

CT- 1266

PARIS SCHOOL

(c. 1900)

Chesapeake Beach Vicinity

Private

This rectangular, single story, wood-framed, side-gabled, clapboarded former one-room school appears to have been converted to a house and is now vacant. Fenestration consists of six over six, double hung windows. The school is locally significant for its role in the education of African American students of northeastern Calvert County during the early twentieth century.

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Paris School (CT-<sup>1266</sup>v )

a) Historical Period Theme: Social/Education/Cultural

b) Geographic Organization: Western Shore

c) Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

d) Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: rural

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

Known Design Source: none

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. CT- 1266

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name

historic Paris School (preferred)

and/or common Oaks School

2. Location

street & number south side, Chesapeake Beach Road, near Horace Ward Road not for publication

city, town Chesapeake Beach  vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Calvert

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Dennis W. & Shirley F. Davidson

street & number Box 36 telephone no.: not listed

city, town Owings state and zip code MD 20736

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Circuit Court Clerk's Office liber ABE 312

street & number 175 Main Street folio 108

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

**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date of move \_\_\_\_\_

The Paris School is situated at the crest of an overgrown hillside south of Chesapeake Beach Road, the main east-west highway connecting to the bayfront community of Chesapeake Beach. The lot is littered with a variety of construction debris, and a construction trailer is situated in the vicinity of the former schoolhouse. The schoolhouse appears to be vacant. After its use as a schoolhouse ceased, it appears to have been used as a residence.

The building appears to be a rectangular, single-story, wood-framed schoolhouse. Unlike most other former schoolhouses, the present orientation suggests that the main facade was on an eaves side, rather than in the gable end. Because of the thick vegetation surrounding the building, only the north elevation was viewed and photographed. This elevation features a central four-light door, flanked by paired six over six, double-hung windows. The building is raised slightly on concrete corner piers, and its walls are sheathed in German siding. The roof is marked by a boxed cornice, and it is sheathed in asphalt shingles. A brick chimney is visible to the rear of the roof ridge and probably projects from a rear ell.

## 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 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 c. 1900

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

According to Richlyn Goddard, the Paris School, also known as the Oaks School and the Paris Mission School, was in operation as an African American school from approximately 1900 to 1952. In 1924, it was one of 19 one-room schools for African American children in the county. In the early 1940s, its trustees included David Thomas, Ralph Holland, and John Emerson. During the period from 1925 until its closure, the school had relatively stable enrollment.

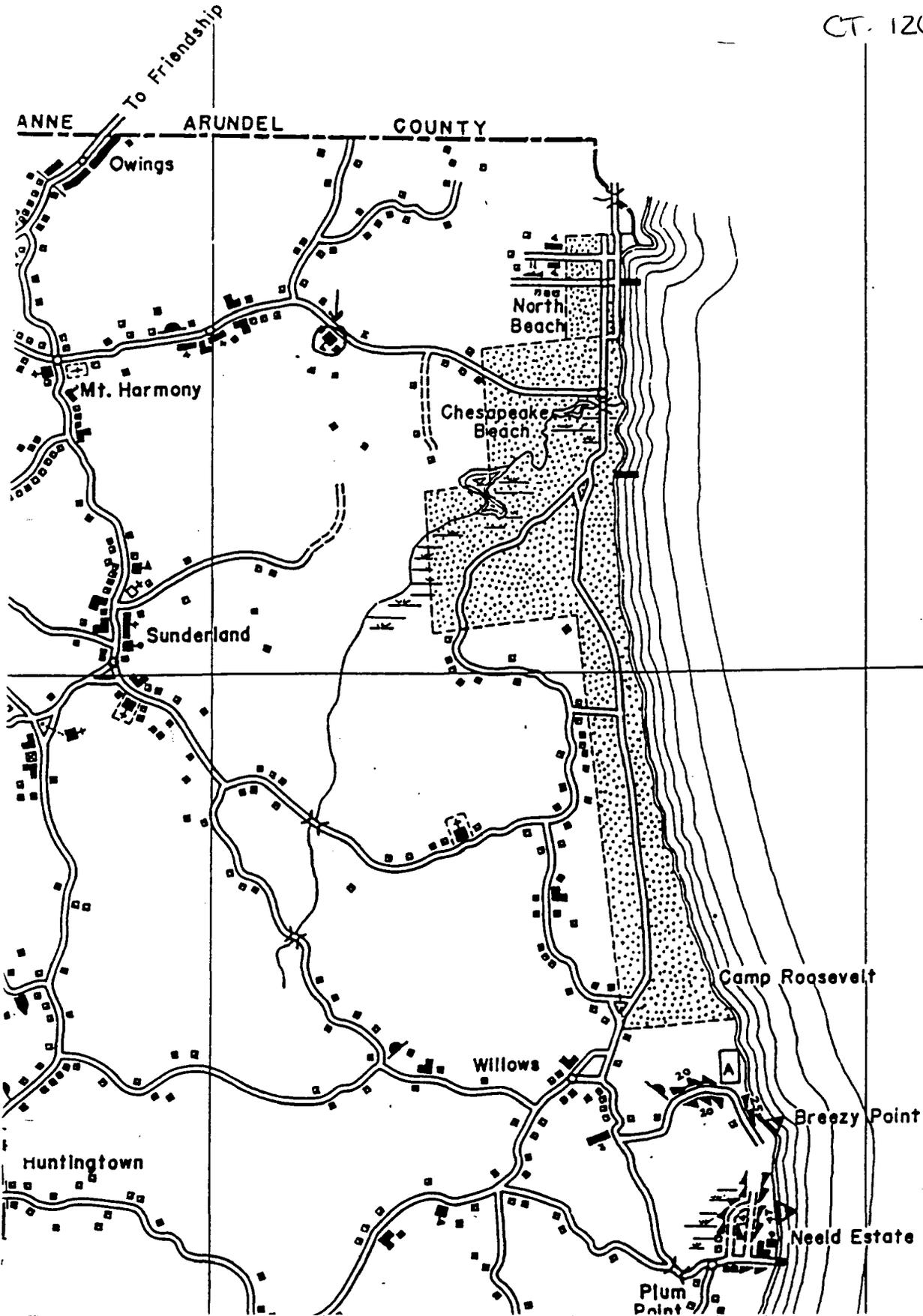
In 1952, as part of school consolidation in northern Calvert County, it and several other one-room schools, including Hall's Creek, Chaneyville, and Lowry, were shut down and the students were consolidated at Mount Hope Elementary School, a 13-teacher school for African American children.

