

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #78-21 Building Date: 1887

Building Name: Old Melwood School

Location: 11209 Old Marlboro, Pike, Upper Maryland, Maryland

Private/Residential/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description:

The old Melwood School is a one story frame gable roof structure of irregular plan, due to additions over the years. It fronts closely on Marlboro Pike. The main block, originally the schoolhouse, is a one-and-one-half story structure of approximately two-by-one bays with a standing seam metal gable roof. There is a brick chimney centered at the gable ridge, and the building rests on a brick foundation. Both main block and additions are covered by aluminum siding and there is a boxed aluminum cornice. The school was originally sided with German siding. Entrance is on the east side through the gable end of a one story addition. Windows are new aluminum 1/1 sash. The entrance is sheltered by a one bay gable roof porch. The addition is set on a high cement block foundation and has a standing seam metal roof. The south facade of the main block is obscured by a two bay, one story shed roof addition. The north facade, facing Marlboro Pike, is covered by a one-by-one bay one story gable roof addition. The west facade is two bays, the brick foundation of the main block visible on this facade. The four corners of the school's original one-half acre lot are marked by four large trees, two east and two west of the structure. The interior of the school has been altered and there is no evidence of its original use. The dining and kitchen area comprise the original school building. A ca. 1922 hygiene book was found within the walls during renovation. Two ink bottles were found while excavating a foundation for an addition.

Significance:

The old Melwood School is significant for its vernacular architecture and for its construction and use as a one room school from 1887 through 1933. The Board of School Commissioners purchased a lot from William J. Latimer in 1887 for a school. A simple frame building on a brick foundation, it measured approximately 24-by-32-feet, and cost \$600. Charles Clagett, John A. Frasier and William J. Latimer were appointed trustees. It served as a one room elementary school from 1887 until it was sold in 1933 to a private property owner. The property was held by one owner through 1958 and converted into a single-family home. Presently the old school has additions to all facades, and there is no evidence on the interior of its original use. The original block is visible from the northwest corner of the building. Although obscured by additions and aluminum siding, the brick foundation, standing-seam metal roof and greater height of the main block make it distinguishable as a separate, older structure. It is a landmark for residents in the community whose family members attended the school.

Acreage: 1,900 square feet

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Old Melwood School

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 11209 Old Marlboro Pike  not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro  vicinity of congressional district 5

state Md. 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 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	<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 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 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 Linda and George Reigle

street & number 11209 Old Marlboro Pike telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro state and zip code Md. 20772

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 4480

street & number Main Street folio 984

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title NA

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission, Room 4010/CAB

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

# 7. Description

Survey No. 78-21

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 old Melwood School is a one story frame gable roof structure of irregular plan, due to additions over the years to convert it to use as a private residence. The building is situated on a town lot and fronts closely on Marlboro Pike.

The main block, originally the schoolhouse, is a one-and-one-half story structure of approximately two-by-one bays with a standing seam metal gable roof. The gable ends face north and south. There is a brick chimney centered at the gable ridge, and the building rests on a brick foundation.

Both main block and additions are covered by aluminum siding and there is a boxed aluminum cornice throughout. The school was originally sided with German siding. Entrance to the structure is on the east side of the main block, through the three bay gable end of a three-by-one bays one story addition. Entrance is in the center bay, through a modern door which is asymmetrically placed south of the addition's gable ridge. Windows are new aluminum 1/1 double-hung-sash. The entrance is sheltered by a one bay gable roof entrance porch set high on cement block piers, reached by a flight of stairs. The addition is set on a high cement block foundation and has a standing seam metal roof.

The south facade of the main block is obscured by a two bay, one story shed roof lean-to addition. The north facade, facing Marlboro Pike, is covered by a one-by-one bay one story gable roof addition on a high cement block foundation, having an asphalt shingle roof. The west facade is two bays, a 1/1 aluminum window on the main block and a one-by-one bay shed roof extension of the kitchen on the southwest corner of the facade. The brick foundation of the main block is visible on this facade.

The four corners of the school's original one-half acre lot are marked by four mature hardwood trees, two east and two west of the structure. There is a cement block garage to the east.

The interior of the old Melwood School has been altered for use as a residence. There is no evidence of its original use. The dining and kitchen area comprise the original school building. A ca. 1922 hygiene book was found within the walls during renovation. Two ink bottles were found while excavating a foundation for an addition.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. 78-21

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1887 **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.

The old Melwood School is significant for its vernacular architecture and for its construction and use as a one room school from 1887 through 1933.

The Prince George's County Board of School Commissioners purchased a lot on Marlboro Pike from William J. Latimer in 1887 for the construction of a school. The building was probably constructed soon after that date. A simple rectangular frame building on a brick foundation, it measured approximately 24-by-32-feet, and cost \$600 to build. Charles Clagett, John A. Frasier and William J. Latimer were appointed trustees to oversee the school's construction.<sup>1</sup>

Melwood school served as a one room elementary school from 1887 until, as part of a general consolidation of schools during the early twentieth century, the school was sold in 1933 to a private property owner.<sup>2</sup> The property was held by one owner through 1958 and was converted, through additions, into a single-family home.<sup>3</sup>

Presently the old school has additions to all facades, and there is no evidence on the interior of the building's original use. The original main block is most visible from the northwest corner of the building. Although it has been obscured by additions and covered with aluminum siding, the brick foundation, standing-seam metal roof and greater height of the main block make it distinguishable as a separate, older structure. It is a landmark for residents in the community whose family members attended the school.

Notes

<sup>1</sup> Journal of Proceedings, Board of Education, Prince George's County, 1865-1903, pg. 239.

<sup>2</sup> Land Records of Prince George's County, 391:112.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. 2188:274.



Chain of Title

Old Melwood School  
P.G. #78-21

4480:984 Raymond and Evelyn Hardesty to George and Linda Reigle,  
29 Apr 1975 8,200 square feet, same as 2194:56.  
Deed

2194:56 Francis and Mary Curtin to Raymond and Evelyn Hardesty,  
25 March 1958 northeast corner of Lot #1, Melwood Park Subdivision, 8,200  
Deed square feet.

2188:274 Aubrey Ritchie and Bertha Ritchie to Mary Curtin and  
4 March 1958 Francis Curtin, 58/100 of an acre, plat by Millard Thorne.  
Deed Same as 1519:128, 1952.

1519:128 Joan M. Coleman and Richard A. Coleman to Aubrey T. Ritchie  
22 July 1952 and Bertha B. Ritchie. For \$10 grantors convey the  
Deed Melwood school lot, 58/100 acre. Same deeded to Colemans  
and recorded prior hereto.

1519:126 Aubrey T. Ritchie to Joan M. and Richard A. Coleman. For  
22 July 1952 \$10.00 grantors convey Melwood School lot. Same decribed  
Deed in deed from Board of Education to Ritchie, 391:112.

391:112 Board of Education of Prince George's County to Aubrey T.  
6 Jan 1933 Ritchie. For \$652 grantor conveys the Melwood school lot,  
Deed 58/100 of an acre. A part of property owned by William J.  
Latimer, purchased by School Board.

5278/556  
84.70A  
P.21

R-A

ROBERT W. AMMANN  
2871/392  
46.88A.  
P.51

ABRAHAM M. KAUFMAN  
2389-14  
20.91 A.  
P.1

R-R

R-S

R-E

MELLWOOD PARK  
REC. CENTER

8420  
PAR. 'A'

LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE  
SUITLAND LODGE 1856  
5087/739  
24.74 A  
P.18

78-21

PG. PAR. 'A' P 4  
8514

MELLWOOD  
PARK

0870

PAUL D. HALWICK  
5821/585  
4.69 A.

P. 56

P. 54

P. 52

BEANES

WILLIAM

R-A

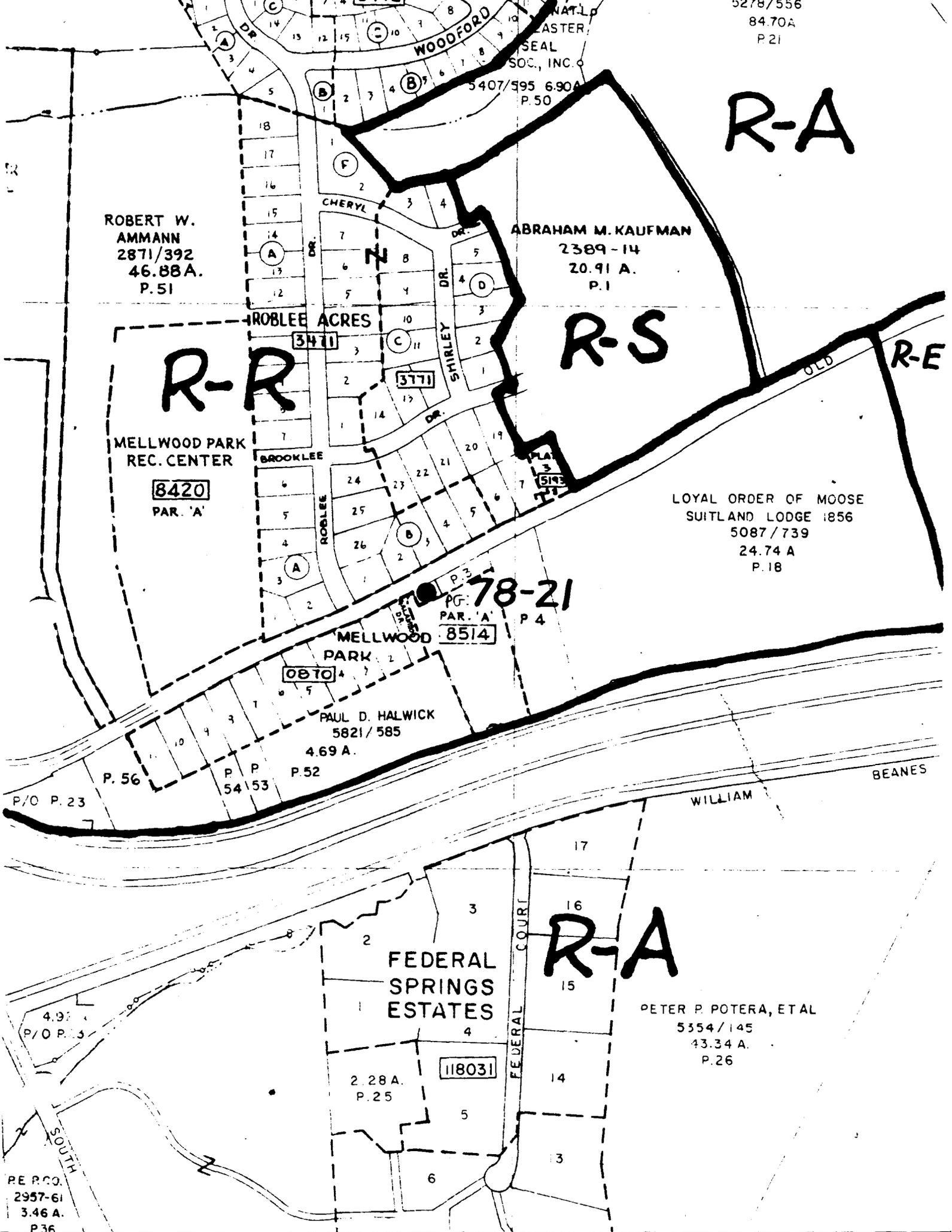
FEDERAL  
SPRINGS  
ESTATES

PETER P. POTERA, ETAL  
5354/145  
43.34 A.  
P.26

118031

2.28A.  
P.25

RE P.C.O.  
2957-61  
3.46 A.  
P.36





P.G.#78-21

Old Mellwood School, Prince George's County

Marina King

February 1986

East

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD \_



P.G.#78-21

Old Mellwood School, Prince George's County  
Marina King  
February 1986  
South  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#78-21

Old Mellwood School, Prince George's County  
Marina King  
February 1986  
West  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD