

P.G. #84-17
Sharpersville School
15508 Berry Road, Accokeek, Md.
Priv/Occ/Res/Good

1877

The Sharpersville school is a one-story one-room frame structure with gable roof; entrance is into the second bay of the two-bay west gable end. An interior brick chimney rises at the ridge of the (rear) east gable end. Attached to the south of the schoolhouse is a low lean-to addition.

The Sharpersville school is one of only two known Black schoolhouses in Prince George's County surviving from the period immediately following the Civil War. In 1877, Augustus Lancaster, a freedman and farmworker, purchased 13 acres of farmland, and within a month offered one acre to the School Commissioners; a small one-room school was built and in operation by the end of the year. Lancaster and two other men served as trustees of this new "Colored" School #1 for the Piscataway Election District. Although the schoolhouse was very small, it at times served seven grade levels of students all in one room; it continued to operate until ca. 1940. After it closed, the school and one-acre lot were sold to Dominic Lancaster, one of the younger sons of Augustus Lancaster; it is presently the home of his son. It is significant because it is one of only two (known) surviving Black schoolhouses in Prince George's County from the nineteenth century.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Sharpersville School

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 15508 Berry Road ___ not for publication

city, town Accokeek ___ vicinity of congressional district 4

state Md. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 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 Ralph Lancaster

street & number 15508 Berry Road telephone no.:

city, town Accokeek state and zip code Md. 20607

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P. G. Co. Courthouse liber 2044

street & number Main Street folio 374

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P. G. Co. Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records History Division, MNCPPC

city, town Riverdale state Md. 20737

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. 84-17

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 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 Sharpersville schoolhouse is a one-story one-room frame structure with gabled roof. Entrance is into the second bay of the two-bay west gable end. An interior brick chimney rises at the ridge of the (rear) east gable end. Attached to the south of the schoolhouse is a low lean-to addition, which covers the two bays of the building's south facade. There is a second entrance into the west end of this addition.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. 84-17

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/ 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) Black History
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	1877	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or		
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> rational <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Sharpersville school is one of the only two surviving one-room Black schools in Prince George's County from the period immediately following Emancipation. In 1877, Augustus Lancaster, a freedman and farmworker, purchased 13 acres of farmland from William H. Gwynn, a prominent landowner of the Piscataway area. Lancaster himself was illiterate, but several of his children attended the Freedman's Bureau School which operated in the late 1860's. Within a month of his purchase, Lancaster offered one acre of his farm to the Board of School Commissioners; it was surveyed, and the deed was recorded in September of 1877. The school was in operation by the end of that year, although it is possible that it was operating even before the lot was conveyed to the Board of School Commissioners. Augustus Lancaster served with two other men as trustees of the school.

The Sharpersville school was known as "Colored" school #1 for Election District #5, and until ca. 1900, it and school #2 (Chapel Hill) were the only schools for Black children in the Piscataway District. It was a small school house, which at times served seven grade levels of students all in one room. By 1924, the little schoolhouse was greatly overcrowded, and the Board considered using the White school at Sharpersville as a "colored" school as well, but that proposal was eventually rejected.

Despite its small size, Sharpersville school apparently continued to operate until ca. 1940. After it closed, the schoolhouse and its one-acre lot were sold to Dominic Lancaster, one of the younger sons of Augustus Lancaster. A small shed-roof addition was built onto the schoolhouse, and since 1945, this enlarged schoolhouse has been the residence of descendants of Augustus Lancaster, first of his son Dominic, and (to the present) of Dominic's son, Ralph Lancaster.

It is significant because it is one of only two (known) Black schoolhouses surviving from the nineteenth century.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: Sharperville School				
AND/OR HISTORIC: School House - Berry Road				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Berry Road (North of T.B. - Accokeek Road)				
CITY OR TOWN: Accokeek				
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Prince George's	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		OWNERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		STATUS <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 type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" 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	_____	_____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Dominie Lancaster				
STREET AND NUMBER: Berry Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Accokeek			STATE: Maryland	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro			STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
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 type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" 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 <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The building is a one story, frame structure with a two-bay, gabled main (west) facade. Along the south side is a lean-to addition. On the rear (east) facade is an internal chimney.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. 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	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: 31 July 74

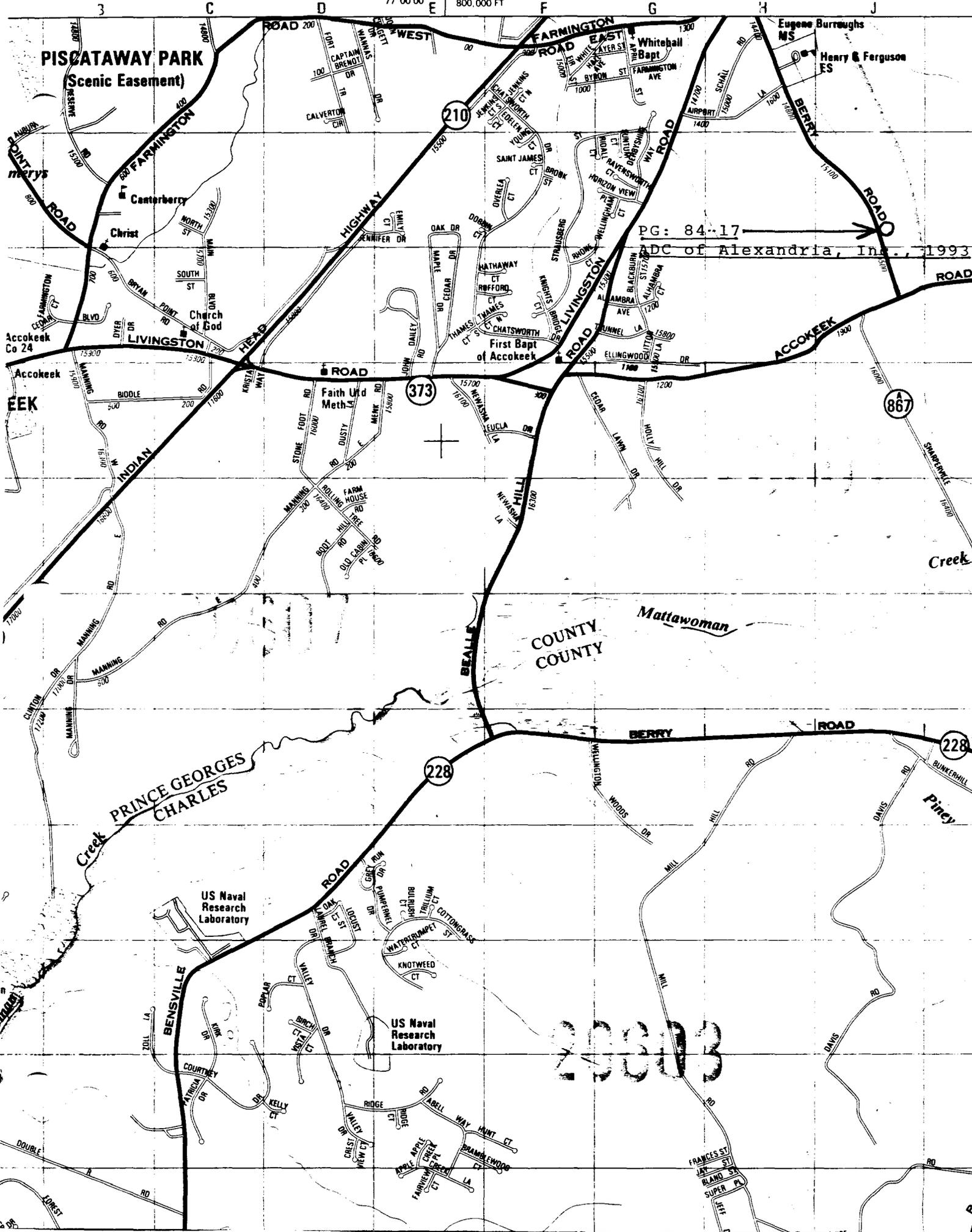
STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland

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

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

Signature



PISCATAWAY PARK
(Scenic Easement)

Accokeek
Co 24

Accokeek

20303

210

373

228

867

228

PG: 84-17
ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1993

COUNTY
COUNTY

US Naval
Research
Laboratory

US Naval
Research
Laboratory

Piney

Mattawoman

PRINCE GEORGES
CHARLES
Creek

FARMINGTON
ROAD

ROAD 200

ROAD 1500

ROAD 200

ROAD 1500

ROAD 100

A

42°30'

4286

4285

INDIAN HEAD 11 MI 5661 II NE (MT. VERNON)

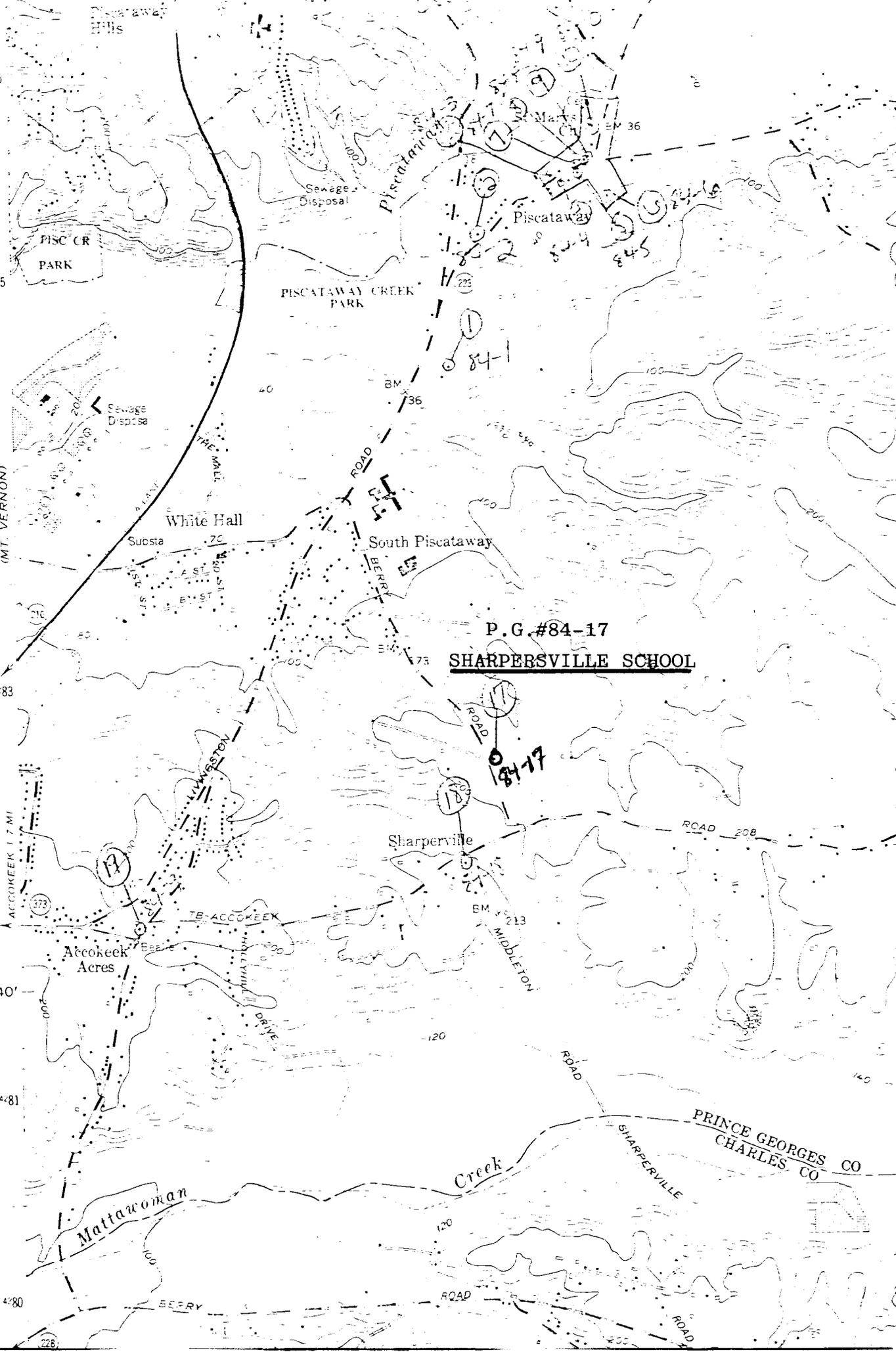
4283

ACCOKEEK 17 MI

40'

4281

4280



P.G. #84-17
SHARPERSVILLE SCHOOL

PRINCE GEORGES CO
 CHARLES CO



NAME SHARPERVILLE SCHOOL P6:84-17
LOCATION BERRY Rd N OF Rt 373 ACCOKEEK, Md
EACADE SW
PHOTO TAKEN 7/31/74 MDWYER



P. G. #84-17

Sharpersville School
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
May 1983
West Elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.