

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #79-51 Building Date: 1890

Building Name: Old Marlboro Primary School

Location: Elm Street at Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, Md.

Public/Government/Occupied/Good/Restricted

Description

The old Marlboro Primary School building is a one-story five-by-two bay, gable roof frame structure. The north (rear) roof plane is extended, giving the building a salt-box profile. The five-bay south (main) facade has a one-story, one-bay gable roof screened entrance vestibule. Its pediment is covered with square wood shingles. Windows on the facade are large 6/6 double-hung-sash with louvered shutters. There is a boxed cornice with overhanging eaves. The building is sided with wood shingles and roofed with asphalt shingles. The east and north portion rests on a cement block foundation. The southwest corner rests on a brick foundation. The west gable end has a projecting semi-octagonal bay supported on wood brackets, and a brick chimney with corbelled weathering. The six-bay north (rear) facade has a small shed-roof projecting bay with two windows and a rear entrance. A cement rear porch juts over the steep bank dropping to the pond. An entrance and window to the basement is in the cement block foundation beneath the porch. The interior has been altered for office use. The hill on which the school is located has ure trees and a terrace. The old Marlboro high school is just west of the building and ue Dr. Beanes gravesite to the east.

Significance

The buildings on the hill overlooking Upper Marlboro represent 150 years of public education. The 1930's high school is the latest in a series of schools on the site, beginning with the Upper Marlboro Academy in 1835. The frame building east of the high school is the site of a female school established by the County's first public Board of Education in 1867. The hillside was known as Academy Hill, and Schoolhouse pond also took its name from the Academy. The hillside was the residence of Dr. William Beanes, well known for his kidnapping by British troops during the War of 1812. Dr. Beanes lived on the hill from 1779 until his death in 1828. His grave is marked by a monument, east of the schools. In 1836 the Academy's Board of Trustees purchased the Beanes' property for \$1,360. In 1867 the Board of County School Commissioners built a public female school on the eastern end of the Academy lot. By 1885 the female school was known as a general primary school. The present building was probably constructed at that time. Photographs document its early appearance. In 1908 the Academy entered into an agreement with the County's Board of Education whereby the Academy's building and property would be used as a public high school. In 1921, the former female school was converted to the high school principal's residence. It was renovated to its present appearance at that time.

Acreage: 6.702 acres

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Old Marlboro Primary School

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Elm Street  not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro  vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county

## 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 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 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 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

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro, state and zip code MD 20772

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber 4411

street & number Main Street folio 183

city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD 20772

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

<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 Marlboro Primary School building is located on a hill overlooking Schoolhouse Pond to its north and downtown Upper Marlboro to its south. It is a one-story five-by-two bay, gable roof frame structure with a prominent center-front screened entrance vestibule. The north (rear) roof plane is extended, giving the building a salt-box profile.

The five-bay south (main) facade is dominated by the one-story, one-bay gable roof entrance vestibule. The vestibule is enclosed by screens and a waist-high wall, and rests on a brick foundation. The gable roof is supported on square wood posts. The pediment is covered with square wood shingles with a band of saw-tooth shingles through its center. Windows on the facade are large 6/6 double-hung-sash with louvered shutters. There is a boxed cornice with overhanging eaves.

The building is sided with square wood shingles and roofed with asphalt shingles. The east and north portion rests on a cement block foundation. The southwest corner rests on a brick foundation.

The two-bay west gable end has a projecting semi-octagonal hipped roof bay supported on wood brackets. The second bay is an exterior brick chimney with corbelled weathering. The six-bay north (rear) facade faces school house pond. It is a complex facade because of all of the additions. A small exterior brick chimney is between the first and second bay. There is a small shed-roof projecting bay centered on the facade, having two windows and a rear entrance. A cement rear porch juts over the steep bank dropping to the pond. There is an entrance and window leading to the basement in the cement block foundation beneath the porch.

The interior of the building has been altered for use as office space and displays no evidence of its former use as a school.

The hill on which the old primary school is located is dotted with mature evergreen and hardwood trees and has a terrace. The old Marlboro high school is just west of the building and the William Beanes gravesite to the east. The Beanes gravesite is shaded by a mature hardwood tree and enclosed by an iron picket fence with brick posts.

# 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 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 checked="" 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 late 19th/early 20th 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 complex of school buildings on the hill overlooking Elm and Water Streets in Upper Marlboro represents 150 years of public education in Prince George's County. The 1930's high school building is the latest in a succession of Prince George's County schools on the site, beginning with the incorporation of the Upper Marlboro Academy in 1835.<sup>1</sup> The small frame building east of the high school is on the site of a female school established by the County's first public Board of Education (the Board of County School Commissioners) in 1867. The hillside, which expanded farther to the east before the placement of Governor Oden Bowie Drive, was known as Academy Hill. Schoolhouse pond also took its name from the Upper Marlboro Academy.

The hillside was long prominent in Upper Marlboro because it was the residence of Dr. William Beanes. Beanes, a physician, farmer and miller, is well known for his kidnapping by British troops during the War of 1812. He lived on the hill property from 1779 until his death in 1828. His grave site is marked by a monument, east of the two school buildings. In 1836 the president of the Upper Marlboro Academy's Board of Trustees was authorized to purchase the Beanes' property for \$1,360, and to alter it for use as an Academy.<sup>2</sup>

In 1867 the Board of County School Commissioners built a public female school on the eastern end of the Academy lot, the Academy's trustees donating the use of the property. The two school buildings were separated by a "good and substantial fence". By 1885 this building was designated "Primary School #1" in District 3; its use as a female school having apparently



been discontinued.<sup>3</sup> The present building was probably constructed at that time. It is known to date at least to 1890.<sup>4</sup> Photographs exist that document its original appearance. Its front vestibule was enclosed and had a center front entrance. It was surmounted by an open bell tower with a pyramidal cap. On the roof of the main block, flanking the bell tower, were two small triangular dormers.<sup>5</sup>

In 1908 the Trustees of the Marlboro Academy entered into an agreement with the County's Board of Education whereby the Academy's building and property would be used as a public high school, subject to the state laws governing high schools.<sup>6</sup> This building served until the construction of a new high school on the site in 1921.

The old primary school building, on the site of the earlier public female school, was converted in 1921 to the high school principal's residence. The centered projecting entrance vestibule on the building, was altered to a simple screened entrance porch. The two small triangular dormers flanking the entrance vestibule on the south slope of the roof were removed. A brick chimney and large interior fireplace were added to the building's west gable end. This is the present form of the building. Its southwest corner has a brick foundation, indicating that the present building is perhaps an enlargement of an earlier one-room building, which would have been the female school.

#### Notes:

1 The Academy was incorporated by an Act of the General Assembly passed at December Session, 1835, Chapter 204.

2 Proceedings of the Board of Trustees of the Upper Marlboro Academy, 1835-1886. Available at the Prince George's County Board of Education, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

3 Records of the Board of County School Commissioners, 1865-1903, Board of Education Building, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

4 Interview with Helen Talbot Carrico, April 1986.

5 Photographs available, P.G. #79-51,52 file, Historic Preservation Commission, Room 4010, County Administration Building, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

6 Records of the Board of County School Commissioners, April 7, 1908.

Chain of Title

Upper Marlboro Schools  
P.G. #79-51  
P.G. #79-52

CC 2:646  
14 Aug 1779  
Deed

For 2,000 pounds William Sprigg Bowie to William Beanes. 1 acre adjoining Upper Marlboro together will all dwelling houses, out houses and improvements.

JRM 2:167  
7 June 1793  
Will

In love and affection, William Beans, Sr., to William Beans, Jr., physician. 1 acre adjoining Upper Marlboro on which William Beans, Jr., now resides, same purchased from William Sprigg Bowie.

TT 1:432  
#1810  
15 Oct 1828  
Will of  
Dr. William Beanes, Jr.

By second codicil, dwelling house and grounds devised to Phillip Key. After the death of Colmore Beanes should be held in trust for Key, to become his when he has issue. If he dies without issue, property to be sold.

JBB 1:292  
16 Jan 1841  
Deed

John B. Brooke, trustee to sell the property of Dr. William Beanes, to William N. Boteler. For \$2,914, the former dwelling of Dr. William Beanes and all the grounds, garden, buildings and enclosures attached thereto; also the mill, meadows and lands adjoining.

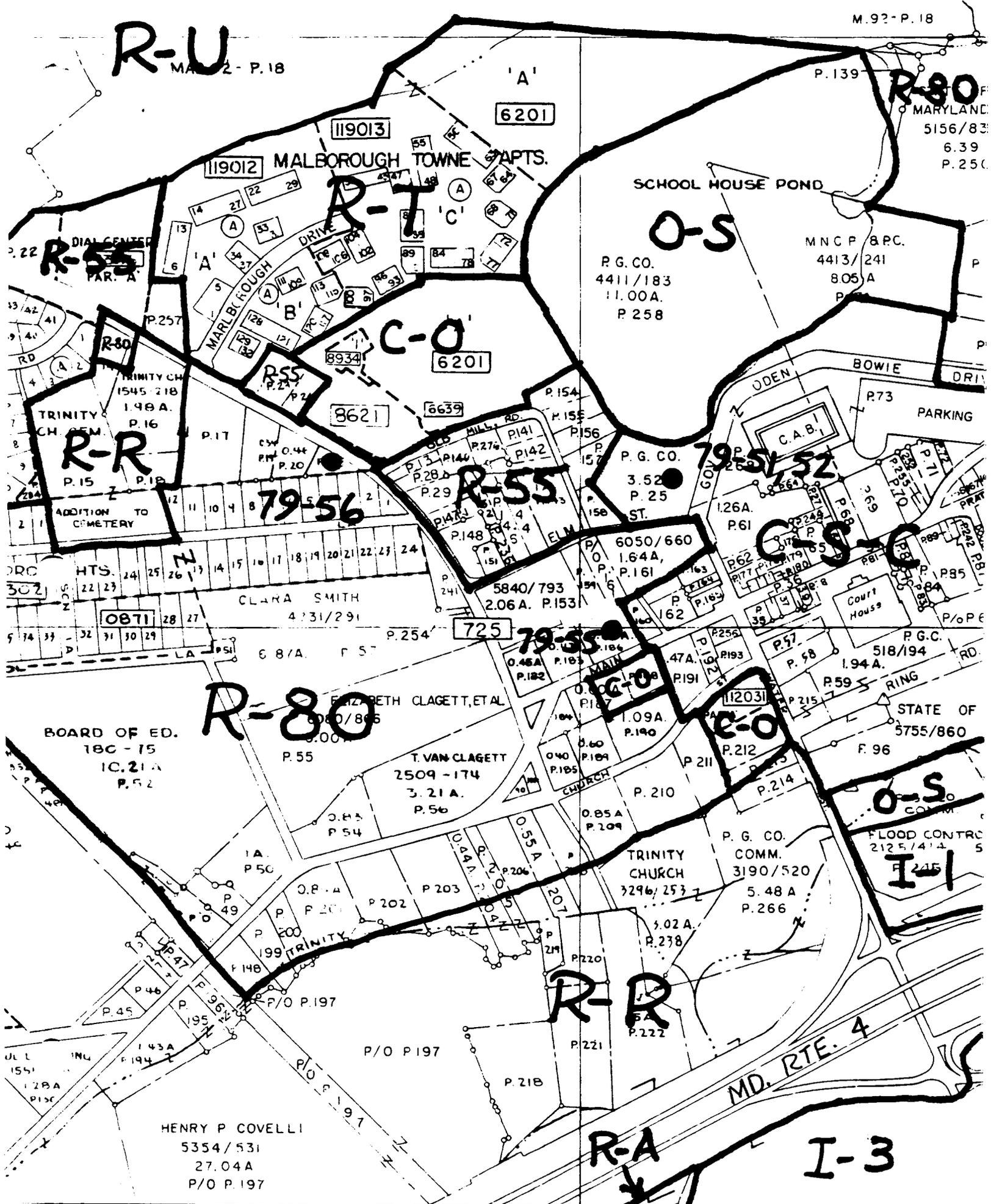
JWB 5:359  
5 Dec 1885  
Deed

Trustees of the Upper Marlboro Academy to the Board of County School Commissioners. For \$400 grantors convey part of the Academy grounds on which for some years past the Board has maintained a public school for females, the two sections separated by a plank fence.

4411:183  
5 Sept 1974  
Deed

Board of Education of Prince George's County to Prince George's County, Maryland. 6.702 acres, with right to the pond. Known as Bell's Meadows; same grantors acquired by JWB 5:359, 141:232 and 453:71.

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R-80  
 STATE OF MARYLAND  
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O-S  
 P. G. CO.  
 4411/183  
 11.00A.  
 P. 258

MNC P & P.  
 4413/241  
 8.05A  
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C-O  
 6201

R-R  
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 P. 18

79-56

R-55  
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 P. 151

P. G. CO.  
 3.52  
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 ST.

C-S-C  
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T. VAN CLAGETT  
 2509-174  
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P. G. CO. COMM.  
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 COMM.

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HENRY P COVELLI  
 5354/531  
 27.04A  
 P/O P. 197

R-A

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MD. RTE. 4



P.G.#79-51

Old Marlboro Primary School  
Prince George's County, MD  
Marina King  
January 1986  
South elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



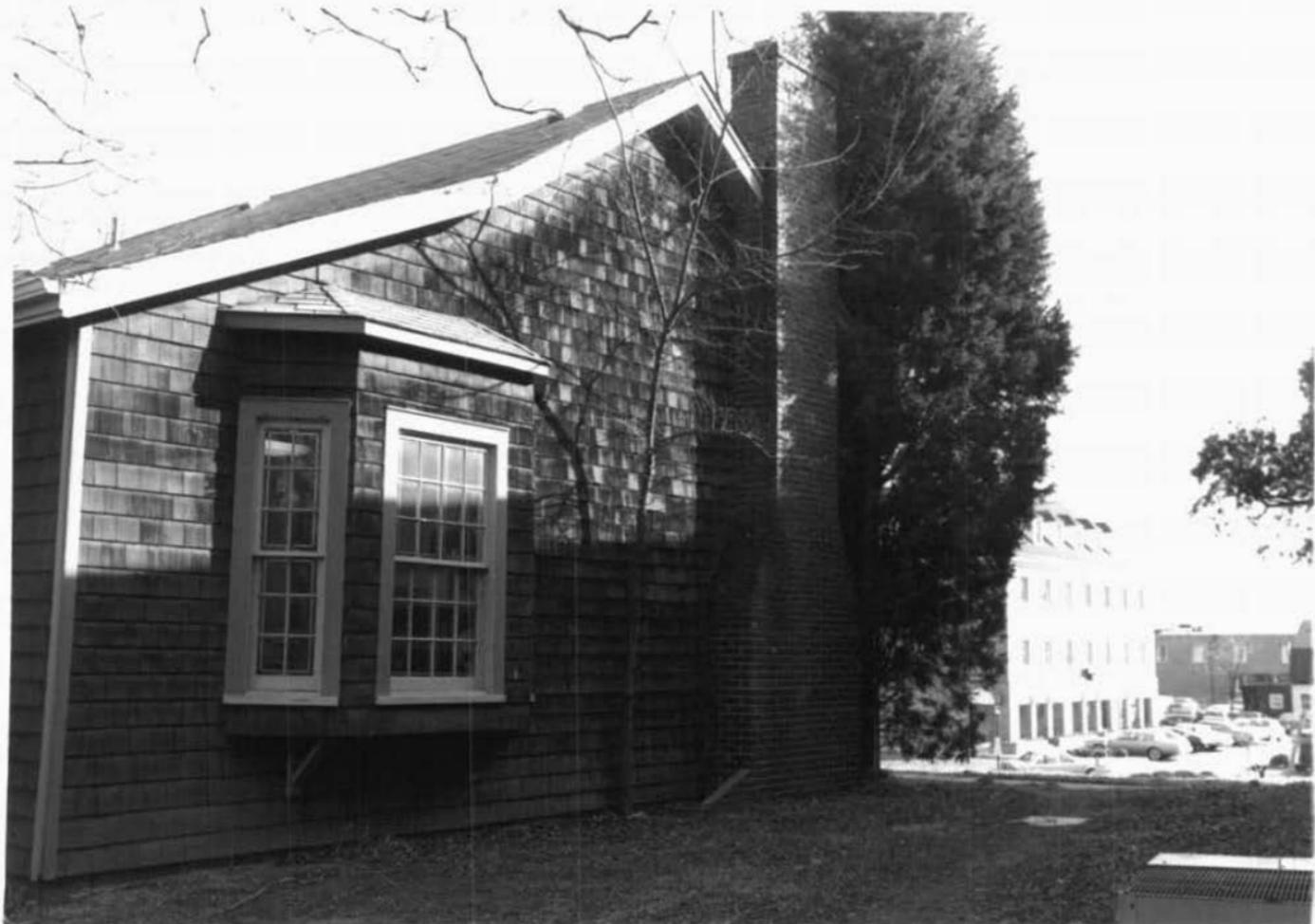
P.G.#79-51

Old Marlboro Primary School  
Prince George's County MD  
Marina King  
January 1986  
Northwest elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #79-51

Old Marlboro Primary School  
Prince George's County, MD  
Marina King  
January 1986  
East elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#79-51

Old Marlboro Primary School

Prince George's County, MD

Marina King

January 1986

West elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD