

CT- 1263

WILLIAM SAMPSON BROOKS HIGH SCHOOL

(1939; addition 1951-1953)

Prince Frederick

Public

Brooks High School is significant as the only school building in Calvert County specifically designed as a high school for African American students. It is representative of the last period of segregated education in the county. Originally consisting of the brick and wood-framed east end of the present building, it was substantially enlarged in the early 1950s.

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

William Sampson Brooks High School (CT-¹²⁶³✓)

a) Historical Period Theme: Social/Education/Cultural

b) Geographic Organization: Western Shore

c) Chronological/Developmental Period:

Modern Period, A.D. 1930-Present

d) Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: village

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

Known Design Source: Maurice Bixler Leonard (addition)

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. CT 1263

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name

historic William Sampson Brooks High School (preferred)

and/or common W. Sampson Brooks Administrative & Instructional Center

2. Location

street & number 1305 Dares Beach Road ___ not for publication

city, town Prince Frederick ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Calvert

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

name Calvert County Board of Education

street & number 1305 Dares Beach Road telephone no.: 410-535-1700

city, town Prince Frederick state and zip code MD 20678-4208

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Circuit Court Clerk's Office liber AAU 38; JLB 16

street & number 175 Main Street folio 221; 116

city, town Prince Frederick state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CT 1263

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date of move _____

Brooks High School is located on the south side of Dares Beach Road (Maryland Route 402) northeast of Prince Frederick, Maryland. A large parking area is located in front of the school. Driveways extend along either side of the school to maintenance buildings located in the rear.

The original portion of the building, constructed in 1939, is located at the east end of the present building and consists of two attached, single story blocks, one wood-framed and the other sheathed in brick. The single-story, wood-framed, shallow gable roofed block, the rear of the two blocks, is fenestrated with narrow, multi-light windows. The foundation of this rectangular block is constructed of rock-faced concrete blocks. Its walls are sheathed in vinyl siding, and the roof junction is marked by a molded cornice. The roof itself is sheathed in asphalt shingles and is pierced with aluminum ventilators. A gabled brick parapeted fire wall separates this rear block from the brick block to its north. This hip-roofed, brick block has a steel door in its east wall that is reached by brick steps with a wrought-iron railing. Fenestration consists of six over six, wood-framed windows.

The west end of the building represents an addition added in 1950. The north wall of this block is fenestrated with grids of nine, single-light windows. At the west end of the north elevation is a slightly projecting lower block. This block is fenestrated with paired, four-light, casement windows. Steel doors are placed along the north and west walls of this block. At the junction between the two story block and the one story block to its east is the recessed main entrance to the building.

A brick, gable-roofed block with raised foundation adjoins the south wall of the two story block. The basement level of the west side wall of this block is fenestrated with four over four, double hung windows, some of which have been enclosed. The first story is fenestrated with groups of oblong, 12-light windows. Double steel entry doors are located near the junction of this block with the block to its north. The gable roof of this block is sheathed in asphalt shingles and is pierced with metal ventilators.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance--Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistory	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		other (specify)

Specific dates	1939	Builder/Architect	Maurice Bixler Leonard (addition)
check:	Applicable Criteria:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D
	and/or		
	Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
	Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national	<input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local

Brooks High School, now the Brooks Administrative Center, is significant as the second African American secondary school in Calvert County, and the first designed specifically as a high school. It is representative of the final period of segregated public education in Calvert County.

Brooks High School was named in memory of William Sampson Brooks, a prominent African American minister, missionary, writer, and lecturer. Brooks was born in Lower Marlboro, Calvert County in 1865, the son of Robert and Margie Rebecca Brooks. He attended elementary school in Prince Frederick and continued his education at Centenary Biblical Institute, now consolidated into Morgan State University. He graduated from Centenary in 1894.

He was ordained the following year as a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and began his career as a pastor at St. James AME Church in Minneapolis. He later served at St. Peters AME Church in the same city. In 1920, he was consecrated at the 44th bishop of the AME Church and served in the 16th Episcopal District in West Africa for eight years. During his tenure in Africa, he raised \$100,000 for the construction of Monrovia Church in Liberia. Brooks is credited with establishing the largest African American Episcopal Church, St. Marks AME in New York City.

Among his writings were two books, *Footprints of a Black Man*, an account of his travels in the Holy Land; and *What A Black Man Saw in a White Man's Country*. He died in San Antonio, Texas on July 15, 1934. A biographer described him as a "persuasive, caring individual. His sermons were full of tenderness, concern, and instruction for the common people. He believed that education was of primary importance for any deprived people."

