

P.G. #81A-13

1926

Clinton "Colored" School  
9122 Piscataway Road, Clinton, Md.  
Priv/Occ/Social/Excellent

The Clinton School has been greatly modernized, and its original form is scarcely recognizable: the square, one-story, frame, hip-roofed building which was typical of the school structures of the 1920's. The principal (north) facade, including the shallow entrance vestibule, has been covered with a synthetic veneer, and a one-story brick addition has been extended to the west.

The present building stands on the site of the first school for "colored" children in Election District #9. This Freedmen's Bureau school opened in 1869, on part of the farm of Mary Surratt (implicated in, and hanged for, the assassination of Abraham Lincoln). Next to the school, on the west, members of the Black community soon built an African Methodist Church, and these two buildings became a focal point for the local Black population. The old one-room school continued in use until 1926 when a new and larger school (the present building) was constructed with Rosenwald funds; it served the Black community of the Surratt's District until the full integration of schools in the early 1950's. In 1955, the building was sold to Clinton American Legion Post #259, which has made the modern alterations. Although the Rosenwald school building is not readily recognizable, it is still a site which is significant in the progress of Black education.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Clinton "Colored" School (Rosenwald)

and/or common Clinton American Legion Post #259

### 2. Location

street & number 9122 Piscataway Road  not for publication

city, town Clinton  vicinity of congressional district 4

state Maryland county P.G.

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Clinton American Legion Post #259

street & number 9122, Piscataway Road telephone no.: 868-5424

city, town Clinton state and zip code Maryland

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. Co. Courthouse liber 1883

street & number Main Street folio 226

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

state  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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input 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 Clinton school building has been greatly modernized, and its original form is scarcely recognizable: the square, one-story, frame hip-roofed building which was typical of the school structures of the 1920's. The principal (north) facade, including the shallow entrance vestibule, has been covered with a synthetic veneer, and a one-story brick addition has been extended to the west.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. p.G. #81A-13

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History

**Specific dates** 1926 **Builder/Architect**

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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 present building stands on the site of the first school built for "colored" children in Election District #9, (Surratts) at Robeytown. The school, a simple one-room frame gable-roofed structure, opened early in 1869 with Martha Smith (a black woman) as its first teacher. The school lot was part of the farm formerly belonging to Mary Surratt (implicated in, and hanged for, the assassination of Abraham Lincoln), and the school children were specifically permitted to use Mrs. Surratt's well.<sup>1</sup> A deed for the one-acre school lot was finally executed in 1878, by which time a "colored" church had been built on the lot adjoining it on the west. This church came to be known as Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church. These two buildings became an important center for the local Black population.

The one-room school continued in use until 1926 when a new and larger school (the present building) was constructed with Rosenwald Funds, on the site of the older school. The Clinton Rosenwald school served the Black community of the Surratts District until the full integration of the schools in the early 1950's. The school building was sold in 1955 to Clinton American Legion Post #259, which has made the modern alterations. Although the Rosenwald school building is not readily recognizable, it is still a site which is significant in the progress of Black education.

The adjoining Metropolitan A.M.E. Church continued in operation until the 1960's when its congregation merged with that of Union-Bethel A.M.E. Church in T.B.

1.) HB #14:37

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.81A-13

P.G. Co. Deeds #1883:226; HB #14:37; HB #12:373, 383 Inter-  
view with Anne Pinkney Prince; Thomas S. Gwynn, Jr. March 1983  
Clinton Times 16 Dec. 1981  
Freedmen's Bureau Papers 1868-69

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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 C. Pearl

organization History Division M-NCPPC date April 1983

street & number 4811 Riverdale Road telephone 779-2011

city or town Riverdale, state Maryland

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.

