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-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

1. Name

historic  Paris School (preferred)

and/or common  Oaks School

2. Location

street & number  south side, Chesapeake Beach Road, near Horace Ward Road

city, town  Chesapeake Beach

state  Maryland

3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>occupied</td>
<td>museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x building(s)</td>
<td>x private</td>
<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x structure</td>
<td></td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>both</td>
<td></td>
<td>government</td>
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<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>scientific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in process</td>
<td>x yes: restricted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>x being considered</td>
<td>x yes: unrestricted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>x not applicable</td>
<td>x no</td>
<td>x military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x other: vacant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Owner of Property

name  Dennis W. & Shirley F. Davidson

street & number  Box 36

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

depository for survey records

city, town

state
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>prehistoric</em></td>
<td><em>archeology-prehistory</em> <em>community planning</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1400-1499</td>
<td><em>archeology-historic</em> <em>conservation</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1500-1599</td>
<td><em>agriculture</em> <em>economics</em></td>
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<td>1600-1699</td>
<td><em>architecture</em> <em>education</em></td>
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<td>1700-1799</td>
<td><em>art</em> <em>engineering</em> <em>exploration/settlement</em></td>
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<td>1800-1899</td>
<td><em>commerce</em> <em>industry</em> <em>invention</em></td>
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<td><strong>X 1900-</strong></td>
<td><em>communications</em> <em>landscape architecture</em></td>
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<td><em>law</em> <em>literature</em> <em>military</em></td>
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<td><em>music</em> <em>philosophy</em> <em>politics/government</em></td>
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<td><em>theater</em> <em>humanitarian</em> <em>transportation</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>other (specify)</em></td>
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Specific dates c. 1900

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Builder/Architect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>check: Applicable Criteria:</td>
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<tr>
<td>and/or Applicable Exception:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of Significance:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: 6.74 acres (whole parcel)

Quadrangle name: North Beach, MD

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

Zone Easting Northing
A
C
E
G

B Zone Easting Northing

D Zone Easting Northing

F Zone Easting Northing

H Zone Easting Northing

Zone

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification
Map 7, Parcel 211. That portion of the named parcel that contains the building formerly used as a schoolhouse. This is the portion of the parcel that retains historic integrity.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
<th>code</th>
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Douglas C. McVarish, Project Architectural Historian

organization: John Milner Associates, Inc.
date: May 1998

street & number: 1216 Arch Street, 5th Floor
telephone: 215-561-7637

city or town: Philadelphia
state: PA

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
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032
(301-514-7600)