NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EASEMENT

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 Marley Neck Rosenwald School

other names Halls Memorial United Methodist Church Hall (AA-2066)

2. Location

street & number 7780 Solley Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Glen Burnie ☐ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Anne Arundel code 003 zip code

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 5-13-05

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title — 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 the 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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)
Rosenwald Schools of Anne Arundel County, 1921-1932

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education-school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rosenwald School

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Wood
roof Asphalt
other

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

Description Summary:

The former Marley Neck School is located in a rural setting in northeast Anne Arundel County. Now used as a church hall, the building sits immediately south of the Hall Memorial United Methodist Church. This rectangular-shaped frame building has been altered but its form and fenestration pattern readily identify it as a Rosenwald School. The building's owners are working in cooperation with Anne Arundel County and the Arundel Community Development Services to restore the building in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

General Description:

The Marley Neck School is located in northeast Anne Arundel County, on the west side of Solley Road, near the intersection with Nabbs Creek Road. It stands directly south of the Hall Memorial United Methodist Church and currently functions as a Sunday School and meeting hall for that church's congregation. The church, cemetery, and school share a 4.65 acre parcel of land. Dense stands of mature trees surround the perimeter of the lot, with a few individual trees located within the yard. (The church building does not contribute to the significance of the resource; its construction date falls outside the period of significance.)

Measuring approximately 68 x 20', the Marley Neck School is a long, narrow, side-gable frame building. Walls are sheathed in sections of roughly 4' long clapboards and rest on a low concrete pier foundation. The low-pitched roof features open eaves with exposed rafter ends. Mitered verge boards accent the gable ends.

Window openings, a defining characteristic of Rosenwald Schools, have been altered, but will be restored as part of the planned rehabilitation work. Originally the front (east) façade contained a bay of seven closely set sash windows on either side of a centrally located entrance. The front façade now contains six pairs (three on either side of the door) of small, modern, sliding sash windows utilizing original openings (reduced vertically in size), and the locations of the other original window openings are discernible in the infill and framing. The front door appears original, featuring six lights above three recessed horizontal panels. A bracketed shed-roof door hood protects the doorway and step below and is an original feature. Two small sash windows flank the doorway and are currently covered over.

Sections of wall cladding have been replaced on the rear façade. Three original windows survive. The remaining openings are infilled or replaced with modern sliding sash types like those found on the principal façade. The back door features six recessed panels and appears

original to the building. The porch hood, similar to that protecting the front entrance is original though partially rebuilt.

Other openings include a louvered ventilator window in the upper gable end, and the north wall contains a pair of sliding glass windows identical to those found in other parts of the building. A small counter is attached to the base of the window. A 5'x7' poured concrete deck surrounds the window and counter. This arrangement allowed refreshments to be served from inside the building.

The building's interior has been renovated and except for some door and window surrounds, retains little surviving historic fabric.

The Marley Neck School is structurally sound but in need of repair. Plans for rehabilitation have been submitted to the Maryland State Historic Preservation Office.

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 pattern of our history.

☐ **B** Property 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)

Property is:

☒ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or 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.

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

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education)
Ethnic Heritage (Black)
Social History
Architecture

Period of Significance

1927-1954

Significant Dates

1927

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

African-American

Architect/Builder

Fox Plan variant of Julius Rosenwald Fund plan
"2 Room Shop B"

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on files (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:
Anne Arundel County Historic Preservation Planning Office

Note: This individual nomination follows a Multiple Property Documentation Form titled *Rosenwald Schools in Anne Arundel County (1921-1932).* Please refer to this document for a detailed history and significance of the Julius Rosenwald Fund School Building Program and background on African-American education in Anne Arundel County prior to desegregation.

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Marley Neck School meets Registration Requirements specified in the Multiple Property Nomination titled *Rosenwald Schools in Anne Arundel County (1921-1932).*

Built in 1927, the Marley Neck School is significant as an example of a Rosenwald School and as such is affiliated with what is considered the most important advance in African-American education in the southern states prior to desegregation. Rosenwald Schools were constructed with financial and technical assistance provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund which was a private foundation named for the Chicago entrepreneur who directed the booming growth of Sears, Roebuck & Company in the early 20th century. Between 1917 and 1932, the Julius Rosenwald Fund helped erect 5,357 schools for African-American students in the rural south. Rosenwald Schools were built according to plans provided or approved by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. These state-of-the-art plans were cost-efficient and embodied the latest educational design theories. In Maryland, 292 were constructed with 23 built in Anne Arundel County. Marley Neck is one of 10 Rosenwald Schools to survive in Anne Arundel County.

Narrative History and Historic Context

The Marley Neck School at Hall Memorial United Methodist Church is an architecturally and socially significant example of a Rosenwald School. As such it is associated with a landmark era in black education prior to Desegregation following the Supreme Court's 1954 decision in *Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education.* The importance of the Julius Rosenwald Fund's School Building Program to black education in the era of segregation and legal barrier known collectively known as "Jim Crow" can not be overstated.

Rosenwald Schools were built with matching funds provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which was a private foundation created by and named for the Chicago entrepreneur who directed the booming growth of Sears, Roebuck and Company in the early 20th century. Julius Rosenwald's involvement in African American education was a result of his admiration of Booker T. Washington. Rosenwald was deeply impressed by Washington's climb from poverty to educational leadership, and after meeting him in 1911 Rosenwald became active in Washington's Tuskegee Institute. In 1917 he established the Julius Rosenwald Fund and initiated his personal campaign to improve the quality of

education for rural blacks in the South. Between 1917 and 1932 the Rosenwald Fund helped build over 5,357 schools for African American students in 17 southern states at a total cost of $28,408,502 (Embree and Waxman: 1949). In Maryland 292 Rosenwald Schools were constructed with 23 built in Anne Arundel County.

Rosenwald Schools were principally built according to plans provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. These simple and efficient designs were developed by Rosenwald Fund administrator, S. L. Smith, with additional input from educational theorists. Rosenwald Plans represented the state-of-the-art in school architecture and were provided free of charge to Boards of Education. The Rosenwald Fund required strict adherence to building plans. Any deviation from the standardized plans had to be approved prior to construction or financial support would be withdrawn. Regular progress photographs were required to assure schools met the high standards the Fund demanded. Rosenwald Fund plans were so superior that they were also used to build more than 15,000 white schools which had no financial relationship to the fund (Embree and Waxman: 1949).

The School Building Program was done in conjunction with the Boards of Education of the various states and with contributions from the African-American and, in theory, the white community. The state and county bore the majority of the cost and agreed to maintain the new building as part of the public school systems. The amount contributed by the Rosenwald Fund varied depending upon the size of the school. Contributions generally ranged from a minimum of $200 for a one-teacher school to $6,000 for a twelve-teacher school.

Out of the 23 Rosenwald Schools built in Anne Arundel County, 18 were a two-teacher school form known as the Fox Plan. This plan is named for Anne Arundel County School Superintendent, George Fox who in association with S. L. Smith, developed this variation on the Fund's two-teacher school plan. The George Fox Plan is a variation on the Shop Plan-B. In the Fox Plan, the laboratory and shop are omitted and the space combined and used as a second class room. Most of the schools constructed cost between $3,300 and $4,300 with the least expensive being the school at Annapolis Neck, which cost $1,700 (Rosenwald Fund Archives).

The Marley Neck School, constructed in 1927 at a cost of $4,300, was the most expensive Rosenwald School in Anne Arundel County. It is built according to the two-teacher Fox Plan. According to Julius Rosenwald Fund records at Fisk University, Anne Arundel County provided $3,000 toward the construction cost. The Rosenwald Fund contributed $500 with $800 coming from the African-American community. The Marley Neck School was the only Rosenwald School built in Anne Arundel County where the African-American community contributed more than the Rosenwald Fund. Although white citizens contributed indirectly through taxes, no individual donation was made by a white patron for this or any other Rosenwald School in Anne Arundel County, despite

Rosenwald's belief that the white community should contribute to the construction costs. (Rosenwald Fund Archives).

