

QA-52

Church Hill Academy
Church Hill

1818

Constructed in 1818, the Church Hill Academy is the second oldest surviving school building in the county, following the Centreville Academy, built in 1803. It was built on a 1/4 acre lot rented from the vestry of St. Luke's Church. Although apparently never a success financially, the academy provided educational opportunity for local children who could afford tuition, and at times also provided additional income for the rectors of St. Luke's, who were offered the position of schoolmaster in addition to their religious duties. In 1886 the Academy was turned over to St. Luke's Church, and was adapted for use as a vestry house and Sunday School.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Church Hill Academy

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side of St. Luke's church yard

CITY, TOWN

Church Hill

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input 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	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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Vestry of St. Luke's Parish

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Church Hill

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-52

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Church Hill Academy is located in the church yard of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Church Hill. It lies directly to the north of the Church, and forms the north border of the cemetery.

The Academy is a one story brick building, four bays wide and one room deep, with a moderately pitched gable roof. The principal entrance is located in the center of the east gable, and consists of a wide six-panel door with a three-light transom and a simple beaded surround surmounted by a molded dentil block hood. There are four six-over-six windows on each side wall, and no openings in the west gable wall. The brickwork is laid in four- to eight-course bond, with no watertable. A basic restoration-stabilization has been undertaken, and the door hood, the plain tapered rakeboards, and the box cornice with crown mold and bed mold all appear to date to the restoration. A frame shed-roof addition covers the western bay of the north facade, and a small three-light window in the east end of the same facade probably serves to light a modern bathroom.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

The interior consists of a single large room with a narrow vestibule partitioned off across the east end of the building. The main room has wood floors, beaded vertical wainscoting below a molded chairrail and plaster walls and ceiling. An iron tie rod extends the full length of the building just below the ceiling. A door in the west end of the north wall leads to the lean-to addition.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-52

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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1818

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1817 the vestry of St. Luke's Church voted to lease a one-quarter acre lot to the north of the church to the trustees of the Church Hill Academy. A one story brick school building was erected the following year. Although records are few and sketchy, it would appear that the Academy never thrived, and was repeatedly unable to pay the annual rent due to St. Luke's Church. Dickson Preston, in his history of St. Luke's Parish, notes the recurrent problems, and remarks that the Academy did offer one advantage to the Church, by enabling the minister to augment his income by serving also as the schoolmaster at the Academy. It would seem likely that the Academy also suffered as the county school system became increasingly organized, and in 1886 St. Luke's Church took over the Academy and adapted it for use as a vestry house and Sunday school. The

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Academy is the second oldest surviving school building in the county, and is probably among the oldest extant schools in the State of Maryland.

QA-52

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Emory, Frederic. Queen Anne's County, Maryland.
Baltimore, 1950.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	
Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Queen Anne's County Historical Society	1/5/79
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Centreville	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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

QA-52
Old Academy

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT





QA-52 Church Hill Academy
Church Hill, Md.
ORV 1979



04-52 Church Hill Academy
Church Hill
Oleando Ridout's
1979