

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 Ridgeley School

other names PG 75A-28

2. Location

street & number 8507 Central Ave.  not for publication

city or town Capitol Heights  vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Prince George's code 033 zip code 20772

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] 11-13-14  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Rosenwald Schools of Maryland MPS

**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)

Recreation and Culture: Museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete block

walls Wood

roof Asphalt

other

**Narrative Description**

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

**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)

- 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.
- 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)

Architecture

Education

Ethnic Heritage (Black)

Social History

**Period of Significance**

1927-1963

**Significant Dates**

1927

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

African-American

**Architect/Builder**

Derived from plans provided by Julius Rosenwald Fund

**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:

Ridgeley School (PG 75A-28)  
Name of Property

Prince George's County, Maryland  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 2.173 acres Lanham, MD quad

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1	8	3	3	8	6	7	8	4	3	0	6	0	6	6
	Zone		Easting			Northing									
2															

3														
	Zone		Easting			Northing								
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 Susan G. Pearl, Historian  
 Organization Prince George's County Historical Society date 3/2012, revised 11/14  
 street & number P. O. Box 14 telephone (310) 220-0330  
 city or town Riverdale state MD zip code 20738-0014

**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 Prince George's County Board of Education  
 street & number 14201 School Lane telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 city or town Upper Marlboro state MD zip code 20772

**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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PG 75A-28  
Ridgeley School  
Name of Property

Prince George's County, MD  
County and State

Section 7 Page 1

### Description Summary:

Ridgeley<sup>1</sup> School is a one-story hip-roof frame building, typical of the two-classroom schoolhouses built in Prince George's County with assistance from the Julius Rosenwald Fund in the 1920s; a third classroom was added through the construction of a south wing some years after the original structure was opened. The building underwent a thorough and comprehensive restoration between 2009 and 2011, and was opened to the public as a museum and meeting place in September of 2011.

### General Description:

#### Exterior

The main block of the Ridgeley School reflects the characteristics of typical two-classroom Rosenwald school plans – a one-story building of wood frame construction, five bays by five, with hipped roof. Entrance is in the central bay of the five-bay north façade; the three central bays project approximately two feet, creating a projecting vestibule which forms a recessed and sheltered entranceway into the building, accessed by a flight of concrete steps. A side door leads from the entranceway into each of the two original classrooms. This central north entrance is flanked by two 9/9 double-hung-sash windows lighting the two cloakrooms in the central projection; an 8/8 window, in the first and in the fifth bay, brings northern light into each of the classrooms. A later five-bay wing extends to the south, increasing the original two-classroom plan to provide a third classroom. The entire building is sheathed with new rectangular wood shingles, with natural finish, replicating the original siding of 1927.<sup>2</sup>

Original batteries of windows light the east and west side elevations of the main block, lighting the two original classrooms – a recognizable signature of Rosenwald school buildings. The battery of windows on each of the two elevations consists of five tall 12/12 double-hung-sash, extending to the eaves. There is one 9/9 rear window in the south elevation of the main block, just west of the juncture with the south wing.<sup>3</sup>

A rear wing has been constructed, extending to the south from the south, rear elevation of the original building. In the east elevation of this south wing is a battery of five large windows, 9/9 double-hung-sash, designed to complement the batteries of five windows in the main block. There is a door in the southernmost

<sup>1</sup> The spelling of Ridgley/Ridgeley varies. Although present-day members of the family spell their name "Ridgley", the newly restored schoolhouse, at the request of the family, will be known as "Ridgeley School."

<sup>2</sup> See photos of the original school building, included in the Fisk University database of original Rosenwald Archives photographs: <http://www.preservationnation.org/travel-and-sites/sites/southern-region/rosenwald-schools/>

<sup>3</sup> This is the westernmost of the two rear (south) side-by-side windows that lighted the central passage of the building in its original form – the other was enclosed by the construction of the south wing.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PG 75A-28  
Ridgeley School  
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bay of this east elevation. Three small six-pane, single-sash windows light the west elevation of the wing, and there is a door in the first bay, allowing entrance to the wing from the west.

The hip roof of the building has been newly covered with gray synthetic shingles. It has a deep overhang at the eaves, with narrow-board soffits. There are two tall slim brick chimneys in the main block, in the south plane of the roof; these chimneys served the original stoves located in the south interior corner of each of the original classrooms. There is an additional exterior brick chimney at the south elevation of the rear wing; immediately to the south of this is a low wooden enclosure which encloses the new HVAC system.

### Interior

The Ridgeley school building originally consisted of two large classrooms, separated by a central passage. Entrance to each of the classrooms is through a door in each side wall of the north entranceway. The entranceway itself is flanked by two symmetrical cloakrooms, which fill the space of the projecting central bays; each cloak room is accessed directly from its classroom.

The central passage is accessible from an interior door in each of the two classrooms. This central passage, originally used for home economics study, is presently used for display. The west classroom is set up to replicate a 1930s classroom with period desks, seats, and a teacher's desk. The east classroom is a display and educational meeting room, with wall displays illustrating the history of the Ridgeley School, and of the other Rosenwald schools of Prince George's County.

The south wing, which originally consisted of one large classroom, has been divided for effective use of the restored building. A small northerly part of this space now houses two bathrooms and a small office, while the larger southernmost space now consists of a large lounge/meeting room.

### Setting

The building stands on a 2.173-acre lot, with a landscaped parking lot to the south and west. A tree-lined lane leads north from this lot to Central Avenue (MD 214), but the lot is fenced and not accessible by this original entrance. Access is from the south by a paved drive from Truck Way.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PG 75A-28  
Ridgeley School

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Name of Property

Section 7 Page 3

Prince George's County, MD

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County and State

### Integrity

Prior to its rehabilitation, Ridgeley School remained in largely unaltered condition, and stood as the best surviving example of a Rosenwald School in Prince George's County. (Of 27 built in the county under the Rosenwald program, nine survived as of 2010.)

The rehabilitation was undertaken by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (property owner), and carried out according to the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation* under the review of the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission.

Exterior work included conservation of existing historic windows and surrounds; fabrication of three missing historic windows based on photographic documentation; replacement in kind of deteriorated cedar shingles; installation of new gutters and downspouts. A late 20<sup>th</sup> century infill doorway was removed, and the historic recessed entry was restored. An accessibility ramp was constructed along the side of the building.

Interior work included renewing interior finishes, upgrading lavatories and installing a kitchen.

Overall, the building retains a high level of integrity, with the majority of its original fabric intact and in good condition. A series of four photographs accompanying this documentation represent the appearance and condition of the building in 2001, before rehabilitation (MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_RidgeleySchool\_0007-0010).

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Ridgeley School  
Name of Property

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### Summary Statement of Significance:

The Ridgeley School is significant as an example of a type of school building constructed with the assistance of the Julius Rosenwald Fund. A two-teacher, two-room school constructed in 1927, the Ridgeley School meets the Registration Requirements specified in the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled "Rosenwald Schools of Maryland."

### Resource History and Historic Context:

The Ridgeley School (Colored School #1 in Election District #13) was built in 1927, one of four two-teacher schools in Prince George's County funded in that year by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. Before this school was built, classes for elementary students had been held in the "colored hall" or "society hall" which stood on the lot immediately adjoining to the east. The hall was informally connected with Ridgley Methodist Episcopal Church, located a short distance to the east on the north side of Central Avenue. The first church on this site had been erected in the 1870s, on land which was deeded to Lewis Ridgley and two other black trustees out of the Berry family land holdings. By the 1890s a small community had developed in this area; its focal points were Ridgley Church, the lodge, and, later, the adjoining schoolhouse.<sup>4</sup>

In the 1923/24 academic year, there were 42 elementary schools for black children in Prince George's County. In that year a committee of the Colored Public School Trustees Association conducted a survey of the County's colored public schools, in which it was recorded that a new Rosenwald school was being requested for the Ridgley community. "It is already on the program to build a new Rosenwald school at Ridgeley. The committee can only say that it is urgently needed." The committee went on to encourage the Ridgley community members to pursue their hopes for a new school building, and not to "let up in their drive till the new building is finished, fully equipped and every child has a comfortable seat in which to study."<sup>5</sup> Six Prince George's County schools were built with Rosenwald support in the 1925/26 year, and four more, including Ridgeley, would be completed in 1926/27.<sup>6</sup>

