

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

OLD PRINCE FREDERICK HIGH SCHOOL AND SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE
(CT-752) (CT-856)

DESCRIPTION

The ca. 1922 old Prince Frederick High School is located on the west side of Main Street in Prince Frederick, seat of Calvert County, Maryland. The building is of frame construction and stands two stories high above a low basement of concrete and rock-faced concrete block. The principal (east) facade is five bays wide and is ordered symmetrically: on the first floor, two large 9/9 sash windows are located on either side of the projecting entrance vestibule. The flat-roofed vestibule has double doors with a 14-light transom; double pilasters support a deep, molded cornice. The central bay of the second story holds a large Palladian window, with tall, narrow 4/6 windows flanking a round-headed 18/12 sash. Pilasters like those flanking the entrance frame the sidelights, and support a broken cornice, with a key-stoned arch atop the large central window. Nine-over-nine sash windows define the bays on either side of the central Palladian window, aligned with those below. A shallow, metal-clad hip roof rises above the deep, molded building cornice. The building is three bays deep; lower hip-roofed wings project a very short distance from the sides, toward the rear of the building. The side elevations are lighted by two 9/9 sash on each story; the north wing has a second-story exit and fire escape.

The building is currently clad in asbestos shingles. Its current use as a Masonic Lodge has resulted in negligible alteration. Adjacent to the school on the south is the superintendent's house, a frame "foursquare" dwelling constructed ca. 1926. The house is a two-story cube with a steep hip roof, two bays wide. A one-story porch, its ample hip roof supported on paired columns, spans the principal (east) facade, sheltering the entrance in the left bay and a triple 6/1 window in the right. The second story is lighted by a double 6/1 window in each of its two bays. A six-light hipped dormer pierces the east slope of the roof. The building is sheathed in narrow clapboards and is maintained in excellent condition.

SIGNIFICANCE

The old Prince Frederick High School is significant for its architecture, and for its historic association with the development of public education in Calvert County. Architecturally, the building represents an example of early twentieth century Georgian Revival-influenced school design. Its two-story height is unique among early 20th century schools in Calvert County, and reflects its original function to house the primary grades on the first floor and high school classes above. Its architectural detailing is particularly ambitious, and suggests the influence of grand eighteenth-century designs such as Charles Bulfinch's Harrison Gray Otis House in Boston;

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY
PRINCE FREDERICK HIGH SCHOOL
AND SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE
PAGE -2-

the effect is to convey an impression of the building's status as the first public high school in Calvert County.

The school building and superintendent's house have historic significance in reflecting the growth of public education in Calvert County during the 1920's. Before the first World War, parents who desired a high school education for their children had to send them out of the County, either to private schools such as Charlotte Hall and Saint Mary's Female Seminary in St. Mary's County, or to the cities of Washington or Baltimore, where the children lived with relatives while attending the city public high schools. A growing interest in public education following World War I led to the establishment of high school classes, which were held in the old Public Library (now moved and incorporated into a new building) in Prince Frederick until the High School was completed. The school originally served both primary grades and high school classes.

The superintendent's house reflects the growth of the County school system. By the mid-1920's, the system of public education in Calvert County had expanded to the point at which a full-time administrator was necessary.

PREPARED BY:

Peter Kurtze
Assistant National Register Administrator
Maryland Historical Trust
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438
January 31, 1983



C.V. Mitchell

CT-856

#1

Built in 1920's for C.C.
School Superintendents.



C. V. Mitchell

CT-856

#1

Built in 1920's for C.C.
School Superintendents.



C.V. Mitchell

SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE
CALVERT CO., MD
EAST ELEVATION

CT-856

#1

Built in 1920's for C.C.
School Superintendents.



C.V. Mitchell

1

CT-856

Built in 1920's for
School Superintendents

CT- 856

CALVERT COUNTY SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT'S RESIDENCE

(1930)

Prince Frederick

Private

A typical American Four Square house, the wood-framed superintendent's residence features a full-width, hip-roofed front porch, a hipped front dormer, and grouped six over one, double-hung windows. The building is significant as a residence, built specifically for the County School Superintendent. This construction is indicative of the increasing growth of the school system and professionalization of the school administration at the time.

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Calvert County School Superintendent's Residence (CT-856)

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): house

Known Design Source: none

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. CT-856

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name

historic Calvert County Schools Superintendent's Residence

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 703 Main Street 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 type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Richard B. Frazier and Erin Marie Jeffries

street & number 703 Main Street telephone no.: not listed

city, town Prince Frederick state and zip code MD

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Circuit Court Clerk's Office liber ABE 496

street & number 175 Main Street folio 366

city, town Prince Frederick state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Determination of Eligibility-Prince Frederick H.S. & Superintendent's House

date 1/31/83 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state Maryland

7. Description

Condition
 excellent
 good
 fair

 deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved

date of move _____

The Superintendent's House is located on a tree-shaded lot on the west side of Main Street in Prince Frederick, south of the old Prince Frederick High School. A concrete walk extends from the street to the front porch of the house. This house is little changed from the time of its original construction except for a hip-roofed single-story addition made to the south elevation.

The house is a typical American Four Square dwelling, a wood-framed, two-story cube with a steep, pyramidally-hipped roof. It is two bays wide and two bays deep. The east facade is marked by a deep, hip roofed, single story, two-bay porch that extends the width of the wall. The porch roof is supported by paired columns that rest on wood-framed plinths. The porch has a simple wood railing. This porch shelters the front door of the house contained in the south bay, and a group of three six-over-one windows located in the north bay. The second story of the east facade is fenestrated with two pairs of six over one, double hung sash windows. Side walls of the house are fenestrated with single and double, six-over-one, double hung sash windows. A hipped dormer fenestrated with a single, six-light window projects from the center of the east roof slope.

The foundation of the house is raised along the side and rear elevations. It is constructed of rock-faced concrete blocks and is pierced with two-light windows. The walls of the house are sheathed in narrow clapboards, and the corners are marked by plain corner boards. The roof eaves are open, and exposed rafter tails are visible. The porch and house roofs are sheathed in diamond-patterned, cement-asbestos roofing shingles, and a brick chimney projects from the rear roof slope.

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/
<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 checked="" 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 c. 1930 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

The Superintendent's House is in excellent condition, little altered since the time of its construction. It reflects the growth of the county school system. With this growth came the necessity of hiring a full-time administrator to run the school system. This house is significant for its role in exemplifying the development and professionalization of the Calvert County school system.

The first superintendent of Calvert County schools recruited from elsewhere in Maryland was Howard T. Rühl of Baltimore County, who was offered a position at the August 5, 1921 meeting of the Calvert County Board of Education.

The Calvert County Board of Education approved the construction of a Superintendent's House at its January 22, 1930 meeting at an approximate cost of \$6,100. The first superintendent of schools who lived in the house was probably Harry Hughes.

The house is located on a 4.75 acre tract of land that Kate M. and John P. Briscoe of Prince Frederick sold to the Board of Education in 1919 for \$750 (Calvert County Deed Book AAH3:284, August 2, 1919). This tract of land later became the site of both the superintendent's house and the original Prince Frederick High School. The 4.75 acre tract was transferred from the Board of Education to the County Commissioners of Calvert County on May 10, 1979 (Calvert County Deed Book ABE 246:759). Later the same year, the Commissioners sold the same tract to R. Daniel and Lynn H. Cannon for \$34,500 (Calvert County Deed Book, ABE 254:419, October 29, 1979). The Cannons had the property subdivided into three lots, and the superintendent's house property, consisting of 17,519 square feet, was designated as lot one.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic School Superintendent's House

and/or common Whisman House

2. Location

street & number (Maryland Route 765) Main Street 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 type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 J. D. Whisman

street & number _____ telephone no.: _____

city, town Prince Frederick state and zip code Maryland 20678

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber

street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio

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-856

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This two-story framed and weatherboarded four-square faces east onto Maryland Route 765. Its site is actually lower than that of the road. This example has a pyramidal roof covered with diamond-shaped asbestos tiles. There is a central brick chimney on the rear face of the roof and a hipped dormer set into the front face of the roof. The two-bay facade is composed of a side door and three contiguous windows with six-over-one double-hung sash. The one-story hipped-roof front porch is supported by pairs and trios of Doric columns set on wood piers that are connected by rails and balusters.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-856

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

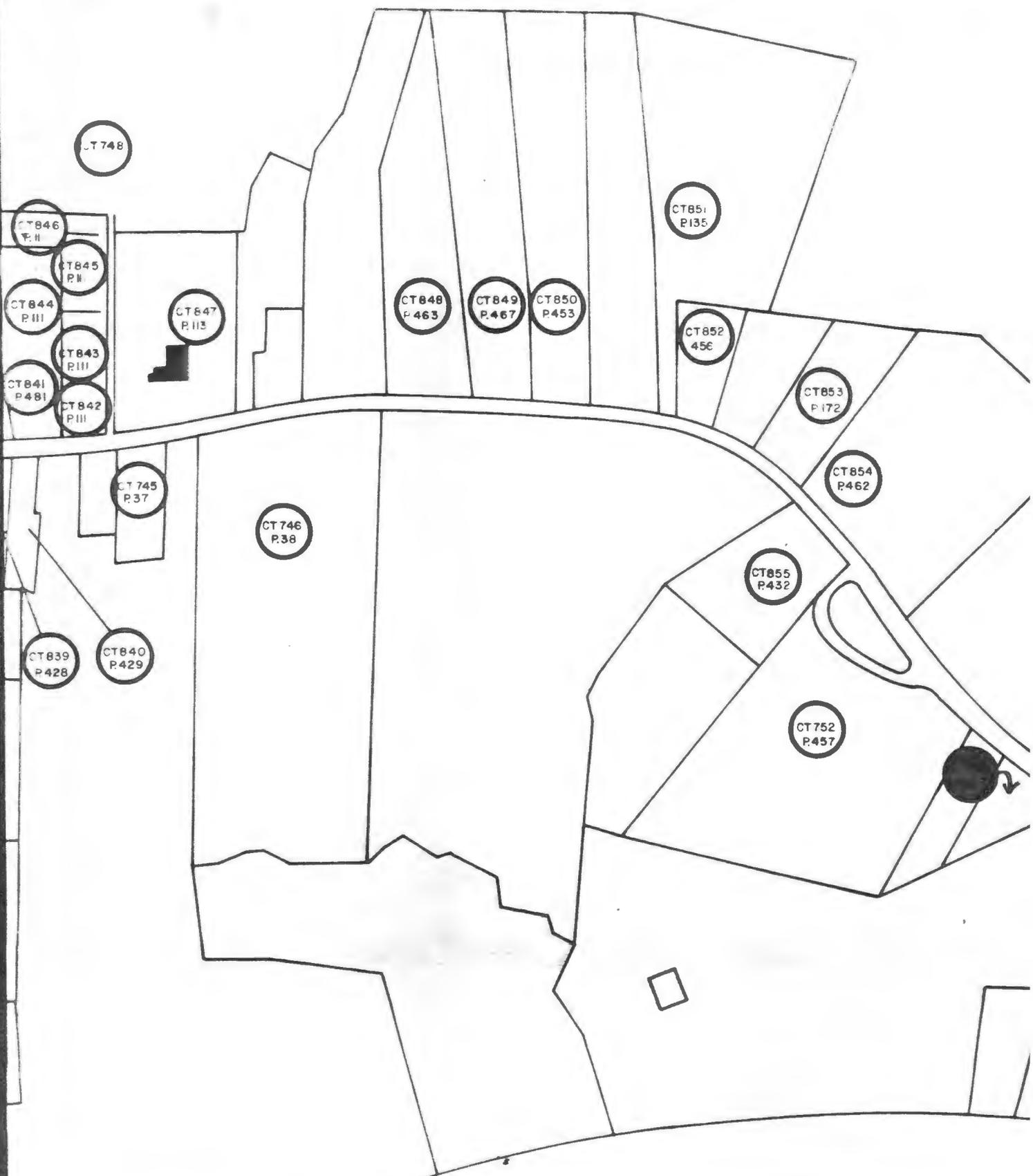
check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

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.

Directed historical research would more firmly establish the historical significance of this site.



Solomons Island Rd. South

PRINCE FREDERICK
CALVERT COUNTY MAP #24
ENLARGEMENT 3 of 3

CT-856



CT-856

Calvert County Schools Superintendents

Residence

Calvert, Maryland

Douglas McVarish

March 1995

NE facade, toward SW

1/2



CT-856

Calvert County Schools Superintendent's

Residence

Calvert, Maryland

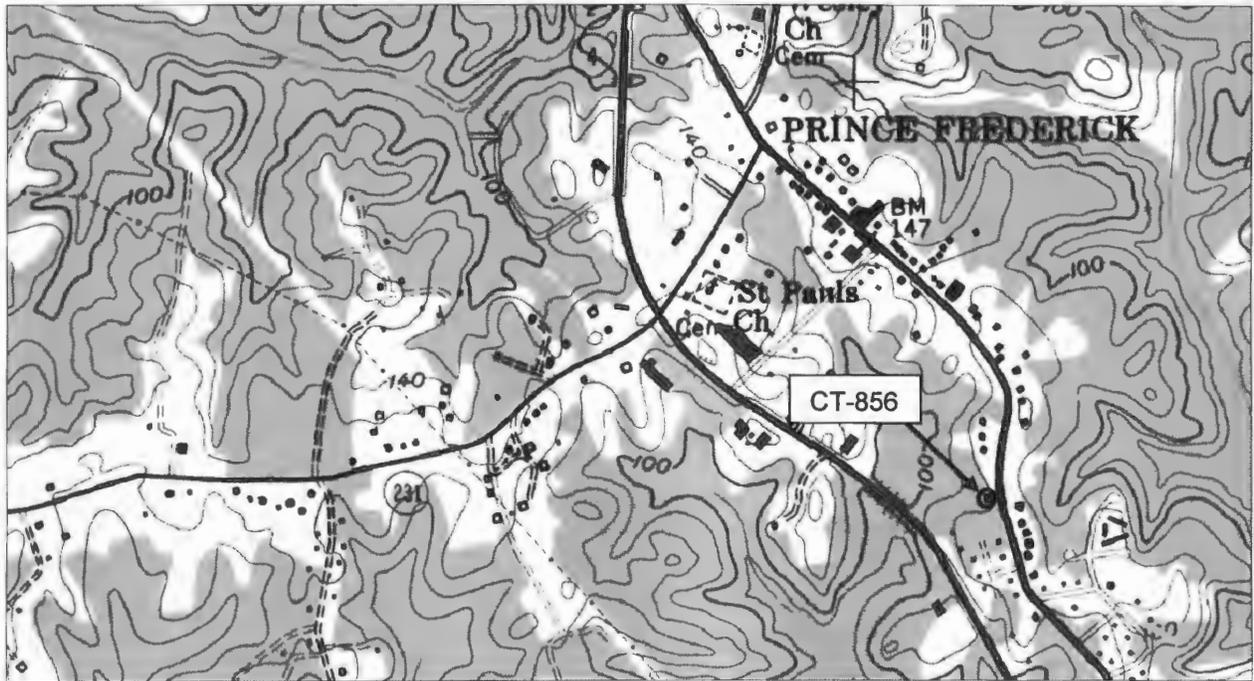
Douglas McVarish

March 1998

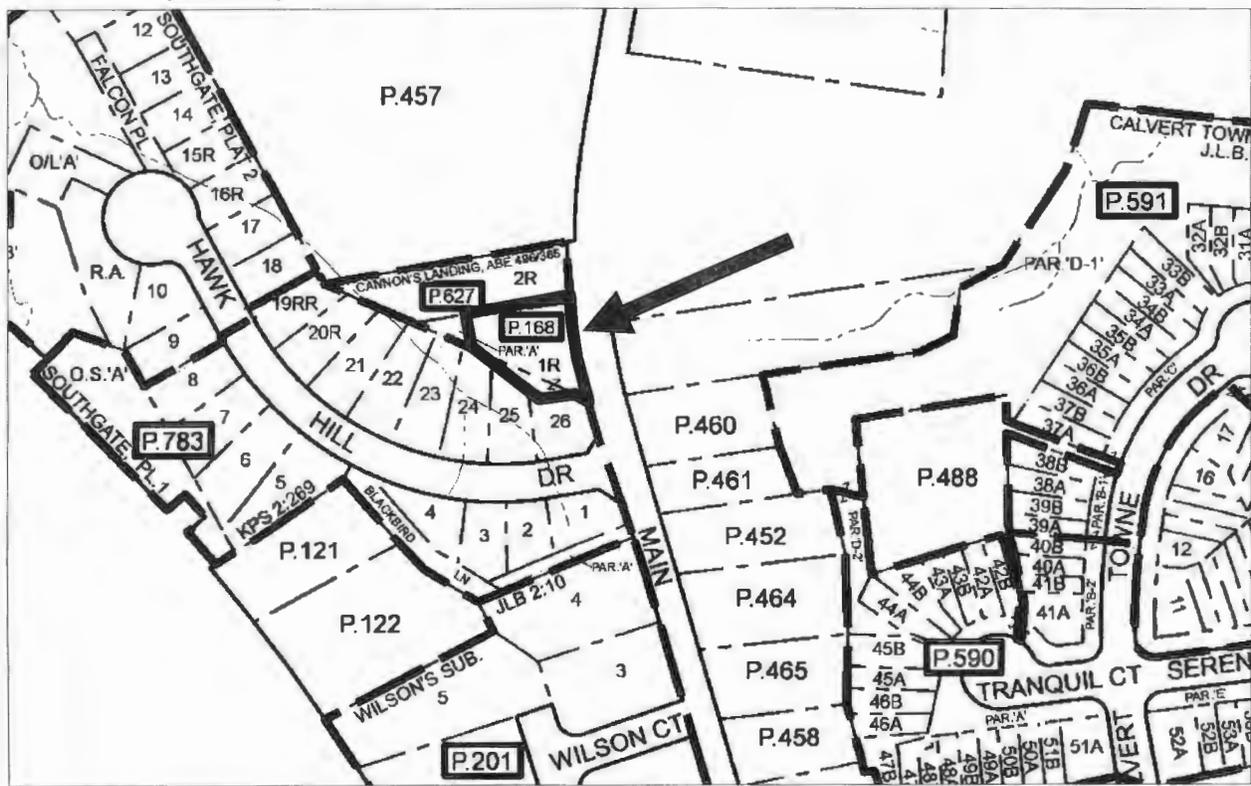
NE facade & NW side, toward SW

2/2

CT-856
Calvert County School Superintendent's House (Whisman House)
703 Main Street (MD 765), Prince Frederick
Prince Frederick Quadrangle 1953, Photorevised 1974



Calvert County Tax Map 24B, Parcel 168



JKC 09/03/2015