

9200746

Anne Arundel County

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Ralph Bunche School Survey Number: AA-2063

Project: Rehabilitation Agency: CDBG/Anne Arundel Co.

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Ralph Bunche School, now Ralph Bunche Community Center in Mill Swamp/Edgewater in Anne Arundel County is eligible for the Register under Criteria A for education. The Ralph Bunche School was built circa 1930 as a school for black children. It is one of fifteen Rosenwald Schools built in the County between 1920 and 1932. Rosenwald Schools were named for Julius Rosenwald, a wealthy philanthropist who funded the construction of over 5,000 black schools throughout the south. This effort has been described as the most influential philanthropic force for blacks in the early 20th century. Funding was awarded on a matching basis. Three area black churches donated the land on which the Ralph Bunche School was constructed.

The Rosenwald Foundation developed plans for model schools which were used by funding recipients. Although the Ralph Bunche School has been altered over time and in 1951 had a large addition added to it, it retains its original plan and massing and is still identifiable as a Rosenwald school.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project File, also AA-1000 the MHT inventory form for Queenstown School (Sunnyside School)

Prepared by: DonnaWare

Elizabeth Harnold
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

April 2, 1992
Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable

Ronald A. Andrews
Reviewer, NR program

4. 2. 92
Date

[Handwritten initials]

Survey No. AA-2063

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

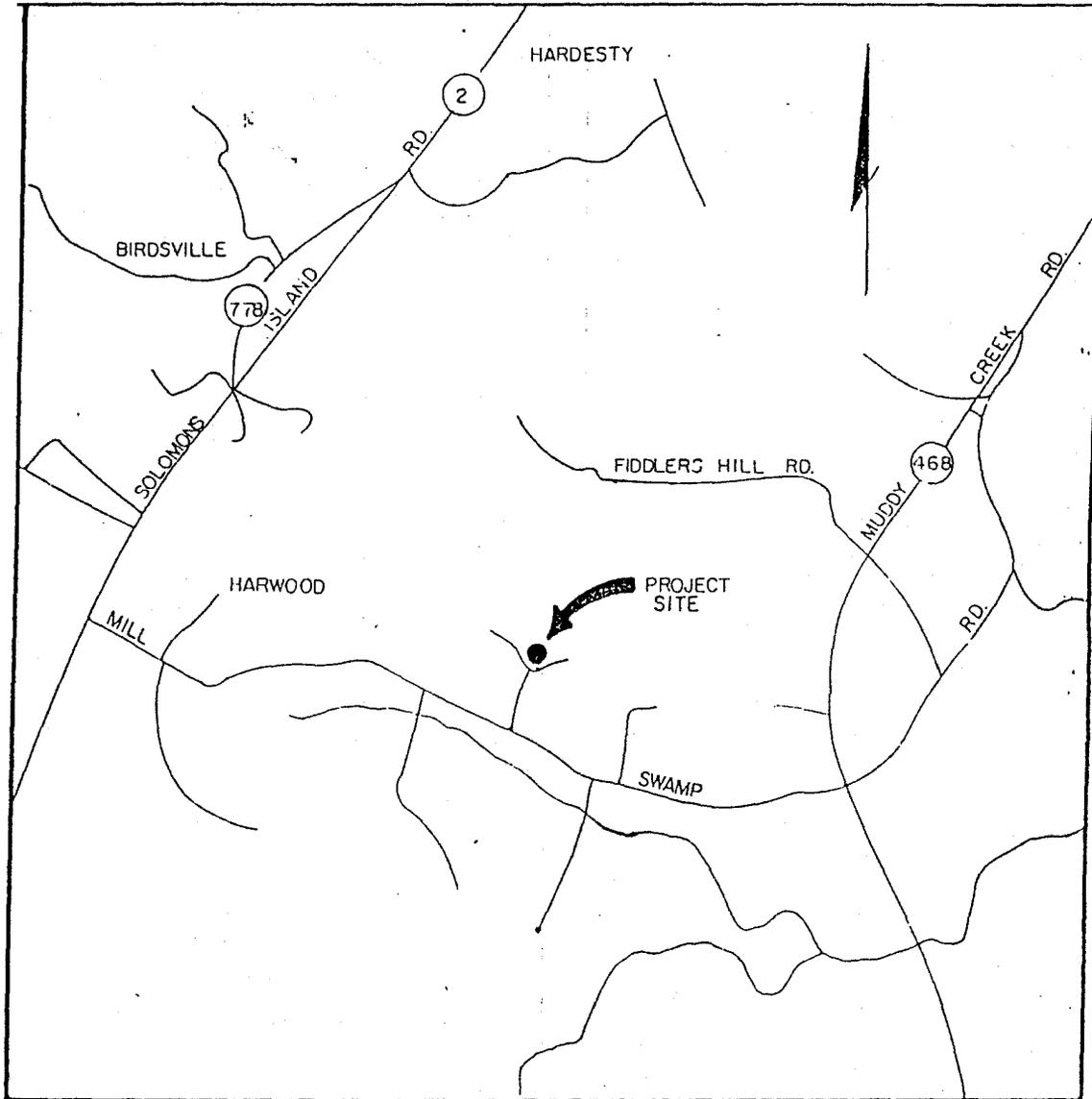
Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Education