A formal request was addressed to the Board of Education in March 1926 for a new school for Ridgley, but the Ridgley delegation was informed that their request came too late to put in that year's budget. The Board agreed, however, to support the request if the community would furnish two acres of land for the proposed school. Accordingly, in February 1927, Mary Eliza Ridgley (daughter-in-law of Lewis Ridgley, who had

<sup>4</sup> Prince George's County Deeds HB#4:223 (1871), JWB#23:471; cf. Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties PG#72-5

<sup>5</sup> Colored Public School Trustees Association, *A Survey of Colored Schools of Prince George's County, Maryland, 1923/24*

<sup>6</sup> In 1925/26, with Rosenwald support, two-teacher schoolhouses were built in Capitol Heights, Lakeland, and Laurel, and one-teacher structures were built in TeeBee, Westwood, and Chapel Hill. In 1926/27, in addition to that at Ridgeley, three more two-teacher schools were built in the County - in Bowie, Clinton, and Collington.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PG 75A-28  
Ridgeley School  
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founded the nearby Methodist church) offered 2 acres of the family's property to the Board for the construction of the school, and the offer was accepted.<sup>7</sup>

At its meeting in June 1927, the Board of Education contracted with Burton A. Ford to erect three colored schools - \$4281.54 for a school at Ridgley, the same amount for a school of the same plan at Clinton, and \$4221.54 for a different design at Collington.<sup>8</sup> The deed of land from the Ridgeleys was executed two weeks later.<sup>9</sup> This land lay on the south side of Central Avenue a short distance west of the church, with a right-of-way to the avenue.

Papers in the Rosenwald Fund Archives record that the school was of the two-teacher plan, that the total cost of its construction was \$5300, of which the largest part (\$4400) came from public taxation, \$200 was contributed by the local black community, and \$700 came from the Rosenwald Fund.<sup>10</sup> Ridgeley School opened in the fall of 1927, with two large classrooms, each of which served at least three grade levels. Instruction in home economics and in vocational carpentry was offered in the central passage between the two classrooms. Two privies stood on the two-acre property, as well as space for sports and games. A photograph of Julius Rosenwald was hanging in the classroom. Members of the Ridgeley family remained very much involved in the affairs of the school.<sup>11</sup>

Within twenty years of the opening of the Ridgeley School, the rear (south) addition was constructed, adding a third large classroom. Later, until 1957, the schoolhouse served as a special center for children with special needs. From 1963 until 2009, the building served as the school-bus management office for the Prince George's County Public Schools. By 2002, when the National Trust brought attention to Rosenwald schools through their listing among the most Endangered Buildings, the Ridgeley school was in deteriorating condition, but was recognized as being Prince George's County's Rosenwald school closest to its original condition. In 2004, a committee formed with the express purpose of bringing about the preservation and restoration of the schoolhouse. Restoration of the building was accomplished through an agreement between the Board of Education and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The building was opened to the public in September 2011 as a museum and educational meeting place.

<sup>7</sup> Prince George's County Board of Education Journal, 9 March 1926; 8 February 1937.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 28 June 1927; The schoolhouses at Capitol Heights, Bowie, and Clinton were built on the same plan as that at Ridgeley; only the Ridgeley and Clinton schools survive, though the Clinton school has been greatly altered from its original form.

<sup>9</sup> Prince George's County Deed #293:88 (16 July 1927)

<sup>10</sup> Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives, Fisk University, Nashville, TN, including letter of disbursement of funds, 1 July 1927

<sup>11</sup> Interviews with Mildred Ridgley Gray, 1995 to present

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PG 75A-28  
Ridgeley School

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Name of Property

Prince George's County, MD

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County and State

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## Major Bibliographical References:

Hoffschwelle, Mary S. The Rosenwald Schools of the American South. Gainesville, FL:  
University Press of Florida, 2006.

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PG 75A-28  
Ridgeley School  
Name of Property

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Section 10 Page 1

## Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is described in Liber 293, folio 88 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, Maryland, and shown as Parcel 87 on Prince George's County Tax Map 67.

## Boundary Justification:

The nominated property, 2.173 acres, comprises the entire parcel historically associated with the resource.