As other historic one-room schools in Calvert County, the Paris School was later converted to residential use. Although complete examination was not possible due to thick vegetation, the school appears relatively well preserved and still conveys its historic role. Therefore, the school is recommended as significant both as a typical one-room school of the turn-of-the-century period and for its role in the education of African American children of northeast Calvert County.



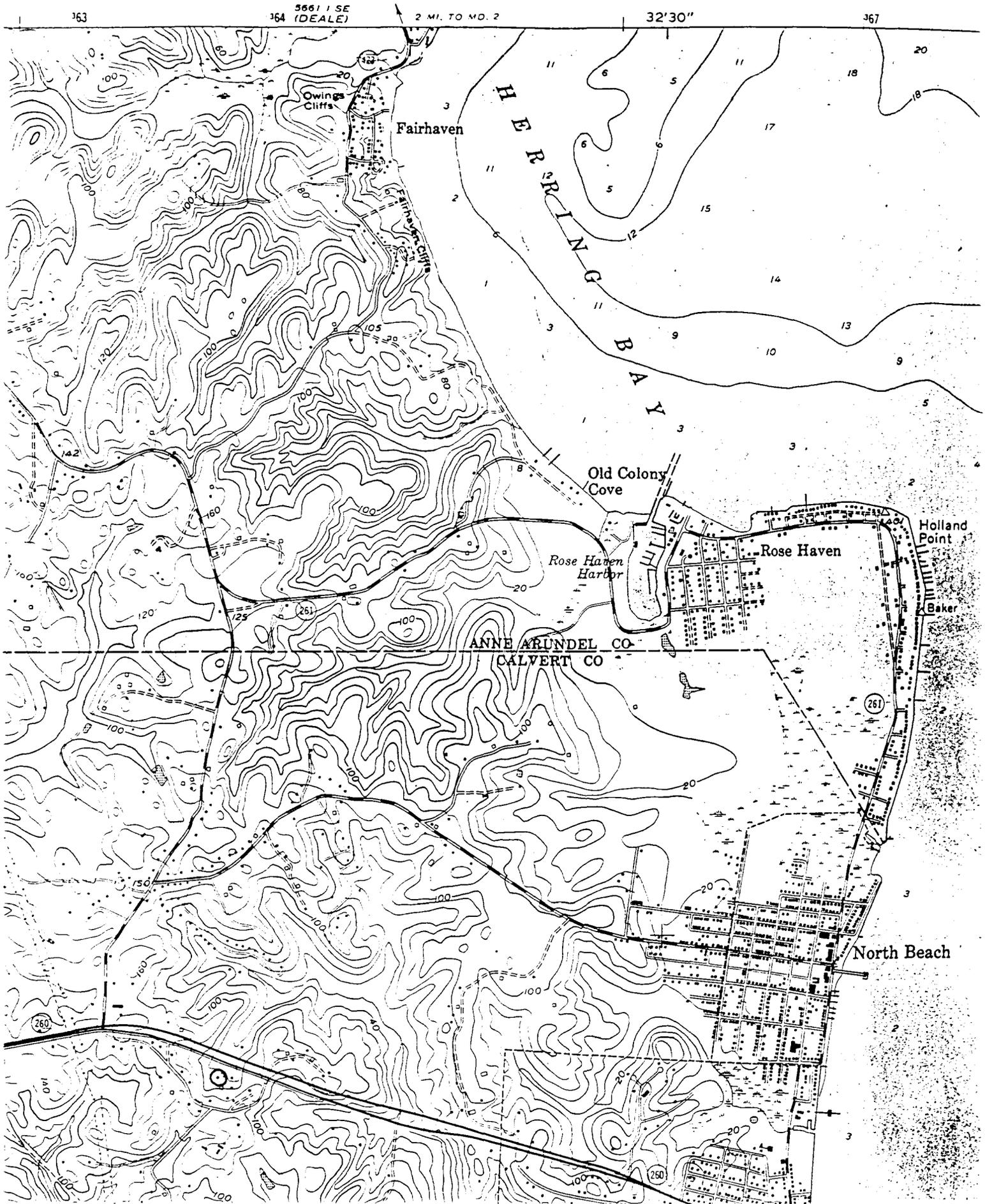
Paris School (Maryland  
State Roads Commission  
1937)

CT. 1266



Paris School  
Chesapeake Beach vicinity  
North Beach quadrangle

CT-1266





E 1266

Felix S. S. S.

Caution: Noisy!

Douglas C. McVane

May 1998

Maplewood 3420

Northeast. Forest + 1000

11