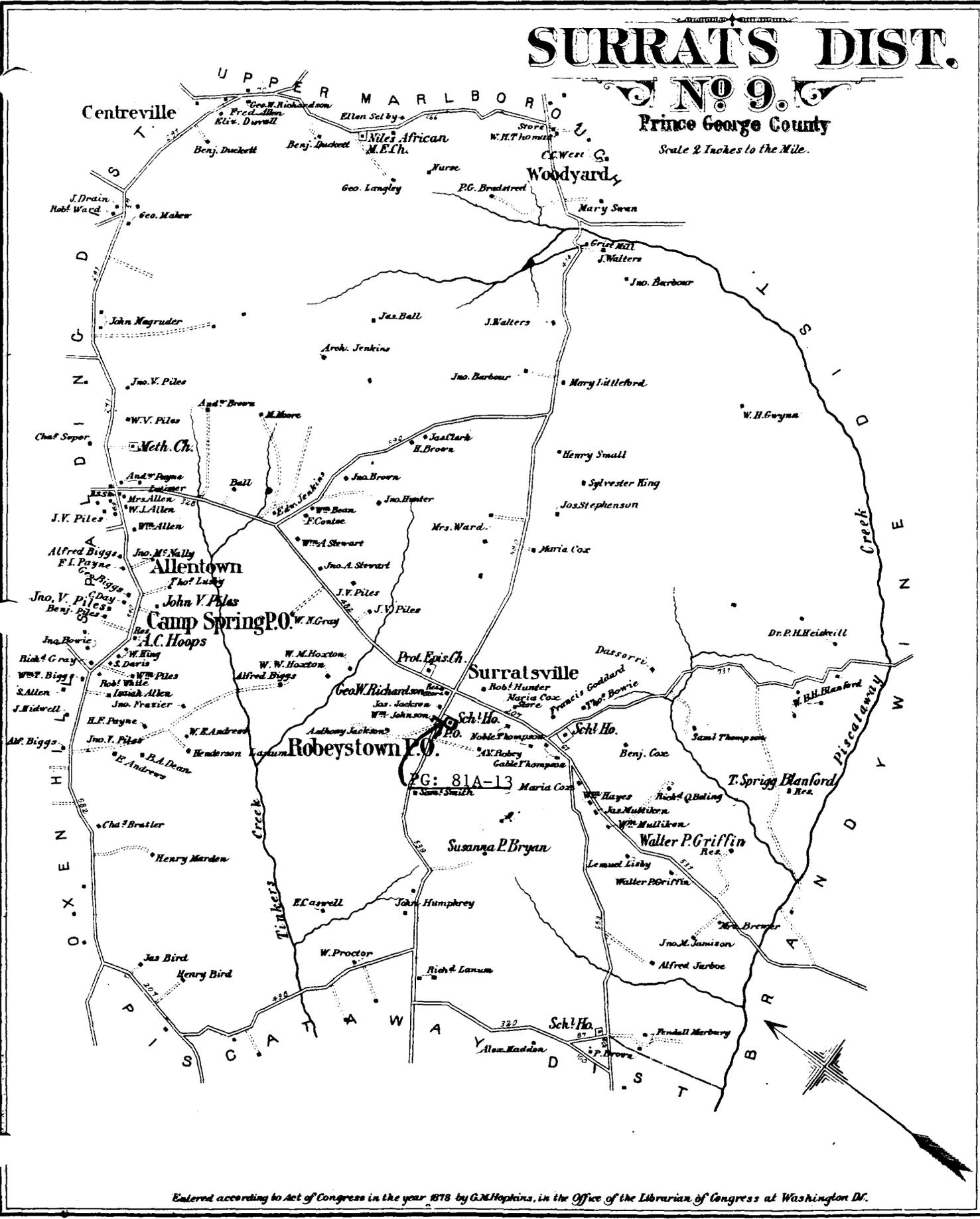
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

# SURRAT'S DIST.

## No. 9.

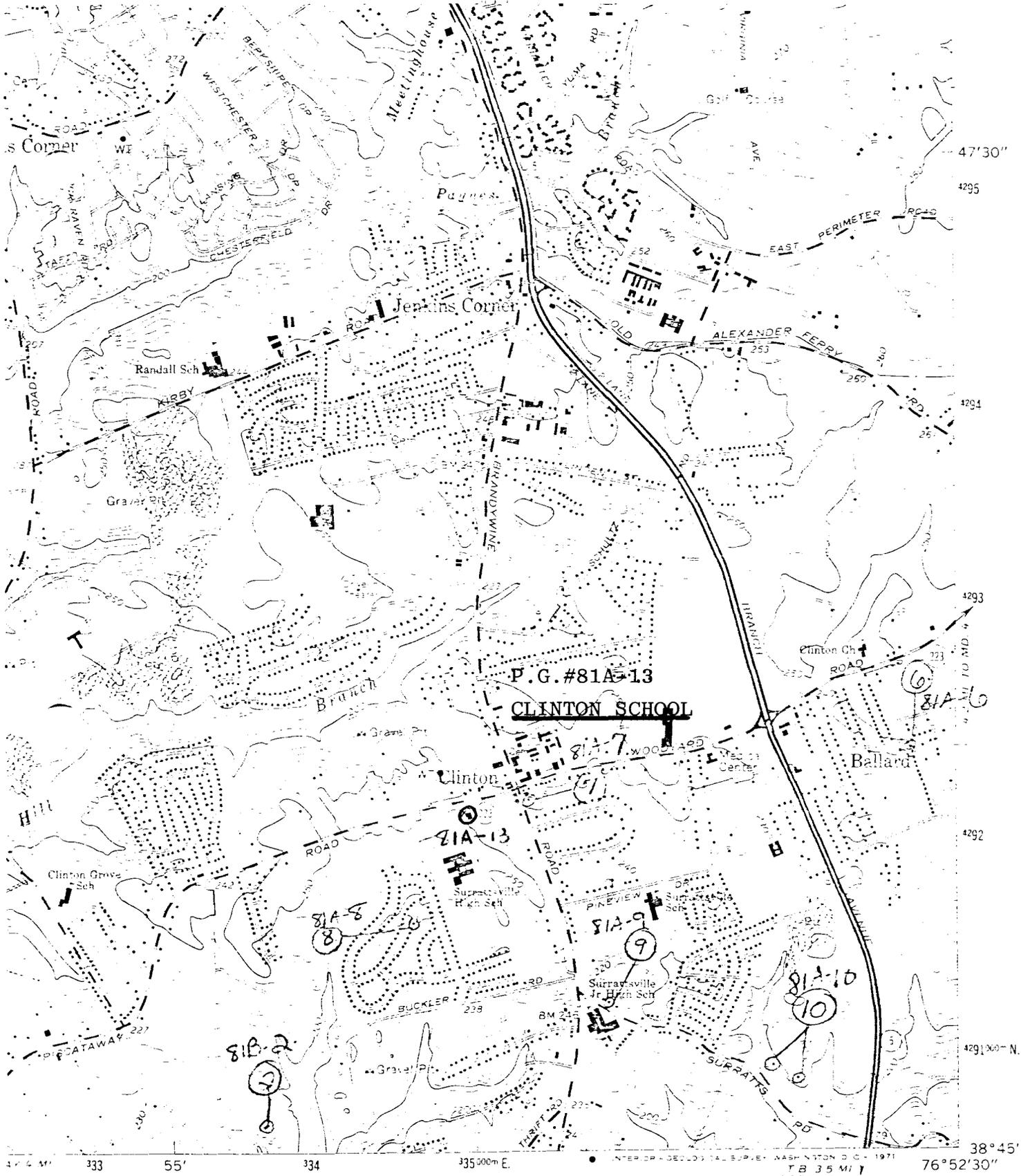
Prince George County

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile.



PG: 81A-13

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P.G. #81A-13  
**CLINTON SCHOOL**

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy duty	—————	Light duty	- - - - -
Medium duty	- - - - -	Unimproved dirt	.....
	⊖	Interstate Route	⊙
	⊙	State Route	

ANACOSTIA, MD. - D. C.  
 N3845 - W7652 5 7.5

(BRANDYWINE)  
 561 111 NE

CLINTON  
AMERICAN LEGION  
POST 259



P.G. #81A-13

Clinton (Rosenwald) School  
Prince George's County, Md.  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1983  
North elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.