

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #69-15 Building Date: 1873
Building Name: Bladensburg Public School #1
Location: 4103 48th Street, Bladensburg, Maryland

Private/Commercial/Occupied/Fair/Accessible

Description:

The Bladensburg Public School #1 is a simple two-bay, one-and-one-half-story gable-roofed frame building, ca. 39 feet by 26 1/2 feet. A nine-foot deep gable-roofed vestibule on the west gable end has replaced the original front stoop and serves as the modern entryway. There are two interior chimneys at the ridge, each with corbelled cap but not identical. In the spring of 1984 a thin natural-wood sheathing was applied over the earlier green asbestos shingle siding; the original wood siding is not visible at any point. There are no visible piers or foundations; the plate appears to rest directly on the ground. The interior of the front (west) section of the building has been panelled for office use; the rear is now a metal shop for the fence company which leases the building. There is a large shed-roofed garage attached on the north. This building is located on the ramp from Maryland Route 201 in a heavily developed commercial/industrial area; it is scarcely recognizable as a schoolhouse, and retains little of its original character.

Significance:

The Bladensburg Public School #1 was constructed in 1873/74 on lot 41, to replace the earlier schoolhouse on lots 19/22. In that year a building committee composed of four prominent citizens of Bladensburg was appointed to oversee the construction of the new school; it was completed by the summer of 1874. The schoolhouse had gone out of use by 1897 and was purchased in that year by John W. Bright who built a sizable addition on its west end, converting it into a T-shaped dwelling. After World War II when the area was rezoned commercial/industrial, the schoolhouse was rented as a commercial establishment. In 1951, a fire destroyed the addition, leaving the original schoolhouse intact. It is still owned by the Bright family, and presently houses the Metropolitan Fence Company. Although the building is one of the oldest surviving schoolhouses in Prince George's County, it is scarcely recognizable as such; its deteriorating condition and industrial surroundings make its survival unlikely.

Acreage: 1 acre

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Bladensburg Public School #1

and/or common One-room school

2. Location

street & number 4103 48th Street not for publication

city, town Bladensburg vicinity of congressional district 5

state Md. county P.G.

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Anath Bright

street & number 6001 Baltimore Ave., telephone no.: 699-5588

city, town Riverdale, Md. state and zip code 20737

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. County Courthouse liber 3480

street & number Main Street folio 213

city, town Upper Marlboro, state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P.G. Co. Historic Sites and Districts Plan

date 1981 federal state county local

pository for survey records County Planning, M-NCPPC

city, town Upper Marlboro, state Md.

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

Bladensburg Public School #1 is a simple two-bay one-an-one-half-story gable-roofed frame building, ca. 39' x 26 1/2'. A 9-foot deep gable-roofed vestibule on the west gable end serves as the modern entryway. This vestibule is three bays wide, i.e., a central door between two modern windows, one of which (the northerly) has been blocked; the vestibule has replaced the original front (west) stoop of the school building.

There are two interior chimneys at the ridge, each with corbelled cap but not identical. The roof of the main block is standing seam metal, and the vestibule has recently been reshingled with synthetic shingle. The original siding of the building is not visible at any point. In the spring of 1984 a thin natural-wood sheathing was applied over the earlier bright green asbestos shingle siding. The plate appears to rest directly on the ground; there are no visible piers or foundations.

The front (west) section of the building has been paneled on the interior for office use and there is no visible evidence of the original finish. The rear of the building (not seen) is now a metal shop for the fence company which leases the building. In the loft area, some of the original beams are visible, as well as evidence of horizontal braces. New material in the west part of the loft suggests that the east section was the original.

There is a large shed-roofed garage built onto the north side of the school building.

The school building is located on the ramp from Kenilworth Avenue (Md. Route 201), in a heavily developed commercial/industrial area. It is scarcely recognizable as a school building, and retains very little of its original character.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History

Specific dates 1873 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This is Bladensburg Public School #1, constructed in 1873/74 on lot 41. Before the establishment of the Board of County School Commissioners in 1865, the public school (#1) in Bladensburg was located farther west (lots 19/22). In 1873, this property was sold to the Washington City and Point Lookout Railroad for the branch through Bladensburg, and the trustees of School #1 in Bladensburg were ordered to make plans for a new school building.¹ Dr. Charles Lewis, Zachariah Shaw, Harrison Wallis and Benjamin O. Lowndes were appointed as a building committee to form plans and make estimates for this new school, to enclose the lot, and to construct two "houses of retirement", one for boys and one for girls "with lattice screens in front." Lot 41 was chosen for the new schoolhouse, and it must have been completed by the summer of 1874, when furniture for the new schoolhouse was purchased for \$125.00.² This was a typical plain one-room frame gable roofed school house.

By 1897, this schoolhouse had gone out of use and was sold to George C. Goldenstroth who in turn sold it to John W. Bright in the same year.³ Bright built a sizable addition on the west end of the schoolhouse, the result being a much larger T-shaped dwelling house. After Bright's death in 1931, the house on lot 41 was rented as a dwelling. After World War II when the area was rezoned commercial/industrial, the old schoolhouse with its addition was rented as a commercial establishment. In 1951, a fire destroyed the addition, leaving the original schoolhouse intact.⁴ Since that time the building has continued as a commercial rental property, and presently houses the Metropolitan Fence Company.

8. (Continued)

Although this building is one of the oldest surviving schoolhouses in Prince George's County, it has been so drastically altered that it is scarcely recognizable as such. It is in deteriorating condition, in a heavily developed commercial/industrial area, a combination which makes its survival unlikely.

¹ P.G. County Deed HB#7:525; Journal of the Board of County School Commissioners Vol. I, pp. 73-91.

² Journal, *ibid.* pp. 73-91

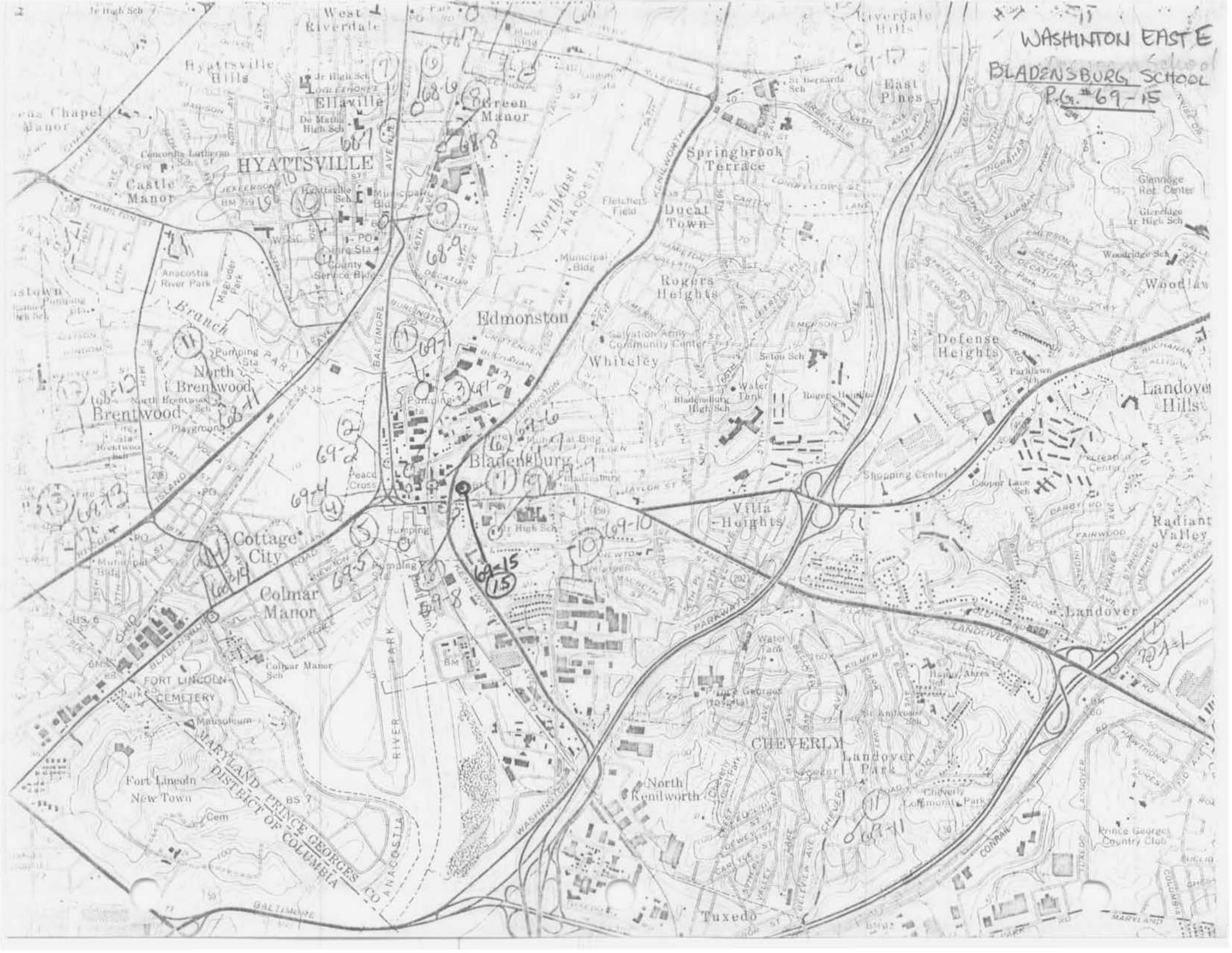
³ P.G. County Deeds, JWB#41:543, 544.

⁴ Interview with owner, May/June 1984.

WASHINGTON EAST E

BLADENSBURG SCHOOL

Pg. #69-15



HYATTSVILLE.

Scale, 6 Chains per inch.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

ATTORNEY AT LAW.

Wm W. Danenhower,
Attorney at Law
Office, No 1321 H street, n. w.,
Washington, D. C.
Hyattsville.

GENERAL DEALERS.

H. Wallis & Son,
Dealers in
Family Groceries,
Dry Goods, Boots & Shoes, Hats & Caps, Clo-
thing, Hardware, Wines, Liquors, &c,
Authorized Agents for the Kanawha
Cucumber Pump, also for Shaker Gar-
den Seeds.
corner Water St. & Bridge Road.
Bladensburg.

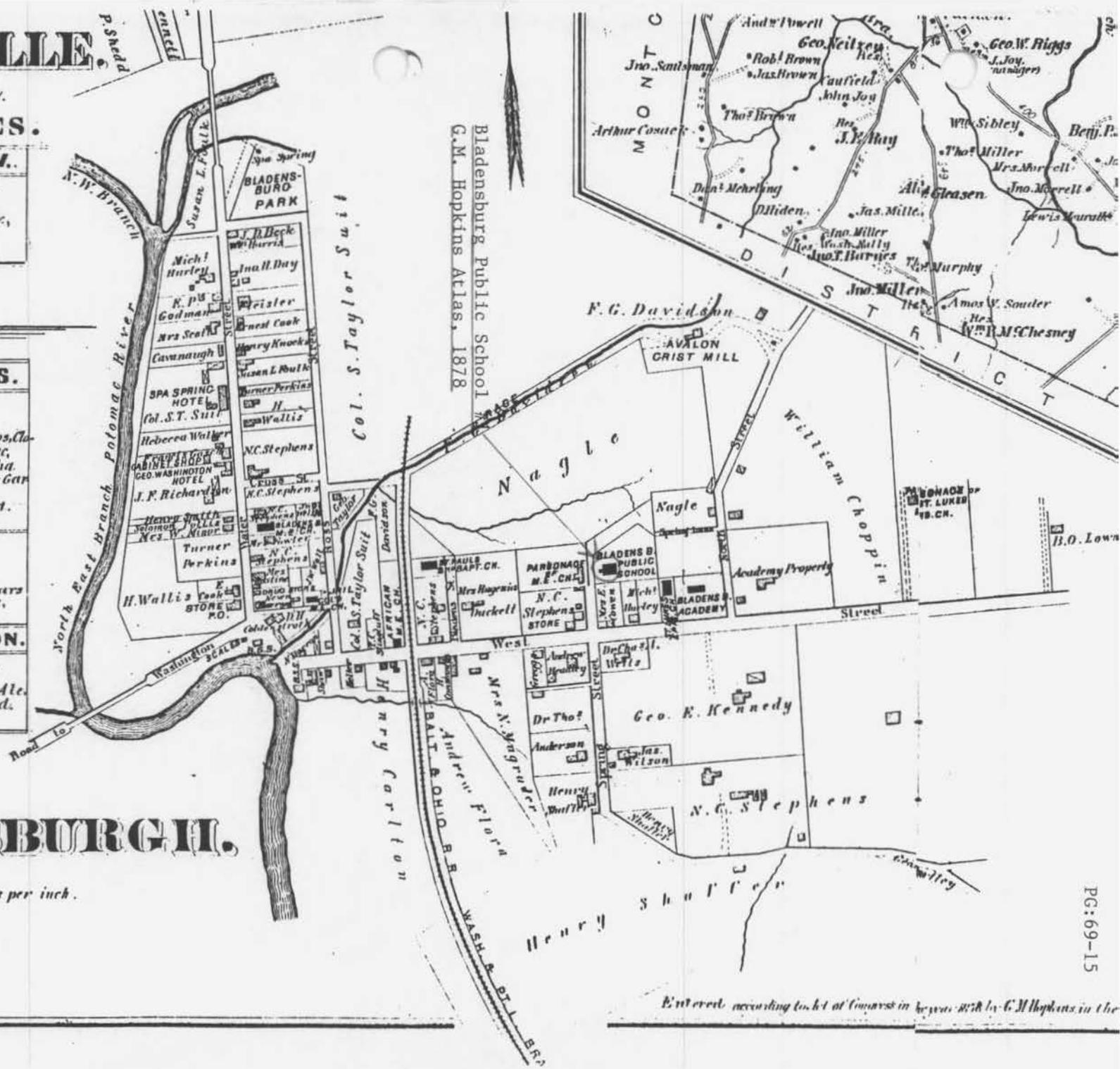
Jackson, Brother & Co.,
Wholesale & Retail
Grocers,
Dealers in
Wines, Brandies, Teas, Fruits, Segars
&c. No 626 Pennsylvania Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

RESTAURANT & SALOON.

George Goldenstrolch,
Restaurant & Saloon
Pure Old Rye Whiskey, Beer and Ale.
Corner Water St. & Bridge Rd.
Bladensburg.

BLADENSBURG.

Scale, 6 Chains per inch.



Hopkins, 1878

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1878 by G.M. Hopkins in the

PG:69-15
Bladensburg Public School #1
(One-room school)
4103 48th Street
Washington East quadrangle





P.G. #69-15

Bladensburg Public School #1

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

July 1984

Southwest 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #69-15

Bladensburg Public School #1

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

July 1984

West elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD