

P.G. #85B-9

1873/1952

Site of Brandywine "Colored" School (#2)

10902 North Keys Road, Brandywine, Md.

Priv/ - /Relig/Site

The original building on this lot was a one-story one-room gable-roofed frame schoolhouse, destroyed in the 1940's when the present church was organized. The present church is a one-story gable-roofed stuccoed building, three bays wide and with entrance through a small vestibule on the south gable end.

The first school for Black children in this area was started in 1873, on a one-acre lot which William H. Early deeded to the Board of County School Commissioners. Early was also directed to build the schoolhouse, and it was completed and opened early in 1874. It was a one-room schoolhouse, 18' x 24', typical of the early Black schools of this period. As many as 100 children were sometimes crowded into this small building; a second room was added ca. 1915 to accommodate the student overflow. The school was closed in 1929 when the Rosenwald school was opened a short distance away. The one-acre lot reverted to an Early descendant, and in 1934, the schoolhouse and lot were sold to Rev. James P. Sims and six trustees of the House of Prayer, Church of God. The present church was built in 1952, and continues to serve the local Black population. This site has been important to the Black community of the Brandywine area for well over 100 years.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Site of Brandywine "Colored" School #2

and/or common House of Prayer, Church of God

2. Location

street & number 10902 North Keys Road not for publication

city, town Brandywine vicinity of congressional district 4

state Maryland county Prince George

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 type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name House of Prayer, Church of God

street & number 10902 North Keys Road telephone no.:

city, town Brandywine state and zip code Maryland 20613

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P. G. County Courthouse liber 419

street & number Main Street folio 127

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. 85B-9

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The structure which stands on this one acre lot is a stuccoed church building, constructed in 1952. It is one story in height, with a gable roof. Entrance is through a small vestibule centered in the south gable end. There is a flanking window on each side of the vestibule, and the east and west facades are three bays wide. A small shed addition at the north end of the east facade covers the northwest bay.

The original building on this lot (constructed 1873/74) was a one-story, one-room frame schoolhouse, 18 x 24 feet. It was destroyed in the 1940's at the time of the organization of the House of Prayer.

8. Significance

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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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1952 (1873/74) Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

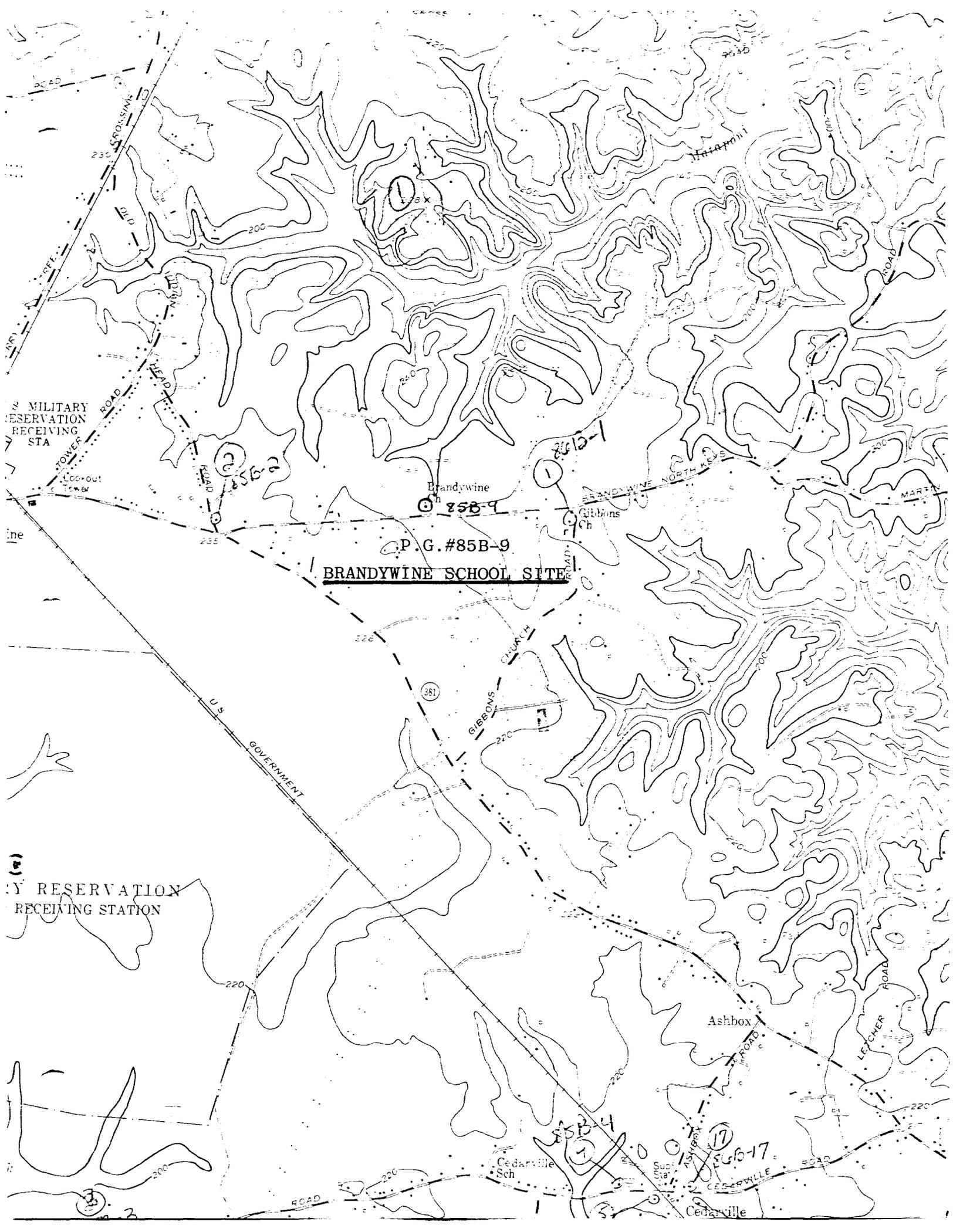
Level of Significance: national state local

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

The first school for Black children in this area was started in 1873. In April of that year, the Board of School Commissioners ordered William H. Early, James S. Gibbons, and John F. Briscoe to find and purchase a lot of land in the 11th Election District (between Brandywine and Nottingham) for the construction of an elementary school for Black children. They selected a one-acre lot on the north side of the road from Brandywine to Nottingham, and the Board purchased the lot (for \$30) in December 1873. At the same time, the Board paid \$175 to William H. Early, and directed him to build the schoolhouse. It was apparently not finished by 16 February 1874, for on that date, Early requested (and received) an additional \$50 to finish the school. Sessions began shortly thereafter.

This was a one-room schoolhouse, 18' x 24', typical of the early Black elementary schools of the period. As many as 100 children were sometimes crowded into this small building in the early years of this century. Then, ca. 1915 a second room was added to accomodate the overflow of students, and some of the older students took over the job of teacher's assistant.

This school, which was known as the Eleventh District "Colored" School #2, closed in 1929, when the Rosenwald (#86B-21) school across from Gibbons Church was constructed. The one-acre lot reverted to a descendant of William H. Early, and for many years the old school house stood idle. In 1934 the lot and building was sold to Rev. James P. Simms and six trustees of the House of Prayer, Church of God, a congregation which was then officially organized in 1946. The present church structure was erected in 1952.



MILITARY
RESERVATION
RECEIVING
STA

TOWER
100-foot
Tower

Brandywine

Gibbons

P.G. #85B-9

BRANDYWINE SCHOOL SITE

U.S.
GOVERNMENT

MILITARY RESERVATION
RECEIVING STATION

Ashbox

Cedarville
Sch

Cedarville

85B-4

85B-17

85B-1

BRANDYWINE NORTH RD

GIBBONS ROAD

LECHER ROAD

CEDARVILLE ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

CROSSING

HEAD

line

GRACE

2630

200

240

235

225

381

220

220

220

200

200

220

220



P. G. #85B-9

House of Prayer/Site of Brandywine
School

Prince George's County, Md.

Susan G. Pearl

March 1983

Southwest 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



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House of Prayer/Site of Brandywine
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South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.