The initial building for Brooks High School was erected in 1938. With the enlarged facilities for education of African American students, two new subjects were added: vocation agriculture and home economics. A questionable fire destroyed the original building on February 17, 1939. Theresa Hall, a member of the Class of 1940, described this time in an article in her class yearbook:

We then moved back into the elementary school [Central School] and had half day sessions. The high school students held classes the first half of the day and the elementary students held their classes the second half of the day. In October 1939, we moved into a new high school once again. The citizens of Calvert County are very proud of the beautiful high school for colored (Goddard 1995:61).

One hundred forty-seven students were enrolled during the 1938-1939 school year and 10, five men and five women, graduated at the end of the year. By 1950, the school had 374 students and 12 teachers. The principal was Horace G. Funn. Teacher and administrator Ailene Stamper described the building:

William Sampson Brooks High School had six classrooms, one office, two bathrooms, and a basement for storage and the furnace. It contained the same floor plan as the first building...made of shingles and reconstructed with German siding. A cinder block west wing was added circa 1950 to the right of the building (Goddard 1995:62).

(continued on attached sheet)

Significance (continued)

Until 1952, secondary school for African Americans constituted grade 8 through grade 11. A junior high school was established at Brooks High School during the 1948-1949 school year.

Ailene Stamper indicated that the school was overcrowded through much of its history:

It was an agreement by the Board that we did not need any more space. We were holding classes in school buses outside, that's right, and I taught mathematics in the hallway until we got the west wing built after World War II. I think it only cost \$300,000 or less, it didn't cost very much money to add a gym and an auditorium. The Board replaced the superintendent because they said we did not need any additional space and he went ahead with the work anyway (Goddard 1995:63).

Facilities and equipment were often inadequate. The high school lacked a library until the 1950s. Before the construction of a gymnasium, physical education classes were held outdoors. Principal Horace Funn, reflecting on his time at Brooks, noted:

Starting my career in an all black secondary school, I seldom knew what new equipment and textbooks even looked like. We experienced many used textbooks and second-hand equipment which were discarded by the white schools (Funn 1975 as cited in Goddard:63).

Home economics teacher Ailene Stamper found that her classroom did not have a blackboard or desk:

I didn't have anything but folding chairs and children...and I had a sink. There was no furniture in the room, so I would have the children sit in a circle and write on their laps.

I remember the first desk that I got to work on was a table about 54" x 24" made in the school shop...I already owned a portable sewing machine so I bought a treadle machine and second-hand oil stove out of my teaching salary for \$15 each.

About four years later, the first stove that the Board of Education bought me was an electric stove, a little apartment size stove with an oven below and four burners on top...most families were still cooking on wood stoves (Stamper as cited in Goddard:63-64).

Despite these limitations, the students at Brooks received an excellent education. Additional details are noted in Richlyn F. Goddard's report, *Persistence, Perseverance and Progress: History of African American Schools in Calvert County, Maryland, 1865-1965*.

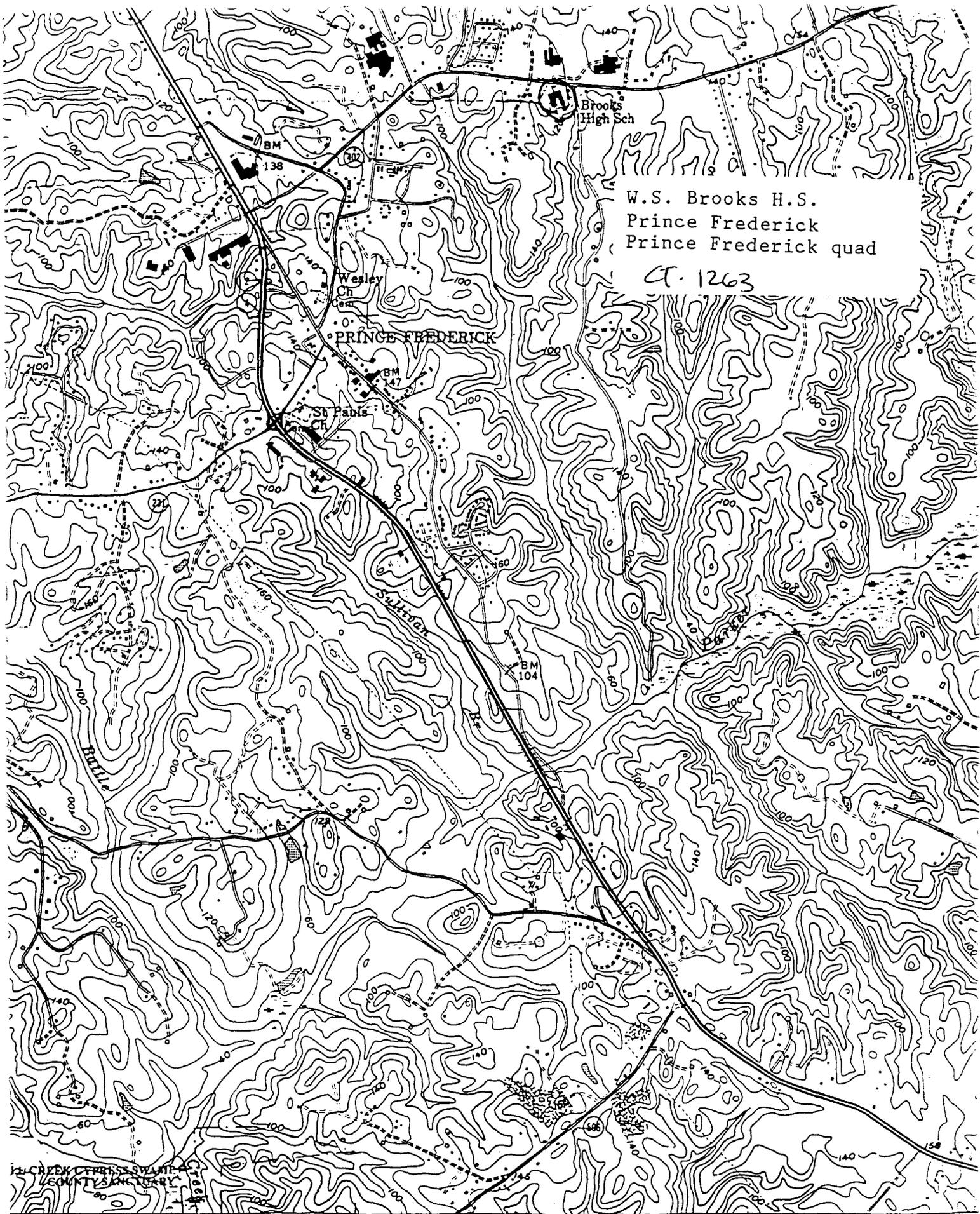
The land on which the high school was built was acquired in large part on April 12, 1938. The Board of Education purchased five acres from George D. and Annie E. Hicks for \$550. The contractor John B. Lusby was hired to build a seven classroom building for a fee of \$550.

The original wood-framed portion of the building was completed in 1939. Brooks High School was dedicated on November 11, 1939 as the county's first and only black high school. The dedication ceremony was attended by over 100 county residents and several representatives of Baltimore's Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Brooks was pastor of this church from 1917 to 1920.

Significance (continued)

Additions were made in 1951 and 1953, and alterations were made in 1955-1956. The brick and concrete block addition, containing six classrooms, was designed by architect Maurice Bixler Leonard and was dedicated on January 11, 1953. In 1956, the school included 17 regular classrooms, two home economic rooms, one typing room, and one auditorium-gymnasium. Total enrollment was 629.

The Brooks building served as an African American high school until the gradual integration of Calvert County's schools was completed in 1966. It was used as an elementary school until the end of the 1974-1975 school year. In 1975-1976 it was used as an annex for the maintenance department of the school system. On July 21, 1976, the School Board contracted with Southern Maryland General Contractors, Inc. to convert the school building into administrative offices for the Calvert County Public Schools at a cost of \$590,000. The architect for the conversion was Johannes and Murray Associates. Formal dedication of the Brooks Administrative Center took place on June 3, 1978.



W.S. Brooks H.S.
Prince Frederick
Prince Frederick quad

CT. 1263

CREEK
SWAMP
COMMUNITY BOUNDARY

1361

35'

BOWENS 2.2 MI.

1363

(BROOMES ISLAND)
5660 1 NE

1365

SCALE 1:24000





1263

W.S. Brooks High School

3300th Main Ave

Douglas, Montana

1900

1900

1900

12



1263

U.S. Brink's High School

Calvert Maryland

1932-1935

1932-1935

Maryland SHPO

Historical Society of Maryland

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