NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Wilson School

other names/site number WA-V-007

. Location

street Rufus Wilson Road
not for publication n/a city or town Clear Spring vicinity x
state Maryland code MD county Washington code 043 zip code 21722

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide x locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official — Date 9-26-98

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register _____
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the National Register _____
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined not eligible for the National Register _____
____ removed from the National Register _____

____ other (explain): _____

_____ _____
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

_x_ private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

_x_ building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in National Register 0
Name of related multiple property listing n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: EDUCATION Sub: school
Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Stone
roof Metal
walls Brick
other Wood

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

_x_ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

____ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

_x_ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

____ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

____ B removed from its original location.

____ C a birthplace or a grave.

____ D a cemetery.

____ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

____ F a commemorative property.

____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
EDUCATION
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1860-1950

Significant Dates 1860

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
_x_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
_x_ Other
Name of repository: Washington County Free Library, Hagerstown, MD

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.5 acre
USGS quadrangle Clear Spring, MD-PA
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	255220	4393310	C	__	_____	_____
B	__	_____	_____	D	__	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: Boundaries are shown on the plat which accompanies this nomination, and conform to the courses and distances indicated thereon.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property, 0.5 acre, comprises the remnant of the property with which the resource is historically associated, and constitutes an appropriate setting.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jean Crolius Ehman
organization _____ date September 1997
street & number P. O. Box 1644 telephone (304) 876-3614
city or town Shepherdstown state WV zip code 25433

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets
Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)
name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state ____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Description Summary:

The Wilson School is a one-room schoolhouse, constructed 1859-60 on the historic National Road in Washington County, Maryland. It is a simple gable-fronted building constructed of brick laid in common bond on a stone foundation. It has undergone few alterations and has been restored as a local museum.

General Description:

Constructed in 1859-60, the Wilson School is located at the end of Rufus Wilson Road near the former alignment of the National Road about four miles east of Clear Spring in Washington County, Maryland. The rectangular building stands one room wide and three bays deep, constructed of brick laid in common bond above a random rubble limestone foundation. Its simple, gable-front composition reflects a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style which was commonly employed for rural school buildings in the mid-19th century. Large 9/6 sash windows define the longitudinal bays, set in openings with flat brick arches and wooden sills. The entrance is located in a small vestibule which projects from the south gable end. While the masonry of the vestibule does not appear to be keyed into that of the main block, the character of the brickwork and detailing of the two elements is very similar, indicating that not much time passed before the addition of the vestibule. The entrance comprises a single door below a three-light transom. A brick exterior chimney is located on the south gable, west of the vestibule. The north gable end is unfenestrated except for a small louvered ventilator located near the peak. The west elevation is three bays wide; the northernmost bay holds a secondary entrance, probably converted from a window opening in the early 1940s in response to safety requirements, while the remaining bays retain 9/6 sash windows in openings topped with flat brick arches. The roof is covered with ridged metal, and there is a pronounced overhang at the eaves.

The interior is finished throughout in plaster above random-width tongue-and-groove wainscoting capped with a beaded chair rail. Window architraves

are trimmed with simple flat boards with a beaded edge. At the north end of the school room is a two-foot-wide platform.

The building has been restored and furnished to interpret a country school of the period. A three-panel blackboard is located at the north end, and another blackboard is located at the rear of the schoolroom, east of the entrance. A pot-bellied storve is located to the west of the entrance. Furnishings include school desks representing various periods.

The Wilson School has undergone few alterations. Some repairs and repointing have been made to the limestone foundation and common bond brick walls, especially on the north elevation, and a window on the west elevation was altered to a doorway.

Significance Summary

The Wilson School is significant under Criterion A for its association with the early development of education in Washington County. Constructed in 1859-60 by local merchant Rufus Wilson to serve his son and neighbors' children, it was incorporated into the county's public education system in the 1890s and remained in use until it closed in 1950, the last operating one-room school in Washington County. It is also significant under Criterion C as a well-preserved representative example of a type of one-room school building typical of rural Maryland in the third quarter of the 19th century.

Resource History & Historic Context

In 1859, Rufus Wilson began building the school on property owned by the family of his late wife, Elizabeth Brewer Wilson, for his only child, John Wilson, and neighborhood children. The school opened in 1860 and remained in operation until 1950, when it was closed following the recommendations of a survey team from New York City commissioned by the county Board of Education. At that time, it was the only remaining one-room schoolhouse in Washington County, and had an enrollment ranging from Kindergarten through Fourth Grade.

Before it became part of the Washington County school system, the Wilson School was operated privately at a tuition ranging from $20 to $30 per term. In 1890, John D. Brewer, who had inherited the property, formally transferred it to the Board of the County School Commissioners.

The Free School system in Washington County was established in 1864 and enacted the following year by the General Assembly of Maryland. The period 1867-76 saw the greatest expansion of school building in Washington County; during this period, schools numbered 127 in all, 45 of log construction, 40 built of brick, and only six with more than one room. The Wilson School is the only example of its type in Washington County which retains integrity.

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period: Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes: Architecture
Education

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: School

Known Design Source: None

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Washington County Board of Commissioners Minutes, 1865-1887

Washington County Land Records

Register of Wills, Washington County

Second Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and reports of the President of the Boards of County School Commissioners for the period ending June 30, 1867. Annapolis: Wm. Thompson of R., printer, 1868.

Hewitt, Downs and Louise, "Washington County Retired Teachers," ms., n.d.

Bushey, George M., "Schools in Washington County Early 1900s," ms., 1902.

Williams, Thomas J. C. History of Washington County, Maryland. Orig. pub. Hagerstown, MD, 1906; rpt. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co, 1968.

Scharf, J. Thomas History of Western Maryland. Orig. pub. Philadelphia, 1882; rpt. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co, 1968.

Taylor, Gladys R. and Leona Robinson, "Wilson School," ms., ca. 1940.

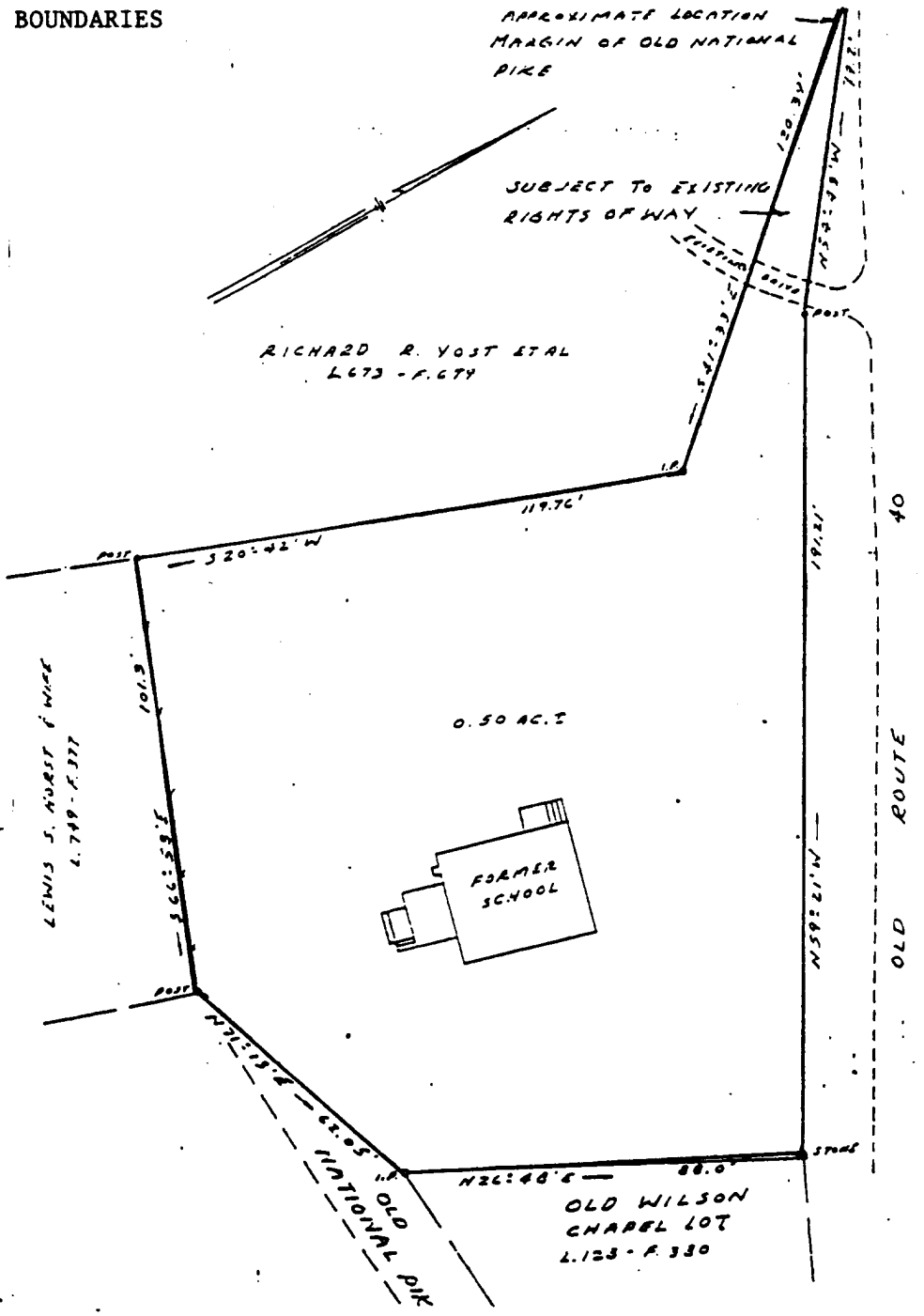
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 12