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PG 75A-28  
Ridgeley School  
Name of Property

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Section PHOTO Page 1

## Index to Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs which accompany this documentation:

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) Number: PG 75A-28  
Name of Property: Ridgeley School  
Location: Prince George's County, Maryland  
Photographer: Peter Kurtze  
Date taken: August 29, 2012  
Location of original digital files: MD SHPO

### Photo captions:

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_RidgeleySchool\_0001.tif  
View from NW

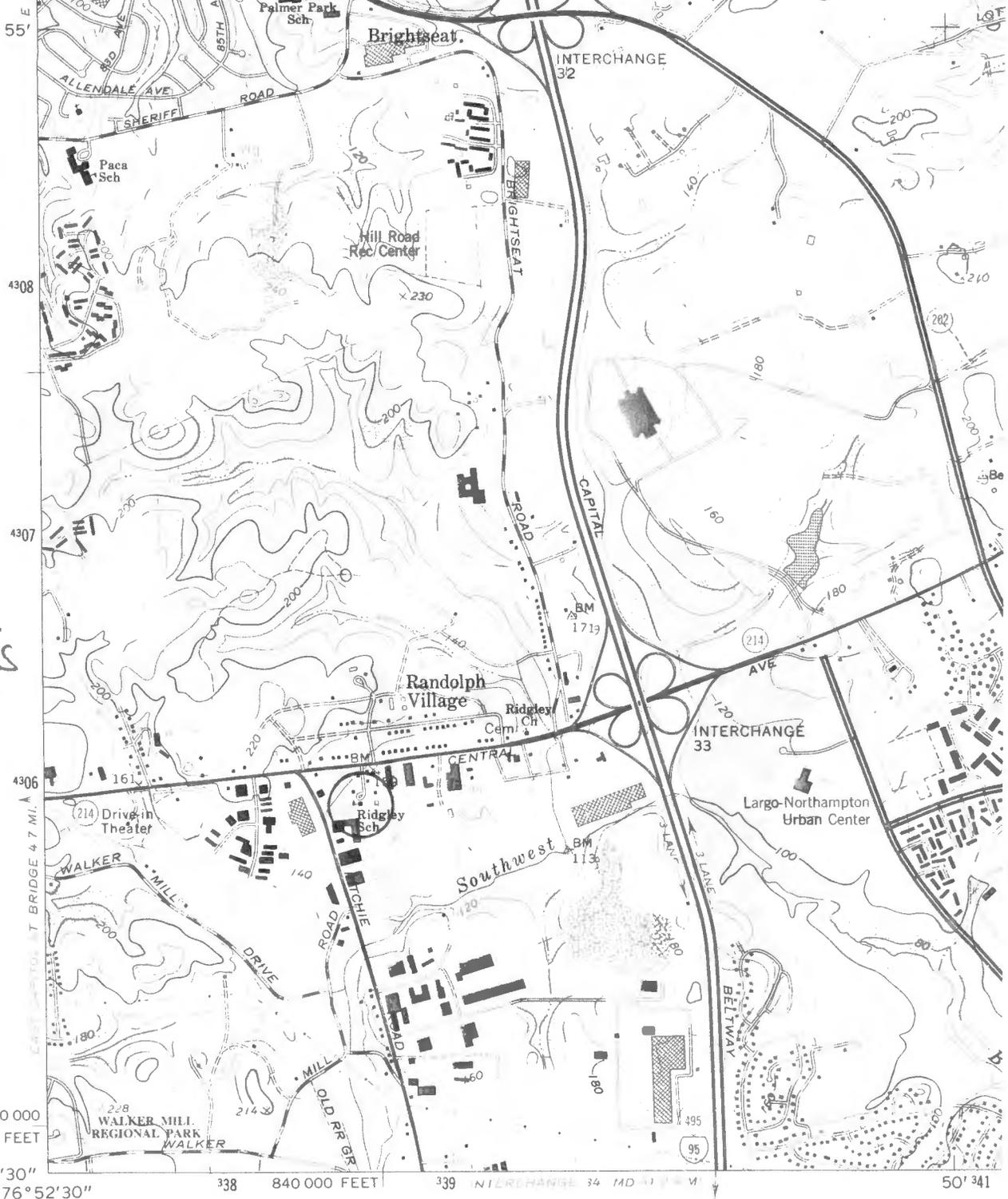
MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_RidgeleySchool\_0002.tif  
View from NE

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_RidgeleySchool\_0003.tif  
View from SW

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_RidgeleySchool\_0004.tif  
Classroom

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_RidgeleySchool\_0005.tif  
Meeting Room

