

P.G. #71A-22
Fletchertown School
13106 Fletchertown Road, Bowie, Md.
Priv/Occ/Res/Good

Circa 1922

The Fletchertown school was a one-story, one-room, gable-roofed frame structure now considerably altered and converted into a private residence. The original door was in the third bay of the three-bay south gable end. The main (east) facade now has four uneven bays; the first two are original, the third has been converted into a door, around which a small porch has been constructed, and the fourth has been modernized into a wide three-part window. Modern partitions now divide the original single-room into four spaces, and cement block fills the spaces between the original brick piers.

In June 1921 the Prince George's County Board of Education approved the building of a school for the black children of the Fletchertown area, a rural black enclave southwest of Bowie. Trustees were appointed for the Fletchertown school, and one of them, Laurence Hawkins, sold to the Board of Education one acre of land on which to erect the schoolhouse. Fletchertown school opened in 1922, and was one of the last of the one-room schoolhouses built for blacks in Prince George's County. The period of Rosenwald funding for rural black school was just beginning, and the next decade would see larger, more substantial school buildings erected under this program.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Fletchertown "Colored" School

and/or common Fletchertown Elementary School

2. Location

street & number 13106 ^{Old} Fletchertown Road not for publication

city, town Bowie vicinity of / Fletchertown congressional district 5

state Maryland 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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Butler

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P. G. Co. Courthouse liber 1663

street & number Main Street folio 129

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. 71A-22

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

The Fletchertown school is a one-story, one room, gable-roofed frame structure now considerably altered and converted into a private residence. The original door was in the third bay of the three-bay south gable end. The main (east) facade now has four uneven bays: the first two are original, the third has been converted into a door, around which a small shed-roof porch has been constructed, and the fourth has been modernized into a wide, three-part window.

The original schoolhouse consisted of only one room, but modern partitions now divide the present residence into four spaces. The building is on a slope; a cement block foundation now fills in the spaces between the brick piers which once supported the northerly part of the schoolhouse. The original frame siding is now covered by gray ashlar-pattern synthetic siding.

8. Significance

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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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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) Black History

Specific dates 1922 **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

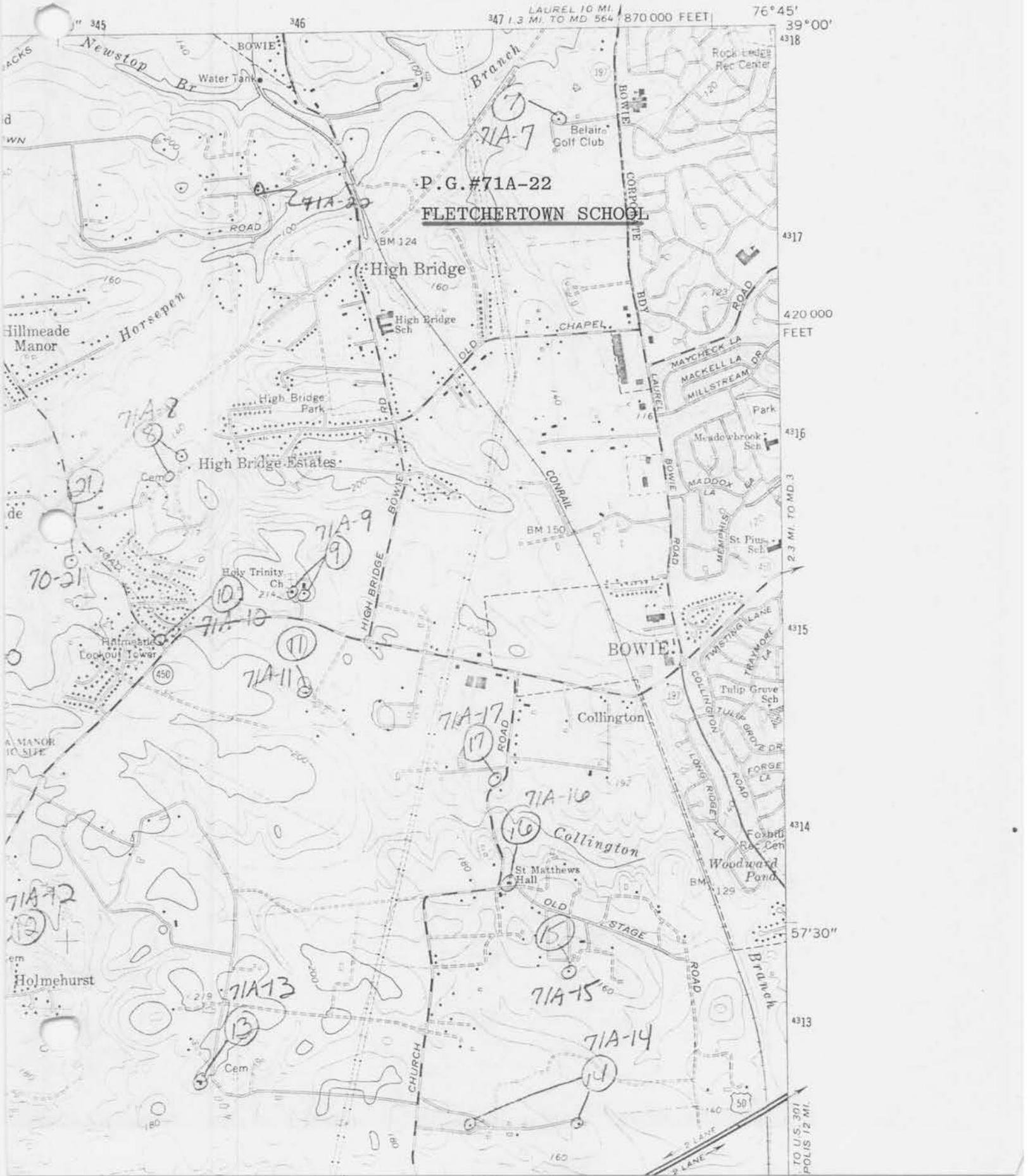
Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

There had been an elementary school for the Black children of the Bowie area since the 1870's, very shortly after this railroad town was established. This older school was near the top of Horsepen Hill, east of the railroad tracks, and for many years served the Black children of the entire Bowie area. By the early years of the twentieth century, a substantial Black population had developed in Fletchertown, a small enclave southwest of Bowie, and by 1921, the residents of this area petitioned the Board of Education for a new school. The request was investigated and the Board was inclined to provide a school which would serve both Fletchertown and Ducketttsville, another largely-Black community west of Bowie, but on the opposite (North) side of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad from Fletchertown. Residents of both communities protested this combination and by June of 1921 the Board recommended the issue of bonds to finance the construction of two schools, one in Fletchertown and one in Ducketttsville. Trustees were appointed for the Fletchertown school, and one of them, Lawrence Hawkins, sold to the Board of Education one acre of land on which to erect the schoolhouse. The school opened in 1922.

Fletchertown was one of the last of the one-room schoolhouses built for Blacks in Prince George's County. The period of Rosenwald funding for rural Black schools was just beginning, and the next decade would see larger, more substantial school buildings erected under this program. The Fletchertown school, with up to 50 students in seven grade levels crowded into one room under the supervision of one teacher was, in effect, the end of an era in the Black educational process of Prince George's County.

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P. G. #71A-22

Fletchertown School
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
May 1983
South Elevation
Neg:Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P. G. #71A-22

Fletchertown School
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
May 1983
West Elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.