The Marley Neck School stands on land donated by the neighboring Halls Memorial United Methodist Church. This situation was typical, as black churches frequently provided the land for school construction. Churches in Maryland, especially Methodist churches, were the chief sponsors of schools prior to the Rosenwald School Building Program (Brown:1988).

By the late 1920s the Rosenwald Fund was withdrawing its support from the construction of small wooden schools, and was instead encouraging the construction of large, brick, consolidated buildings. Anne Arundel County Superintendent George Fox initiated the consolidation of white schools, but for reasons that are not clear, did not pursue this course with African-American schools. Anne Arundel County continued to submit funding applications for one and two-teacher schools, but these were mostly rejected.

A 1929 letter from J. Walter Huffington at the Maryland Department of Education implores S. L. Smith to continue funding small schools. In this letter found in the Rosenwald Fund archives at Fisk University Huffington writes:

> "I urgently request that you intercede for us with the Fund and request <u>not</u> to cut us down on one and two teacher schools. I appreciate the funds attitude toward larger buildings, but if we are cut down on the small schools just not it simply means that we will have to construct a number of negro schools which are not suitable for the instruction of children."

Huffington's protestations were at least partially rewarded as schools at Galesville, Furnace Branch and Severn (Queenstown) were all constructed after this letter. These represent the last Rosenwald Schools constructed in Anne Arundel County. The Julius Rosenwald Fund School Building Program ceased operation soon after the death of Julius Rosenwald in 1932 and the construction of African-American schools in Anne Arundel County came to abrupt halt.

David S. Jenkin's 1941 Master's thesis indicates neglect of African–American schools in the post-Rosenwald era. In his then-current analysis of the condition of black schools, Jenkins reported that 23 of the 32 African-American schools were "modern" Rosenwald buildings. It is interesting that he uses the term "modern" even though by this time these schools were between 10 and 20 years old. Of the remaining 10 schools he reports 6 were in unsatisfactory condition. At the time of Jenkin's thesis, only three African-American schools post-dated the Rosenwald Fund, of which one was rented and another a Works Progress Administration initiative.

In Anne Arundel County, as in many communities where the Julius Rosenwald Fund School Building Program operated, the seed money and technical assistance provided by the Rosenwald Fund advanced African-American education in a manner not equaled until the end of segregation.

The Marley Neck School building became moribund following the integration of schools. In a deed dated January 19, 1960, Anne Arundel County conveyed the Marley Neck Elementary School building and its associated property to the Hall Methodist Church. Since that time it has served as a Sunday school building and community hall.

Major Bibliographical References

Philip L. Brown, A Century of Separate But Equal": Education in Anne Arundel County, Vantage Press, New York, NY (1988)

Edwin R. Embree and Julia Waxman, Investment in People: The Story of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, Harper and Brothers, New York, NY (1949)

David S. Jenkins, *A History of Colored Education in Anne Arundel County,* Master's Thesis, University of Maryland (1941)

Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives, Special Collections Library, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee.

Donna M. Ware, *Education in Anne Arundel County: An Historic Context*, unpublished manuscript, (1989), on file at Anne Arundel County Office of Environmental & Cultural Resources, Annapolis, Maryland.

Marley Neck Rosenwald School (AA-2066)
Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.65 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	364807	4339939	3			
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sherri M. Marsh
Organization Anne Arundel County Office of Environmental & Cultural Resources date January 2003
street & number 2664 Riva Road telephone 410-222-7441
city or town Annapolis state Maryland zip code 21401

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 SHPO or FPO)

name Trustees of Hall Memorial United Methodist Church
street & number 7780 Solley Road telephone
city or town Glen Burnie state Maryland zip code 21060

Paperwork Reduction 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.).

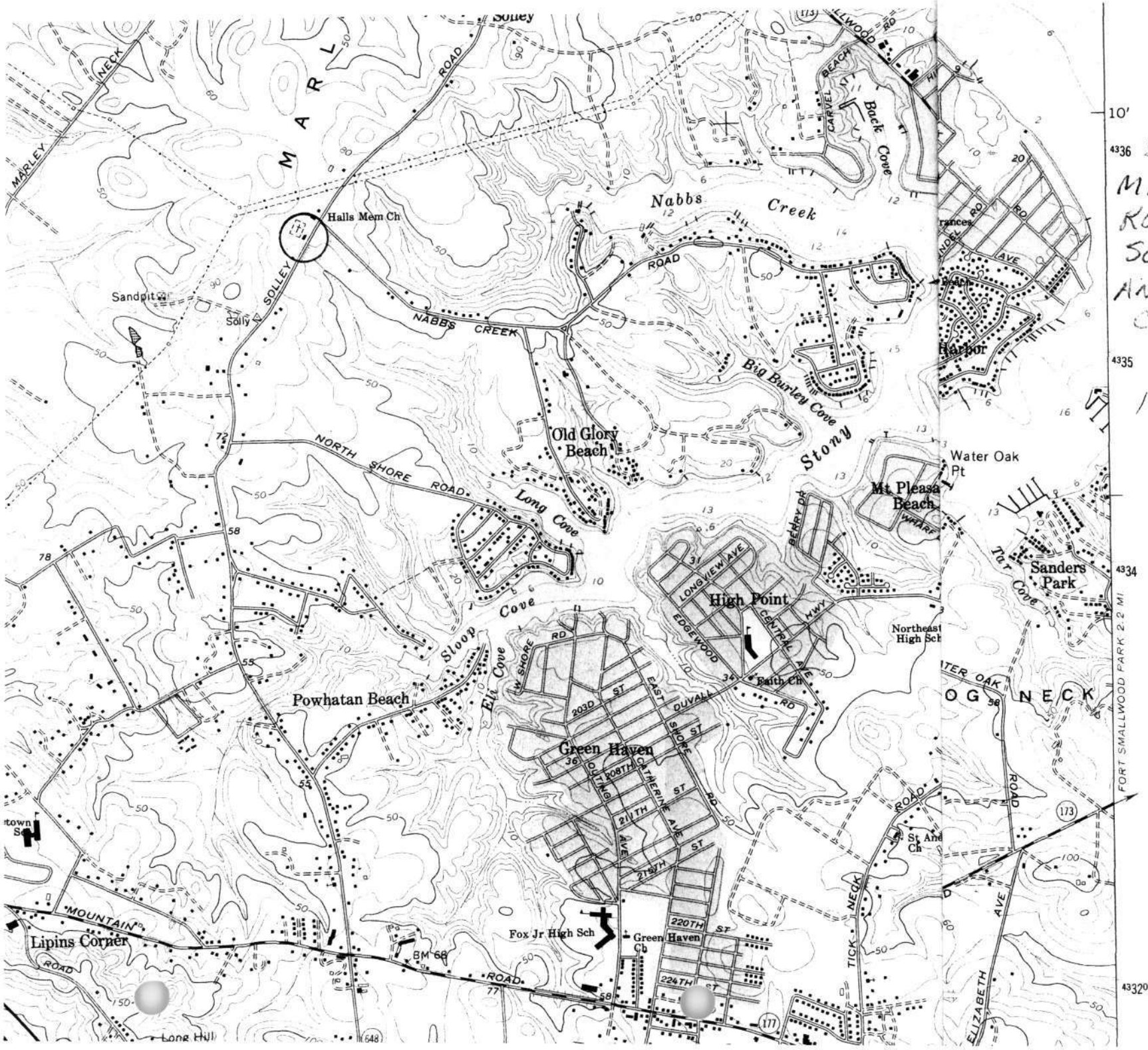
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this 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.

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary is the 4.65 acre parcel as described in Anne Arundel County Land Records, Liber 207, Folio 32 and shown on Anne Arundel County tax map 10, block 18, parcel 372.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary encompasses the property historically associated with the resource.



AA-2066

MARLEY NECK
ROSENWALD
SCHOOL
ANNE ARUNDEL
COUNTY
MARYLAND

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