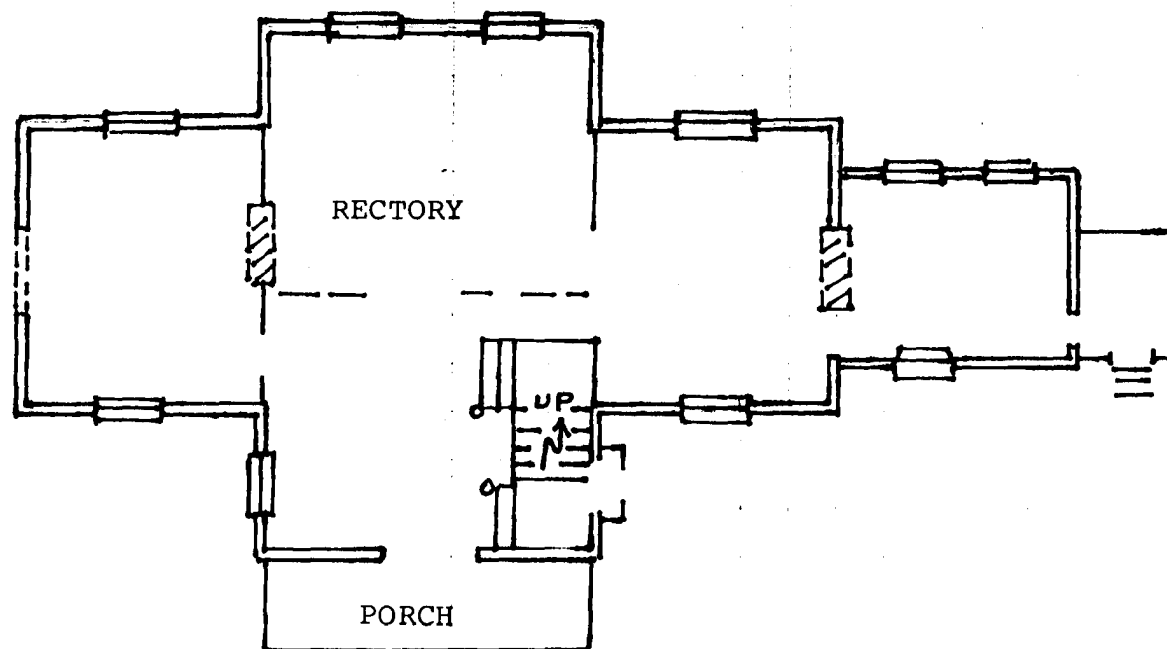
PADDOCK

ST THOMAS' RECTORY

PG#86A-~~2~~-8

(not exactly to scale

sgpearl 4/97



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #86A-8 Building Date: 1853, 1887
Building Name: St. Thomas Church Rectory
Location: 10108 Croom Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Public/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The St. Thomas' Rectory is a two-and-one-half-story frame, cross-gable building which stands on a knoll behind and north of St. Thomas' Church. The building is cruciform in plan, formed from a two-bay front-gabled main block and narrower flanking wings. The main entrance is centered in the south gable-front of the main block, through a door with three-pane transom and four-pane sidelights. Across the south gable front is a one-story porch with turned bracketed posts. High in each of the north and south gable ends is a triangular-headed 4/4 double hung sash window. Other windows are 6/6 double hung sash, and those on the south gable end have green louvered shutters. There are two interior corbelled brick chimneys at the ridge. The building is covered with wooden shingle painted white, and the roof with green asphalt shingle. Attached to the east gable end of the main block is a one-story two-bay gable-roofed kitchen wing.