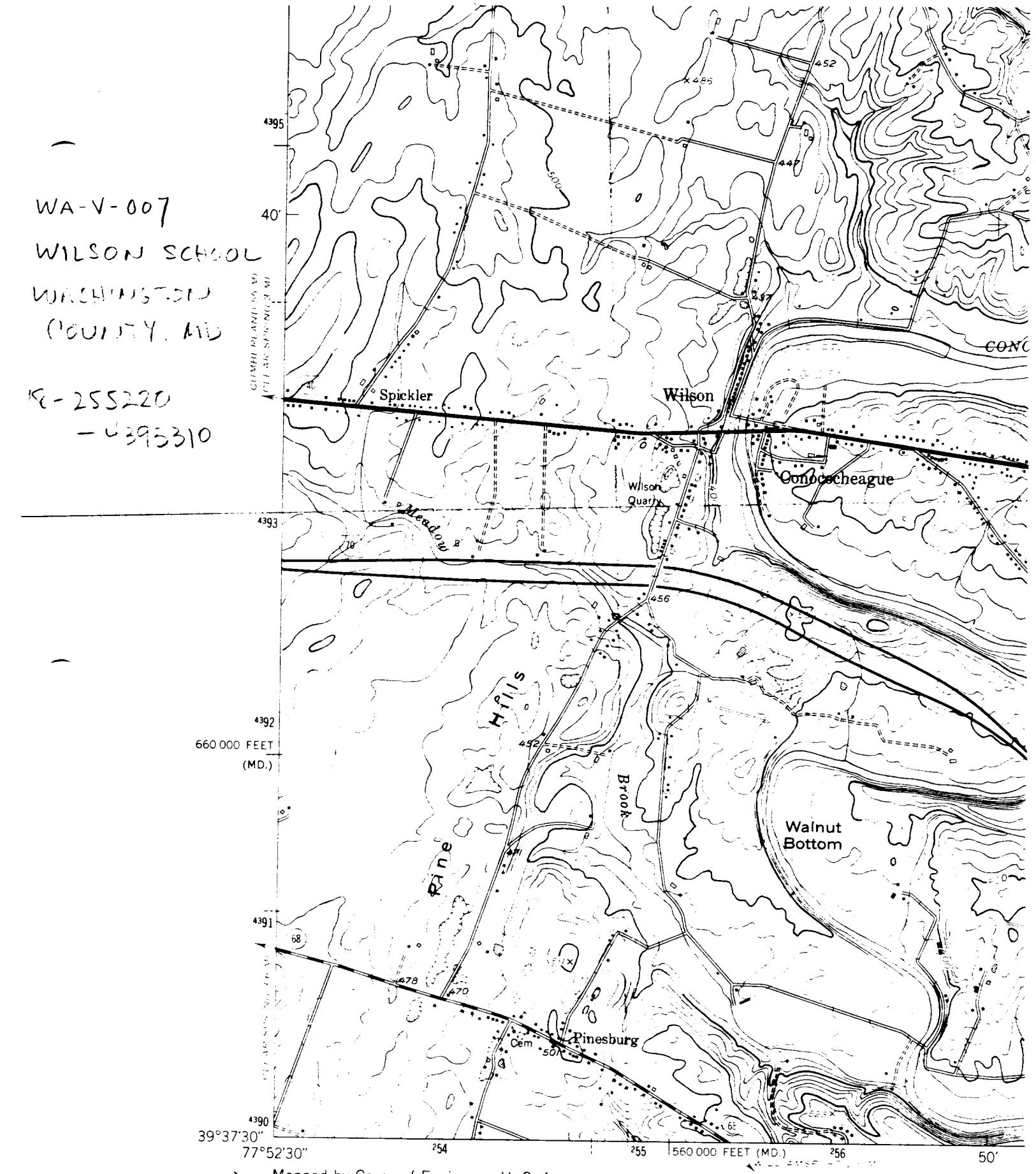
WA-V-007
Wilson School
Washington Co., MD

NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARIES



WA-V-007
WILSON SCHOOL
WASHINGTON
COUNTY, MD

E-255220
-4395310



(HEDGESVILLE) 5463 III SW

Mapped by Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by KEK plotter
Aerial photographs taken 1943
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1953

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Maryland coordinate system
and Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone

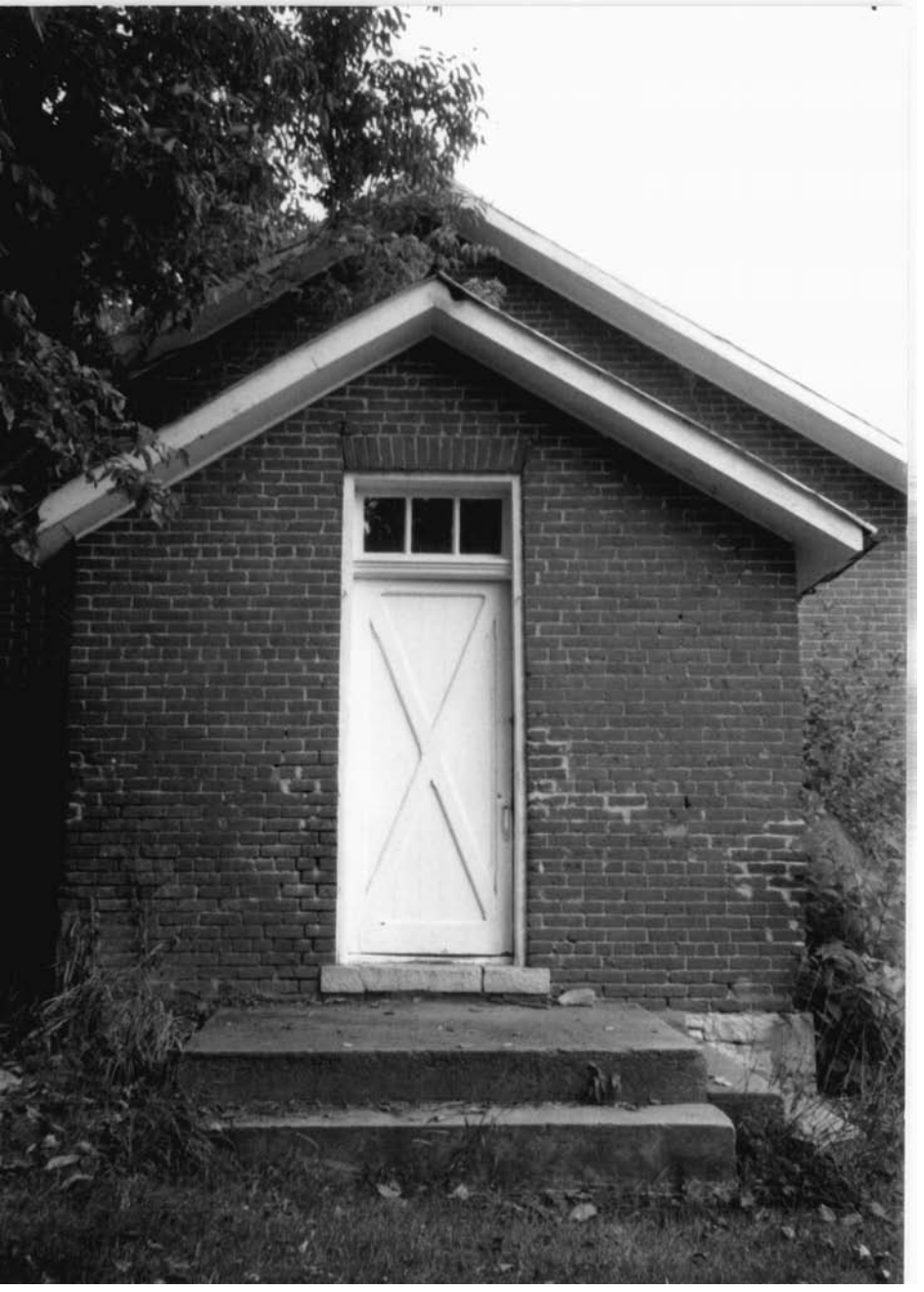
MN GN
7½° 133 MILS
1°48' 32 MILS

1 of 11

SE elevation

WA-V-007

WILSON SCHOOL



WA-V-007

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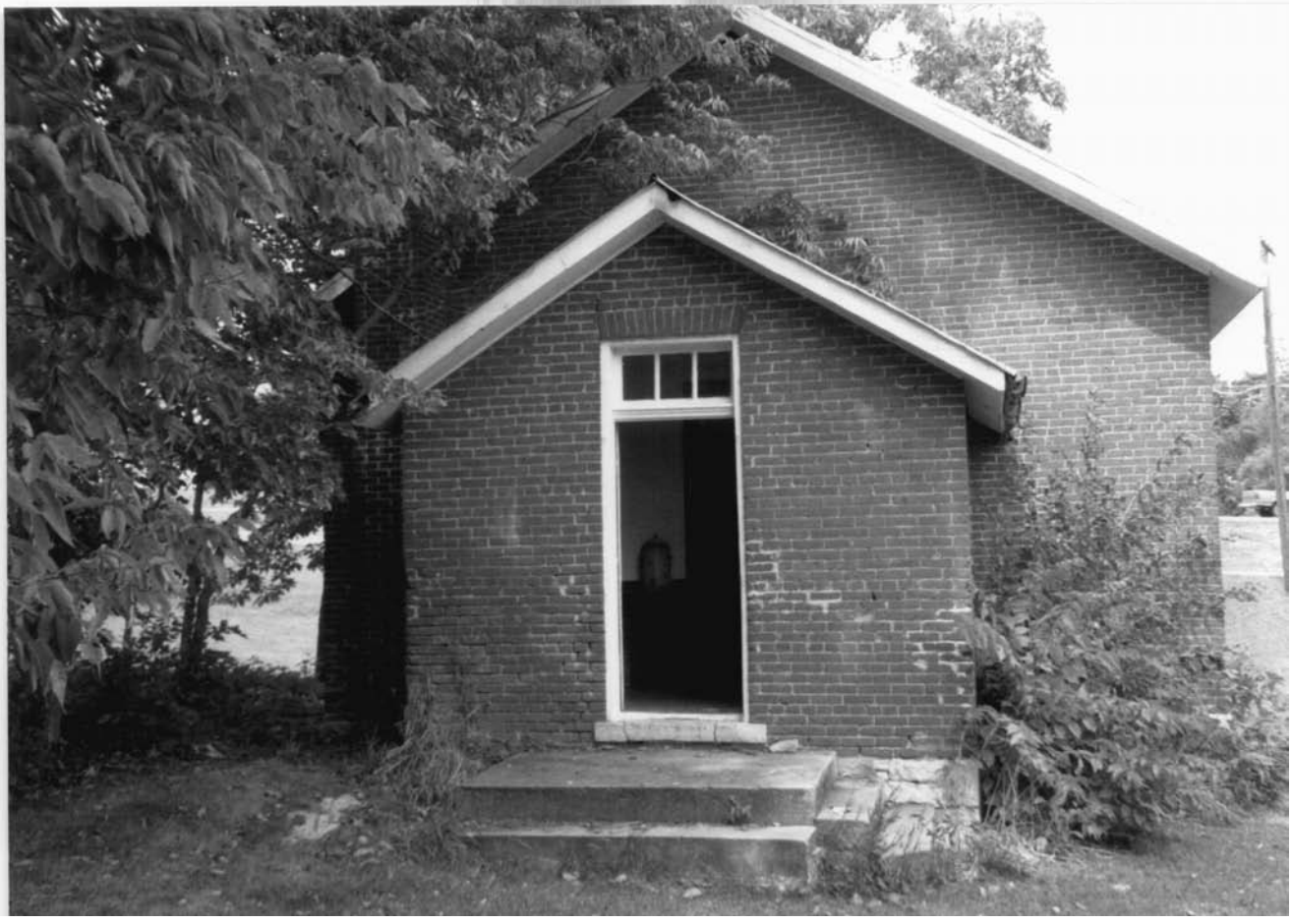
South elevation



