HO-806, Old Elkridge Schoolhouse
6317 Old Washington Road, Elkridge
Howard County
Ca. 1880
Private

CAPSULE SUMMARY

The vacant house sits in disrepair on an overgrown lot at the intersection of Montgomery Road and Old Washington Road. The one story frame building faces east on a small hill close to the south edge of the road on a part stone, part concrete foundation. In its earliest incarnation the building was an early schoolhouse in Elkridge, perhaps dating back to around 1880. In 1912 the building was sold by the school board and was converted into a private residence. The original portion of the structure has a gable front roof and rests on a stone foundation. Three tall original 6/6 wood windows remain on the north façade, the only façade that has not been added onto. Additions have been made to the rear (west) façade and the south façade. An enclosed porch stretches across the front of the building. Aluminum siding covers the exterior walls of the building and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. An interior brick stovepipe chimney pierces the roof in the center of the original building and probably served a central heating stove.

The Old Elkridge Schoolhouse is significant under criteria A and C in the areas of education and architecture. In spite of its early 20th century refit as a dwelling, the building is one of very few one-room, 19th century schoolhouses still standing in Howard County and its original form is still evident. In addition, the building rests on a lot that has been used for a schoolhouse since 1841 when it was deeded to the Board of Trustees of Primary School No. 22.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-806

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Old Elkridge Schoolhouse
other	

2. Location

street and number	6317 Old Washington Road	___	not for publication
city, town	Elkridge	___	vicinity
county	Howard		

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

name	Start to Finish LLC				
street and number	6317 Old Washington Road			telephone	
city, town	Elkridge	state	MD	zip code	21075

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Howard County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	Map 38, P 519		
city, town	Ellicott City	liber	7114	folio	161

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
X Other see HO-803, Survey District

6. Classification

Category
___ district
X building(s)
___ structure
___ site
___ object

Ownership
___ public
X private
___ both

Current Function
___ agriculture
___ commerce/trade
___ defense
X domestic
___ education
___ funerary
___ government
___ health care
___ industry
___ landscape
___ recreation/culture
___ religion
___ social
___ transportation
___ work in progress
___ unknown
X vacant/not in use
___ other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-806

Condition

___	excellent	___	deteriorated
___	good	___	ruins
X	fair	X	altered

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

The vacant house sits in disrepair on an overgrown lot at the intersection of Montgomery Road and Old Washington Road. The one story frame building faces east on a small hill close to the south edge of the road on a part stone, part concrete foundation. In its earliest incarnation the building was an early schoolhouse in Elkridge, perhaps dating back to around 1880. In 1912 the building was sold by the school board and was converted into a private residence. The original portion of the structure has a gable front roof and rests on a stone foundation. Three tall original 6/6 wood windows remain on the north façade, the only façade that has not been added onto. Additions have been made to the rear (west) façade and the south façade. An enclosed porch stretches across the front of the building. Aluminum siding covers the exterior walls of the building and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. An interior brick stovepipe chimney pierces the roof in the center of the original building and probably served a central heating stove.

The front façade of the original portion of the building probably had a central door flanked by a window on either side. Today, the existing flush door is not original and there is only a window located to the right of the door. The window is a 6/6 double hung wood window and may be original. The entire original first story of the front façade is now concealed behind the enclosed porch and what was the exterior of the front wall is covered with faux-wood paneling. A full size 6/6 double hung wood window is located in the gable which also features exposed purlin ends.

The north façade of the building gives the best indication of what the original building looked like. Three tall 6/6 double hung wood windows line the wall and were probably echoed on the south façade, providing ample natural light for the young students. An addition one bay deep stretches across the full width of the west (rear) façade of the structure and the seam between the original building and the addition is clearly visible on the north façade in the foundation and in the roof construction. A wide, open eave overhang on the north façade makes it easy to identify which are the original rafters and which part of the building was a later addition, and the transition from stone to concrete in the foundation also indicates where the original building ended.

Both the south and west facades are completely concealed by additions. The additions probably happened fairly early, around 1915, however, and the windows in these parts of the house are also 6/6 double hung wood windows.

