

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-1163
Pleasant Grove School
15225 Dover Road
Reisterstown, Baltimore County
1873
Private

Although the Pleasant Grove School does not appear on the 1877 county atlas, prior documentation indicates that the building was constructed in 1873 as a replacement of an earlier schoolhouse that served the rural Pleasant Grove community. The extant structure is representative of the many small schools that were erected in rural communities throughout Baltimore County in the late 19th century. The Pleasant Grove School is one of many late 19th-century one-room schoolhouses that remain in Baltimore County. By 1881, N. Frank Cofiell, of Butler, was the teacher at the Pleasant Grove School. The trustees were local residents John H. Millender, Elijah Benson, and John K. Harvey. In 1926, the consolidation of the Baltimore County schools resulted in the sale of the Pleasant Grove School and its subsequent conversion into a private residence.

The original portion of the Pleasant Grove School is a one-and-a-half-story, one-bay-wide, three-deep building of solid coursed rubble stone construction with a front gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. A nearly full-width one-story projecting entry bay projects from the façade, or southwest elevation. Large ashlar quoins join the corners of the main block and projecting bay. The central entry features a sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door with a four-light fanlight, square-edged wood surround, and round-arched soldier lintel. One 4/4 window with vinyl-clad surround, sill and brick jack-arched lintel pierces each side of the projecting bay. An exterior chimney of stretcher bond brick construction with shoulders and a corbeled cap bisects the southeast elevation of the main block. Dormers project from the sides of the roof. Circa 1990, a large, two-story wood frame addition clad in weatherboard with an asphalt-shingled side gable roof was constructed on the rear of the school. An interior chimney of coursed rubble stone construction rises through the center of the addition's roof. One-story, shed-roofed porches extend from the sides of the addition, while the rear elevation is spanned by a wide wood frame deck. The circa 1990 shed located on the property is a one-story, wood frame structure clad in board-and-batten siding with an asphalt-shingled side gable roof.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-1163

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Pleasant Grove School

other

2. Location

street and number 15225 Dover Road __ not for publication

city, town Reisterstown __ vicinity

county Baltimore County

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

name Stephen M. Mutscheller

street and number 15225 Dover Road telephone Not Available

city, town Reisterstown state MD zip code 21136

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 13275 folio 347

city, town Towson tax map 32 tax parcel 206 tax ID number 2200003050

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"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1163

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 original portion of the Pleasant Grove School was constructed in 1873 and is a one-and-a-half-story, one-bay-wide, three-deep building of solid coursed rubble stone construction with a front gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. A nearly full-width one-story projecting entry bay projects from the façade, or southwest elevation. Large ashlar quoins join the corners of the main block and projecting bay. The central entry features a sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door with a four-light fanlight, square-edged wood surround, and round-arched soldier lintel. One 4/4 window with vinyl-clad surround, sill and brick jack-arched lintel pierces each side of the projecting bay. An exterior chimney of stretcher bond brick construction with shoulders and a corbeled cap bisects the southeast elevation of the main block. Dormers project from the sides of the roof. Circa 1990, a large, two-story wood frame addition clad in weatherboard with an asphalt-shingled side gable roof was constructed on the rear of the school. An interior chimney of coursed rubble stone construction rises through the center of the addition's roof. One-story, shed-roofed porches extend from the sides of the addition, while the rear elevation is spanned by a wide wood frame deck.

The circa 1990 shed located on the property is a one-story, wood frame structure clad in board-and-batten siding with an asphalt-shingled side gable roof. The façade is pierced by one cross-braced double-leaf wood door and one four-light screened window opening.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1163

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1873-1926 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1873, 1990 ca.

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.)

Although the Pleasant Grove School does not appear on the 1877 county atlas, prior documentation indicates that the building was constructed in 1873 as a replacement of an earlier schoolhouse that served the rural Pleasant Grove community.¹ The extant structure is representative of the many small schools that were erected in rural communities throughout Baltimore County in the late 19th century. The Pleasant Grove School is one of many late 19th-century one-room schoolhouses that remain in Baltimore County. By 1881, N. Frank Cofiell, of Butler, was the teacher at the Pleasant Grove School. The trustees were local residents John H. Millender, Elijah Benson, and John K. Harvey.² In 1926, the consolidation of the Baltimore County schools resulted in the sale of the Pleasant Grove School and its subsequent conversion into a private residence.

Public schools in Baltimore County were funded by taxpayers' money that had been allocated by the state legislature. The County Commissioners were authorized by an act, which was enacted following the Civil War, to establish schools, hire teachers, and levy property taxes to pay for both the schools and the teachers. Teachers' salaries averaged \$250 in 1850 and by 1914 they had risen to \$600 annually. Additionally, students were required to pay seventy-five cents each term for the use of the schoolbooks.³

The most recognizable form of the rural school building, according to an existing MHT report, "is a front-gable structure with a three-bay façade and three windows symmetrically arranged along each side."⁴ Such schools were common in rural Maryland from the beginning of the 18th century to the mid-20th century.⁵ The level of funding provided by an area dictated the form of the building and its level of decorative material. As the population grew, the buildings could be joined to an additional one-room school that could later be detached if populations declined. Beginning in the 1870s, a growing number of architects became interested in designing rural schoolhouses, with journal articles outlining these designs. After 1900, trends began to shift and the era of

¹ Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

² J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men* (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881), p. 869

³ S. B. Clemens and C. E. Clemens, *From Marble Hill to Maryland Line: An Informal History of Northern Baltimore County* (np: C. E. Clemens and S. B. Clemens, 1976), p. 27.

⁴ "Page Schoolhouse Property," MHT Survey CH-232.

⁵ Caroline Hall and Ryan McKay, "Page Schoolhouse Property," Maryland Historical Trust Form, Survey No. CH-232, 1996.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

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Continuation Sheet

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the one-room schoolhouse waned in the first two decades of the 20th century. This change was brought on by the advent of improved roads and the use of school buses. Less than one percent of one-room schools are still in use in the country.⁶

⁶ "Page Schoolhouse Property," MHT Survey CH-232.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1163

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Clemens, S.B. and C. E. Clemens, *From Marble Hill to Maryland Line: An Informal History of Northern Baltimore County.* C. E. and S. B. Clemens, 1976.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Hall, Caroline and Ryan McKay. "Page Schoolhouse Property," Maryland Historical Trust, Survey CH-232. September 1996.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .10 Acre

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Hampstead

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1873, the Pleasant Grove School has been associated with the 1.05 acres of land known as tax parcel 206 of map 32 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

11. Form Prepared by

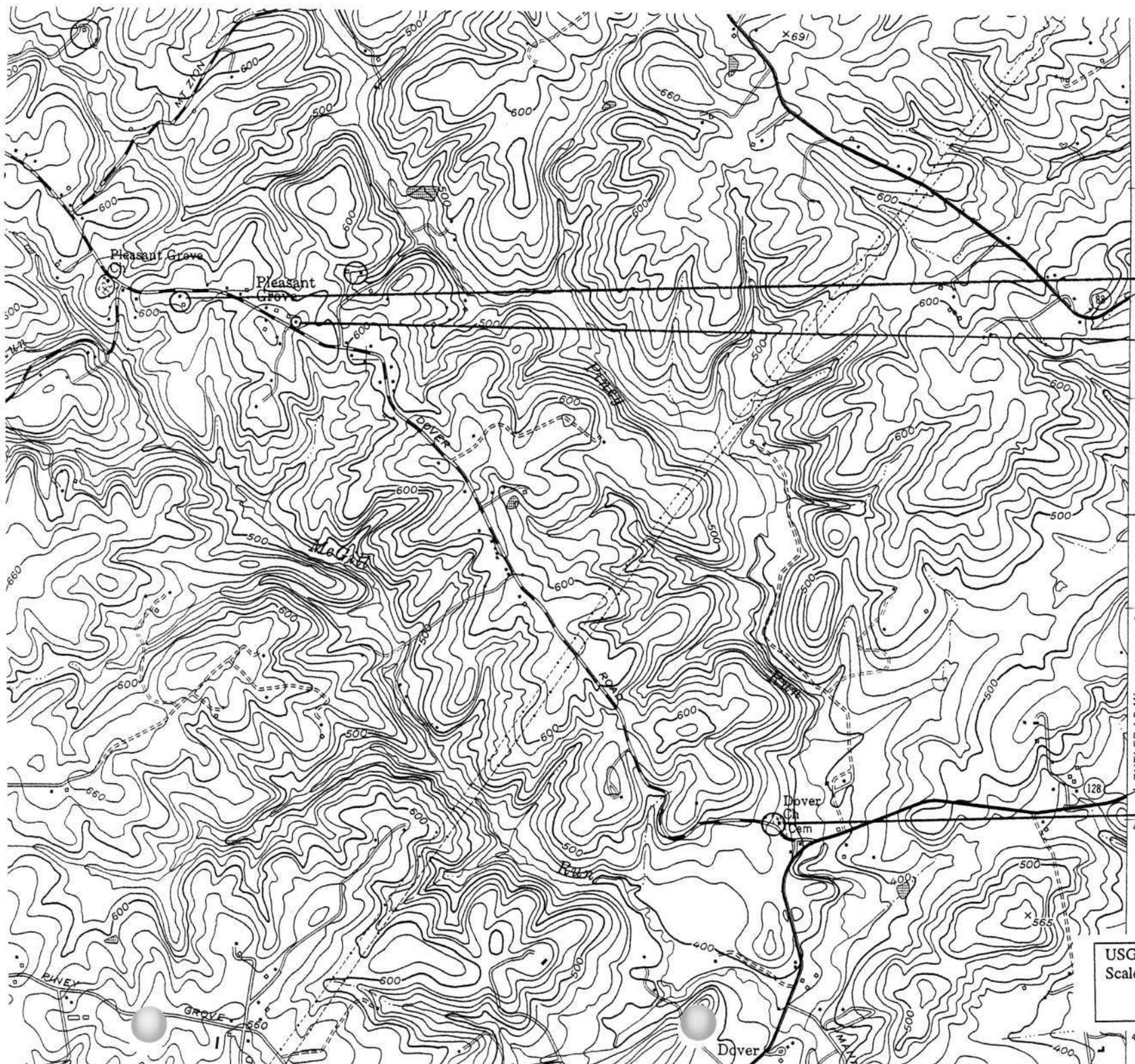
name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 15, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

ROAD



BA-0556
15276 DOVER ROAD

BA-1163
15225 DOVER ROAD
REISTERSTOWN
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0480
14505 DOVER ROAD -
UPPERLO
BALTIMORE COUNTY

USGS Quad: HAMPSTEAD
Scale: 1:24,000
↑
N



BA-1163

15225 DOVER ROAD, REISTERSTOWN
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

WI CORNER

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15225 DOVER ROAD, REISTERSTOWN
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

S. CORNER

Zd3



BA-1163

15225 DOVER ROAD, REISTERSTOWN
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

NW ELEVATION

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