

## Easement

D-43  
Stanley Institute (NR)  
Cambridge vicinity  
Private  
c. 1875

Stanley Institute, more commonly known as Rock Elementary School, is believed to be one of the oldest one-room schools used for African-American education remaining in Dorchester County. Local oral tradition relates that a small 15' by 12' building was moved from nearby Church Creek to his corner site and adapted as a school. The extant single-story rectangular frame structure is built in the form and a manner of finishes characteristic of the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Measuring 29' by 17', the timber frame structure was erected with a combination of hand-hewn timbers and factory produced finishes such as the six-over-six sash windows and tongue-and-groove interior sheathing used as wainscoting and as a ceiling finish. Surviving "black boards" are literally wide pieces of plank painted flat black and mounted to the walls at the front of the classroom. A reused early nineteenth century front door has an unusual six-panel format with long rectangular panels enhanced by a Federal style molding. Another reused feature is a hanging corner cupboard used as a bookcase. At some point during the late nineteenth century, a vestibule was added to the front gable of the schoolhouse to shelter the entrance.

The initial formation of the Rock School is believed to date to the years following when a small structure was moved to this site around 1867. The one-room building served dual purpose as a schoolhouse as well as a meeting place for a newly formed Methodist Episcopal congregation under the early leadership of Ezekiel Stanley, Moses Opher, Dennis Camper, Jr., and Nathaniel Young. The structure was strategically sited

on a principal corner along the main road leading southwest from Cambridge. The road divided at this location to link the communities of Town Point Neck and Church Creek. Within a few years following the formation of Rock School, a building committee was established with a plan to erect a church on the south corner of the intersection. The first church was erected in 1875. Both the school and the church are designated on their respective sites on the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas map of the Cambridge District, issued in 1877. Known as Rock Elementary School, or "Colored School No. 3," the building was later renamed Stanley Institute after the school's first board of trustees president Ezekriel Stanley. The schoolhouse was used continually until the summer of 1966. One of the most distinguished pupils to pass through its doors was Thomas Kiah (1873-1936), who later earned higher degrees and served as principal of the Princess Anne Academy in Somerset County, now the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Stanley Institute was honored with a listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-43

*Easement*

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Stanley Institute  
 other Rock Elementary School

## 2. Location

street and number 2439 Rock Drive  not for publication  
 city, town Cambridge  vicinity  
 county Dorchester

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

name Friends of Stanley Institute  
 street and number 2439 Rock Drive telephone 410-228-6657  
 city, town Cambridge state MD zip code 21613

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 431 folio 945  
 city, town Cambridge tax map 306 tax parcel 5855 tax ID number 7-174861

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	_____ structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>1</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<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:	
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>
			_____

## 7. Description

Inventory No. D-43

### 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 Stanley Institute, also known as the Rock School, is a single-story, one-room plan schoolhouse that stands on the northeast corner of the intersection of Bayly Road and MD Route 16 southwest of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story rectangular frame structure faces south with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis. Built during the third quarter of the nineteenth century, the school is supported on a brick pier foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with plain weatherboard siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with wood shingles. The school is joined on the lot by a modern shed roofed coal house built during the last decade to reproduce the same sort of structure that is captured in historic images of the site.

Dating from the third quarter of the nineteenth century, the Stanley Institute is a rectangular frame schoolhouse measuring seventeen (17) feet deep and twenty-nine (29) feet across. Supported on a brick pier foundation, the weatherboard sided frame structure has a gable front principal facade extended by a single-story gable-front vestibule of late nineteenth century construction. Supported on brick piers as well, the vestibule is covered with plain weatherboards, and gable roof is sheathed with wood shingles. The front gable-front wall of the vestibule is defined by a narrow dimensioned board-and-batten door. Piercing each side wall are four-over-four sash windows. Indicative of the late nineteenth century date of the vestibule is the lighter dimensioned, machine sawn under floor framing to the structure in contrast to the partly hewn and partly sawn heavier dimensioned timbers under the main block. The edge of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice with extended eaves and returns at the base of the roof. A small board door pierces the wall of the main block above the vestibule roof. The main block of the schoolhouse is three-bays across on the east and west sides and each bay is defined by a six-over-six sash window framed by a narrow beaded edge surround and thick window sill. Late nineteenth century hinge hardware remains on each surround but the shutters have been removed. The north gable end of the schoolhouse is pierced by a later rear entrance served by a handicapped ramp. Piercing the roofline is a interior brick stove chimney that has been rebuilt.