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_RidgeleySchool\_0006.tif  
Classroom shown in 1930s photograph (Source: Fisk Archives)



PG 75A-28  
 RIDGELEY SCHOOL  
 PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MD  
 18-338678-4306066

(ANACOSTIA)  
 566' IV SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1938 and 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944 Revised by the Geological Survey 1965

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system  
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

LANHAM, MD  
 21115

Maryland Historical Trust

**Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
Continuation Sheet**

PG 75A-28  
Ridgeley School

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Name of Property

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Prince George's County, MD

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County and State

**Index to Photographs**

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Location: Prince George's County, Maryland  
Photographer: Peter Kurtze  
Date taken: August 29, 2012  
Location of original digital files: MD SHPO

Photo captions:

PG;75A-28\_2012-08-29\_01.tif  
View from NW

PG;75A-28\_2012-08-29\_02.tif  
View from NE

PG;75A-28\_2012-08-29\_03.tif  
View from SW

PG;75A-28\_2012-08-29\_04.tif  
Classroom

PG;75A-28\_2012-08-29\_05.tif  
Meeting Room

PG;75A-28\_2012-08-29\_06.tif  
Classroom shown in 1930s photograph (Source: Fisk Archives)

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PG 75A-28  
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Name of Property

Section PHOTO Page 1

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### Index to Photographs

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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) Number: PG 75A-28  
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Photographer: Peter Kurtze  
Date taken: August 29, 2012  
Location of original digital files: MD SHPO

#### Photo captions:

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_RidgeleySchool\_0001.tif  
View from NW

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_RidgeleySchool\_0002.tif  
View from NE

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_RidgeleySchool\_0003.tif  
View from SW

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_RidgeleySchool\_0004.tif  
Classroom

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_RidgeleySchool\_0005.tif  
Meeting Room

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_RidgeleySchool\_0006.tif  
Classroom shown in 1930s photograph (Source: Fisk Archives)

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_RidgeleySchool\_0007.tif  
View from NW, 2001; Susan Pearl, photographer

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_RidgeleySchool\_0008.tif  
View from W, 2001; Susan Pearl, photographer

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PG 75A-28  
Ridgeley School

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Name of Property

Section PHOTO Page 2

Prince George's County, MD

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County and State

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_RidgeleySchool\_0009.tif  
View from SW, 2001; Susan Pearl, photographer

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_RidgeleySchool\_0010.tif  
View from S, 2001; Susan Pearl, photographer



PG:75A-28

RIDGELEY SCHOOL

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

PHOTO 1 OF 6

PG;75A-28\_2012-08-29\_01.tif



PG: 75A-28

RIDGELEY SCHOOL

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

PHOTO 2 OF 6

PG; 75A-28-2012-08-29-02.tif



PG:75A-28

RIDGELEY SCHOOL

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MD

PHOTO 3 OF 6

EPSON

EPSON

EPSON

EPSON

EPSON

PG;75A-28\_2012-08-29\_03.tif



PG: 75A-28

RIDGELEY SCHOOL

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

PHOTO 4 OF 6

PG; 75A-28\_2012-08-29\_04.tif



PG: 75A-28

RIDGELEY SCHOOL

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

PHOTO 5 OF 6

PG; 75A-28-2012-08-29-05.tif



PG; 75A-28

RIDGELEY SCHOOL

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

PHOTO 6 OF 6

PG; 75A-28\_2012-08-29\_06.tif

Survey No. PG#75A-28

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historical Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (Indicate preferred name)

historic Ridgely School

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number 8507 Central Avenuecity, town Capitol Heights

vicinity of

congressional district 4state MD20743

county

Prince George's

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Prince George's County Board of Educationstreet & number 14201 School Lane

telephone no.

city, town Upper Marlborostate MDzip code 20772

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Administration Bldg. liber #293street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drivefolio 88city, town Upper Marlborostate MDzip code 20772

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title African-American Heritage Survey, 1996 (M-NCPPC)date 1996federal  state   county localdepository for survey records Planning and Preservation Section, M-NCPPCCity, town Upper Marlborostate MD

## 7. Description

Survey No. PG#75A-28

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

Ridgely School is a one-story hip-roof frame building, typical of the two-room schoolhouses built in Prince George's County in the 1920s. It faces north toward Central Avenue, but is set back approximately 500 feet south of the avenue, accessible by a tree-shaded lane.

Exterior

The building is sheathed with rectangular wood shingles, painted white. Entrance is in the central bay of the north facade; the three central bays project approximately 2 feet, creating a projecting vestibule which forms a sheltered entranceway into the building. The entrance is centered in this three-bay projection through a modern door which has been built into the partially closed original opening. The central entrance was originally flanked by two windows lighting the projecting vestibule; evidence of the two window locations is visible in the shinglework of the projecting vestibule. Today there is only one 8/8 double-hung-sash window lighting the north facade, filling the long bay west of the central projecting vestibule. Evidence in the shinglework to the east shows that there was originally an identical window in the same location east of the projecting vestibule.

Original banks of windows light the east and west side elevations of the building, originally lighting the two classrooms. On each of these elevations there is a bank of five windows, side-by-side; each window is 9/9 double-hung-sash. The sashes are painted a dark brick red.

A rear wing has been constructed on the south side of the building; it extends to the south, and is accessible, from the exterior, by a door set in the southwest corner formed by the main block and the addition. The only windows in the south wing are in its east elevation: a bank of five large windows designed to complement the bank of five windows in the main block. The windows of the wing differs from those of the main block in that the panes are smaller - the sashes are 12 over 12. All sashes are painted a dark brick red. Other features of the wing (roof, eaves and siding) are the same as those of the main block.

The hip roof of the building is covered with gray synthetic shingle. It has a deep overhang at the eaves, with narrow-board soffits. There are two tall slim brick chimneys in the main block, in the south plane of the roof; these chimneys served the original stoves located in the south interior corner of each classroom. There is an additional exterior brick chimney at the south elevation of the rear wing. The main block rests on a foundation of molded concrete block; the south wing rests on a foundation of plain concrete block.

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Description (continued)

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Interior

The school building originally consisted of two large classrooms, separated by a central passage. The central projecting vestibule on the north facade was original open, and one entered the building through the covered entranceway. The entranceway was flanked by two symmetrical cloakrooms, one cloakroom accessible from each of the two classrooms. Since the conversion of the building, the opening has been filled, and a modern exterior door has been installed, but the wood shingle siding (original exterior) can still be seen on the interior (east, south and west) walls of the entranceway. The entranceway leads directly to the central passage of the building.

The west classroom has been converted into one large office space, and one enters (as one did originally) from the entrance areaway. A small southerly section of the large office space has been partitioned off and converted into bathroom and utility space. The office is lighted by the bank of five windows in the west wall, and another smaller window has been retained high in the north wall. Also in the north wall of this office space there is a door which leads into the cloakroom, which is now used as closet space.

The east classroom has been divided into several small office spaces, with modern partition walls. The door from the entranceway has been closed off, and these office spaces are accessible only through the main central passage.

The rear (south) addition is presently used only for storage space. It is accessible from the central passage of the main block.

Setting

The building stands in a large two-acre paved parking lot, presently used as a bus lot for the Prince George's County public schools. A tree-shaded lane leads north from this lot to Central Avenue, but the lot is fenced and not accessible by this original entrance. It is accessible from the south by a paved drive from Truck Way.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. PG#75A-28

Period	Areas of Significance- check and justify below			
— prehistoric	— archeology-prehistoric	— community planning	— landscape architecture	— religion
— 1400-1499	— archaeology-historic	— conservation	— law	— science
— 1500-1599	— agriculture	— economics	— literature	— sculpture
— 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	— military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
— 1700-1799	— art	— engineering	— music	— theater
— 1800-1899	— commerce	— exploration/settlement	— philosophy	— transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	— communications	— industry	— politics/government	— other (specify)
— 2000		— invention		
Specific Dates	1927			
	Builder/Architect: <b>Linthicum &amp; Linthicum</b>			
check: Applicable Criteria	A	B	C	D
and/or				
Applicable Exception	A	B	C	D
Level of Significance	national	state	local	

The Ridgely School (Colored School I in Election District 13) was built in 1927, part of the Rosenwald school program. It was a one-story hip-roof schoolhouse of wood frame construction, typical of the two-room schoolhouse built in Prince George's County in the 1920s. Before this school was built, classes for elementary students had been held in the "colored hall," or "society hall," which stood on the lot immediately adjoining to the east. The hall was informally connected with Ridgely Methodist Episcopal Church, located a short distance to the east on the north side of Central Avenue. The first church on this site was erected in the 1870s, after Lewis Ridgely and two other black trustees were deeded land out of the Berry family holdings. By the 1890s a small community had developed in this area, its focal points were Ridgely Church, the lodge and, later, the adjoining schoolhouse.<sup>1</sup>

In the survey of Colored Public Schools of 1923/24 (at which time there were 42 elementary schools for black children in Prince George's County), it was recorded that a new Rosenwald school was programmed for construction at Ridgely: "It is already on the program to build a new Rosenwald school at Ridgeley. The committee can only say that it is urgently needed."<sup>2</sup> The Rosenwald program had been initiated by philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Company. The fund supported the construction of schools for black children in the South. Between 1917 and 1932 (the year of Rosenwald's death), the fund contributed to the building of 4977 new schools in 15 southern states. The Rosenwald fund provided only seed money for school construction; the majority of the money came from public taxation and each local black community was required to match the contribution of the fund in either cash or in-kind contributions such as lumber or labor. But in spite of these limitations, the Rosenwald

<sup>1</sup> Maryland Inventory Form PG#72-5 (Ridgely Church). Pearl, Susan G., *African-American Heritage Survey*, 1996, M-NCPPC, 1996, pages 120-122.

<sup>2</sup> Colored Public School Trustees Association, *A Survey of Colored Schools of Prince George's County, Maryland, 1923/24*

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Statement of Significance (continued)

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program did much to improve black schools, providing incentives to local black communities which invariably led to further improvements. In Prince George's County, 23 schools were built under the program, and nine survive today.<sup>3</sup>

In 1927, the Board of Education purchased two acres of land from Mary Eliza and Arthur Ridgely; this land lay on the south side of Central Avenue a short distance west of Ridgely Church, with a right-of-way to the avenue. Linthicum and Linthicum, an architectural firm which was commissioned to build many of the County's schools, was contracted to build a two-room schoolhouse on this land, similar to those schools (also supported by the Rosenwald fund) designed for Bowie, Lakeland and Laurel. Ridgely school opened in 1927, a prototype of the black elementary schools constructed in the late 1920s: two large classrooms, each of which served at least three grade levels, a central passage and an entranceway flanked by two cloakrooms.<sup>4</sup>

Within twenty years of the opening of the Ridgely School, the rear (south) addition was constructed, adding a third large classroom. Later, during the 1950s, the schoolhouse served as a special center, and since the late 1960s has served as the bus management office for the Prince George's County Public Schools.<sup>5</sup>

The Ridgely School is one of only nine of the original 23 Rosenwald schools that survive in Prince George's county. Although the building has been altered to meet the needs of its current use, it still exhibits many of the prototypical features of Rosenwald schoolhouses of the 1920s, and is probably in the closest-to-original condition of any of Prince George's County's surviving Rosenwald schools. It is also an important landmark in the African-American education movement in Prince George's County, being a prototypical example of the two-room frame schoolhouses built under the Rosenwald program. It exemplifies the cultural social, educational and historical heritage of the County and its suburban communities.

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<sup>3</sup> Pearl, Susan G., *op.cit.*; Pearl, Susan G., *The Julius Rosenwald Program: A Chapter in the African-American Education Movement in Prince George's County, Maryland* (unpublished), presented to conference of Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society, October 2001

<sup>4</sup> Prince George's County Deed #293:88, Prince George's County Board of Education, Closed School Files; *Journal of the Board of Education* (1921-1940); Rosenwald Fund files, Fisk University, Nashville, TN; Pearl, Susan G., *African-American Heritage Survey, 1996*, M-NCPPC, 1996, pages 120-122; interview with Mildred Ridgely Gray, 1995, 2001; interview with employees of Prince George's County Board of Education, 1996, 2002.

<sup>5</sup> Prince George's County Closed School files; interview with Mildred Ridgely Gray and employees of Board of Education.

**9. Major Bibliographical Sources**

Survey No. PG#75A-28

See notes, Item #8

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of nominated property 2.173 acres

Tax Map 67, Parcel 87

Quadrangle name LanhamQuadrangle scale 1:24000

A			B			
	Zone	Easting		Zone	Easting	Northing
C			D			
E			F			
G			H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

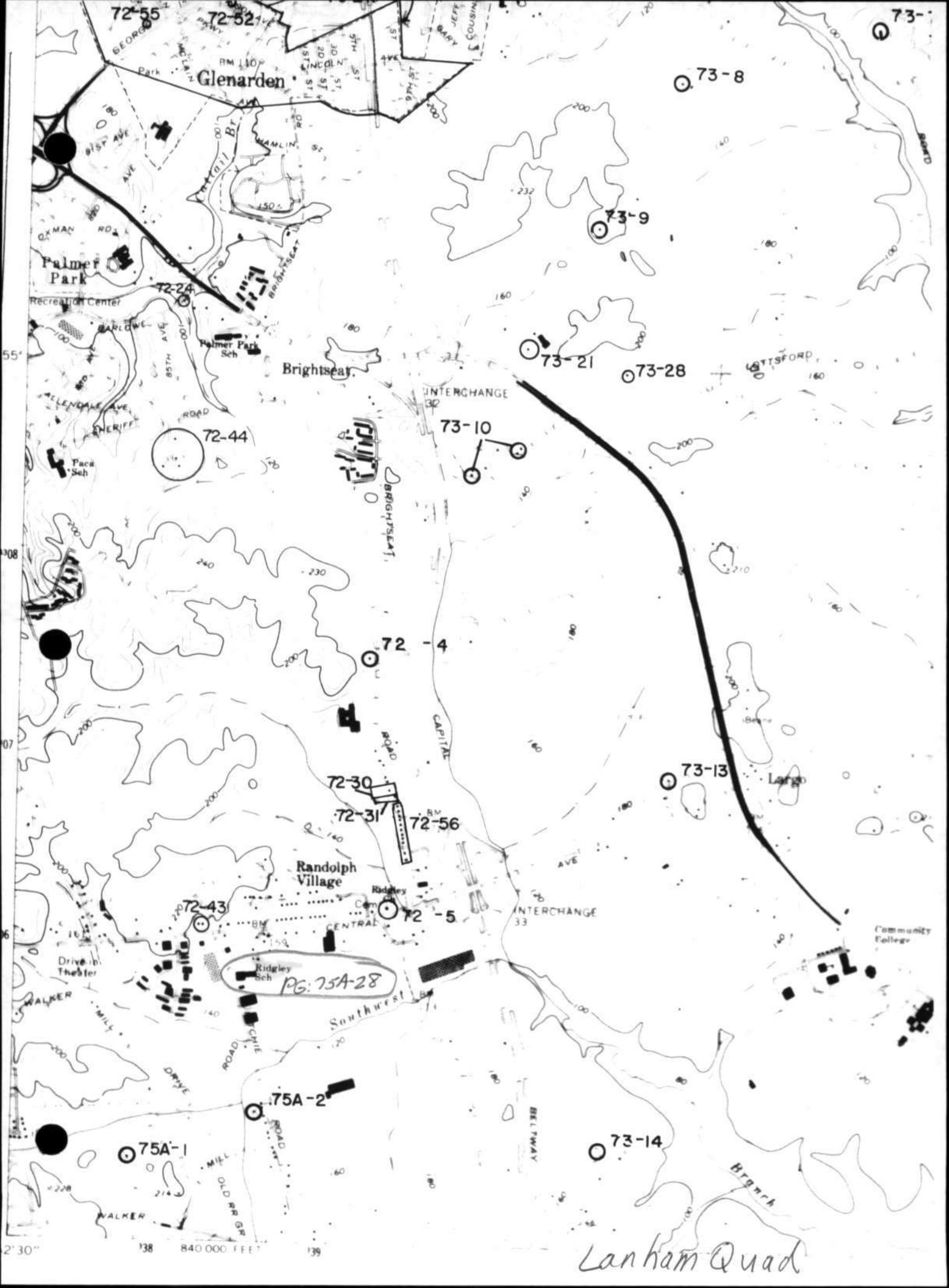
state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

**11. Form Prepared By**name title Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historianorganization Prince George's County date March 2002  
Historic Preservation**Commission**street & number c/o M-NCPPC, 14741 Gov. Oden telephone (301) 952-3521  
Bowie Drivecity or town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

Return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2025



Glenarden

Palmer Park

Brightseat

Randolph Village

Community College

Lanham Quad

PG. 75A-28

2' 30" 138 840 000 FEET 139