

**Maryland Historical Trust  
Determination of Eligibility Form**

Property Name: Midlothian Schoolhouse Inventory Number: AL-V-A-150  
 Address: Brode Mine Road Historic District: Yes  No  
 City: Midlothian Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: Allegheny  
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Frostburg  
 Property Owner: Howard Brode Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 283 Tax Map Number: 23  
 Project: Midlothian Improvement Project Agency: Abandoned Mine Land Division & Soil Conversation  
 Agency Prepared By: Suzanne Trussell  
 Preparer's Name: Suzanne Trussell Date Prepared: 06/07/2015  
 Documentation Is Presented In: MIHP form and DOE report submitted to Maryland Historical Trust  
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: Eligibility Recommended  Eligibility Not Recommended  
 Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
 Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible:  Yes Listed:  Yes  
 Site Visit by MHT Staff:  Yes  No Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Property and Justification: (Please attach map and photo)**

The cultural and historical context of the Midlothian Schoolhouse (AL-V-A-150) relates to early twentieth-century public education within a coal-mining town of Allegheny County's George Creek Coalfield. Schools are fundamental elements of the built environment as outlined in Section 8 of Standards for Architectural and Historical Investigations in Maryland (2000). A well-balanced school is vital to the future of its community as it forms and shapes generations. Schools are tangible relics of community pride because of their construction, design, and programs. They also reflect the evolution of educational policy and communities.

In Western Maryland, the construction of the Midlothian Schoolhouses is a part of the narrative that describes the relationship between the mining industry and the communities of workers. Although it is not an example of an industrial building, the schoolhouse interconnects with the social aspect of industrial history. The Georges Creek Valley is an atmosphere where work and industry encompass the community with little separation from domestic affairs. For the coal miners of Appalachia, industrial history is joined with the history of unions and labor disputes. The site was never witness to a major event in the union struggles of the time, but nor were its walls able to keep out that turmoil.

Mining coal from the George's Creek Valley began in the mid-nineteenth century when a large coal seam, the Pittsburg Seam or 'Big Vein' began producing. The coal seam found in George Creek Valley runs approximately from the Wellersburg area of Pennsylvania to Piedmont, West Virginia. The pattern of settlement around the mines created a north-south line of villages built

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**MHT Comments:**

Jonathan Sage  
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

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 Reviewer, National Register Program

7/28/15  
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6/16/15  
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along the railroad tracks with Frostburg and Lonaconing as the population centers. The town was established in 1870s by immigrant Scots, Irish and Welsh during the early years of the Bowery Furnace. The first mines in Midlothian were the Borden Shaft Mine in 1859 and the Midlothian Mine (operated by New Central Coal Company) in 1872 (Keller 2008). A one-room schoolhouse was constructed in 1874 and its importance to the community was reflected by its prominent location within the village. To accommodate the growing population of students in the community a new schoolhouse (AL-V-A-150) was built directly in front of the old schoolhouse in 1901. The twentieth century students were largely American-born, representing the second- or third-generation of the Midlothian mining town. The new school (the building under review) operated as a two-classroom grade school until the early 1940s. Rather than initial settlement, the schoolhouse reflects population growth and the county investment in the town of Midlothian. A state and county program of consolidating rural schools was instituted to reduce the educational costs per child. Beginning with one-room schoolhouses, most of the rural schools in Allegany County had been consolidated by the mid-twentieth century. Alvin Pershing Brode purchased the empty building when he returned from military duty in World War II. It has remained privately owned, passing to his son, Howard Brode. The space was briefly converted into apartments, though the building has been abandoned and neglected for some time.

**School History**

The mining towns of Georges Creek Coalfield had one of the earliest schools in the county. As early as 1839, George Creek Coal and Iron Company built a schoolhouse and arranged for the company's Episcopal clergyman to act as teacher (Harvey 1969:108). It was not until the 1860s that the United States began to establish and standardize an educational system.

One-room schoolhouses sprang up across Allegany County, serving rural communities with free public education. In the mining towns, coal companies often gave land for the school and residents contributed to construction funds (Harvey 1969). In 1864, Allegany County divided the Georges Creek Valley in two districts in the mining area: Frostburg, or upper valley, and Westernport, or lower valley (Harvey 1969:109). Scharf (1882) lists 76 schools in Allegany County, of those 24 (just under one-third) are in mining towns. In other areas across the United States, African Americans sometimes shared the schoolhouse

with white children, splitting the day and going at different times. African Americans in the Georges Creek Valley likely had the option of attending the Lincoln School in nearby Frostburg. Opened in 1867 by Tamara Brown, the Lincoln School served African American children of miners, stable hands and laborers. Advocacy for education was high and the mining community and citizens of Frostburg raised money to purchase land (state provided money for construction) and the Normal School #2 was built in 1898, the second teacher's college in the state.

Throughout the twentieth century, the state and county educational system expanded greater control with compulsory school attendance laws, regulations, licensing, and documentation. At the turn of the century, there was mounting concern for the two million American children (according to the 1900 census) working in extreme conditions in mills, factories, mines, and other industries. Progressive laws tried to limit the hours children worked in a day and set a minimum age for employment (either 14 yrs. or 16 yrs., depending on the job). A 1907 article by Owen R. Lovejoy, Assistant Secretary of the National Child Labor Committee, reviews conditions of child labor in Mid-Atlantic coal region. While at some mines, children made up 20% of the employees, Lovejoy notes the variability in attitudes regarding child labor of mining superintendents, seemingly not determined by locality or size of the company. In describing Maryland and West Virginia, he says, "where industrial conditions offer the temptation, the employment of children is extensive" (Lovejoy 1907:30). Part of the temptation to employ children was a result of the company-store structure of economics. Known as the "half-turn system," company stores limited the number of coal

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cars assigned to a worker's account each week. However, if he "takes his own boys" the store account is allowed 50% more cars than working alone (Lovejoy 1907:27). Lovejoy concludes with the plea "for such legislation as shall guarantee every boy who contemplates this dangerous employment both time and opportunity for the development of sound judgment, physical growth and a fair education" (Lovejoy 1907:34). After a few failed federal legislative attempts, the Fair Labor Standards Act was passed in 1938.

Primary resource documents show that students registered with the school attended regularly. On a 1926 Allegany County Attendance Record, Midlothian is 7th place in attendance of the 33 county graded schools. This record also lists 41 one-room schools, 14 two-room school, 8 junior high schools, and 11 high schools in Allegany County. Another report from that same year (Principals and Teachers Annual Report) records 90 children enrolled (from an unknown number of school-aged children living in Midlothian). It lists a loss of five students: three had moved away, one withdrew for general employment certificate, one for being at least 13 years old and one employed at home. There was roughly 9.5 months of classroom instruction with a percent of attendance for the year of 94.1 percent. Although the loss of five students is not a drastic decrease, it shows the trend of the population. In the 1937 Principals and Teachers Annual Report, the Midlothian schoolhouse is listed as a two-room school with three or more teachers in District 19. In this year, the report speaks of the consolidation of schools that had happened in the 1920s. In less than a decade, 16 one-room schoolhouses were closed, leaving 25 one-room schoolhouses remaining. The report touts that there was not much of an increase in transportation; students just had to walk farther to school. A Cumberland Sunday Times feature article, Down Memory Lane, Those One-Room Schools, (September 1958) describes the Midlothian Elementary School in 1939 as having two classes, grades 1-4 with Verna Miller and grades 5-8 in the slightly larger classroom with James Winters. Educational reforms and consolidation closed most mining town schools by mid-century. In the 1947 Principals and Teachers Annual Report, Midlothian is no longer listed as a school. In this year, there are 38 schools in the county, with only four one-room schools, and three schools with two-or-more rooms. The remaining schools had three or more rooms. There are 10 high schools (including Central and Bruce), and two elementary schools for African Americans (Carver and Lincoln). In the 1950s, public schools were racially integrated and the Lincoln School was closed.

After constructed of the two-room Midlothian Schoolhouse in 1901, the older school building then became a meeting hall maintained by the Literary Club until 1950. During its fifty-year tenure as a community space, the old schoolhouse was used for a variety of social functions such as union and church meetings as well as hosting dances and movie screenings (Luse 1975). The proximity of the two schoolhouses created a plaza-like area. Since water runoff from the hillside has long been an issue, local slate fill was used to level the area, creating a hard surface for bike riding, marbles, and kickball (Fay Stanton, April 2015, personal communication). It was nicknamed "The Slate" and was an open playground for Midlothian youth until the subdrain system began to fail. In 1975, the old schoolhouse was used in an exercise fire and nothing presently remains of the building. The small towns were clustered with close relations between neighbors. Childhood recollections of George Creek mining towns relate a feeling of enjoying their small towns and describe stories of sled riding down the hill in Klondike and swimming in George Creek (Scott 1991; Stakem 1999; Levy 1983).