Significance

St. Thomas' Church Rectory is a large frame building of a cruciform design which is unusual in Prince George's County. St. Thomas' Episcopal Church was constructed in 1745 as the mission chapel of St. Paul's in Baden; it became a separate parish in 1850, and construction of the Rectory began soon afterwards. In August 1852, the Vestry contracted with H. and J. Armstrong of Baltimore to build a parsonage with a two-story main block, one-story flanking wings, and a shed-roof kitchen. In the next few years a meathouse, stable and icehouse were built on the Rectory grounds. In 1887 the west wing was raised to its full height by the addition of a room above. It is not clear just when the east wing was raised to match it, possibly as late as the repair program of 1919. A new residence for the Rector of St. Thomas was purchased in the 1960's, and the old Rectory was sold by the Vestry as a private residence. It stands on a knoll in a wooded area behind St. Thomas' and is not visible from the road; it is a handsome and unusual building with a long history of church and residential use.

Acreage: 3.92 acres

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Thomas Church Rectory

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 10108 Croom Road (Maryland Route 382) ☐ not for publicationcity, town Upper Marlboro, ☐ vicinity of congressional district 4

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

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

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

name Dora L. Heintz

street & number 10108 Croom Road telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro, state and zip code MD. 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 2923

street & number Main Street folio 030

city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 ☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale, state MD. 20737

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #86A-8

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

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

The St. Thomas' Rectory is a two-and-one-half-story frame, cross-gable building which stands on a knoll behind and north of St. Thomas' Church, accessible by an unpaved lane. The building is now cruciform in plan, formed from a two-bay front-gabled main block and narrower flanking wings. The main entrance is centered in the south gable-front of the main block, through a door with three-pane transom and four-pane sidelights. Across the south gable front is a one-story porch with turned bracketed posts. The brackets are embellished by a diagonal spindle element. High in each of the north and south gable ends is a triangular-headed 4/4 double hung sash window. Other windows are 6/6 double hung sash, and those on the south gable end have green louvered shutters.

There are two interior corbelled brick chimneys at the ridge, one just west of the central section, the other at the east gable end. The building is covered with wooden shingle painted white, and the roof with green asphalt shingle. The foundation appears to be concrete or parged brick.

Attached to the east gable end of the main block is a one-story two-bay gable-roofed kitchen wing.

Directly west of the wing is a small gable-roofed shed. Farther to the east and south are a garage structure and a small barn. West of the house, along the access lane, are several old cedars.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. 86A-8

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History

Specific dates 1853, 1887 Builder/Architect H & J Armstrong

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

St. Thomas' Church Rectory is a large frame building of a cruciform design which is unusual in Prince George's County. St. Thomas' Episcopal Church was constructed in 1745 as the mission chapel of St. Paul's in Baden, and became a separate parish in 1850. Within a few years of its independence from St. Paul's, the St. Thomas' Vestry decided to construct a Rectory. It was built in 1853, and the progress of its planning and construction is carefully recorded in the Vestry minutes.

In August 1852, the Vestry contracted with H. and J. Armstrong of Baltimore to build a parsonage with a two-story main block, 22 by 18 feet, and, on each side, a 14 by 16 foot one-story wing. The main block had a six-foot-wide stair passage with cherry rails and balustrade. The dimensions of the windows were clearly specified. The kitchen was to be a one-story shed on one of the wings. The house was to be covered with board-and-batten siding ("weatherboard to be upright with a strip over each seam"), the roof was to have projecting eaves, and all was to be "finished off in workmanlike stile [sic]."¹

Apparently the Vestry was not completely satisfied with the plans; in August 1853 the Vestry decided that the weatherboarding should be taken down, dressed and put on again horizontally. That same year they replaced the east chimney, and the next month the west chimney. In the next few years they built a meathouse, stable and icehouse on the Rectory grounds.²

The minutes indicate that in 1887 the west wing was raised to its full height by the addition of a room above. It is not clear just when the east wing was raised to match it, possibly as late as the repair program of 1919.³

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #86A-8

Cf. Chain of Title
Cf. Notes, Item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3.92 acres

Tax Map 128, parcel 61

Quadrangle name Upper Marlboro, Md. Sec. I

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting		Northing						

B

Zone	Easting		Northing						

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

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F

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G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historianorganization Historic Preservation Commissiondate September 1985street & number c/o County Planning Division
M-NCPPC, 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Dr.telephone 952-3521city or town Upper Marlboro,state MD. 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

#8. Continued

In the 1890's during the rectorship of Frank P. Willes, the Rectory grounds became the religious and educational center for the black members of St. Thomas' congregation. St. Simon's Chapel was constructed close to the Rectory building, and later moved across the road to the south. The classes which originated in the Rectory building, taught by Reverend Willes' sisters, culminated in the establishment by the Misses Willes (on a parcel of land to the south) of the Croom Industrial and Agricultural Institute.⁴

A new residence for the Rector of St. Thomas was purchased in the 1960's, and the old Rectory was sold by the Vestry as a private residence. (In order to sell it, the Vestry had to establish title, by Equity Court decree, to the land on which it stood. The land had been purchased by the Vestry in the 1850's just before the Rectory was built, but a deed for it had until 1963 never been executed.⁵) The old Rectory stands on a knoll in a wooded area behind St. Thomas' and is not visible from the road, a handsome and unusual building with a long history of church and residential use.

Notes

- 1 St. Thomas Vestry Minutes, August 1852.
- 2 ibid. August 1853 to September 1857.
- 3 ibid. 1887 to 1919.
- 4 MHT Form, Croom Industrial and Agricultural Institute, Susan G. Pearl, 1983.
- 5 Prince George's County Equity C-764.

Chain of Title

Old Rectory, St. Thomas Church
P.G. #86A-8

#2923:030
10 Jan. 1964
Deed

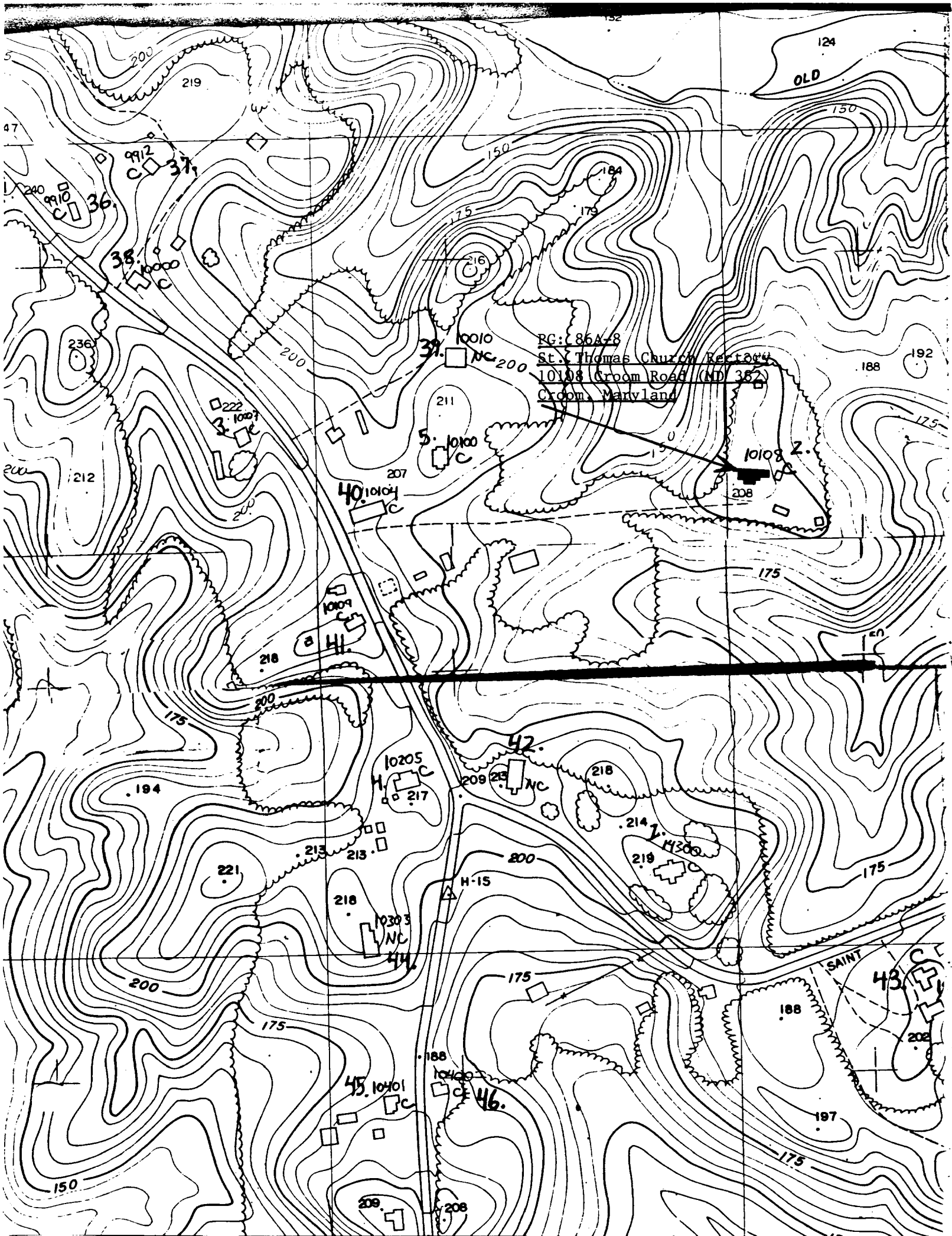
Vestry of St. Thomas Episcopal Church to Luther P. Heintz and Dora L. Heintz, his wife, 3.923 acres of land being part of the land of St. Thomas Church as described in Equity Record No. C-764.