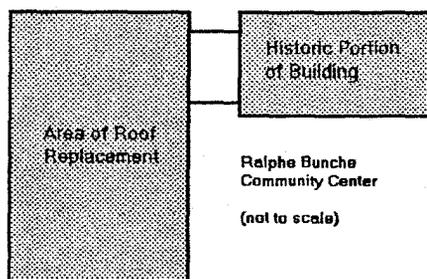
Known Design Source: Rosenwald Foundation

AA-2063



LOCATION PLAN

SCALE : 1" = 2000'



Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic RALPH BUNCHE SCHOOL

and/or common Ralph J. Bunche Community Center, Inc.

2. Location

street & number 374 Mill Swamp Road ___ not for publication

city, town Edgewater vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

state MD county AA

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name A.A.Co. Board of Education map 64/parcel 9 (4.455 acres)

street & number 2644 Riva Road telephone no.:

city, town Annapolis state and zip code MD 21401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber

street & number folio

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

state federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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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 east (right side) section ~~of~~ is the original 1930
2-room school building.

one-story

side-gabled

Original entry door was probably at center of south facade.
Windows, asphalt roof shingles, and siding are all
replacements.

A circa-1950 flat-roofed 1-story addition obscures the
west and north elevations of orig. block.

8. Significance

Survey No. AA 2063

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 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 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 **Builder/Architect**

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.

The following information comes from Benjamin Collins (b.1895), 501 Fiddler's Hill Rd, Edgewater, Md.

In the 1920's, three black churches in the area (Chew's Memorial United Methodist in Owensville; Hope Memor. Methodist in S. River, now Edgewater; St. Mark's in Ways) joined together and bought several acres from Richard Neal*, at \$15 per acre, on the north side of Mill Swamp Rd., at juncture with Muddy Creek Rd.

The Churches gave 4 1/2 acres of the parcel to the County to build an elementary school for black children. The County built the Ralph Bunche School c. 1930, according to Mrs. Pearl Downs (b.1920) (phone 798-1156, Edgewater) who was a member of the first class to attend the two-room school.

The school was closed after court-ordered integration in 1956. Now is called The Ralph J. Bunche Community Center, Inc.; houses a daycare center.

* 1878 Hopkins Map shows "Rich. O'Neil" at this site.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. *AA 2063*

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name *South River, Md.*

Quadrangle scale *1:24 000*

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

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 *Jusan R. Weatherill*

organization *A.A. Co. Planning & Zoning* date *July 1987*

street & number telephone

city or town state

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



AA. 2063

Ralph J. Bunche School /
Community Ctr. Soc.

A.A. Co. MD.

S. Wetherill 7/87

SE corner



AA-2063

Ralph Bunch School

(Ralph J. Bunche Commun. Ctr.,
Inc.)

AA, Co. MD.

S. Wetherill 7/87

facade, S. elev.



AA-2063

Ralph Bunche Sch.

(Ralph J. Bunche Commun. Ctr.)
Inc.)

A.A.Co. MD.

S. Wetherill, 7/81

NE corner