The one-room interior of the main block is entered through a wide six-panel door of early nineteenth-century date. Three long vertical panels define the surface of the door above and below the lock rail, and each panel is framed by an early nineteenth century molding. The six-panel door has a board-and-batten back. The walls of the school room are trimmed with beaded tongue-and-groove wainscoting that rises to the height of the window sills. The plaster has been removed and wallboard substituted in its place. Tongue-and-groove beaded boards cover the ceiling. Fixed at the north end of the room is the interior end brick stove chimney, which has been set up with a late nineteenth century stove. To the left of the stove chimney is an original black board; back painted boards that stood in lieu of slate. Another black board is fixed to the east wall between the window and the back wall. Located in the southwest corner is a fragment of an early nineteenth century corner cupboard used for book storage.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. D-43

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 checked="" 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 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

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

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.)

Stanley Institute, more commonly known as Rock Elementary School, is believed to be one of the oldest one-room schools used for African-American education remaining in Dorchester County. Oral tradition relates that a small 15' by 12' building was moved from nearby Church Creek to this corner site and adapted as a school. The extant single-story rectangular frame structure is built in a form and finish characteristic of the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Measuring 29' by 17', the timber frame structure was erected with a combination of hand-hewn timbers and factory produced finishes such as the six-over-six sash windows and tongue-and-groove interior sheathing used as wainscoting and a sheathing for the ceiling. Surviving "black boards" are literally wide pieces of pine lumber painted flat black and fixed to the walls at the north end of the classroom. A reused early nineteenth century front door has an unusual six-panel format with long rectangular panels enhanced with a Federal style molding. Another reused feature is a hanging corner cupboard employed as a bookcase. At some point during the late nineteenth century, a vestibule was added to the gable front of the schoolhouse to shelter the entrance.

The initial formation of the Rock School is believed to years following the close of the Civil War when a small structure was moved around 1867. The small structure served dual purpose as a school as well as a meeting place for a newly formed Methodist Episcopal congregation under the early leadership of Ezekiel Stanley, Moses Opher, Dennis Camper, Jr., and Nathaniel Young. The structure were strategically sited on a principal corner of intersection of the main road leading southwest from Cambridge to the communities of Town Point Neck and Church Creek. Within a few years following the formation of the Rock School, a building committee was established with a plan to erect a church on the south corner of the intersection. The first church was erected in 1875. Both structures are indicated at their respective locations on the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas map of the Cambridge District, printed in 1877. Known commonly as Rock Elementary School, or "Colored School No. 3," the building was renamed Stanley Institute after the school's first board of trustees president, Ezekiel Stanley. The building is also well known locally as the facility through which black children were educated until it was discontinued in use by Dorchester County's Board of Education in the summer of 1966. One of the most distinguished youths to attend elementary school here was Thomas Kiah (1873-1936), who later earned a doctorate and served as principal of the Princess Anne Academy in Somerset

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-43

Name  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

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County, now the University of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. As well several youth went on to serve in various Methodist churches across the region after graduating from Stanley Institute.

Stanley Institute (Rock Elementary School)

Map 306, Parcel 5855

MLB 431/945

Alfred Foster, Sole surviving member of Rock Community  
Improvement League of Dorchester County

to

8.11.2000

Friends of Stanley Institute, Inc.

202/162

William H. Kiah, Trustee of Rock School

to

5.27.1977

Trustees of Rock Community Improvement League

WHM 3/58

Samuel Holland & Kate Holland

to

2.31.1917

Moses E. Wing & others (Alfred Opher, Gabriel Kiah, Samuel Holland,  
Nathaniel Young, Alfred Jackson, Charles Kiah, Isiah Opher, Walter  
Young, Trustees of Rock School

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. D-43

Personal Interview with Herschel Johnson, 7.3.08

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 3.46  
Acreage of historical setting \_\_\_\_\_  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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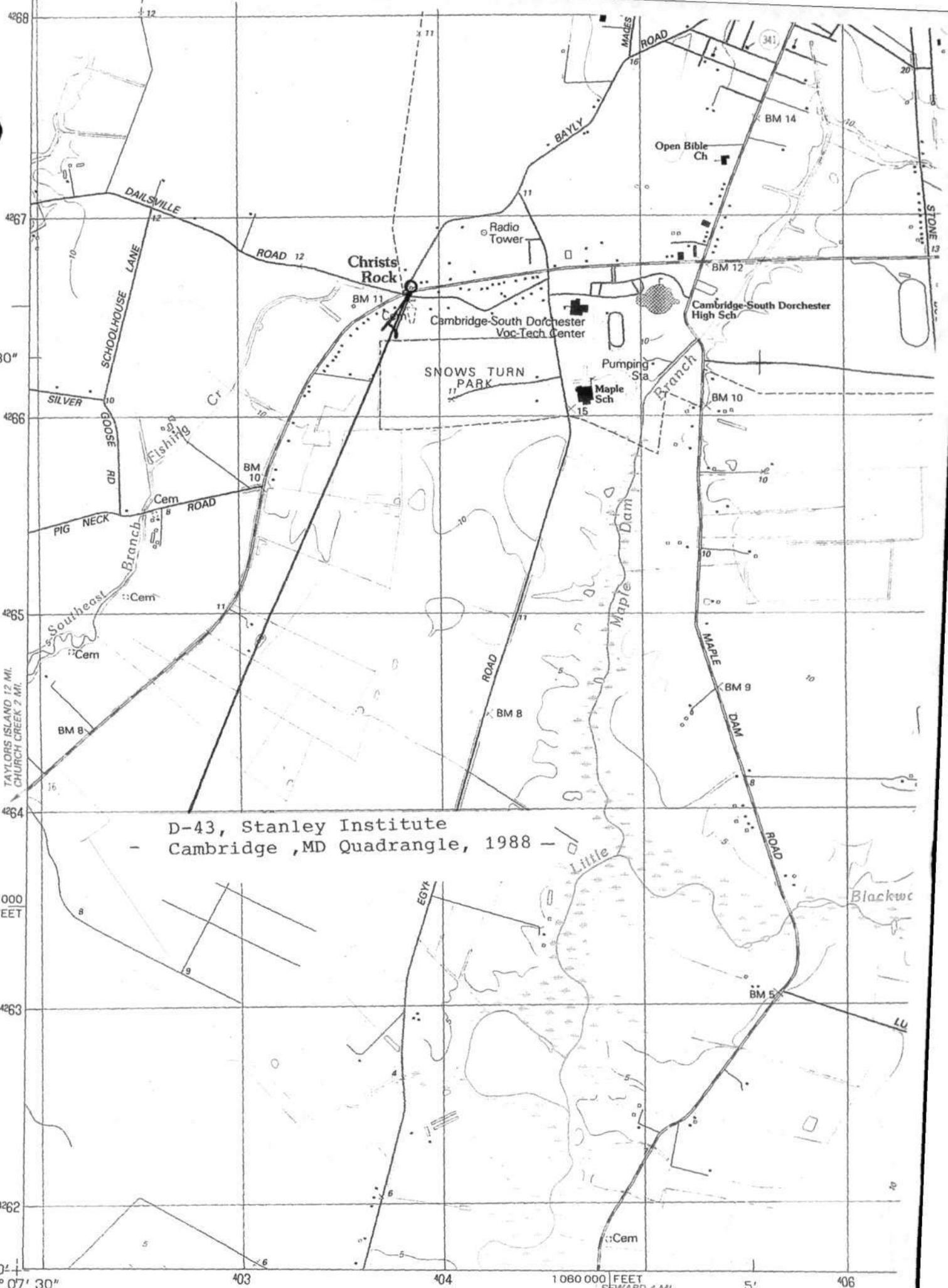
name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	7.03.08
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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





D-43, Stanley Institute  
- Cambridge, MD Quadrangle, 1988 -

250 000  
FEET

38° 30' 1"  
76° 07' 30"

1 060 000 FEET  
SEWARD 4 MI.

1600431502

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland  
COUNTY: Dorchester  
FOR NPS USE ONLY  
FILED DATE:

1. NAME  
Common Name: Rock School  
Alternate Name:   
Special Features:   
2. LOCATION  
Address:   
State Route 16 MD 16 & Bayly Road 2439 Rock Drive  
City or Town: Cambridge  
County: Dorchester  
State: Maryland  
ZIP Code: 21613

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structures <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) VACANT <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) being purchased

3. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
OWNER'S NAME: Rock Community Improvement League  
STREET AND NUMBER: Route 1, Box 165  
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge  
STATE: Maryland  
CODE: 24

4. LOCATION OF PROPERTY  
NAME OF PROPERTY: Wicomico County Courthouse  
STREET AND NUMBER: High Street  
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge  
STATE: Maryland  
CODE: 24

5. RECORDS OF EXISTING SURVEYS  
NAME OF SURVEY:   
DATE OF SURVEY:   
AUTHORITY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  Federal  State  County  Local  
STREET AND NUMBER:   
CITY OR TOWN:   
STATE:   
CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Maryland  
Dorchester  
Cambridge

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If Known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE.

The Rock Elementary School is located about two miles southwest of Cambridge, Maryland on Md. Route 16. It stands at the southeast corner of the intersection of Md. Route 16 and Bayly Road and faces the Rock Methodist Church and cemetery from the opposite side of the road.

The exterior plan of Rock School is characteristic of the many one-room schoolhouses that were built throughout Maryland from the early nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries. It is a rectangular (23 feet by 17 feet), one-story, gable-roofed frame building with a small one-bay, one-story entrance vestibule on its end facade. The structure is three bays long on both sides, including a single window on both sides of the projecting vestibule. The six windows on the side elevations of the main block are of six over six sash while those of the vestibule are of four over four. On the front of the vestibule is a centered paneled door; above, within the gable of the main block, is a small four-pane window. (The sash in all of the windows has been temporarily removed and the openings boarded shut until current renovations are completed.) The gable roofs of both parts are wood shingled and have simple boxed cornices with returns. An open belfry once stood at the front end of the main roof and is to be replaced. At the opposite end of the roof ridge stands a brick stove chimney. The building stands on wood piers, about eighteen inches above ground level. Several of the piers have been replaced with brick in recent years.

The interior of Rock School has experienced various minor alterations and the basic fabric, though deteriorated, appears to remain fairly intact. The windows are framed by unornamented board surrounds. The ceiling is sheathed with narrow beaded boards and the walls are similarly wainscoted up to the height of the window sills. The plaster on the walls above the wainscoting, however, was removed within the last decade and replaced with plasterboard. The interior walls of the entrance vestibule are presently sheathed with horizontal boards which may or may not be original. None of the early furnishings remain but three original blackboards still occupy their proper locations and in the northwest corner there is a cater-cornered library case.

The site of the Rock School is void of any formally planted shrubbery or trees. A double privy and a tool shed stand near the end of the building. Both of these are in poor repair.

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**GENERAL NOTES**

Periods (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Colonial	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

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APPROXIMATE DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1865

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1867 the building known as Rock School was moved to its present location from a site near Church Creek, Dorchester County. As most of the existing fabric appears to date from about the mid- and late nineteenth century it is believed that the building, when moved, was dismantled and its parts utilized in the construction of the existing building. If the structure was moved intact, as an informally prepared history of the school suggests, then it was probably constructed just a few years previous to the move. If the latter is true then its present appearance, both interior and exterior, may have resulted from renovations made after the building was re-sited.

Throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century the building served as both a church and school until the erection of the present Rock Methodist Church later in the nineteenth century. Serving the black residents of the area, it was presided over by an elected Board of Trustees. The first President of the Board was Ezekiel Stanley and for many years the school was called the Stanley Institute in his honor.

The Rock school is one of Maryland's oldest schools organized and maintained by a black community. The history of this single building is thus of innumerable significance to the history of black social development in Maryland.

The Rock Community Improvement League, owner of the school and its site, is composed of area residents, many of whom are descended from the school's original founders. The school represents to them a physical reminder of their heritage and there is a strongly supported local movement to restore the building for the use of the League. The school will be maintained as a memorial to the many black men who graduated from this modest facility and went on to become successful in their various endeavors. Most notable among these personalities is Dr. Thomas Kirk (1873-1936), who also studied at Cornell and Columbia universities and became a principal of the Princess Anne Academy, now the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore. Twelve other graduates became Methodist ministers and served the Delaware Annual Conference.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Records of the Board of Trustees of Stanley Institute  
 Land Records of Dorchester County  
 History of Oak School, An Informal Report by William H. Kish,  
 Acting President, Rock Community Improvement League

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ADDRESS AND LOCATION OF PROPERTY				LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES								
ADDRESS AND LOCATION OF PROPERTY				DEFINITE OR APPROXIMATE COORDINATE OF LEAST TWO CORNERS								
CORNER	EASTING			NORTHING			LONGITUDE					
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NE	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	32	<del>43</del> 42	76	06	<del>05</del> 10
NE	0	0	0	0	0	0						
SE	0	0	0	0	0	0						
SW	0	0	0	0	0	0						

APPROXIMATE BOUNDARIES OF ADJACENT PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATE AND FEDERAL ROAD NUMBERS AND COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE:	COUNTY:	CODE:
STATE:	CODE:	COUNTY:	CODE:
STATE:	CODE:	COUNTY:	CODE:

11. PERSONS INVOLVED

NAME AND OFFICE

J. Richard Riviera, Architectural Historian / William H. Kish  
 ORGANIZATION: Rock Community Improvement League

STREET AND NUMBER: Maryland Historical Trust / Rock Community Improve. / 1/10/75

21 State Circle / Route 1, Box 165

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis / Cambridge

STATE: Maryland

12. STATE OF MARYLAND

As the Maryland State Historic Preservation Commission (under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-663), its implementing this property as contributing to the National Register, which has been evaluated according to the criteria and standards set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Arthur C. Townsend

The State Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland

Date:

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of the National Register

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

*Elev.*  
**ROCK SCHOOL**

**CAMBRIDGE QUADRANGLE**  
USGS 7.5 minute map  
scale 1:24000  
1943





STANLEY INSTITUTE  
DORCHESTER CO., MD.

D-43

JANUARY 1981

J. E. F.



STANLEY INSTITUTE  
DORCHESTER CO., MD.

D-43

JANUARY 1981

J.E.F

.16 X 2.10

D-43 50%



D-43