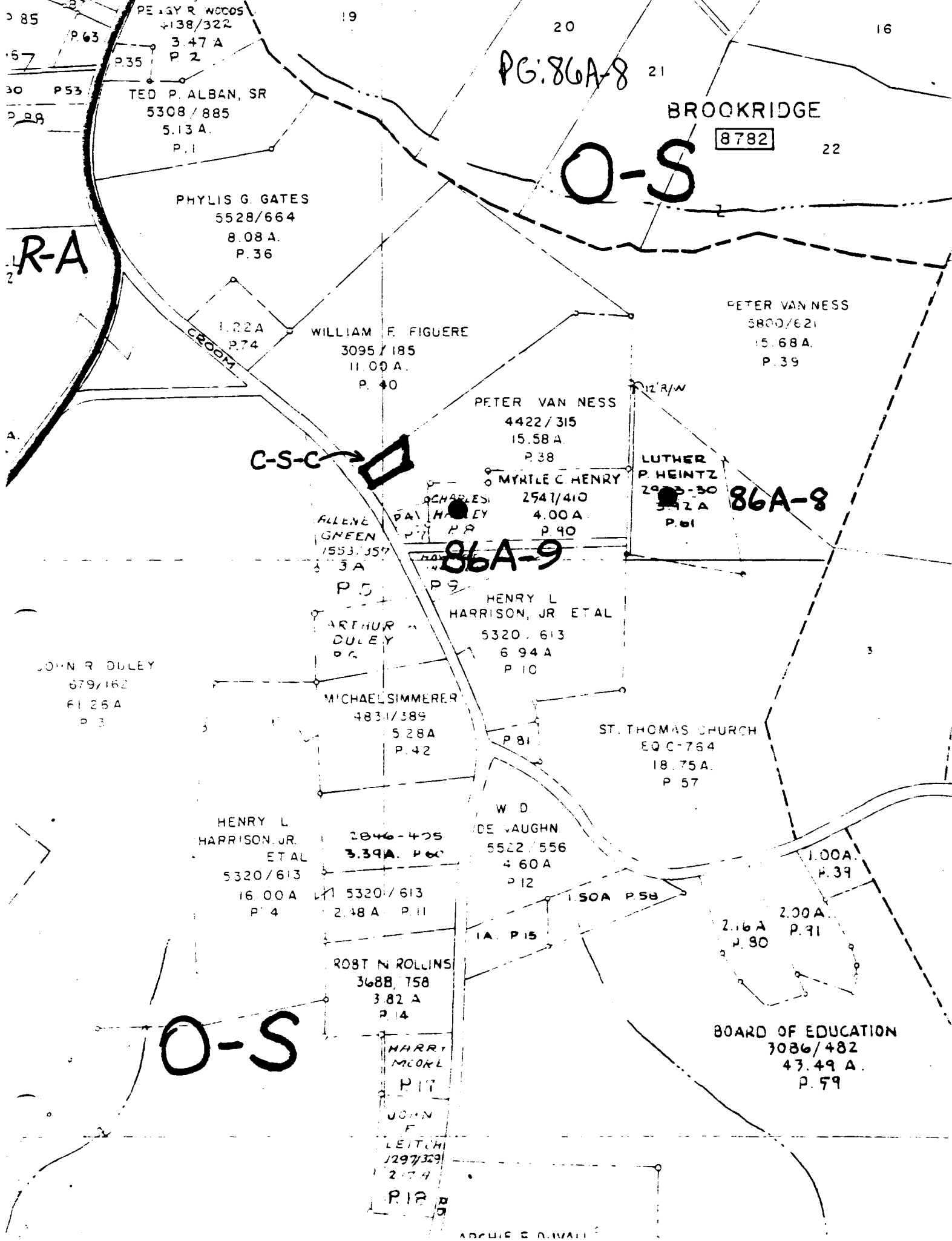
C-764
Nov. 1963
Equity

Decree establishing title for 23.138 acres of land to St. Thomas Church, Croom, same land which had been purchased from the estate of Robert W. Bowie.

CSM #3:643
15 Nov. 1860
Deed

C.C. Magruder and William H. Tuck, trustees by Equity to sell the real estate of R.W. Bowie. In March 1851 trustees sold land to Robert I. Young; in November 1855 Young and Fielder Bowie (member of St. Thomas' Vestry) filed petition showing that Young had sold part of this land to Fielder Bowie. Now trustees convey 50-1/8 acres to Fielder Bowie.





85
P.63
P.35
30 P.53
P.88
PE. GY R WOODS
138/322
3.47 A
P.2
TED P. ALBAN, SR
5308/885
5.13 A.
P.1

PG:86A-8

BROOKRIDGE

8782

O-S

R-A

PHYLIS G. GATES
5528/664
8.08 A.
P.36

1.22 A
P.74
CROOM

WILLIAM F. FIGUERE
3095/185
11.00 A.
P.40

PETER VAN NESS
5800/621
15.68 A.
P.39

PETER VAN NESS
4422/315
15.58 A.
P.38

LUTHER
P. HEINTZ
2923-30
3.72 A
P.61

86A-8

C-S-C

ALLEN
GREEN
1553/357
3 A
P.5

86A-9

MYRTLE C HENRY
2547/410
4.00 A.
P.90

HENRY L
HARRISON, JR ETAL
5320/613
6.94 A
P.10

ARTHUR
DULEY
P.6

JOHN R DULEY
679/162
61.26 A
P.3

MICHAEL SIMMERER
4831/389
5.28 A
P.42

ST. THOMAS CHURCH
EQ C-764
18.75 A.
P.57

HENRY L
HARRISON, JR.
ETAL
5320/613
16.00 A
P.4

2846-425
3.39 A. P.60
5320/613
2.48 A P.11

W D
DE VAUGHN
5522/556
4.60 A
P.12

1.00 A.
P.39

2.16 A
P.30
2.00 A.
P.91

O-S

ROBT N ROLLINS
3688/758
3.82 A
P.14

HARRY
MOORE
P.17

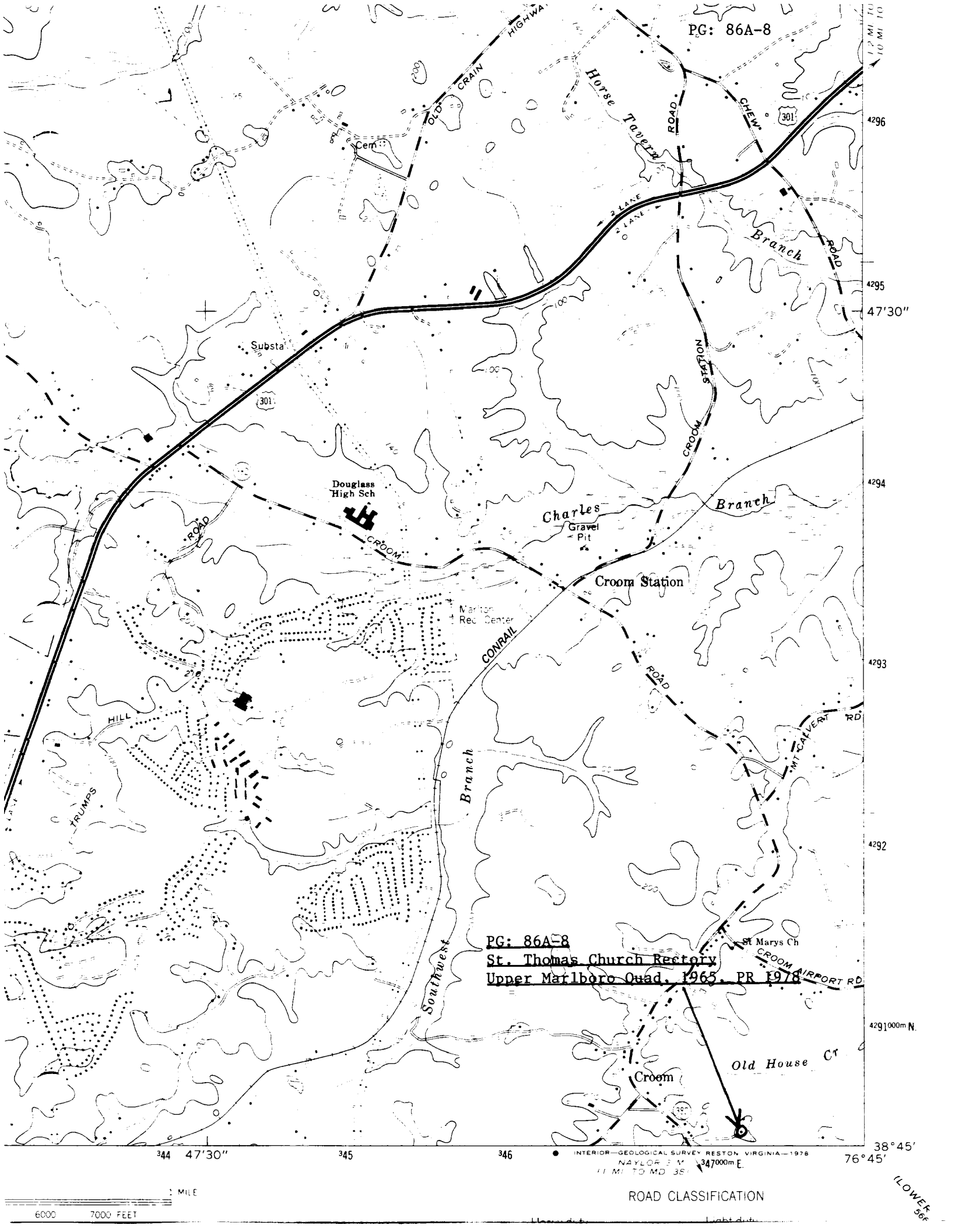
JOHN
F.
LEITCH
1297/329
2.17 A

P.12

BOARD OF EDUCATION
3086/482
43.49 A.
P.59



PG: 86A-8



PG: 86A-8
St. Thomas Church Rectory
Upper Marlboro Quad, 1965, PR 1978

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESTON, VIRGINIA—1978
NAYLOR 3 M 347000m E
11 MI TO MD 381

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

6000 7000 FEET

LOWER 56



P.G. #86A-8

St. Thomas' Rectory
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
South elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #86A-8

St. Thomas' Rectory
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #86A-8

St. Thomas' Rectory
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
North elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.