WA-V-007

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South elevation

WA-V-007

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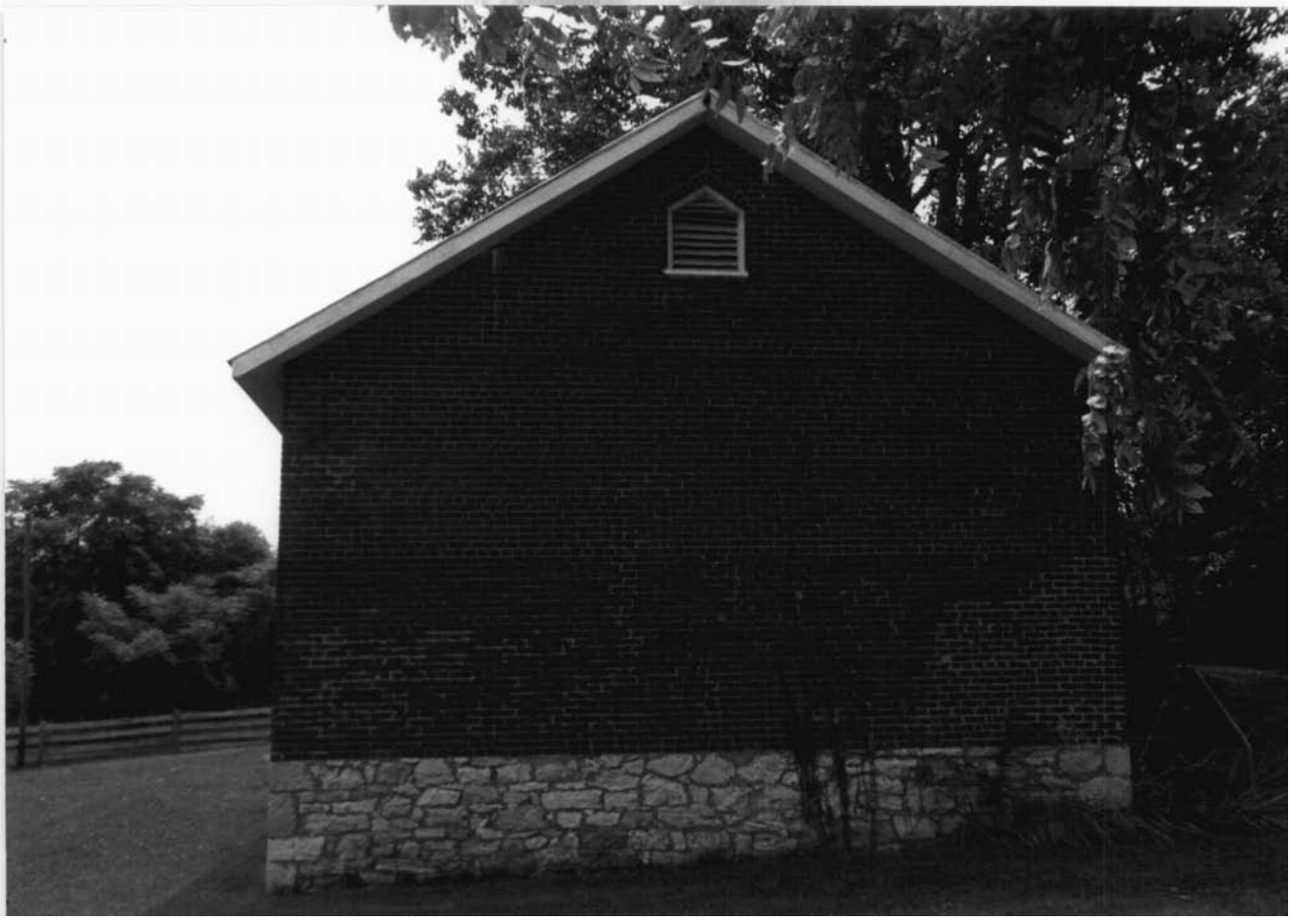
West elevation



WA-V-007

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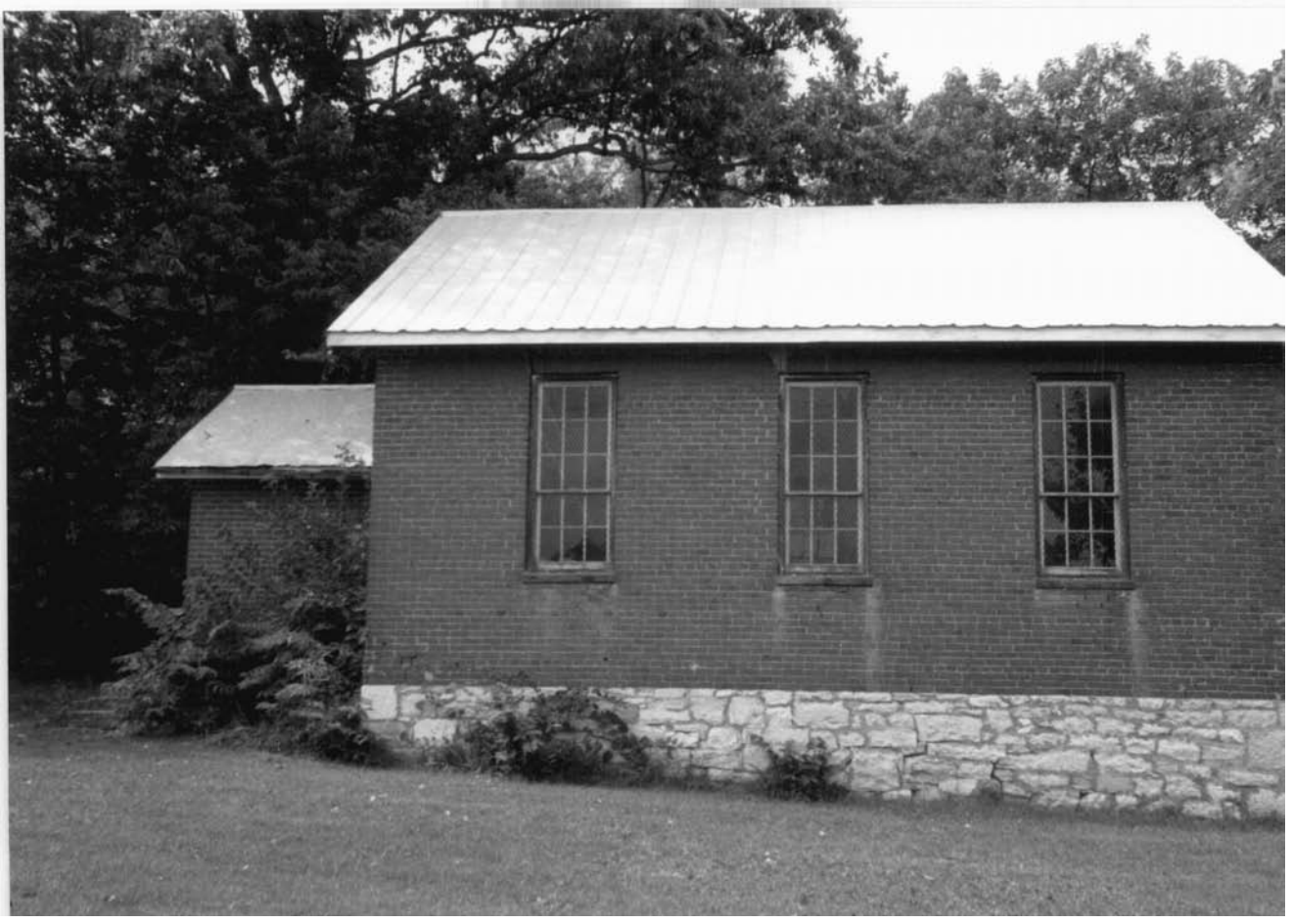
North elevation



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East elevation

VIA-V-007

WA-V-007

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Interior

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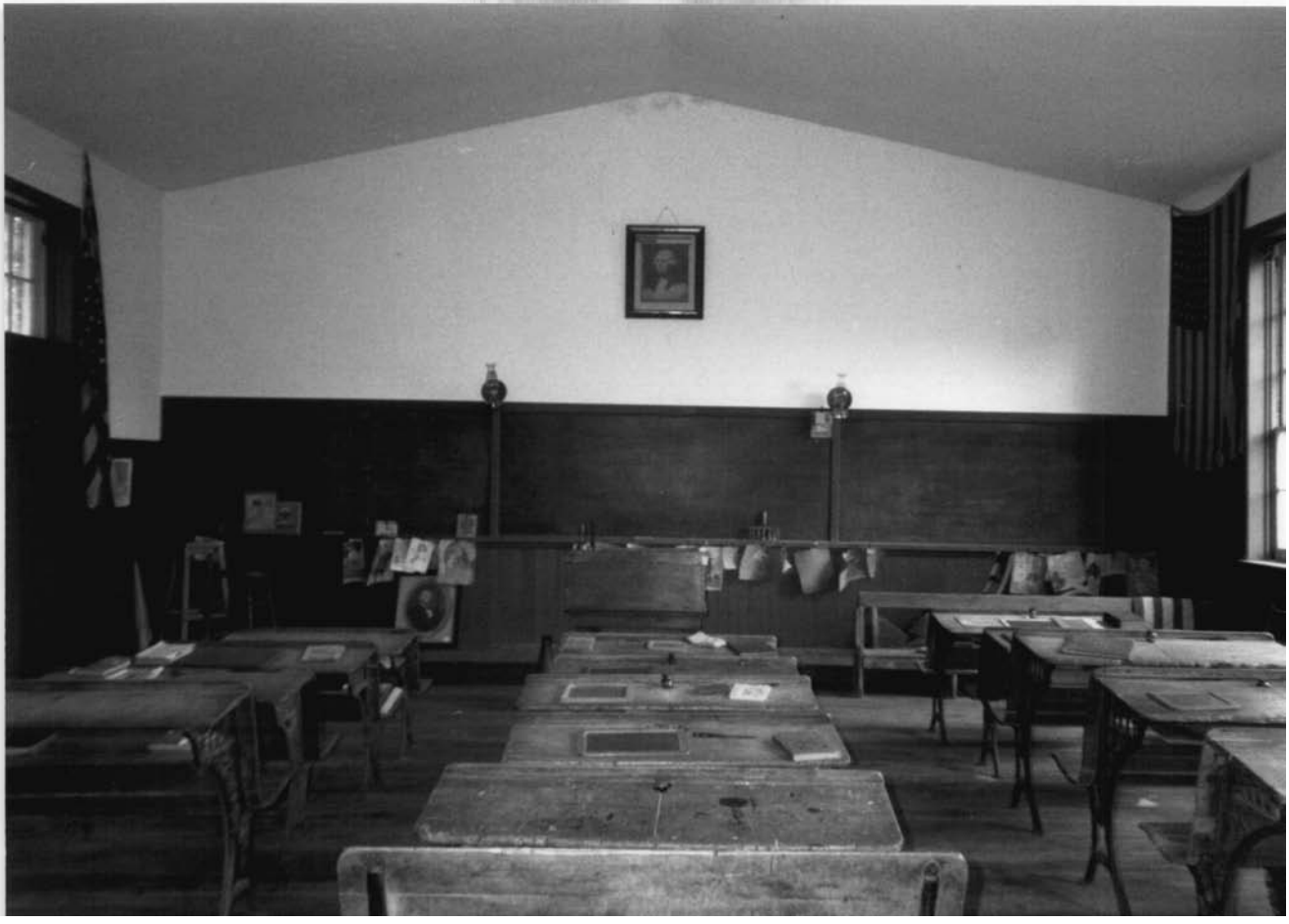
WA-V-007



Interior

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WA-V-007

Interior

10 of 11

VA. V-007

WA-V-007
District 23
Map 35
Parcel 250
MAGI # 2211815502

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON
Wilson School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Wilson

CITY, TOWN
X VICINITY OF Clear Spring

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
6

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Washington

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	X OTHER: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Washington County Board of County Commissioners Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN
Hagerstown __ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21740

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: 306
Folio #: 211

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Washington County Court House

STREET & NUMBER
West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN
Hagerstown

STATE
Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

WA-V-007

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The former Wilson School is a one story three bay brick structure with common bond at all elevations. It has a projecting entrance bay with a door hung beneath a transom. Windows have nine over six pane sashes. The building would appear to date from the third quarter of the 19th century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

WA-V-007

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	X EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wilson School building is typical of many small 19th century schools in Washington County. Many have been converted to residences but this building remains vacant.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

WA-V-007

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .88 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Paula Stoner, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION
Preservation Associates

DATE
July 1978

STREET & NUMBER
109 West Main Street, Box 202

TELEPHONE
301-432-5466

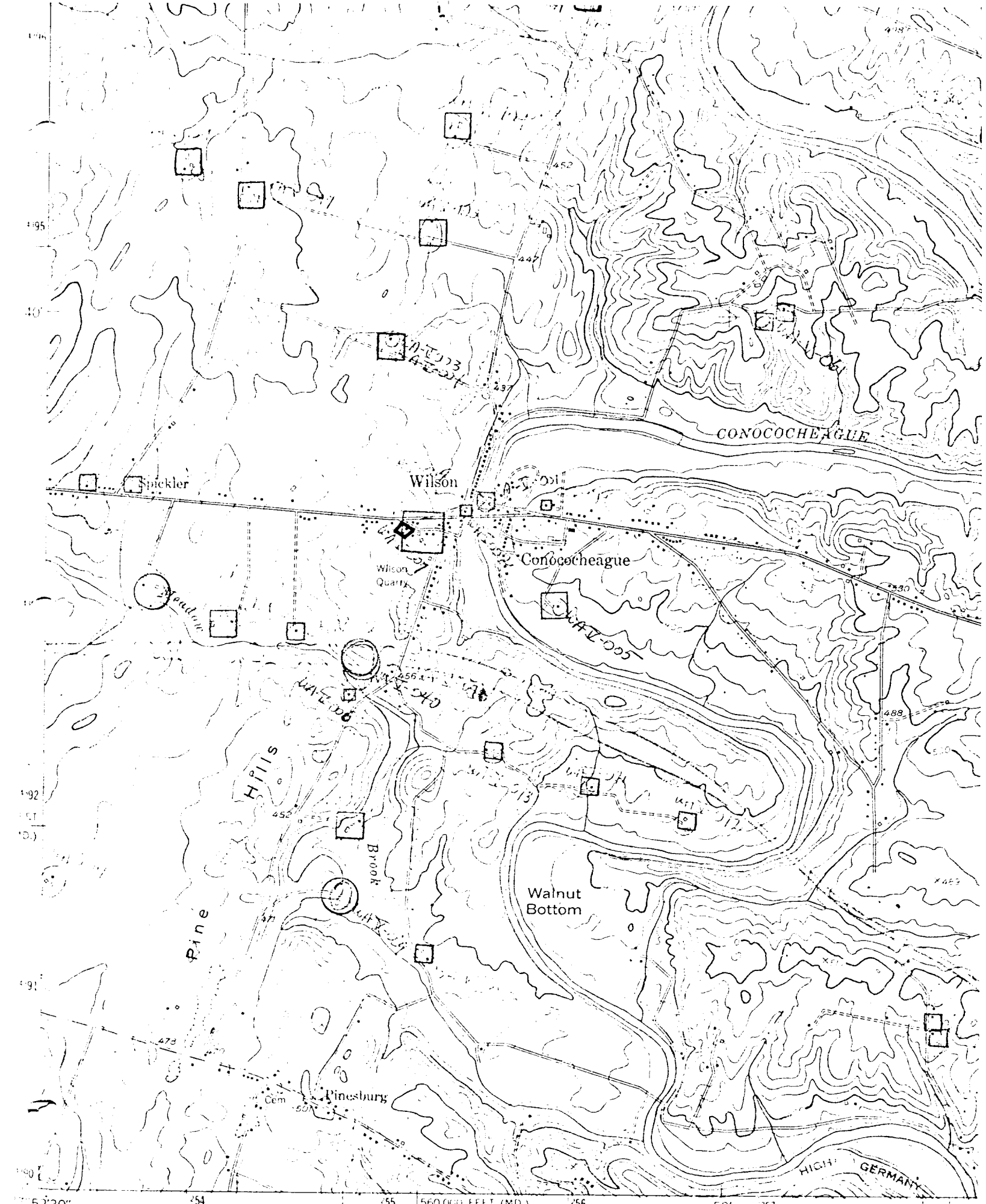
CITY OR TOWN
Sharpsburg

STATE
Maryland 21782

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.

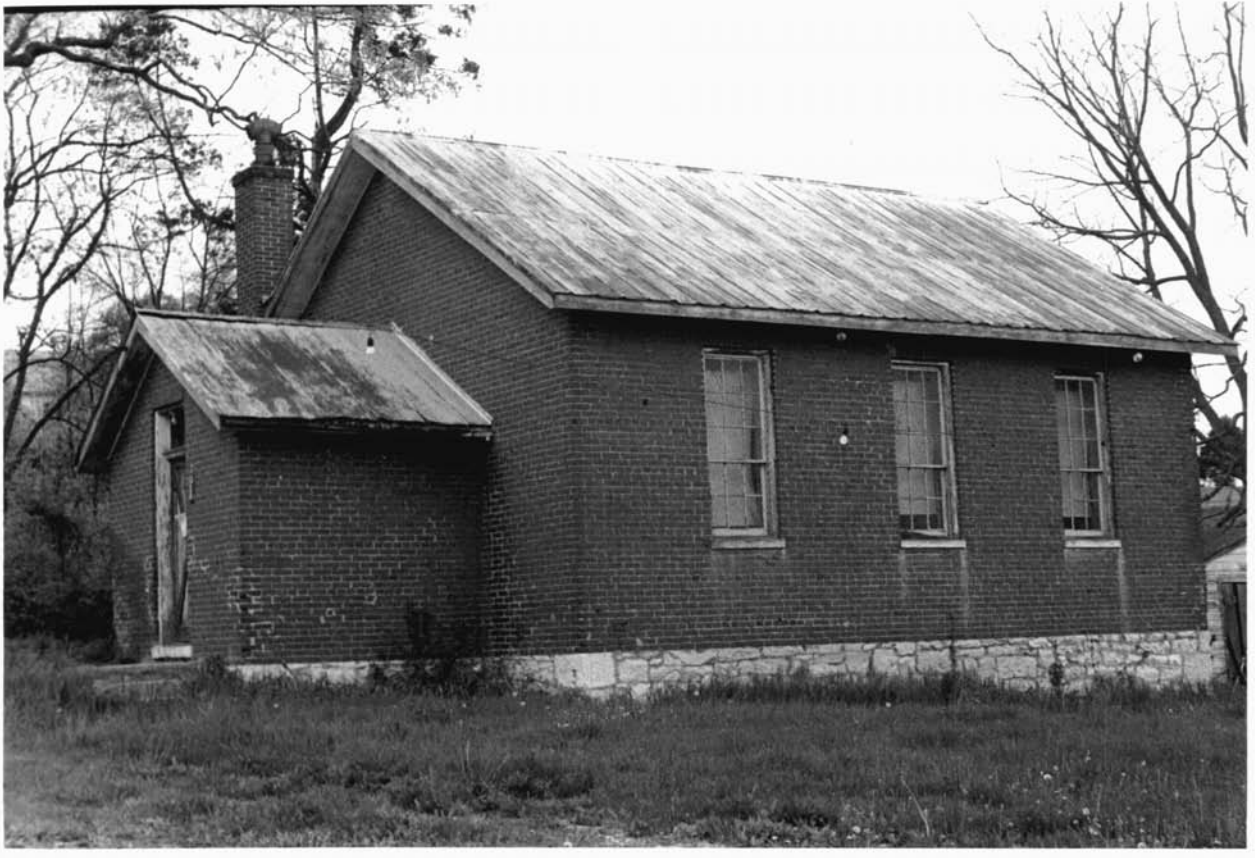
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



Mapped by Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Mason-Dixon quad

WA-V-007



Wilson School

Wilson, Clear Spring Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON DC
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY