

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #75A-7 Building Date: 1922

Building Name: Forestville School

Location: 3101 Ritchie Road, Forestville, Maryland

Private/Office/Occupied/Excellent

Description:

The oldest part of the Forestville School is a square, one-story, frame gable-roofed building with entrance in the central bay of the three-bay south facade. This entrance is through a double door set in a projecting pavillion, and sheltered by a columned (one-bay-wide) porch. Above this porch is a central cross-gable in the roof. There are double 6/6 windows on each side of the central door. The building stands on a high basement foundation of molded cement block.

There have been many additions to the north side of this 1922 schoolhouse, but the original square classroom space is retained in the large high-ceilinged outer office of the present surveyor's office. This room has a complete ceiling of molded, patterned tin, painted white. The school building stands on a 1.28 acre triangular lot which includes an open lawn to the west; a rail fence and a line of evergreen trees separate the school lot from the Epiphany Episcopal Church lot which adjoins it to the west.

Significance:

There has been a schoolhouse at this location since before the establishment in 1865 of the Board of County School Commissioners. This schoolhouse was apparently rebuilt, as were all of the earliest school buildings, in the 1880's. By 1922 the Board of Education decided to replace the old Forestville School, and in April of that year a building committee was appointed. In August of the same year, the 1.28 acre lot was surveyed, and a location for the new building was determined. The new school was opened by the fall of 1923. Additional rooms were constructed later in the 1920's and 1930's. The school was closed in 1942 when a new brick school was constructed ca. 1/2 mile to the southeast; it was then used as storage space by the Board of Education, and finally sold to Epiphany Church in 1945. Since then it served as a church building until 1969 when it was sold to W. L. Meekins, Land Surveyor; it has since that time served as his office.

The Forestville School is particularly significant for the molded, patterned tin ceiling which remains intact in the original classroom. Although several alterations have been made to the interior of the school, the present owner has attempted to retain the historic integrity of the original classroom space.

Acreege: 1.28 acre

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Forestville School

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number 3101 Ritchie Road  not for publication

city, town Forestville  vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

### 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 checked="" 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 W.L. Meekins

street & number 3101 Ritchie Road telephone no.: 736-7115

city, town Forestville state and zip code Md.

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's Co. Courthouse liber 3703

street & number Main Street folio 35

city, town Upper Marlboro, state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale state Maryland 20737

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" 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 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 oldest part of the Forestville School is a square, one-story, frame gable-roofed building with entrance in the central bay of the three-bay south facade. This entrance is through a double door set in a projecting pavillion, and sheltered by a columned (one-bay wide) porch. Above this porch is a central cross-gable in the roof. There are double 6/6 windows on each side of the central door. The building stands on a high basement foundation of molded cement block.

There have been many additions to this 1920's schoolhouse, but the original square classroom space is retained in the large high - ceilinged outer office of the present surveyor's office. This room is particularly remarkable now because of the complete ceiling of molded, patterned tin, painted white. Two small rooms, formerly cloakrooms, which flank the central doorway now serve as repositories for office machinery. The basement beneath this large first floor space is divided into small office spaces.

A three-bay-wide addition has been constructed to the north. On the west side in the northmost bay, a ground-level door leads into the basement level offices.

The Forestville School building stands on a 1.28 acre triangular lot, set apart from the densely developed commercial center of Forestville. The lot includes an open lawn to the west; a rail fence and a line of evergreen trees separate the school lot from the Episcopal Church lot which adjoins it on the west.

# 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 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)

Local 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 has been a schoolhouse at this location since before the establishment in 1865 of the Board of County School Commissioners. This schoolhouse was apparently rebuilt, as were all of the earliest school buildings, in the 1880's. The second building was typical of the plain frame rural one-room schoolhouses of that period.<sup>1</sup> By 1922 the Board of Education (which superseded the Board of County School Commissioners) decided to replace the old Forestville School, and in April of that year a building committee was appointed. In August of that year, the 1.28 acre lot was surveyed, and a location for the new building was determined.<sup>2</sup>

The new school was opened by the fall of 1923; in October of that year, R. E. Thomas was contracted to build a new Forestville schoolhouse for black children, using some of the lumber from the white schoolhouse just dismantled, together with new materials to be provided by Thomas.<sup>3</sup> As early as 1924 an additional room was constructed on the Forestville School building and in 1933, two more rooms were added to the north.<sup>4</sup> The school was closed in 1942 when a new brick school was constructed ca. 1/2 mile to the southeast. For three years the older frame school building was used for storage of desks by the Board of Education, and it was subsequently sold to Epiphany Church which occupied the adjoining land to the west. Because the original deed for the school property had been lost, however, the Prince George's Court of Equity had to validate the deed by which the school lot was conveyed. During these court proceedings, several Forestville residents testified that they, and in some cases their parents, had attended elementary school on that same site as far back as the 1880's.<sup>5</sup>

Epiphany Church used the school building until 1961, after which it was purchased and used by another religious group, the Evangel Assembly. In 1969, it was purchased by W. L. Meekins, Land Surveyor, and has since that time served as his office.<sup>6</sup>

(Continuation sheet)



The Forestville School is particularly significant for the molded, patterned tin ceiling which remains intact in the original classroom. Such ceilings were built into other school buildings of this period, but another intact example has not at this time been discovered. Although several alterations were made to the interior of the school building during the time that it was being used as a house of worship, the present owner has attempted to retain the historic integrity of the main block, the original classroom.

#### Footnotes

1 Martenet Map of Prince George's County, 1861; Journal of the Board of County School Commissioners, Vol. I, pp. 140-178, 1880-1882; telephone interview with Thomas S. Gwynn, Jr., April 1984.

2 Prince George's Equity #14403; Journal, Board of Education. Vol. III, pp. 17-50, 1922-24.

3 Journal, Board of Education, Vol. III, pp. 17-50, 1922-24.

4 Ibid, Vol. III, p. 57; telephone interview with Dorothy Murray, April 1984.

5 Prince George's Equity #14403.

6 Prince George's Deed #2526:107; #3703:35.

16-495A-7  
1702145811

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Forestville School				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: 3101 Ritchie Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Forestville				
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Prince George's	
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC				
Yes:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted				
<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: W. L. Meekins, Land Surveyor				
STREET AND NUMBER: 3101 Ritchie Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Forestville			STATE: Maryland	
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Prince George's County Court House				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro			STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY: None				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The present school house is a twentieth century (c. <sup>1930</sup><del>1930</del>) frame building on the site of a nineteenth century building. It is a rectangular building with a central gable on the main facade. The entrance porch is neo-colonial, with square brick posts supporting a pedimented roof. The gable is shingled and has a fan light. Large windows are paired on the gable ends and on either side of the entrance. On the back, a wing has been added.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Empty box for Major Bibliographical References.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC      DATE: 13 Sept 74

STREET AND NUMBER:  
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring      STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:  
 National     State     Local

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Chain of Title

Forestville School P.G. #75A-7

#3703:35  
28 Mar 1969  
Deed

Evangel Assembly, Inc. to W.L. Meekins; Parcel B, 1.28 acre by plat in Equity #14403 which grantor acquired from Vestry of Epiphany Parish by #2526:107.

#2526:107  
19 Jan 1961  
Deed

Vestry of Epiphany Parish to Evangel Assembly, Inc; Parcel B, 1.28 acre as per survey in Equity #14403.

#14403  
Dec 1945  
Equity

Board of Education, plaintiff, vs. Vestry of Epiphany Parish, defendant: Defendant agreed to purchase 1.28 acre school lot, paid deposit but refused balance, because plaintiff is unable to give good deed. There is no instrument of record conveying said 1.28 acre to plaintiff. Court of Equity must validate deed, so takes testimony that said parcel has been school lot since 1880's. Court declares deed good, and deed is executed from Board of Education to Vestry of Epiphany Parish.

WASHINGTON EAST

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

76°52'30"  
38°52'30"

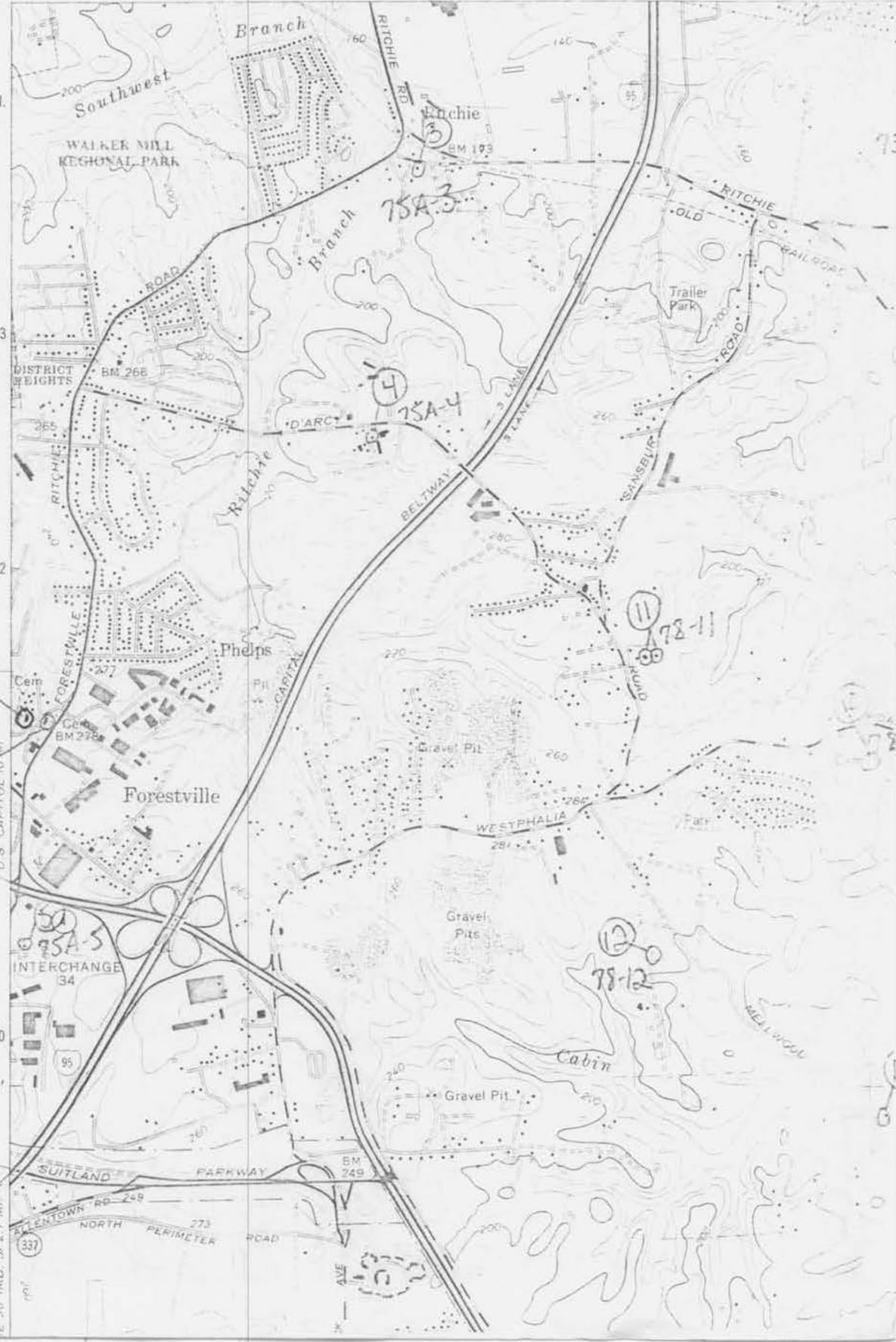
338000m E

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON PKWY 5 MI.  
339 1.5 MI. TO INTERCHANGE 33

50174

4304000m N.

UPPER MARLBORO A  
FORESTVILLE SCHOOL  
School  
PG. # 75A-7  
75A-4



S. CAPITOL ST. BRIDGE, D. C. 8 MI.  
TO INTERSTATE 395  
E. 36 (IND.) 51.27 MI.

INTERCHANGE 34

SUITLAND PARKWAY

ALLENTOWN RD 248  
NORTH PERIMETER ROAD

AVE



75A-7  
SW

P.G. #75A-7

Forestville School

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1984

Southwest 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



75A-7  
S

P.G. #75A-7

Forestville School

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1984

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



15A-7  
92

P.G. #75A-7

Forestville School

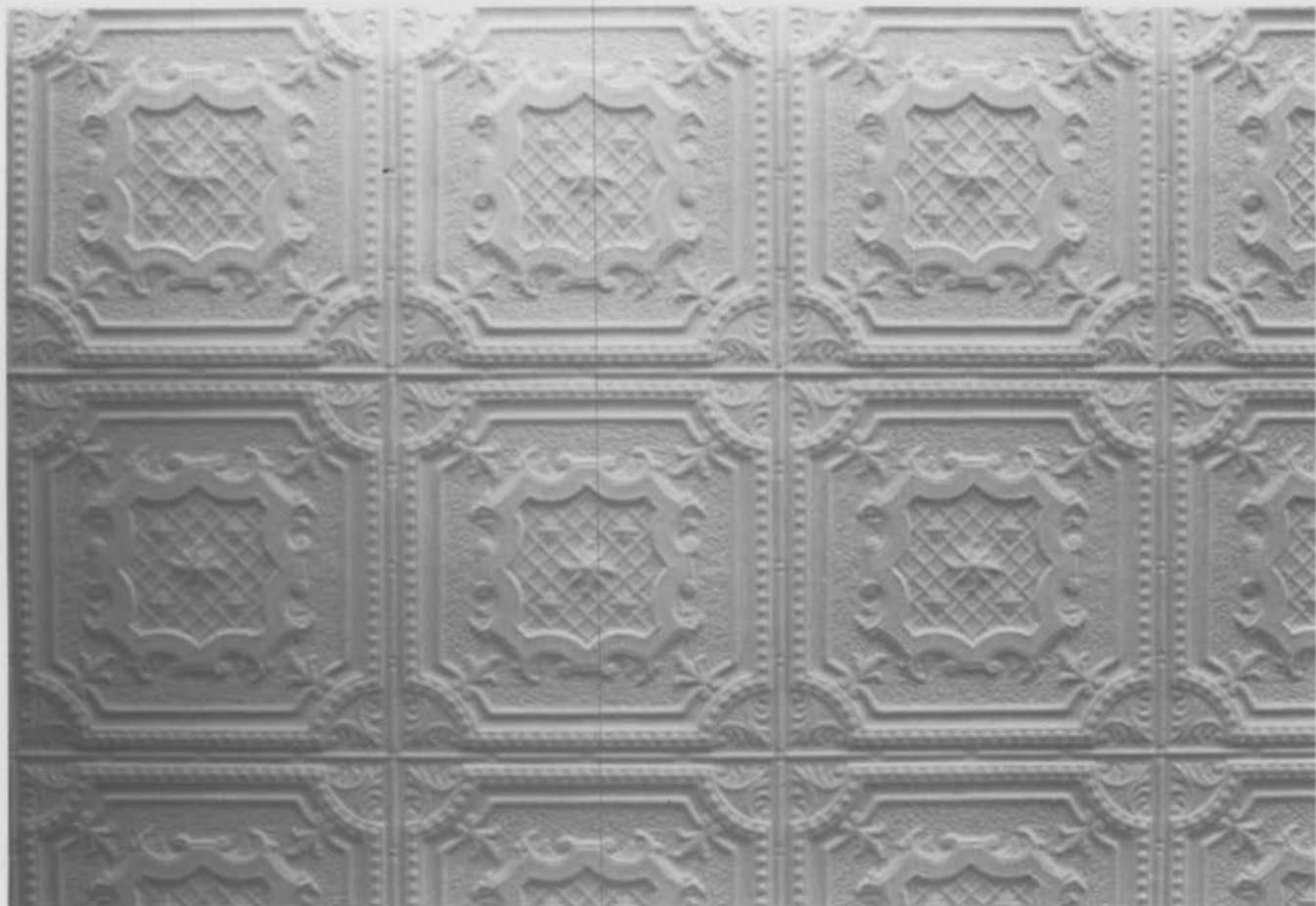
Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1984

Southeast 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



75A-7

P.G. #75A-7

Forestville School

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1984

Ceiling

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



NAME FORESTVILLE SCHOOL

PG: 75A-7

LOCATION 3101 RITCHIE Rd FORESTVILLE, Md

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 9/13/74 MOWYER