Fay Stanton, daughter of the previous owner, Alvin Brode, shared several stories with the author that her father remembered from the school (Personal communication, April 2015). She related that the teacher, James Winters or "Old Man Winters" had used switches to deter bad behavior, but when he left the room, students would shove the switches into open wood-knots in the floorboards. When apartments were built, Alvin Brode indeed found several such switches under the floorboards. Although not famous or historically significant themselves, the people with arguably the greatest significance on the daily routine and the life

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of the students in the school were the teachers. One of the teachers at Midlothian School was James Edward Winters, who taught from at least 1917 to 1937. According to Federal Census records, James Winters was an Ireland immigrant, born in 1876, and son of Johnathan and Annie Winters. No draft cards were found and perhaps he was exempt. He resided on Midlothian Road in Shaft, MD where he raised his son, and lived with his parents and sisters. He could read and write English, but reports he had never attended school. In the 1930 census, James's brother Owen is a weigh man, a slightly better class of job at the coalmine, his son Steven is 20, unemployed and the only person in the family to have attended school, and none of the females are employed. This skeletal sketch of the life of one of the teachers helps describe some of the community structures in Midlothian during the first half of the twentieth century.

**Mining History**

The experiences of families in Midlothian connect with a wider coal-mining history across America. In the late nineteenth century, most worker-settlements were company towns, where houses, roads and general store belonged to the mining company, although there was a variability of ownership between the mining towns. W. M. Richards' (1950) "An Experiment in Feudalism" describes the paternalistic relationship where coal companies capitalized on the communities' isolation and mono-economic base and exploited workers as consumers with expensive company stores and housing rentals. The separated economy served to create a distinct type of experience within the burgeoning county. Coal mining was hard and dangerous work. Constantly, death threatened with fire, explosions, black lung, pockets of lethal gas called 'dark damp', and rail car and other accidents. Whether spontaneous combustion or caused by the furnaces used to ventilate the air, underground fires plagued the mining operations. A fire underground at Midlothian started in 1884 and burned for over a hundred years until surface mining scraped away the last embers (Luse 1975). The fire beneath the ground singed all surface grasses and trees and smog filled the air (Scott 1991:64).

Miners fought extreme working conditions and unfair practices of the mining officials with unions and strikes (Harvey 169; Nelson et al. 1976). Their struggle for unions coincides with a growing working class consciousness in industrial America.

Active unions include the United Mine Workers of America, (UMW) and Knights of Labor, among others (Harvey 1969).

Mineworkers fought for better pay and made several advancements including the outlawing of company stores in 1898 and some increased safety measures (Harvey 1969:105). In 1909, at the height of bituminous coal production in Maryland, Consolidation Coal absorbed Fairmont Coal Company and Somerset Company and became the largest coal mining concern in the US (Harvey 1969:360).

As Consolidation Coal increased control in Georges Creek, they brought with them harsh anti-union tactics. Company spies and police gathered information and secured names of men joining unions (Harvey 1969:338-341). Union membership dropped and as Kathleen Harvey says, "money power, combined with suppressive methods, had succeeded in placing Maryland unmistakably among the unorganized fields" (Harvey 1969:360).

Union membership remained low until WWI. By 1916, Union Mine Workers (UMW) began organizing and achieved 80% enrollment. In 1917, every mine in the district had a local union (Harvey 1969:361). Union activity continued in the 1920s, with the 1922 riots in nearby Eckhart remembered as especially brutal. The mining industry in western Maryland declined in the first quarter of the twentieth century due to the depletion of coal, new coalfields to the west and the declining using of coal as fuel (Ware 1991:219). Workers were pulled to other industries, especially during World War I. The Big Vein was largely exhausted by the 1920s, though coal industry continued as a major employer for Allegany County. Harvey (1969) argues that there was not a large displaced group of ex-miners in the Great Depression although work hours and pay were cut.

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Specifically within the town of Midlothian, 13 mines were active during the tenure of the schoolhouse, with ten beginning operation after the turn of century (Keller 2008:147-156). Michael and Breighner (2009) suggest an aggregate coal production of 6,752,224 tons from the Midlothian mines, representing 6.7% of the coal extracted from the George Creek Coalfield. In Midlothian, coalmines were located at outcrops at the base of Big Savage and east of Old Legislative Road (Rte. 736), closer to the creek. Vagel Charles Keller's (2008) report *Underground Coal Mining in Western Maryland 1876-1977* describes an oval-shaped outcrop of the Big Vein seam approximately 1 mile long ¼ mile wide, extending northwestward from Midlothian between the forks of the Winebrenner Run. The Tyson, or Upper Sewickley, Seam was located on east bank of Winebrenner Run, about ¼ mile north of road intersection in Midlothian. Mining techniques varied from vertical shaft to drift openings to smaller, scavenging operations. A few of the mines in Midlothian produced coal specifically for local consumption. Most deep mines were closed during the 1930s and there were several family-run mines in Midlothian. Alvin Brode, Fay Stanton's father and previous owner of the Midlothian Schoolhouse, worked in his family's mine (Stanton, personal communication April 2015). As Winters and Brode, his family opened new operations in Midlothian in 1934. They continued to mine the outcrop until 1952, though the company moved to strip mining in 1945. Mining operations within Midlothian directly relate to the Midlothian schoolhouse, as they defined the opportunities available to both adult and youth and intertwined with so many aspects of the students' lives.

Architecturally, the Midlothian Schoolhouse is a vernacular style building that relates to regional structural designs of other schoolhouses in the area. The Midlothian Schoolhouse is not an example of fine workmanship or artistic expression warranting preservation. Replacement school designs were often derived from plan books at the turn of the century and thus are representative of a construction/design type. The schoolhouses were inexpensive to design and construct, and not generally examples of fine craftsmanship. Indeed, it relied on design characteristics that could be inexpensively replicated in rural communities. Fay Stanton whose father and mother attended school in Midlothian believes she was told that the community built the schoolhouse themselves (Personal communication, April 2015). It was a well-constructed public building designed to provide more classroom space for a growing population of students in the community. The design style chosen for the schoolhouse is based upon an adaptation of the principles of a simple interpretation of Classical Revival architectural style.

Elements of the Classic Revival style were commonly seen across the state during this time and are seen in photographs of several Allegany schoolhouses constructed in the late nineteenth century (Whetzel 2011: 9-15).

While some larger public and private schools in the nineteenth century were designed in the popular styles of the day, almost all small western Maryland schools from the early twentieth century were more likely adapted from plan books rather than the individual work of architects. Plan-book schools shared certain characteristics that complied with contemporary thoughts on education, sanitation, lighting and other factors. Most plan-book schools, by the early 1900s, were lighted from one side of the classroom by banks of windows. As agricultural and vocational education in rural schools, with its attendant demand for "hands on" activities became an imperative, school plans, such as that adapted for the Midlothian schoolhouse, also included multi-purpose workrooms. These rooms could be used for home economics classes such as cooking, sewing or canning; for testing the quality of seeds; wood shops and other activities. Plan book layouts could be easily adapted to include jacketed stoves in the classrooms for heating. The Midlothian plan included fresh air returns and methods for ventilating "bad air." Separate cloakrooms for boys and girls were also included in plans. Indoor restrooms were a luxury that apparently the Allegany School District could not provide. Most schools did not have electricity. The use of natural light is reflected in the architecture and Ruth Levy (1983) remembers quitting school for the day in Lonaconing if the weather became too dark. During the twentieth century, as Allegany County's educational system expanded, schoolhouses taught basic math, reading

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and writing. It was not a specialized or experimental education, nor is there an historical figure event associated with the property; however, its role and influence in the development of the community remains immeasurable. Viewing Allegany County schoolhouses as a group, their role as a cultural institution and an agent of integration between communities is significant in the social and economic evolution of the county and eligible for inclusion in the National Register by Criteria A. National Register Criteria B allows a property to be made significant by its association with an important historical person(s). Preference is given to places where the significant life-event occurred (i.e. where one made inventions and not one's retirement home). Based on the research conducted by the report authors, it does not support eligibility for nomination of the Midlothian Schoolhouse by Criteria B. The modest and common construction of the Midlothian likely precludes the building from being eligible under National Register Criteria C or D and will be discussed below in relation to on-site field recording of the building by a professional architect.

**Results of Field Investigations**

As required by Determination of Eligibility (DOE) process, Architect Tom McGrath, FAIA and Archaeologist Suzanne Trussell completed the on-site recording of the Midlothian Schoolhouse (AL-V-A-150). On March 10, 2015, the site and historic building were thoroughly investigated. Original documentation includes a hand-drawn Resource Sketch Map, and photographs of distinct and telling features. At the time of investigations, the climate was wet with rain and melting snow. Photographs were retaken on May 29, 2010 under good conditions.

**Midlothian School Building**

The Midlothian Schoolhouse design was possibly derived from a planbook. Planbook designs generally show the influence of popular architectural styles of the time of construction and the Classic Revival style appears to be the inspiration for the Midlothian School house appearance. The Classic Revival style was inspired by the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago held in 1893, which promoted a renewed interest in the classical forms. Similar to the Colonial Revival style that was popular in the same period, the Classical Revival style was more formal and monumental in its design. The Classical Revival style influence is reflected in some of the character defining elements on the exterior of the Midlothian school, such as the formal symmetrical five bay front elevation with a center door and front facade columned porch, a centered front-facing gable on the main roof, paneled wood entry doors with transom lights, rectangular double hung windows with projecting window casing, a molded wood lintel, and a side entry porch.

The existing Midlothian Schoolhouse consists of a one and one-half-story wood frame structure built upon a coursed rubble stone foundation under the main block and a portion of the rear wing. Stone grade beams support the rear block at the north and east. The building footprint consists of a "T" shaped floor plan containing approximately 2650 square feet of space. The main entry porch at the south elevation leads to a central entry vestibule adjoining two equally sized classrooms in the main block that are separated by the "multi-purpose" work rooms running from the entry vestibule to the rear wall of the main block. Two separate cloakrooms, for boys and girls, were adjacent to the main block classrooms and provided access at grade level to the schoolyard at the rear of the structure. Entry to the third classroom in the rear wing was through the eastern cloakroom of

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the main block. The rear wing also contained several additional multi-purpose workrooms. An elevated wood side porch at the east elevation provided additional exiting and entry into the rear wing from the surrounding schoolyard on the east. The floor framing consists of a wood floor joist framing system that is supported by stone piers throughout the interior of the structure's crawl space. Access to the crawl space beneath the main block is from an entrance beneath the now ruined rear porch. The crawl space is completely flooded with acid-mine drainage effluent. The long-term effects of this flooded condition on the foundation and floor substructure appear to be causing the failure of the stone foundation wall at the southeast corner. There is visible significant decay of the rear block wooden sill plate and flooring along the length of the north elevation. The roof shape of the schoolhouse consists of a moderate sloped, pitched hipped roof, with a ridge running on an east-west axis on the main block. The hipped ridge roof over the rear wing intersects the main roof creating two roof valleys at the rear; the ridge of the rear roof is at the same elevation as the main block ridgeline. Sometime after 1979, new asphalt shingles were installed over the existing tarpaper roof surface. The asphalt roof appears in fair condition. The original roof gutter and downspout system was removed and a few remnants of snowboards and snow guard hardware that was installed post-1979 are randomly extant on the roof. The original design included three inside brick, tall stack chimneys with corbel brick belting. These chimneys provide physical evidence that coal-burning stoves once heated the classrooms. The two main block brick chimneys are partially collapsed and have lost their historic integrity. The rear chimney is also severely deteriorated and unsafe; however, it retains its original chimney cap configuration. Above the south (front) elevation entrance porch is a centered, hipped roof, dormer with two wood louvered ventilators that provide ventilation to the attic and classroom spaces below. The central dormer has a roof has wide, overhanging wood eaves adjoining a plain soffit with an ogee bed molding. At the roofline, the entire wall perimeter is detailed with a wood cornice feature consisting of a boxed wood eave construction. The eave has a plain painted wood fascia and soffit boards with ogee bed moldings. All the exterior walls are sheathed with painted clapboards with corner boards. While all the above-mentioned exterior painted surfaces retain their original construction details there is extensive deterioration in a significant portion of these character-defining features. A low slope hipped shaped roof covers the main entrance portico. The roof structure is supported at the corners by square wood columns and horizontal wood railings that are not original construction. Three poured concrete steps rise up to a replacement wood porch decking could possibly have been constructed during the period of schoolhouse use. The existing entrance porch is replacement that has no historic integrity and is in poor condition. The original front entrance featured a single light transom above the front door. The existing entrance door is a wood three-panel single light design and is not original. Photographs from the 1979 MHT Inventory Form reveal an extant partial side entry porch in the "L" created at the juncture of the main block and rear wing. Sometime after 1979, the east elevation porch collapsed. The east elevation side porch was a significant exterior feature and is now in a ruined condition. The side porch formerly provided schoolyard access from three original doorways; all three of these doorways had all been significantly altered during the circa 1980's rehabilitation project. The original construction of the Midlothian Schoolhouse featured four-panel wood doors with single light transoms above for all the exterior exits. The schoolhouse fenestration provided light and ventilation and are character-defining features. The windows were all the same height, with two sized widths: large and narrow. All the historic windows are double-hung, six-over-six sash, wood windows. The exterior fenestration was highlighted by slightly projecting the exterior casing trim capped with a molded lintel. The clapboard siding is horizontally lapped. The location and the condition of the windows by elevation are listed as follows:  
 South (front) Elevation: This façade consists of five bays containing four original large size six-over-six window units, one of which is boarded over; all the wood window sash and trim retain original integrity but are in poor condition.

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East (side) Elevation: The east main block façade consists of three bays containing two pairs of large sized six-over-six windows and one narrow six-over-six window. The main block east façade windows are all extant and in poor condition. The rear wing east façade has three bays that originally consisted of two large windows and a center doorway; all three of these window and door features have been significantly altered by removal or demolition and the areas where these features once existed is now in poor condition.

North (rear) Elevation: The north rear wing façade consists of three bays with one set of the large six-over-six paired windows and one large six-over-six window that was removed and replaced with a smaller double hung window during the rehabilitation. The rear wing façade is flanked on either side by the rear elevation of the main block main. These two flanking facades consist of two bays that contain a historic doorway with single light transom above and a narrow six-over-six window. The historic transom light over the door on the east side of the main block rear façade has been boarded over. All the historic doors and windows at the north elevation retain original integrity but are in poor or failed (unsafe) condition.

West (side) Elevation: The west elevation main block façade contains two sets of paired large six-over-six sash windows and one narrow six-over-six sash. The west elevation rear wing façade contains a set of paired narrow six-over-six windows and two additional narrow six-over-six windows. All the north elevation windows retain original integrity and are in fair to poor condition. During the period of schoolhouse use, all the Midlothian Schoolhouse interior surfaces were of consistent throughout the structure. The floors were wooden flooring. The wall treatment consisted of stained wood beaded board wainscoting with a molded chair railing and plaster walls. Interior door and window casing used plain trim. The ceilings were stained wood beaded board with a crown molding.

The 1979 MHT Historic Sites Inventory Form described the Midlothian Schoolhouse as in "original" or pristine condition; however the interior of the schoolhouse was significantly altered by non-professional demolition and unfinished interior renovation construction aimed at converting the schoolhouse interior spaces into three residential apartments. It is uncertain if the residences were ever fully finished and occupied. Construction also removed an entrance door on the east porch and removed original windows on the east and north elevations prior to the collapse of the east porch. Unfortunately, the interior design components, both in plan and finishes, that once reflected the use of the school during its period of significance have been destroyed, damaged, or are now highly deteriorated.

The current condition of the character defining interior spaces is listed as follows:

Main block, entry vestibule: Intact, retains integrity, poor condition.

Main block, west classroom: All finishes other than the flooring interior finishes demolished. A new interior wall installed. Loss of building fabric integrity, poor condition.

Main block, west rear cloakroom: Interior surfaces demolished new bathroom construction. Loss of building fabric integrity, poor condition.

Main block central storage rooms: Some interior finishes partially intact, some interior demolition and new construction. Partial loss of building fabric integrity, poor condition.

Main block east classroom: Some interior finishes partially intact, extensive demolition and new construction adjacent to the rear wing. Loss of building fabric integrity, poor condition. Main block east rear cloakroom: Extensive demolition and new construction. Loss of building fabric integrity, poor condition.

Rear wing classroom: Some interior finishes intact, areas of demolition and new construction. Loss of building fabric integrity, poor condition.

Rear wing storage rooms: Intact, retains building fabric integrity, poor condition.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility Recommended: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility Not Recommended: \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria:    A    B    C    D

Considerations:    A    B    C    D    E    F    G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

**AL-V-A-150**

**Midlothian Schoolhouse**

Page 9

Midlothian Survey District

The Midlothian Schoolhouse is a contributing building to Midlothian Survey District (AL-V-A-287), however, the Midlothian Schoolhouse Survey District has not retained its historic character due to extensive modifications (primarily the extensive use of vinyl siding) in neighboring houses.

Architectural Evaluation of Historic Significance

The Midlothian Schoolhouse no longer retains the many key materials dating from its historic period on the primary exterior facades, as well as throughout the interior. The impact of the post 1979 attempted-residential rehabilitation of the interior of the schoolhouse demolished or altered the historic character of the majority of the distinctive interior defining spaces and features. The only intact surviving character defining interior space is the small entry vestibule. After a visitor passes through this transitional space it is difficult, if not impossible, to imagine the original historic interior configuration. The current existing interior of the Midlothian Schoolhouse no longer retains the feeling, materials, or workmanship of the original historic schoolhouse construction. Visible clues to the individuality or variation of the Midlothian Schoolhouse design in comparison to other Western Maryland schoolhouse interior features has been lost. The information potential that the now missing interior fabric contained about the evolution of Western Maryland schoolhouse design and educational functions, and the ability to identify transitions between Western Maryland schoolhouse interior configurations has been mostly destroyed.

The case for Maryland Register eligibility for the intact and pristine Midlothian Schoolhouse surveyed in 1979, now in hindsight in 2015, appears to be fully supportable and straightforward considering the buildings historic design and the intact representation of a vernacular planbook schoolhouse type. The question of eligibility of the Midlothian Schoolhouse for the Maryland Register in 2015, at first glance, might still appear to have merit under Criteria C; Design/Construction, Distinctive Characteristics of Type, Period, and Method of Construction. The case against registration, however prevails, after the authors carefully considered the extent of loss and damage to the character defining essential physical features of the Midlothian Schoolhouse. Unfortunately, the effect of acid mine drainage, a prolonged period of almost 35 years with no maintenance, combined with the negative impacts of the 1979 demolition of exterior and interior historic fabric, and the non-appropriate new construction, all have cumulatively resulted in the loss of historic integrity and character for the entire structure. Exterior modifications made after the period of significance combined with original historic fabric deterioration of the Midlothian Schoolhouse, combined with the loss of the large open interior classroom space and finishes now make this property unacceptable under Criteria C.

The 1979 demolition/rehabilitation and the 35+ years of deterioration has resulted in the loss of many significant exterior character-defining features. Regrettably, the surviving exterior features do not, in the opinion of the report authors, overcome the adverse effect of the loss of the schoolhouse interior significance. The 2015 building investigation has documented that the building does not retain many of the significant exterior features that defined the original massing, spatial relationships,

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility Recommended: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility Not Recommended: \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria:    A    B    C    D

Considerations:    A    B    C    D    E    F    G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

**AL-V-A-150**

**Midlothian Schoolhouse**

Page 10

proportion, pattern of windows and doors, texture of materials, and ornamentation of the historic design. The adverse effect of the loss or ruined exterior features include the brick chimneys, the gutters and downspouts, the original front entry porch and doorway, the entire east elevation side entry porch, and various original windows and doors on the east and north elevations. Therefore, it is the further finding of this report that the Midlothian Schoolhouses Classic Revival style has lost the majority of the features that once characterized its style and therefore the exterior surviving fabric of the Midlothian Schoolhouse does not retain enough integrity to qualify for listing on the Maryland Register of Historic Places.

Finally, the existing Midlothian Schoolhouse (AL-V-A-150) setting no longer conveys the character of the schoolyard place in which the property played its historical role. The change to the surrounding landscape features that has occurred since the property was inventoried for the MHT in 1979 has been extremely detrimental to the historical character of the site. Acid mine drainage flowing over the entire property has now completely altered the original gravelly loam and ground cover site that once was the defining feature of the original historic schoolyard landscape.

The Midlothian Schoolhouse is situated in its original location; however, the setting has been dramatically altered. Twenty plus years of acid mine surface runoff has turned the schoolyard into a toxic bog that extends to the edge of the perimeter foundation. The long term effect on the historic fabric of the entire structure could not be determined in the course of this investigation, although it can be safely assumed that the impact of standing acid mine runoff that has pooled beneath the structure in the crawl space of the Midlothian School has been adverse. The cumulative result of the damage and loss of historic landscape integrity caused by this environmental misfortune has been to alter permanently the character and feeling of the site. Any associations the historic schoolyard had with early patterns of Midlothian community development, education, and recreation at the beginning of the 19th century has now vanished.

Summary and Recommendations

The Midlothian Improvement Project was developed by the Abandoned Mine Land Division (AML) and the Allegany Soil Conservation District (SCD). As the proposal threatened a potentially historically significant building, the Midlothian Schoolhouse (AL-V-A-150) a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) Form was required before proceeding.

Field investigations included the complete recording of the standing building and surface inspection of the surrounding lot. Architectural analysis recorded all existing historic features, noting alterations to the character of the building. Interpretations of the life within the schoolhouse are based on extensive archival research relating to the mines in Midlothian and public schools including first person accounts and school attendance records.

The Midlothian Schoolhouse should be considered eligible for inclusion into the National Register based on Criteria A as it contributes to broader patterns in state and county expansion of public education and the experiences of children within the industrial coal mining communities in the first half of the twentieth century. As an institution for transferring cultural knowledge, it served to integrate communities and prepare children of miners for better opportunities. The Midlothian Schoolhouse does not meet the guidelines for Criteria B as it is not associated with a historically significant event, person or group. Further, the general Classic Revival style is vernacular and was constructed on 'plan-book' designs. This modest structure does not qualify as an example of high art or technological advances for Criteria C. The schoolhouse also does not qualify by Criteria D as there is little potential for future information from either the structure or the site. The Schoolhouse site has been severely impacted by

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility Recommended: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility Not Recommended: \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

AL-V-A-150

Midlothian Schoolhouse

Page 11

acid mine drainage and the buildings historic character and the integrity of the historic fabric have been severely diminished by the effects of acid mine surface drainage, a prolonged abandonment without adequate maintenance, and the impact of a failed interior rehabilitation construction project. The cumulative adverse effects of the past 35 years have resulted in a loss of integrity of the site and the building and thus has resulted in the loss of the historic integrity and character of this structure. The finding and recommendation of this report is that the Midlothian Schoolhouse is determined to be ineligible for inclusion to the Maryland Registry due to the poor integrity of the building and site.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility Recommended: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility Not Recommended: \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria:    \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D

Considerations:    \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G

MHT Comments:

