

(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**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 Baltimore County School No. 7
other names/site number Ashland School (preferred)

2. Location

street 200 Ashland Road
not for publication n/a city or town Cockeysville vicinity n/a
state Maryland code MD county Baltimore code 005 zip code 21030

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

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

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
 Ashland School
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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: school

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

roof Slate

walls Stone

other _____

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

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8. Statement of Significance

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

- 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.
- 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)

ARCHITECTURE
EDUCATION
INDUSTRY

Period of Significance 1882-1929

Significant Dates 1882; 1929

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Davis, Frank E., architect
Merryman, Robert G., builder

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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
- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other

Name of repository:

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property approximately one acre

USGS quadrangle Cockeysville, MD

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>18</u>	<u>358790</u>	<u>4372830</u>	C	_____	_____
B	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____
	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>					

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Steven C. Stoecklein
 organization n/a date July, 1999
 street & number 200 Ashland Road telephone (410) 925-6224
 city or town Cockeysville state MD zip code 21030

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Additional Documentation

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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)

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Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Steven C. & Donna J. Stoecklein
 street & number 200 Ashland Road telephone (410) 925-6224
 city or town Cockeysville state MD zip code 21030

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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 Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Ashland School
Baltimore County, MD

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Baltimore County School #7 was constructed in 1882 atop a hill at the intersection of Ashland Road and Paper Mill Road, at the entrance to the village of Ashland, associated with the Ashland Iron Works. The structure is built of rough cut marble ashlar from the nearby Butler/Beaver Dam Quarry. The exterior reflects the influence of the Queen Anne style with gabled windows, elaborate cornice work, fan-shaped attic vents at the roof peak, and numerous large banks of multi-paned windows.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Approximately 75 yards to the west of the property is the West Branch of the Gunpowder River; southwest of the property is the Ashland Presbyterian Church (1874). The school was built on land donated by the Ashland Iron Works to replace previous frame schoolhouse which had been provided free of charge by the company to the Board of County School Commissioners.

The interior of the building was altered in 1930 from the two-room schoolhouse configuration to that of an upscale private residence, still incorporating the 25-foot barrel-vaulted ceilings with exposed beams and trusses. Very attractive architectural details were added, such as a large foyer or reception hall paneled in Southern "gumwood" with Ebony beads with two sets of double French doors that lead into the two main rooms. The "great room" living room is wainscoted with the same "gumwood" paneling. All of the floors in the house are finished with 2" by 1" thick heart pine flooring all run on the diagonal. Also added in the 1930 conversion was an elegant stairway with unique wood and iron railings that lead to a loft that is enclosed by a glazed curtain wall with an unusual wedge-shaped door. Other notable features from the 1930 period are a beautiful stone fireplace with "Inglenook"-style sitting area across from it that together separate the dining room and great room. The dining room has several custom built in cabinets that are federal style and the walls are covered with a faux stone simulating varied stone blocks that was popularized in England in the 19th century.

The exterior has remained largely unaltered. When the school was rendered surplus in 1929 after 47 years of service it was purchased by a retired business executive and converted to a residence at a then-huge sum of \$15,000.00. The exterior was altered merely by the extension of the front porch at this time and the addition of a large garage and guesthouse at the rear of the structure (both not connected to the main house). Sometime in the 1950-60 period a flat roofed "mudroom" was added off the kitchen at the

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rear of the house. This inappropriate addition subsequently became deteriorated and was replaced with one better suited for the building, during a campaign of rehabilitation in 1999.

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SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Ashland School is significant under Criterion C for its architectural character. Constructed in 1882 to the design of prominent Baltimore architect Frank E. Davis, it is a noteworthy example of the Queen Anne style applied to a rural school building. In its architectural elaboration and its substantial masonry construction, the building marks a departure from the standard frame school buildings that had been erected by the Baltimore County School Commissioners since the 1860s. Upon its removal from service in 1929, the interior of the building was remodeled as a private residence, and the high quality of the design and workmanship involved in this conversion is significant in its own right. The School derives additional significance under Criterion A for its association with the Ashland Iron Works, an early 19th century industrial enterprise in Baltimore County, and its company town; the school was constructed on property donated to the county by the iron company, and primarily served the children of immigrant iron workers resident in the company town.

RESOURCE HISTORY AND HISTORIC CONTEXT

School #7, District 8 at Ashland Iron Works represents a drastic departure from the standard school design that had been for years the norm in Baltimore County. In fact, it was the first individually-designed school built by the Baltimore County Board of School Commissioners with public funds on land donated by the Ashland Iron Works, proprietor Col. Wm. B. Franklin. Prominent Baltimore architect Frank E. Davis, one of the founding members of the Maryland Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, was commissioned to design the building, which was built by Robert G. Merryman. The structure is a fine and intact example of Queen Anne-style architecture of substantial masonry construction, employing marble from the Butler quarry (the same quarry used to construct the Washington Monument and many other prominent Washington, DC and Baltimore landmarks). It is also representative of the work of Frank E. Davis (1839-1921), a prolific architect in the Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia region. This schoolhouse is also important for its association with the company town of Ashland, as it was built to educate the children of mostly Irish and German iron workers. It is further noted that many community functions, meetings, and celebrations took place at Ashland School #7 during the 47 years it remained in service, on the hill, at the only entrance to the village.

The charter for the Ashland Iron Works was granted in the summer of 1844 to Christian Geiger, Philip Small, and Samuel Small; the Small brothers had interests in flour milling and dry goods based in York, Pennsylvania. By

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the end of the year, Charles S. Gilmor of Baltimore and the owners of the Joppa Iron Works, Joseph W. Patterson and Edward Patterson, were brought into the company.

By 1850 the Ashland Iron Works employed 45 persons and produced 4,300 tons of pig iron annually from two furnaces representing a capital investment of \$150,000. The company was the first in Baltimore County to utilize anthracite coal rather than charcoal. By 1860, capital had increased to \$200,000, and 200 employees produced 8,000 tons of iron per year. The year 1865 saw production rise to 200 tons per week; the company numbered 250 hands, 200 railroad cars, and 80 to 100 horses and mules. Construction began in 1867 on a third furnace, which was brought into blast in 1871.

Ashland represented a technology midway between the primitive colonial furnaces and the great blast furnaces that went on line in the 1890s. The hot air blast was pumped by steam engines, although water power also was available from the Western Run.

The village developed by the company comprised a town office, a store, and some 65 workers' houses, including a row of two-story stone dwellings with a single room on each floor. The ironmaster or manager lived in a substantial brick mansion located near the station of the Northern Central Railway. By 1871 (and perhaps earlier), the company provided a building for use as a school for workers' children, without charge to the county school system. The Ashland Presbyterian Church, a stone Gothic Revival edifice at the west end of the town, was established in 1874 under the leadership of Col. Walter S. Franklin, manager of the Ashland works.

The present school was built in 1881 to replace the previous structure. The Minutes of the Board of School Commissioners of Baltimore County, meeting on May 13, 1878, show that Colonel Franklin proposed an addition to School No. 7, District No. 8, at Ashland. The minutes show that architect Frank E. Davis of Baltimore was authorized to make plans for a stone structure capable of seating 150 pupils.

Frank E. Davis (1839-1921) was one of Baltimore's most accomplished and prolific architects of the late nineteenth century. He apparently studied architecture in the office of William B. Reasin, and began his practice after Reasin's death in 1867. Davis was a founding member of the Baltimore Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (1870), and by the time he received the commission for the Ashland School he had established a substantial portfolio, including churches, commercial buildings, and institutional structures both in Baltimore and in Cumberland, Maryland. Most significant

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among his works during this period were the Western Police Station (1871) at Pine and Saratoga streets; the State Normal School (1875) at Franklin Square; and two important city school buildings, Female Grammar and Primary School No. 1 (1875) and Male Grammar & Primary School No. 1 (1880), that faced each other on diagonally opposite corners of Fayette & Greene streets. Male School No. 1 survives, and has been rehabilitated by the University of Maryland Law School. Davis' architectural signature is distinctive during this period, particularly in his school and church designs; his eclectic exterior compositions often involve variations on multiple pedimented gables and sunburst-style vents, as seen at the Ashland School.

Robert G. Merryman was awarded the contract to build the school at Ashland at the sum of \$4,388. The 1881 Annual Report of the Board of School Commissioners reported:

At Ashland, in the Eighth District, a one-story stone building, with three class rooms, which will accommodate one hundred and fifty pupils. The school lot was donated to the board by the Ashland Iron Company and for ten years past, the building occupied by the school has been given free of rent by the same company.*

In addition to donating the lot, the iron company paid for hauling the stone for the new building, which was formally dedicated on December 18, 1881. Colonel Franklin hosted a reception at the ironmaster's house following the ceremonies. The Towson newspaper commented:

The new building is one of the most suitable as it is one of the handsomest ever built by the School Board. The school is a live one and is patronized by Col. Franklin and other prominent citizens. As far as we could learn, there are no carpers at either the school system or its officials in that part of the school vineyard.*

Ironically, by the time this remarkable new amenity was added to the community, the economic viability of the Ashland operations had become increasingly uncertain. Demand for pig iron of the type produced by the Ashland works had begun to decline in the mid-1870s, and in 1884 President George Small announced the closure of the plant. Two years later, the Pennsylvania Steel Company took a lease on the furnace, but found it unprofitable, and early in 1890 all the raw materials remaining at Ashland were removed to their new plant at Sparrows Point. The obsolete town was sold in 1892; the equipment and fixtures were parceled out, and even the accumulated cinders were sold for road material.

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In 1924, Baltimore furrier Mano Swartz purchased the entire village at auction. The Swartz family occupied the ironmaster's house, which burned in 1932.

The Ashland Public School had become obsolete by the late 1920s. In April, 1929, the building was sold to Pearl B. Phillips for \$1,850. The building was then converted to a private residence; the existing interior appointments represent fine design and craftsmanship of the 1930s period.

The workers' housing was rented to low-income tenants until 1984, when substandard sanitary conditions forced its abandonment. The village has since been redeveloped.

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MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Periods:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, A. D. 1870-1939

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Education: school

Known Design Source: Davis, Frank E., architect

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McGrain, John W. From Pig Iron to Cotton Duck: A History of Manufacturing Villages in Baltimore County. Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1985.

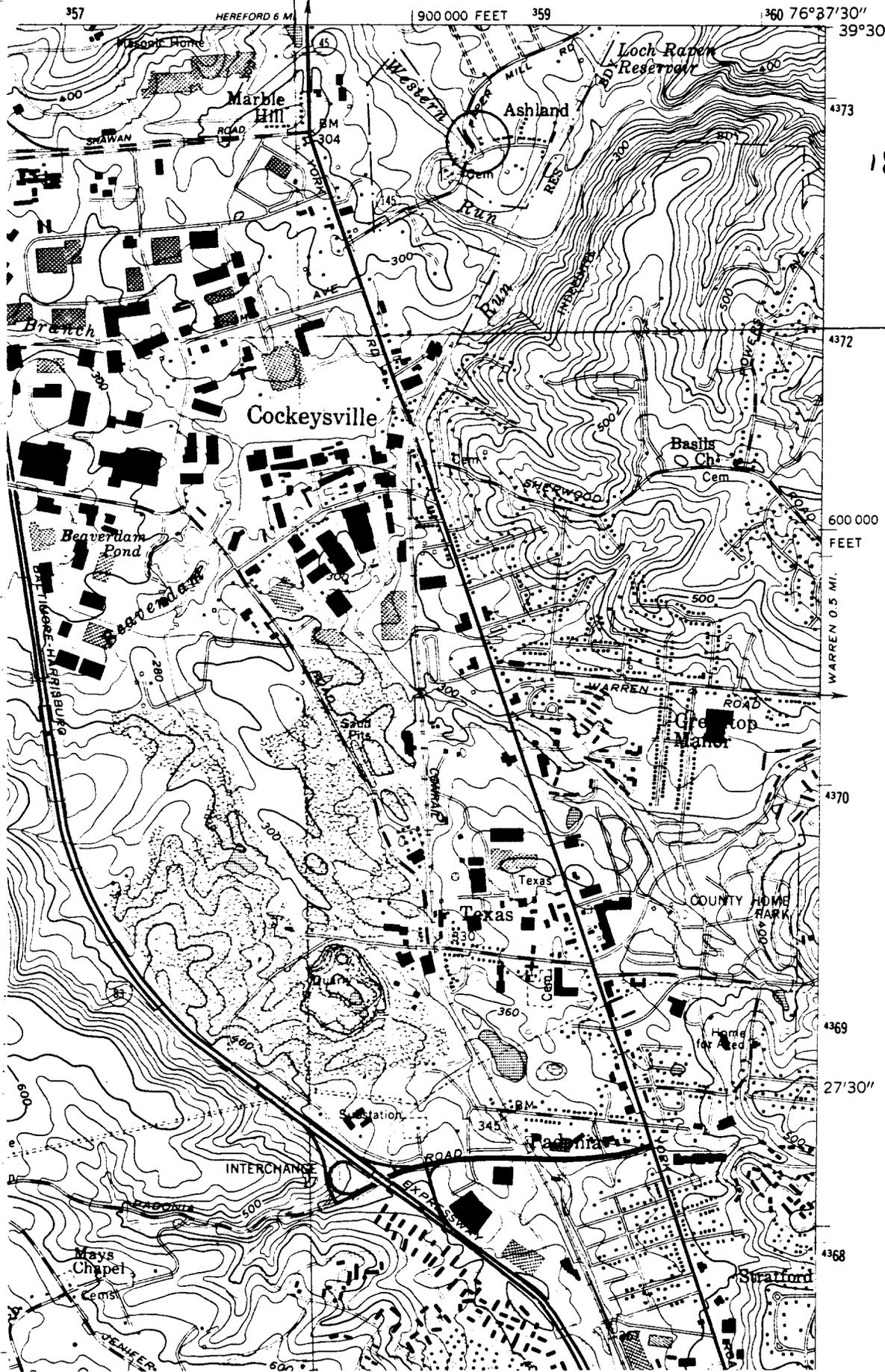
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is described in Liber SM 13550, folio 006, among the land records of Baltimore County.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property comprises the remnant of the parcel historically associated with the resource.

COCKEYSVILLE QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND—BALTIMORE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

9663 11 SE
(PHOENIX)



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BA-202
ASHLAND
SCHOOL
BALTIMORE
COUNTY,
MARYLAND



BA-202

ASHLAND SCHOOL

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

PHOTO BY STEVE STOECKLEIN, 11/99

NEG AT MD SHPO

VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST

#1 OF 5



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ASHLAND SCHOOL

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

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NEG AT MD SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION

2 OF 5



BA-202

ASHLAND SCHOOL

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

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NEG AT MD SHPO

VIEW FROM NORTHWEST

USAT MINNHO... PHOTOGRAPH

#3 OF 5



BA-202

ASHLAND SCHOOL

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

PHOTO BY STEVE STOECKLEIN, 11/99

NEG AT MD SHPO

INTERIOR, FACING NORTHEAST

#4 OF 5



BA-202

ASHLAND SCHOOL

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

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NEG AT MD SHPO

DETAIL, STAIR AND GLAZED PARTITION

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Registration Form: include in this title block the
property name, county, and site/inventory number

Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the
name of the multiple property listing

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

BA 202

ASHLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL

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1980s Rendering, Ashland Public School, by the Strutt Group

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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ASHLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL

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The Ashland Iron Company had been started in 1844 and carried on into the 1880s, almost to the time when the great steel plant at Sparrows Point was started. Ashland represented a technology midway between the primitive colonial furnaces and the great blast furnaces that went on line in the 1890s. There were three firebrick stacks at Ashland, encased in iron jackets; sometimes the hot air blast was pumped by steam engines, although there was also waterpower available too. (6) After many shutdowns and attempts to get back into production, the Baltimore Sun reported on January 17, 1888, that the Ashland Steel Works "blew out last night and the work was stopped." The paper blamed the situation on the Reading strike and the "scarcity of coal." Early in 1890, the Steelton Company gathered up all its supplies of ore and took the raw material to Sparrows Point. (7) The Ashland housing was rehabbed into upscale residential space in the early 1980s after serving for many years as substandard housing for rather poor people.

The school was formally dedicated on December 18, 1881. The Towson paper reported that Colonel Walter W. Franklin of the Iron Company had paid for hauling the stones. After the ceremonies, Colonel Franklin invited the out of town visitors to a reception at the ironmaster's house. "The new building is one of the most suitable as it is one of the handsomest ever built by the School Board. The school is a live one and is patronized by Col. Franklin and other prominent citizens. As far as we could learn, there are no carpens at either the school system or its officials in that part of the school vineyard." (8)

Ashland shut down as an iron town in the late 1880s and its fixtures were sold. Later owners even found it possible to sell the accumulated cinders for road metal. In 1924, the entire village was auctioned, and purchased by Mano Swartz, the Baltimore City furrier. The Swartz family kept the property until the early 1980s, being faced in the end with the legal requirement to either demolish the housing or install modern sewer links, because the seepage wended its way to Loch Raven. At that point, developer Kimberly Strutt redeveloped the housing area. In the same years, the Northern Central Railroad, once the lifeline of the iron works, had been washed out by tropical storms and was reborn as the hike-and-bike trail.

The Ashland Public School was obsolete by the late 1920s. A manuscript list of the old one- and two-room schools furnished to the LPC by Jim Kraft of the Board of Education shows that the school was sold to Pearl B. Phillips On April 9, 1929, for \$1,850. (9)

A professional advertising brochure apparently issued by Ms. Phillips sometime in the 1930s reported on the extensive improvements made to the building and states that in the winter of 1931 she refused an offer of \$25,000. The undated brochure, probably published later in the great depression offered the former school at \$15,000. (10) There have been quite a number of owners in the second half of the 20th century. At one time an owner

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property name, county, and site/inventory numberMultiple Property Documentation Form: include the
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ASHLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL

installed a basement tank for raising frogs, which were once marketable to the medical community for pregnancy tests. In the 1980s, the house was in the hands of the Strutt Group, which also refurbished the school as it did the company town office, company store, and workers' housing. The school was priced at just under \$300,000 in June 1987. (11) There have been a number of zoning issues involving this premises in the past, various efforts to have a small business of some kind or a professional office.

NOTES:

1. "Minutes of Board of County School Commissioners, " meeting of May 13, 1878, folios 73,76, 81,
2. *Baltimore County Union*, Towson, July 9, 1881.
3. *Report of the Board of School Commissioners for the Year Ending 1881* (Towson, 1882), p. 6.
4. *Report of the Board, 1881*, p. 34.
5. *Report of the Board, 1881*, p. 30.
6. John W. McGrain, *From Pig Iron to Cotton Duck* (Towson, 1985), pp. 34-48.
7. *Baltimore County Democrat*, April 26, 1890.
8. *Maryland Journal*, Towson, December 24, 1881.
9. Untitled chart of surplus schools, Baltimore County Board of Education. Also, *Baltimore County Deeds*, 820:146.
10. Pearl B. Phillips, "Own This Home for \$90.00 A Month," undated real estate brochure, 1930s.
11. Jennifer Brandon, "Restored Unusual Buildings Hot Items on Home Market," *Towson Times*, June 3, 1987.