The building was converted into a single family dwelling around 1915, one or both of the additions were probably made at that time, and the original interior was partitioned and completely refinished. The existing moldings are nicely done and all date to this refit of the building. The attic was partially finished at one time and a bathroom was added up there. In one area where the structural components of the roof are exposed, it is possible to see cut nails in the sheathing of the roof. It seems likely, given the small size of the original building, that the interior of the building was originally just one large room with a central stove for heating and perhaps a small closet or two. The attic was probably not originally finished since there is no evidence that it was ever lathed and plastered; some of the rafters are concealed with some sort of synthetic tile that certainly dates post-1900.

The building is only in fair condition. It has been vacant for around a year and some damage has been caused by a falling tree across the rear addition and a water leak that damaged part of the ceiling. The presence of cut nails in the sheathing indicates a pre-1900 construction date.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-806

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	X education	__ industry	__ philospohy
X 1800-1899	X architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__ politics/government
__ 1900-1999	__ art	__ entertainment/ recreation	__ landscape architecture	__ religion
__ 2000-	__ commerce		__ law	__ science
	__ communications	__ ethnic heritage	__ literature	__ social history
	__ community planning	__ exploration/ settlement	__ maritime industry	__ transportation
	__ conservation		__ military	__ other:

Specific dates ca. 1880-1912 **Architect/Builder** unknown

Construction dates ca. 1880

Evaluation for:

__ National Register __ Maryland Register X 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 reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Old Elkridge Schoolhouse is significant under criteria A and C in the areas of education and architecture. In spite of its early 20th century refit as a dwelling, the building is one of very few one-room, 19th century schoolhouses still standing in Howard County and its original form is still evident. In addition, the building rests on a lot that has been used for a schoolhouse since 1841 when it was deeded to the Board of Trustees of Primary School No. 22.

The 1841 deed from Daniel Murray and his wife conveyed just over a quarter acre (46 ¾ square perches) on the southeast side of the Baltimore and Washington Turnpike between the 8th and 9th milestones to the Trustees of the Primary School for the location of a school for District 22. In 1860 two portions of that lot, described as "the schoolhouse lot," were sold to the Hartke family who also owned additional neighboring property, including the house still standing next door (recorded as HO-807, The Hartke Double House). That deed indicates that there was a schoolhouse building, identified as "Primary School No. 1 of the First District of Howard County," standing on the lot at the time. (When Howard County was still part of Anne Arundel County as Howard District, the school houses in what is now Howard County were numbered 22 through 48, numbers 1-21 being in Anne Arundel County proper. When Howard County became a separate county in 1851, the school houses were renumbered 1-22. Therefore, what was Primary School No. 22 in 1841, became Primary School No. 1 in the 1850's.) It is not clear if that building was on the part of the parcel transferred to the Hartkes. In fact, "School House No. 1" is labeled on the 1860 Martenet Map of Howard County in approximately the same place as the existing building. However, the 1860 deed referred to above states that the northernmost corner of the schoolhouse building was 115 feet from the southern edge of the Turnpike and the existing building rests much closer to the road – only around 24 feet from the edge of the old turnpike – and the location of the road has not shifted in the last 150 years. The school is not labeled on the 1878 Hopkins map of Howard County, and this evidence, combined with the deed evidence above, indicates that the early schoolhouse was perhaps no longer standing by 1878.

However, the basic form of the existing building is clearly a one-room schoolhouse with a central heating stove and the school commissioners continued to own the lot until 1912 when the Board of County School Commissioners of Howard County sold the building and its lot to John J. Hartke. Therefore, the existing school building must have been built sometime in the 1880's or 1890's. A date of ca. 1880 is assigned to this building based on the presence of all cut nails in the original roof sheathing and the fact that by 1912 the building had already outlived its usefulness. Presumably, the school commissioners would not sell a building that was less than 10 years old.

The Hartke family owned neighboring property, including the frame double house next door (HO-807) which had been in the family since the 1840's. John J. Hartke Sr. owned the old schoolhouse building until he sold it to his son, John J. Hartke Jr. in 1934. One of these two men is assumed to have been the one to convert the old schoolhouse into a dwelling. The double house next door is referred to as "the Home Place" in a 1935 deed and it is possible that the elder John Hartke lived in "the Home Place" and bought the schoolhouse simply because it bordered his property. The Hartke family lost "the Home Place" as a result of a 1935 court case,

however, so the younger John Hartke may have then converted the schoolhouse into a dwelling. The converted school building remained in the Hartke family until April 2003 when it was sold to a limited liability company. It is currently vacant, in poor repair, and for sale.

In the mid-19th century, the public education system in Howard County left much to be desired. The first attempts to organize state-sponsored education began with an 1816 act that passed the state legislature and levied a moderate tax on the wealthy inhabitants to pay for the education of the poorer ones. In 1825, a state law provided for the first system of public education throughout the state. Under this law, the governor appointed a state superintendent and named commissioners of primary schools for each county. These commissioners then divided each county into districts and each district appointed a clerk, a collector, and three trustees. The trustees were the ones responsible for erecting and maintaining the buildings and furnishing the fuel, books, stationary, etc. In 1847, each school district received $195 for each school in the district; one third of that amount was contributed by the state and two thirds of it came from the district. This early system didn't always work the way it was supposed to, and there was a lot of variation in the quality of the schools. In 1864, the state constitution provided for a complete overhaul of the public education system. A state board of education was established and county boards of school commissioners became responsible for the operation of the schools. The three-man school board in Howard County first met October 1, 1865 and consisted of Samuel K. Dashiell, Dr. Joel Hopkins, and David Burdette. Dashiell was responsible for supervising the schools in the first district. In 1865, there were 24 primary schools in Howard County. By 1900, there were 60 public schools for whites and 14 colored schools. The first high school was built in Lisbon in 1899. (1)

Why Primary School No. 1 ceased to operate or even exist by 1878 is unclear, especially since the school district continued to own the land until 1912. Perhaps there was only a very short gap in operation but it happened to be at exactly the time when Hopkins was doing his survey for his map. Other schools are shown on the map, including one on Schoolhouse Lane (Railroad Avenue) just east of the railroad tracks in Elkridge and one less than half a mile up Old Montgomery Road from the intersection of the Turnpike and Montgomery Road where Primary School No. 1 used to stand, so presumably Hopkins would have noted the school's location if it was standing. Sometime shortly after Hopkins' map was made, the school was reconstructed on the lot much closer to the Turnpike in its current location. It operated for no more than 30 years before it was sold and converted to a private residence. Given the relative scarcity of schools across the county, it does seem odd to have three schools in such close proximity to each other; it is possible that one of the three was a colored school. Colored schools are first mentioned in the records of the school board in 1870. A close examination of the school board records, which do supposedly exist from 1847-1860 and 1865 onward, should be able to narrow down exactly when this particular schoolhouse was built and whether it was constructed to serve white or colored children. (2)

There are very few 19th century primary school buildings left in Howard County and this one therefore becomes much more significant as one of the last remaining examples. In spite of the alterations made to the building when it was converted into a residence, the original form is still evident, and it is important that a former schoolhouse building still stands on "the schoolhouse lot" where children attended school as early as 1841.

1. Joetta Cramm, HOWARD COUNTY: A PICTORAL HISTORY. (Norfolk, VA: The Donning Company, 1987).

2. Ibid.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-806

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.5

Acreage of historical setting 0.5

Quadrangle name Relay

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax map 38, parcel 519. It is unclear how the boundaries of the current lot compare with the boundaries of the old "schoolhouse lot". They clearly overlap in some areas but probably differ in others.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Kristin Hill, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning	date	12/2/03
street and number	3430 Court House Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state MD	zip code 21043

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
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-806

Name Old Elkridge Schoolhouse
Continuation Sheet
Number 9 Page 1

Cramm, Joetta. HOWARD COUNTY: A PICTORAL HISTORY, (Norfolk, VA: The Donning Company, 1987).

Howard County Land Records, Howard County Courthouse, Ellicott City. See attached chain of title for specific libers and folios.

Hopkins, G.M. ATLAS OF HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND, 1878. (Ellicott City, Maryland: Howard County Bicentennial Commission, Inc., 1975).

Martenet, Simon J. MARTENET'S MAP OF HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND. (Baltimore, 1860.)

HO-806
Old Elkridge Schoolhouse
6317 Old Washington Road
Elkridge, Howard County

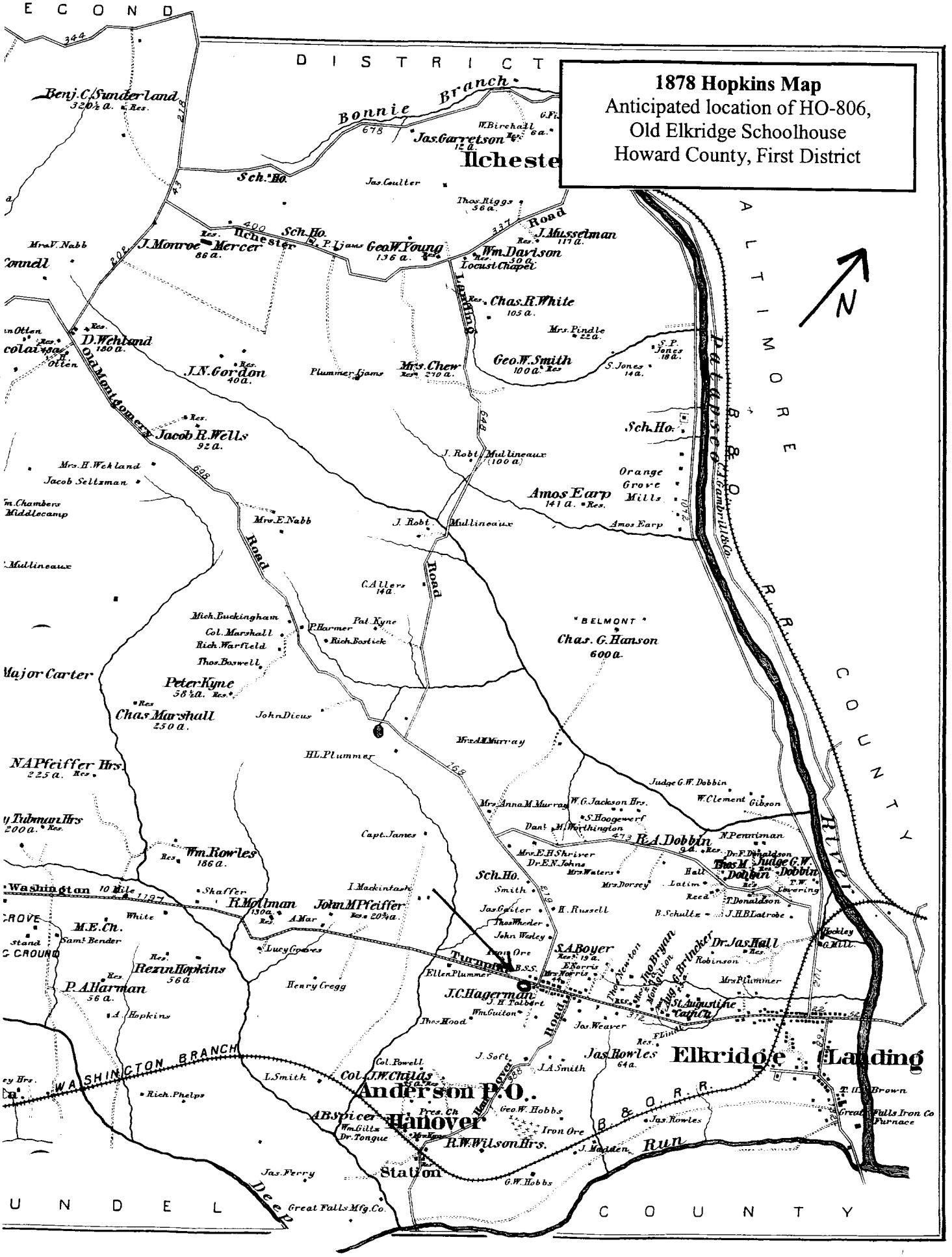
CHAIN OF TITLE

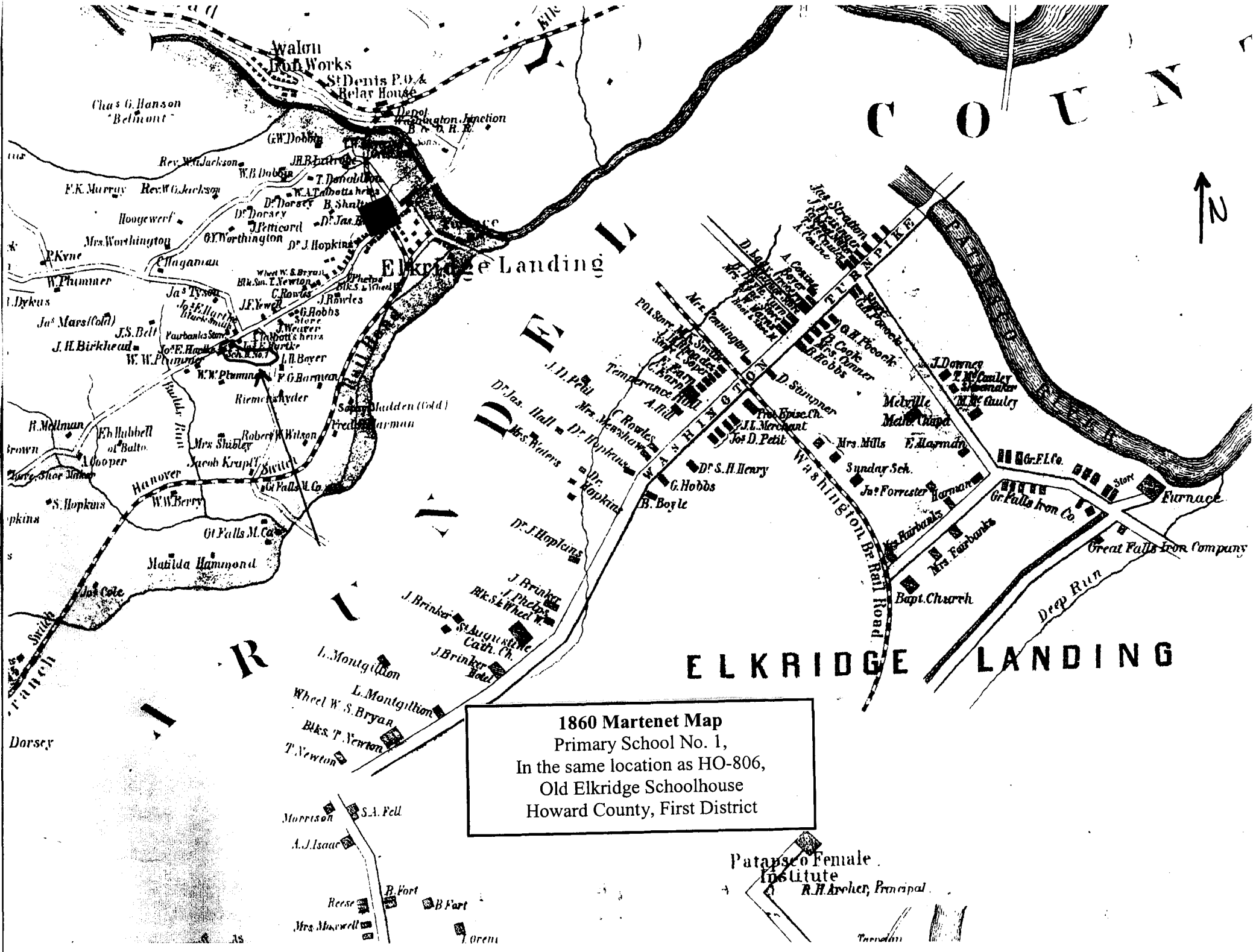
GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANSACTION	COMMENTS
Timothy V. Hartke, Pamela M. Hartke, Gregory J. Hartke, and Carol A. Hartke		Start to Finish LLC		April 15, 2003	7114	161	Deed	$80,000, 0.44 acres, same property conveyed in L5253, F58
Carol A. Hartke, personal representative of the estate of James V. Hartke, deceased		Pamela Hartke, Timothy Hartke, Gregory Hartke, and Carol Hartke		October 3, 2000	5253	58	Deed	All of the grantees are the children of James V. Hartke, deceased, who left them the property in his will. Property is the same conveyed in L199, F4.
John J. Hartke, Jr. and wife Ellen	District of Columbia	Catherine V. Hartke and James and Helen Hartke		May 22, 1947	199	4	Deed	John Jr. and Ellen convey the property to Catherine for the term of her natural life after which it will go to James and Helen Hartke. 46 ¾ square perches of land. Same property conveyed in L149, F47.
John J. Hartke, Sr. and wife Catherine V. Hartke	Howard	John J. Hartke, Jr.	Howard	May 18, 1934	149	47	Deed	46 ¾ square perches of land. Same property conveyed in L93, F199.
Board of County School Commissioners of Howard County		John J. Hartke	Howard	June 11, 1912	93	199	Deed	Property consists of 46 ¾ square perches of land, "together with the buildings." Metes and bounds are given.

HO-806
Old Elkridge Schoolhouse
6317 Old Washington Road
Elkridge, Howard County

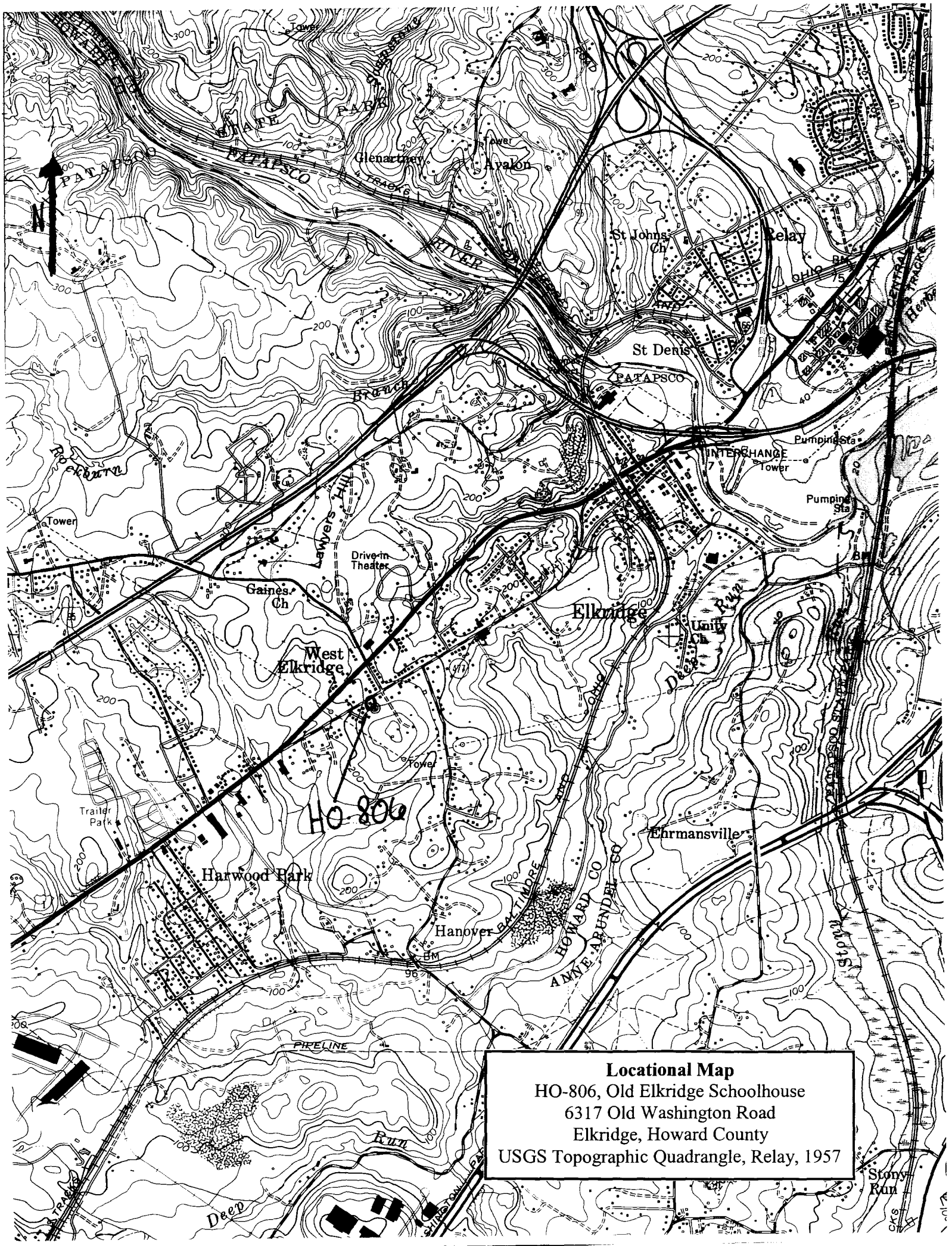
CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANSACTION	COMMENTS
Daniel and Mary Murray	Howard District	Thomas Jefferson Talbott, Stephen Bryan and Frederick Harmon, Trustees of Primary School District No. 22 of Howard District, Anne Arundel County		May 22, 1841	1	376	Deed	In exchange for $15, Murray conveys to the Trustees part of a tract called Rockburn on the southeast side of the Washington Turnpike between the 8th and 9th milestones consisting of 46 ¾ square perches of land for the location of a Primary School for District 22 and for no other use.


1878 Hopkins Map
Anticipated location of HO-806,
Old Elkridge Schoolhouse
Howard County, First District
SECOND DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
Bonnie Branch
Ilchester
Ilchester Road
Old Montgomery Road
Washington Branch
Patapsco River
B. & O. R. R.
Deep Run
Elkridge Landing
Anderson P.O.
Hanover
Hanover Station
Turnpike
Belmont
Orange Grove Mills
Great Falls Iron Co Furnace
Great Falls Mfg. Co.
Benj. C. Sunderland
Jas. Garretson
Jas. Coulter
Thos. Riggs
Sch. Ho.
J. Monroe Mercer
Geo. W. Young
Wm. Davison
Locust Chapel
J. Musselman
Chas. R. White
Mrs. Pindle
Geo. W. Smith
D. Wehland
J. N. Gordon
Mrs. Chew
Jacob R. Wells
J. Robt. Mullineaux
Amos Earp
Mrs. E. Nabb
Chas. G. Hanson
Major Carter
Peter Kyne
Chas. Marshall
N. A. Pfeiffer Hrs.
Wm. Rowles
R. Mottman
John M. Pfeiffer
R. A. Dobbin
Judge G. W. Dobbin
Thos. M. Dobbin
S. A. Boyer
J. C. Hagerman
Jas. Rowles
Elkridge Landing
Dr. Jas. Hall
St. Augustine Cath. Ch.
Rezin Hopkins
P. A. Harman
M. E. Ch.
Sam'l Bender
Col. J. W. Childs
A. B. Spicer
R. W. Wilson Hrs.
Jas. Ferry
Jas. Weaver
Iron Ore
Henry Gregg
Thos. Hood
Rich. Phelps
Geo. W. Hobbs
Jas. Rowles
Great Falls Iron Co Furnace



1860 Martenet Map
Primary School No. 1,
In the same location as HO-806,
Old Elkridge Schoolhouse
Howard County, First District



Locational Map
HO-806, Old Elkridge Schoolhouse
6317 Old Washington Road
Elkridge, Howard County
USGS Topographic Quadrangle, Relay, 1957

HO-806, Old Elkridge School House
6317 Old Washington Rd., Elkridge
Howard County, MD
Kristin Hill, 11/03 37 21+00 NNNNN 975
Negative at MDSHPO

East elevation

1/10

HO-806, Old Elkridge School House
6317 Old Washington Rd., Elkridge
Howard County, MD 36 21+00 NNNNN 975
Kristin Hill, 11/03
Negative at MDSHPO
NE elevation

2/10

HO-806, Old Elkridge School House
6317 Old Washington Road, Elkridge
Howard County, MD
Kristin Hill, 11/03
Negative at MDSHPO

NE elevation

3/10

30 21+01 NNNNN 975

HO-806, Old Elkridge School House
6317 Old Washington Road, Elkridge 35 21+00 NNNNN 975
Howard County, MD
Kristin Hill, 11/03
Negative at MDSHPO
SE elevation
4/10

HO-806, Old Elkridge School House
6317 Old Washington Road, Elkridge 34 21+00 NNNNN 975
Howard County, MD
Kristin Hill, 11/03
Negative at MDSHPC
SE elevation
5/10

HO-866, Old Elkridge School House
6317 Old Washington Rd., Elkridge
Howard County, MD
Kristin Hill, 11/03
Negative at MDSHPO
South elevation
6/10

33 21+01 NNNNN 975

HO-806, Old Elkridge School House
6317 Old Washington Road, Elkridge
Howard County, MD
Kristin Hill, 11/03
Negative at MDSHPO
South elevation
7/10

28 21+00 NNNNN 975

HO-806, Old Elkridge School House
6317 Old Washington Road, Elkridge
Howard County, MD 31 21+01 NNNNN 975
Kristin Hill, 11/03
Negative at MDSHPO

Original stone foundation, north elevation
8/10

HO-806, Old Elkridge School House
6317 Old Washington Road, Elkridge
Howard County, MD 29 21+00 NNNNN 975
Kristin Hill, 11/03
Negative at MDSHPO

North elevation, original front section

9/10

HO-806, Old Elkridge School House
6317 Old Washington Rd., Elkridge
Howard County, MD 32 21+00 NNNNN 975
Kristin Hill, 11/03
Negative at MDSHPO
North elevation looking east, three original windows and stone foundation
10/10