Easement D-43

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

1600431502

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Rock School

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Stanley Institute

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Route 16 MD 16 & Bayly Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Cambridge

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Dorchester	019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☒ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☒ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☒ Other (Specify)	being
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious	Vacant	restored
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Rock Community Improvement League

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 1, Box 165

CITY OR TOWN:
Cambridge

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Dorchester County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
High Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Cambridge

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Maryland STATE
Dorchester COUNTY
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	☒ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered		☒ Moved	☐ Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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

The exterior plan of Rock School is characteristic of the many one-room schoolhouses that were built throughout Maryland from the early nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries. It is a rectangular (29 feet by 17 feet), one-story, gable-roofed frame building with a small one-bay, one-story entrance vestibule on its end facade. The structure is three bays long on both sides, excluding a single window on both sides of the projecting vestibule. The six windows on the side elevations of the main block are of six over six sash while those of the vestibule are of four over four. On the front of the vestibule is a centered paneled door; above, within the gable of the main block, is a small four pane window. (The sash in all of the windows has been temporarily removed and the openings boarded shut until current renovations are completed.) The gable roofs of both parts are wood shingled and have simple boxed cornices with returns. An open belfry once stood at the front end of the main roof and is to be replaced. At the opposite end of the roof ridge stands a brick stove chimney. The building stands on wood piers, about eighteen inches above ground level. Several of the piers have been replaced with brick in recent years.

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

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

MMR-MIHP

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	☒ 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* c. 1865

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal	☒ Education	☐ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☐ Religion/Philosophy	☐ Other *(Specify)*
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	☐ Science	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Sculpture	
☐ Architecture	☐ Landscape Architecture	☐ Social/Humanitarian	
☐ Art	☐ Literature	☐ Theater	
☐ Commerce	☐ Military	☐ Transportation	
☐ Communications	☐ Music		
☐ Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

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

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

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

D-43

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	38 °	32 '	~~48~~ 42"	76 °	06 '	~~06~~ 10"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
J. Richard Rivoire, Architectural Historian/ William H. Kiah

ORGANIZATION
Maryland Historical Trust/ Rock Community Improvement League

DATE
/ 1/10/75

STREET AND NUMBER:
21 State Circle/ Route 1, Box 165

CITY OR TOWN:
Annapolis/ Cambridge

STATE
Maryland

CODE
24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [ ] Local [ ]

Name
Arthur C. Townsend

Title State Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland

Date

NATIONAL REGISTER CERTIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

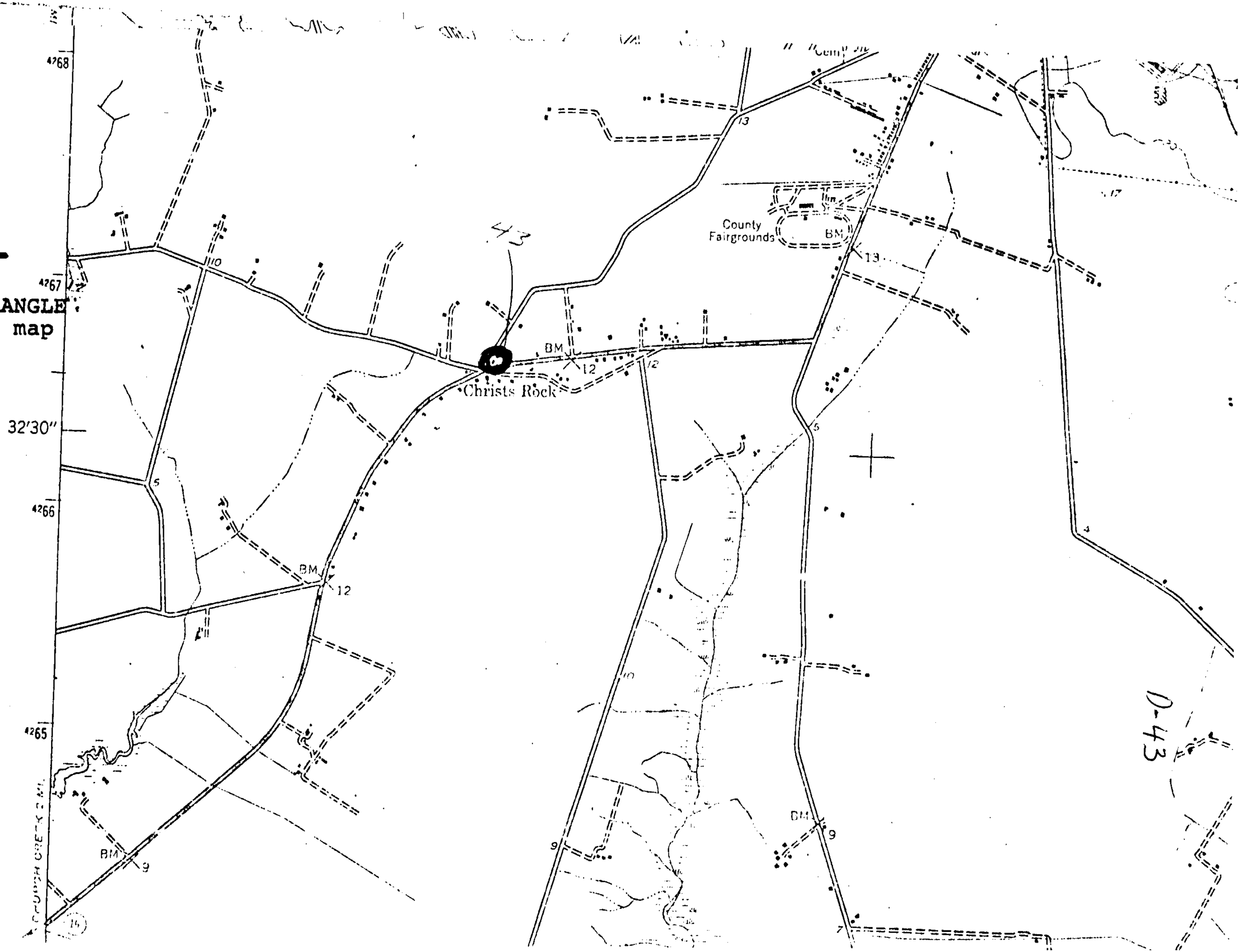
Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Elem.

ROCK SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map
scale 1:24000
1943



STOP

D-43

STANLEY INSTITUTE
DORCHESTER CO., MD.

JANUARY 1981

J. E. F.

D-43

STANLEY INSTITUTE
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J.E.F

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