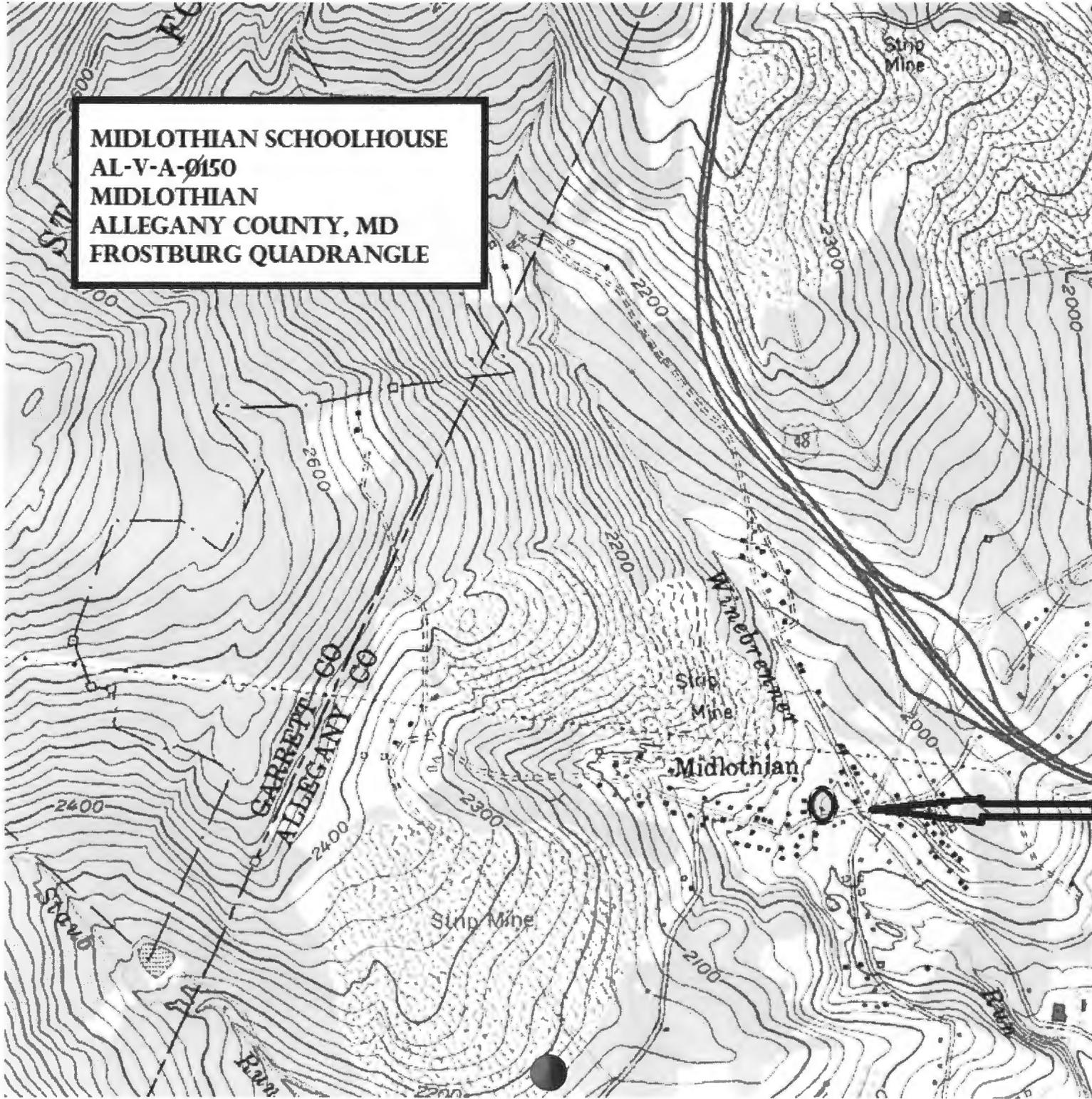
\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

MIDLOTHIAN SCHOOLHOUSE  
AL-V-A-0150  
MIDLOTHIAN  
ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD  
FROSTBURG QUADRANGLE



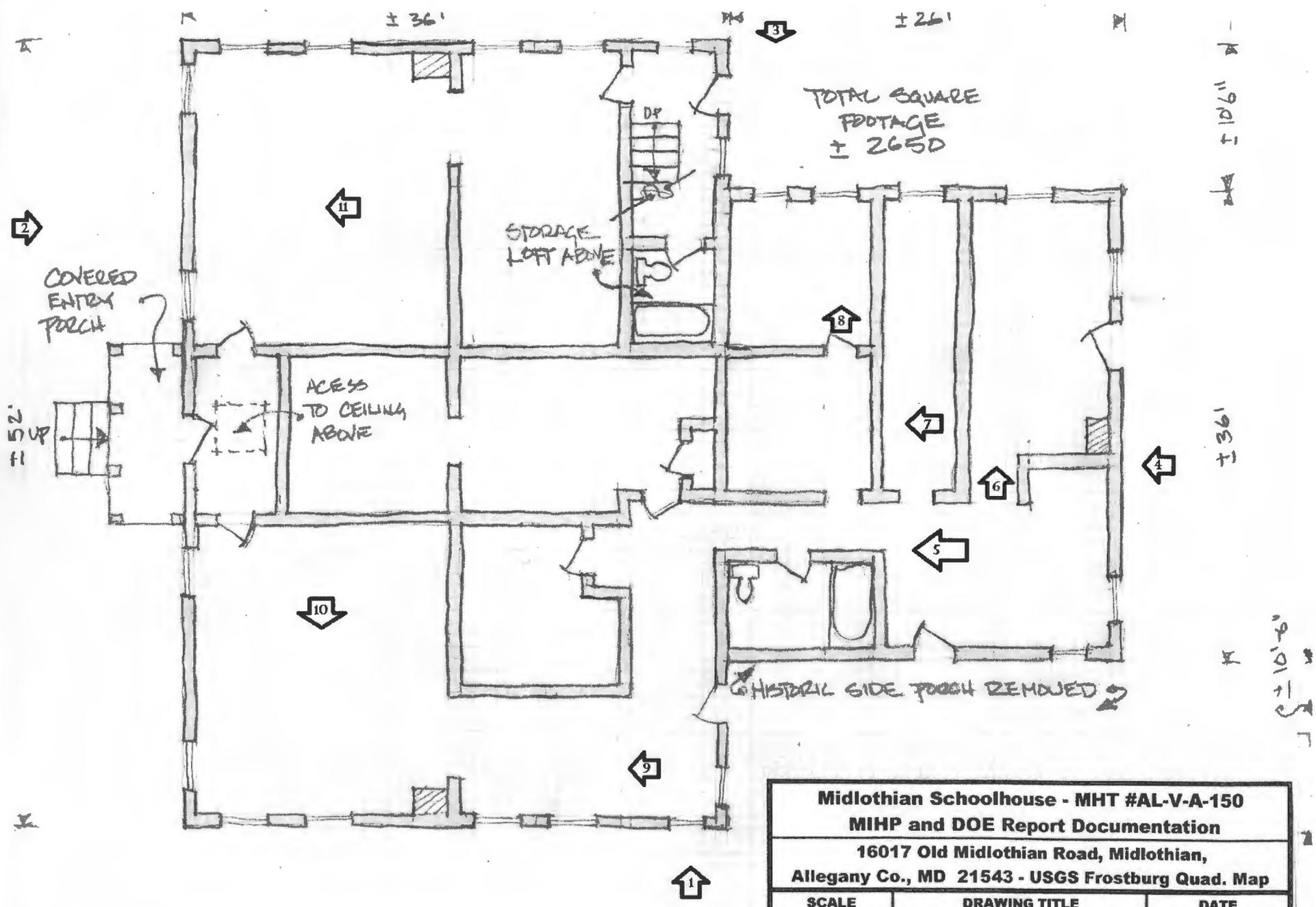
# Midlothian



FREEMAN

PL-V-A-100

AL-V-A-150



<b>Midlothian Schoolhouse - MHT #AL-V-A-150</b>		
<b>MIHP and DOE Report Documentation</b>		
16017 Old Midlothian Road, Midlothian, Allegany Co., MD 21543 - USGS Frostburg Quad. Map		
<b>SCALE</b> not to scale	<b>DRAWING TITLE</b> Resources Sketch Map	<b>DATE</b> March 10, 2015
 <b>Plan</b> <b>North</b>	<b>PREPARED BY:</b> H.T. McGrath Jr. FAIA - Architect & Suzanne Trussell, Archaeologist	<b>Sheet: 1</b> <b>Of: 1</b>

### Capsule Summary

The existing Midlothian Schoolhouse (AL-V-A-150), constructed in 1901 and currently privately owned consists of a one and one-half-story wood frame structure built upon a coursed rubble stone foundation under the main block and a portion of the rear wing. Stone grade beams support the rear block at the north and east. The building footprint consists of a “T” shaped floor plan containing approximately 2650 square feet of space. The main entry porch at the south elevation leads to a central entry vestibule adjoining two equally sized classrooms in the main block that are separated by “multi-purpose” work rooms running from the entry vestibule to the rear wall of the main block. The rear wing also contained several additional “multi-purpose” workrooms. The Classical Revival style is found in some feature elements on the exterior of the Midlothian school such as: the formal symmetrical five bay front elevation with a center door and front facade columned porch, a centered front facing gable on the main roof, paneled wood entry doors with transom lights, rectangular double hung windows with projecting window casing and a molded wood lintel, and a side entry porch.

The Midlothian Schoolhouse should be considered eligible for inclusion into the National Registry based on Criteria A as a cultural institution is significant in the social and economic evolution of the George Creek Valley. Applying National Register Criterion B, the schoolhouse does not have any association with anyone famous or a particular accomplishment. The general Classic Rival style is a vernacular style, which was often constructed on ‘plan-book’ designs. This modest structure does not qualify as an example of high art or technological advances for Criteria C. Decisive in the issue of eligibility for preservation is the value of the building to offer

further information or use, and there is little to be gained in terms of physical study from the continual existence of the Midlothian Schoolhouse; the building does not qualify for the National Register under Criteria D. The Midlothian Schoolhouse no longer retains the many key materials dating from its historic period on the primary exterior facades, as well as, throughout the interior. The Schoolhouse site has been severely impacted by acid mine drainage and the buildings historic character and the integrity of the historic fabric have been severely diminished by the effects acid mine surface drainage, a prolonged abandonment without adequate maintenance, and the impact of a failed interior rehabilitation construction project. The finding and recommendation of this report is that the Midlothian Schoolhouse is determined to be ineligible for inclusion to the Maryland Registry due to the poor integrity of the building and site.

The historical context of the Midlothian Schoolhouse relates to early twentieth century public *education* within Allegany County's George Creek Coalfield. The Midlothian school operated as a graded school with two classrooms from 1901 to at least 1937. The experiences in Allegany County connect with a wider coal-mining history across American. Mining coal from the George's Creek Valley began in the mid-nineteenth century when a large coal seam, the Pittsburg Seam or 'Big Vein' began producing. The pattern of settlement around the mines created a north-south line of villages built along the railroad tracks and connected by a road paralleling Georges Creek, with Frostburg and Lonaconing as the population centers. In Midlothian, the first mine was the Borden Shaft Mine in 1859 and Midlothian Mine in 1872 (Keller 2008). The town was established in 1870s during the early years of the Bowery Furnace. Midlothian's first school building was constructed in 1874 and its importance to the community was reflected by its prominent location within the village. To accommodate the growing

Midlothian Schoolhouse AL-V-A-150  
Midlothian, Allegany County, Maryland

population of students in the community a new schoolhouse (AL-V-A-150) was built directly in front of the old schoolhouse in 1901. Rather than initial settlement, the schoolhouse reflects population growth and the county investment in the town of Midlothian. Throughout the twentieth century, the state and county educational system expanded greater control with school attendance laws, regulations, licensing, and documentation. At the same time, there was a growing concern for working children. Progressive laws of the 20<sup>th</sup> century tried to protect young children from extreme working conditions and pull them into schools. A state and county program of consolidating rural schools was instituted to reduce the educational costs per child. Beginning with one-room schoolhouses, most of the mining town schools had been consolidated by the mid-twentieth century.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AL-V-A-150

### 1. Name of Property

historic Midlothian Schoolhouse

other

### 2. Location

street and number 16017 Old Legislative Road  not for publication

city, town Midlothian  vicinity

county Allegany County

### 3. Owner of Property

name Howard Brode

street and number telephone

city, town Midlothian state MD zip code

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allegany County liber folio

city, town Cumberland tax map 23 tax parcel 283 tax ID number

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	0 <input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>
			1

---

## 7. Description

Inventory No. AL-V-A-150

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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 Midlothian Schoolhouse is located on the northern side of Old Legislative Road in the village of Midlothian, Maryland. Midlothian, at one time called Midlothian Junction, is an unincorporated community and census-designated place (CDP) in Allegany County, Maryland. Now a residential community, as of the 2010 census Midlothian had a population of 320. The Midlothian School's importance to the village in the early 1900s was reflected by its prominent location within the community. The Midlothian Schoolhouse parcel is 0.57 acres, surrounded by single-family detached wood frame residences on the east, north, and west and the Old Midlothian Road on the south. There is a slight grade that drains a steady flow of acid mine water diagonally across the site, northwest to southeast.

The Midlothian Schoolhouse consists of a one and one-half story wood frame structure built upon a coursed rubble stone foundation with a flush water table beneath the main block and a portion of the rear wing. The "T" shaped floor plan originally accommodated a central entry vestibule with two classrooms in the main block and a third classroom in the rear wing that also contained several small storage/office spaces. A moderate pitched hipped with ridge roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Remnants of snowboards and related hardware are still extant. Above the south (front) elevated entrance porch is a central hipped roof dormer faced with two wood louvered ventilators serving the attic space. Three partially collapsed and highly deteriorated, inside brick, tall stack chimneys, provides physical evidence that the classrooms were once heated by coal burning stoves.

A plain cornice consisting of boxed wood eaves with plain fascia, soffit and bed molding supports the entire perimeter of the roof. The exterior walls are painted clapboards with corner boards. A low slope pediment shaped roof covers the main entrance portico supported by replacement square wood columns and a replacement horizontal wood railing. There is a single-pane transom light above the entrance door; the existing entrance door is not original to the structure. The original construction of the schoolhouse included a east elevation covered porch that collapsed sometime after 1979; the remains are in a ruined condition. The cause of the collapse of the east porch was most likely due to lack of maintenance. This east porch was an important exterior feature that provided access for students from the rear wing from two exterior doorways with transom lights above. The design of the Midlothian schoolhouse provided two sizes, large and narrow, versions of double-hung, six-over-six, wood sash windows located at each the elevation of the schoolhouse. Five sets of the large version of the windows were paired to maximize the natural light in the classrooms.

The 1979 MHT Historic Sites Inventory Form described the Midlothian Schoolhouse as in "original" condition. The current condition of the schoolhouse is altered at the site, interior and exterior. Sometime after 1979, the interior of the schoolhouse was significantly altered by an amateurish rehabilitation attempt to convert the interior spaces into three residential apartments. The physical evidence from the demolition and unfinished construction support the conclusion that the residences were never fully finished and occupied. Construction also negatively affected historic exterior features by the removal of an entrance door on the east porch and removing original windows on the east and north elevations.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. AL-V-A-150

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates      1900-      Architect/Builder

Construction dates      1900

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.)

The Midlothian Schoolhouse (AL-V-A-150), constructed in 1901 in Allegany County's Georges Creek Coalfield was investigated and evaluated for historical significance by criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places and a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) was submitted. The role and influence of the Midlothian Schoolhouse as a cultural institution and an agent of integration between communities is significant in the social and economic evolution of the George Creek Valley. The Schoolhouse should be considered eligible for inclusion into the National Registry based on Criteria A as it contributes to broader patterns in state and county expansion of public education. Applying National Register Criterion B, the research findings are that the schoolhouse does not have any association with anyone famous or a particular accomplishment. In terms of Criteria C, the general Classic Rural style of the schoolhouse is a vernacular style, which was often constructed from 'plan-book' designs. This modest structure does not meet the criteria for an example of high art or technological advances. Indeed, it typifies a class of buildings with design characteristics that could be inexpensively replicated in rural communities. Decisive in the issue of eligibility for preservation is the value of the building to offer further information or use. The acid mine water seepage prohibits any use of the building in its present location, and there is little to be gained in terms of physical study from the continual existence of the Midlothian Schoolhouse. Given the current state of deterioration and its general vernacular design, the schoolhouse does not qualify for eligibility by Criteria D.

The Schoolhouse site has been severely impacted by acid mine drainage and the buildings historic character and the integrity of the historic fabric have been severely diminished by the effects acid mine surface drainage, a prolonged abandonment without adequate maintenance, and the impact of a failed interior rehabilitation construction project. The cumulative adverse effects of the past 35 years have resulted in a loss of integrity and character of the site and the building. The finding and recommendation of the investigators that have prepared this 2015 inventory form is that the Midlothian Schoolhouse is recommended as ineligible for inclusion to the Maryland Registry.

The historical context of the Midlothian Schoolhouse relates to early twentieth century public education within Allegany County's George Creek Coalfield. The Midlothian school operated as a graded school with two classrooms from 1901 to at least 1937. The experiences in Allegany County connect with a wider coal-mining history across America. Mining coal from the George's Creek Valley began in the mid-nineteenth century

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AL-V-A-150

Name Midlothian Schoolhouse  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 1

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when a large coal seam, the Pittsburg Seam or 'Big Vein' began producing. The pattern of settlement around the mines created a north-south line of villages built along the railroad tracks and connected by a road paralleling Georges Creek, with Frostburg and Lonaconing as the population centers. In Midlothian, the first mine was the Borden Shaft Mine in 1859 and Midlothian Mine in 1872 (Keller 2008). The town was established in 1870s during the early years of the Bowery Furnace. Coal mining became the economic base of Allegany County; fueling the industrial revolution, it was shipped east to population centers by the B & O and Pennsylvania Railroad and the C & O Canal. Compounding stress from extreme working conditions, low wages, and unfair practices by the coal companies lead to volatile labor disputes throughout the history of coal mining (Harvey 1969). Coal production (or extraction) peaked in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as Consolidated Coal Company merged and absorbed other mines to become the largest coal mining interest in the United States. Most deep mines were closed by the 1930s as the "Big Seam" was largely exhausted. Thirteen mines were active in the town of Midlothian during the 20<sup>th</sup> century and coal from the town's mines produced over six million tons of coal from 1876 to 1977 (Keller 2008).

After the Civil War, the United States began to establish and standardize an educational system. One-room schoolhouses sprang up across Allegany County, serving rural communities with free public education. Midlothian's first school building was constructed in 1874 and its importance to the community was reflected by its prominent location within the village. To accommodate the growing population of students in the community a new schoolhouse (AL-V-A-150) was built directly in front of the old schoolhouse in 1901. The old schoolhouse became a meeting hall maintained by Literary Club until 1950. During its fifty-year tenure as a community space, the old schoolhouse was used for a variety of social functions such as union and church meetings as well as hosting dances and movie screenings.

It was a well-constructed public building with three classrooms. The design style chosen for the schoolhouse is based upon an adaptation of the principals of a simple interpretation of Classical Revival architectural style. Elements of the Classic Revival style were commonly seen across the state during this time and are seen in photographs of several Alleghany Schoolhouses constructed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Whetzel 2011: 9-15).

Throughout the twentieth century, the state and county educational system expanded greater control with school attendance laws, regulations, licensing, and documentation. At the same time, there was a growing concern for working children. Progressive laws of the 20<sup>th</sup> century tried to protect young children from extreme working conditions and pull them into schools. To reduce the educational costs per child, rural schools were closed across the county. Beginning with one-room schoolhouses, most of the mining town schools had been consolidated by the mid-twentieth century.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. AL-V-A-150

See Continuation Sheet

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property .52 acre  
Acreage of historical setting .52 acre  
Quadrangle name Frostburg Quadrangle scale: 7.5"

---

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Midlothian Schoolhouse is located at 16017 Old Midlothian Raod in Midlothian, Maryland in a semi-urban area or town with concise boundaries. The school and associated buildings or activities never exceeded this parcel. The extent of impacts will be .8 acres (34,943); the schoolhouse itself resides on .52 acre lot, privately owned.

---

## 11. Form Prepared by

---

name/title	Tom McGrath /Architect, FAIA - FAPT & Suzanne Trussell / History Consultant		
organization	Independent contractors	date	June 6, 2015
street & number	14100 Canal Ferry Rd, SE	telephone	301-722-0609
city or town	Cumberland,	state	MD 21502

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

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AL-V-A-150

Name Midlothian Schoolhouse  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 9 Page 1

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### Select References

Dorsey, David

1979a Midlothian Schoolhouse AL-V-A-150, *Maryland Inventory of Historic Places*, Maryland Historic Trust, Crownsville, MD

1979b Midlothian Survey District AL-V-A-287, *Maryland Inventory of Historic Places*, Maryland Historic Trust, Crownsville, MD

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# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AL-V-A-150

Name Midlothian Schoolhouse  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 9 Page 2

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## References Continued

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Midlothian Schoolhouse (AL-V-A-150), Midlothian, Allegany County, Maryland

Photograph Log, May 29, 2015, Suzanne Trussell

Printed using silver gelatin photopaper and true black and white chemistry. Printed by Fromex Photo and Digital, Long Beach, CA

Photograph number	Description	View
AL-V-A-150_2015-05-29_01	East (side) elevation	west
AL-V-A-150_2015-05-29_02	South (front) elevation	north
AL-V-A-150_2015-05-29_03	West (side) elevation	east
AL-V-A-150_2015-05-29_04	North (rear) elevation	south
AL-V-A-150_2015-05-29_05	Interior hallway on the rear portion of the building	south
AL-V-A-150_2015-05-29_06	Medium-sized room in the rear of the building	west
AL-V-A-150_2015-05-29_07	Deteriorated wall in a small room in the rear of the building. Remnant chalkboard is under three layers of wallpaper	south
AL-V-A-150_2015-05-29_08	Interior cubby room in rear of building	west
AL-V-A-150_2015-05-29_09	Large front room classroom space and modern alterations on east side of building	south
AL-V-A-150_2015-05-29_10	Large front room classroom space on the east side of the building	east
AL-V-A-150_2015-05-29_11	Large front room classroom space on the west side of the building	south



AL-V-A-150

Midlothian Schoolhouse

Allegany CO, MD

Suzanne Trussell

5/29/15

7766901, Pict0003 ck\_001  
East(Side) elevation

PHOTO # 1 of 11

<ILFORD>, <Fromex True B&W>, 06/01/15



AL-V-A-150

Midlothian Schoolhouse

Allegany County, MD

Suzanne Trussell

5/29/15

South (Front)  
elevation

7766901, pict0007ck\_002

PHOTO # 2 of 11

<ILFORD>, <Fromex True B&W>, 06/01/15



AL-V-A-150  
Midlothian Schoolhouse  
Allegany County, MD  
Suzanne Trussell  
5/29/15  
West (side) elevation  
Photo # 3 of || 7766901, pict0010ck\_003

<ILFORD>, <Fromex True B&W>, 06/01/15



AL-V-A-150  
Midlothian Schoolhouse  
Allegany County, MD  
Suzanne Trussell  
5/29/15  
North(rear) elevation  
7766901, Pict0013\_004  
PHOTO # 4 of 11

<ILFORD>, <Fromex True B&W>, 06/01/15



AL-V-A-150  
Midlothian Schoolhouse  
Allegheny County, ND  
Suzanne Trussell

5/29/15

Interior hallway on the rear portion of the building

776E901, pict0018\_005

Photo # 5 of 11

<ILFORD>, <Fromex True B&W>, 06/01/15 -



AL-V-A-150  
Midlothian Schoolhouse  
Allegany County, MD  
Suzanne Trussell  
5/29/15  
Rear classroom

PHOTO # 6 7766941, pict0022\_006  
of 11

<ILFORD>, <Fromex True B&W>, 06/01/15



AL-V-A-150

Midlothian Schoolhouse  
Allegany County, MD

Suzanne Trussel

5/29/15

Deteriorated wall in small room

Photo # 7 of 11 7766901, pict0024\_007

<ILFORD>, <Fromex True B&W>, 06/01/15



AL-V-A-150

Midlothian Schoolhouse

Allegheny County, MD

Suzanne Trussell

5/29/15

Interior Cobbyroom in rear of building

Photo # 8 of 11 - 7766901, #ict0028\_008

<ILFORD>, <Fromex True B&W>, 06/01/15



AL-V-A-150

Midlothian Schoolhouse

Allegany County, MD

Suzanne Trussell

5/29/15

Large front room classroom and moder alterations on the  
east side of <sup>Building</sup> 7766901, Pict0032\_009

PHOTO # 9 of 11

<ILFORD>, <Fromex True B&W>, 06/01/15



AL-V-A-150

Midlothian Schoolhouse  
Allegany County, MD

Suzanne Trussell

5/29/15

Large front room classroom on east side of the building

PHOTO # 10 of 11 7766901, pict0042\_011

<ILFORD>, <Fromex True B&W>, 06/01/15



AL-V-A-150

Midlothian Schoolhouse

Allegheny County, MD

Suzanne Trussell

5/29/15

Large front room classroom space on west side of building

7766901, pict0038\_010

PHOTO # 11 of 11

<ILFORD>, <Fromex True B&W>, 06/01/15

Midlothian Schoolhouse  
AL-V-A-150  
Carlos Road, Midlothian  
ca. 1900

Although Allegany County's public school system was established in 1865, it was during the 1870's and early 1880's that adequate schoolhouses were built. In the Georges' Creek mining region the schools were usually built on land owned or donated by mining companies. A school built in Midlothian Mines during the 1870's was apparently too small so this larger three room schoolhouse was built to replace it around 1900.

The building is in original condition. The large and numerous pedimented windows provide ample lighting for the classrooms. Following a pattern developed in the mining region during the nineteenth century it is a frame building resting on a substantial foundation with a medium hipped roof.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Midlothian Schoolhouse

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Carlos Road

Sixth

CITY, TOWN

Midlothian

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dale Walker

Telephone #: 689-3702

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Midlothian

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21542

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 480

Folio #: 106

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE  
Maryland 21502

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

AL-V-A-150

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Midlothian Schoolhouse is located on the northern side of the Carlos Road in Midlothian.

The school, in original condition, consists of a one and one-half story, five bays wide "T" shaped frame structure with clapboard siding. It rests on a high stone foundation of random rubble with a plain water table. The medium hipped roof is covered with tar paper and has snowboards. A hip roofed dormer on the south has two pedimented louvered ventilators. Eaves consist of a boxed cornice, soffit, bedmould, and frieze. Wall features include fluted cornerboards. Three original corbeled brick chimneys located inside end have brick hoods and relatively tall stacks.

The main entrance, in the center of the southern facade is pedimented and includes a transom and a replaced three panel one light door. Two other entrances on the east and north are also pedimented and have transoms. Pedimented windows are large nailed six over six lights with wooden slip-sills. Some of the windows are in pairs. Hipped porch roofs are on the south and east.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

AL-V-A-150

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the public school system of Allegany County was established in 1865 it was during the 1870's that adequate schoolhouses were built. (1) Schoolhouses in the Georges's Creek mining region were usually built on land donated by the mining companies. (2) A school built in Midlothian Mines was apparently too small for the areas' population and a larger three room building was erected next to it around 1900. (3) The older building was used as a literary club until the 1970's when it was destroyed by fire. (4)

The schoolhouse is in original condition and is a reflection of the growth of educational facilities in the county. It is large compared to schoolhouses built in similar villages in the area during the 1870's and 1880's. The large and numerous windows provide ample lighting for the classrooms. Like other schoolhouses built in the area it is a frame building and has a medium hip roof. The schoolhouse stands as a reminder of the progress of education in Allegany County.

- (1) Katherine A. Harvey, Best Dressed Miners: Life and Labor in the Maryland Coal REGION, 1835-1910 (Ithaca: Cornell University Press), p.109-110
- (2) Ibid, p. 110
- (3) John T. Scharf, History of Western Maryland (Philadelphia: L.H. Everts Company) p.1356 , Allegany County Land Records Liber 87, Folio 408 and interview with Matthew Willets, Midlothian, Md. October 10, 1978
- (4) Interview with Matthew Willets, Midlothian, Md. October 10, 1978

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Harvey, Katherine A. Best Dressed Miners: Life and Labor in the Maryland Coal Re 1  
1835-1910, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1969  
 Scharf, John T. History of Western Maryland, Philadelphia: L. H. Everts Co. 1882  
 Allegany County Land Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 189'x227'

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

David A. Dorsey, Historic Sites Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites

DATE

July 10, 1979

STREET &amp; NUMBER

3 Pershing Street

TELEPHONE

777-5944

CITY OR TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

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  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

INVENTORY NO. AC-U-A-150

DATE: 10/12/75

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY: Middlethian Schoolhouse

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: Carbs Rd. Middlethian

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: South

NAME OF OWNER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: DALE WALKER  
Middlethian, Md.

STORIES: 1(2) 2( ) 3( ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) BAYS: 1( ) 2( ) 3( ) 4( ) 5(1) 6( ) 7( ) ( )

WINGS, ADDITIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular) "T"

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
- BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
- STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
- LOG
- OTHER: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others Flute d'ORNAMENTED

FOUNDATIONS: High Low, Brick, Stone RANDOM RUBBLE

WATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded Brick

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1( ) 2/2( ) 6/6(X) 9/6( ) 9/9( ) other( ) LARGE  
pegged( ) nailed(X) wide( ) narrow( ) mitred( ) pediment(X)

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: center south 3 panel 1 light ped.  
HARDWARE: original( ) replaced(X)  
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN ~~and other~~  
Paneled, Vertical, Horizontal Boards other ped and transom doors on east and north

Box CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)  
original(X) replaced( ) rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architrave

ROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip MEDIUM Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers # 1 Hipped with 17 ped. vents  
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt, TARPAPER original( ) replaced( )

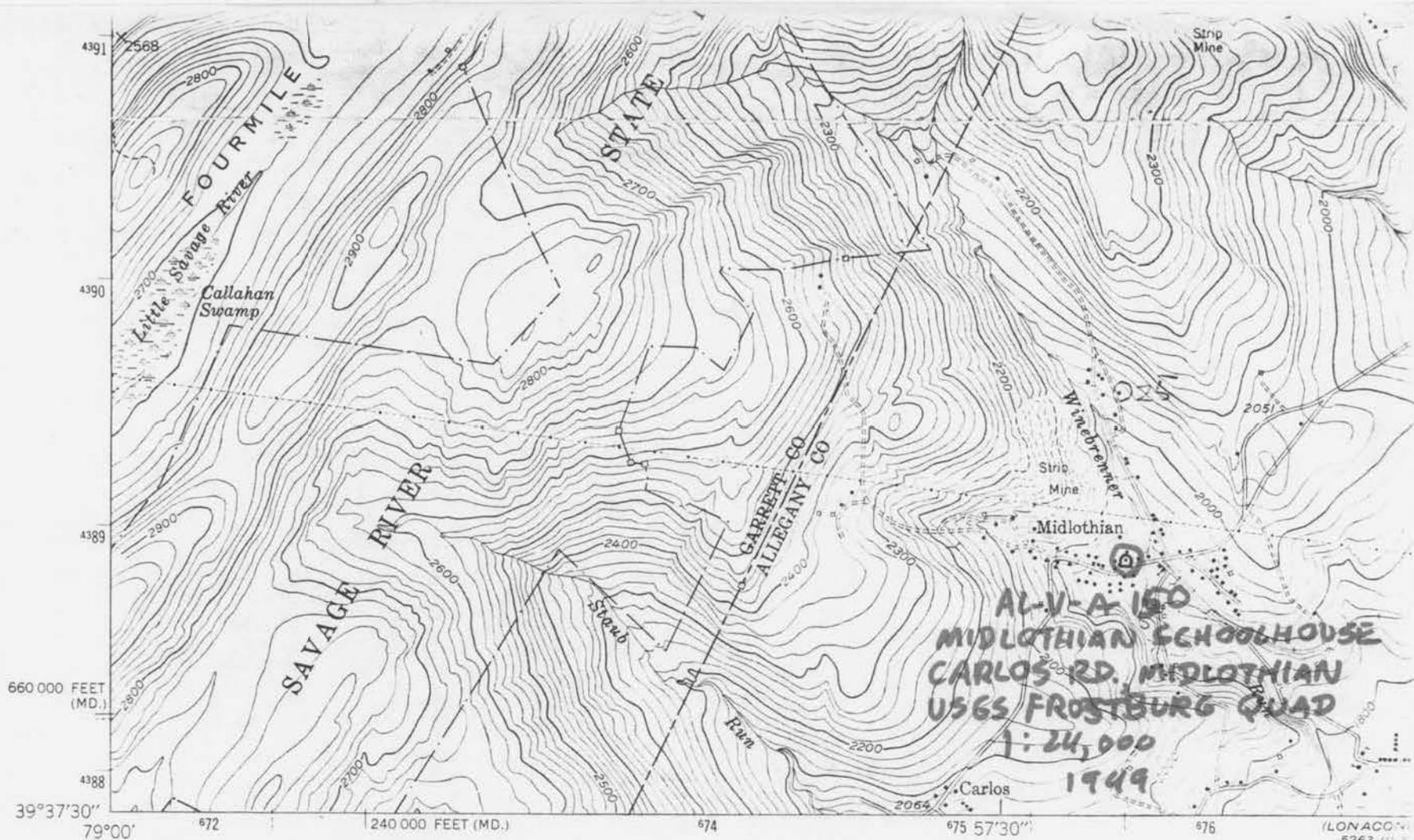
PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed( ) hip(X) gable( ) south and east

CHIMNEYS: Number: 3 Brick(X) Stone( ) Corbeled(X) HOODED TALL STACKS original(X) replaced( )  
Location: Flush end( ) Inside end(X) Outside end( ) Central( ) Interior( )

CHES: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

USE: \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNIFICANCE: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE CONSTRUCTED: \_\_\_\_\_



(BARTON)  
5163 II SE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods

Aerial photographs taken 1946. Field check 1947 and 1949

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum

10,000-foot grids based on Maryland coordinate system  
and Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone

Red tint indicates area in which only  
landmark buildings are shown

Contours in strip mine areas compiled from 1946 photography

Broken contours indicate strip mining  
subsequent to photography

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 17, shown in blue



UTM GRID AND 1949 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR  
DATUM

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGIC  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC

ALV-A-150

MIDLOTHIAN SCHOOLHOUSE  
CARLOS RD., MIDLOTHIAN  
DAVID A. DORSEY

10/10/78

SOUTH



AL-V-A-150

MIDLOTHIAN SCHOOLHOUSE

CARLOS RD. , MIDLOTHIAN

DAVID A. DORSEY

10/10/78

Northeast



AL-V-A-150

MIDLOTHIAN ~~RD~~ SCHOOLHOUSE

CARLOS RD., MIDLOTHIAN

DAVID A. DORSEY

10/10/78

Southwest

