

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes X
no

Property Name: Mount Vernon School Inventory Number: S-511

Address: 27440 Mt. Vernon Road City: Mt. Vernon Zip Code: 21853

County: Somerset USGS Topographic Map: Monie

Owner: Mt. Vernon Volunteer fire Company Is the property being evaluated a district? yes

Tax Parcel Number: 64 Tax Map Number: 8 Tax Account ID Number: 2005084385

Project: New Addition Agency: CDBG

Site visit by MHT staff: no X yes Name: Tania Tully Date: 03/20/2003

Is the property is located within a historic district? yes X no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number:
NR-listed district yes Eligible district yes Name of District:
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource yes no Non-contributing but eligible in another context yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible X yes no

Criteria: X A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:
Compliance File

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

" According to a Marylander and Herald article in the edition of the paper dated May 24, 1921, a low bid of \$8,600.00 to construct the schoolhouse was submitted by J. Roland Dashiell to the Somerset County School Board. The school board accepted this bid and a contract was let to build the school. Mr. Dashiell stated that he would have the school built by November 1, 1921. The school was built on a piece of land known as the 'Dashiell Lot.' The Somerset Count Board of Education has a copy of the original land survey of the lot. This survey was conducted on April 10, 1920." - This information was gathered by John Paul of Paul Associates

The Mount Vernon School house was constructed c.1921 to replace two smaller, older schools in Mt. Vernon. The building is a two-story frame structure that was covered in white vinyl siding in the 1980s. At that time a small vinyl sided addition was constructed on the rear. The nearly all of the original windows remain intact. They are primarily banks of wood six-over-six double-hung sashes with aluminum exterior storms. The original panel and glass doors on the front facade are intact along with the fan window above the central entrance. Although some detailing was lost due to the siding of the four pilasters, the building retains its historic massing and form and maintains sufficient integrity for eligibility to the National Register.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW
Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: X A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None
MHT Comments

Tania Georgiou Tully ✓
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Reviewer, NR Program

March 26, 2003
Date
3/27/2003
Date

Mount Vernon School

Page 2

Although the interior has been modified somewhat to accommodate the building's use as the local fire house, some historic fabric remains. The approximately four-foot high wood wainscoting is intact throughout the building. The paint was meticulously removed from the first floor wainscoting by the volunteer firemen. The first floor has been reconfigured into a meeting hall and kitchen/dining areas. The second floor is now one open room with a raised stage at one end that was added in the mid-twentieth century.

The Mount Vernon Schoolhouse is eligible for the National Register under criterion A, for its association with the community of Mt. Vernon. It is the only remaining historic school building in the small linear community and represents the growth in the area in the early twentieth century and the need for larger better schools.

Prepared by: Tania Georgiou Tully Date Prepared: 03/26/2003

S-511
Mt. Vernon School
Mt. Vernon
Private

1921

The Mt. Vernon School, situated on a prominent site on the main road in the center of the village of Mt. Vernon, is architecturally and historically significant as a particular well-preserved example of an educational structure built in response to the growing demands of an increasing resident population throughout Somerset County during the early twentieth century. The two-and-a-half story hip roofed building is architecturally distinctive for its symmetrical, neoclassical south (main) elevation and its relatively intact interior finishes including vertical board wainscoting, built-in cupboards, and blackboards. The banks of windows that distinguish the west elevation point to the influence of the state's reform movement during the early twentieth century which focused on improving classroom conditions in Maryland schools. Generally referred to as "day-light" windows, these large sized, west facing banks of nine-over-nine sash windows allowed a flood of natural light on both floors.

During the early twentieth century, Somerset County's population topped 26,000 residents, and the demand for larger and better equipped schools for its students forced the Board of Education to finance a number of sizable building projects during the 1920s and 1930s. In the populous community of Mt. Vernon, a lot was acquired by the Board of Education from Stephen F. and Ruby B. Dashiell for the sum of \$675 on July 22, 1921. The previous May a contract had been awarded to J. Roland Dashiell in the sum of \$8,600 for the construction of the two-story structure. Two members of the Board of Education, Charles W. Long and E. B. Lankford constituted the building committee.

The school was used by the Somerset County Board of Education until the late 1970s when it was sold to private owners. In 1982 the building was purchased by the Mt. Vernon Volunteer fire company for its headquarters.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. S-511

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Mt. Vernon School
 other Mt. Vernon Volunteer Fire Department

2. Location

street and number 27440 Mt. Vernon Road not for publication
 city, town Mt. Vernon vicinity
 county Somerset

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

name Mt. Vernon Volunteer Fire Department
 street and number 27440 Mt. Vernon Road telephone _____
 city, town Princess Anne state Maryland zip code 21853

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court liber ITP 333 folio 728
 city, town Princess Anne tax map 8 tax parcel 64 tax ID number 5-084385

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	

7. Description

Inventory No. S-511

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

The Mt. Vernon School is located at 27440 Mt. Vernon Road in the rural village of Mt. Vernon, Somerset County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story frame school faces south with the hip roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1921, the two-and-a-half story, five-bay frame school is supported on a poured concrete foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with vinyl siding. The medium pitched hip roof, distinguished by front and rear cross gables, is covered with asphalt shingles.

The south (main) elevation is a symmetrical five-bay façade with a center entrance incorporated in a three-bay center pavilion defined by projecting pilasters sheathed in vinyl as well. The partially glazed double door entrance is topped by an arched fanlight with radiating muntins. Piercing the wall surfaces to each side of the center entrance are separate partially glazed entrances. The three entrances are fronted by a four-step platform.

The center bay above the arched entrance is pierced by a tripartite grouping of three six-over-six sash windows, and each adjacent bay is marked by a single six-over-six sash window. The outer bays of the five-bay front are defined by tripartite windows with a center nine-over-nine sash window flanked by narrow six-over-six sidelights. The second floor tripartite windows are slightly smaller than those lighting the first floor.

The north wall is defined by tripartite nine-over-nine sash windows that light the first and second stories. Attached to the north corner of the north wall is a small shed roofed utility addition served by an exterior access door.

The south side of the school is defined by banks of seven nine-over-nine sash windows on the first and second stories with the first floor windows longer than those on the second floor.

The north (rear) wall of the school is largely covered by a single story shed roofed addition built when the school was converted into a fire station. Rising against the exterior of the old school is a large brick chimney that pierces the wide eave as well as the rear cross gable. Directly east of the stack is a bank of six nine-over-nine sash windows.

The interior of the school has been moderately reworked for the purposes of the fire station. Entrance through the front doors opens into transverse hall that provides access to the main first floor rooms as well as a staircase that rises in the east end. During the remodeling effort, many features were retained from the original building. Located at the west end is one of the former classrooms, now a meeting hall. Vertical board wainscoting trims the walls, and a blackboard remains on the inner partition. Stretching across the surface of the ceiling are cased beams supported on round metal posts. The classroom is entered through a partially glazed door that survives with its original hardware.

Adjacent to the west classroom is another classroom which has been adapted into a lounge/dining room adjacent to a commercial kitchen. Vertical board wainscoting trims the perimeter of the room, which also survives with a blackboard. On the north wall are several nine-over-nine sash windows now covered by the rear shed addition. Entrance into this room is provided through a partially glazed door framed by a plain surround. Located in the northeast corner of the station is a small office entered by way of the middle lounge/dining room. The office is finished with vertical board wainscoting as well. A five-panel door framed by a plain surround opens into a narrow closet.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. S-511

Name Mt. Vernon School
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

The second floor is reached by way of the staircase fixed in the east end of the transverse hall. A dog-leg staircase, partially enclosed behind a paneled door, leads to a second floor transverse hall that is entered through a partially glazed door at the head of the staircase. The staircase is fitted with a pipe railing. At the head of the staircase and to the left of the hall door is a built-in bookcase fitted with narrow paneled doors. The second floor hall partition is a vertical board wall. The second floor hall is finished with a combination of vertical board wainscoting and plaster. Partially glazed doors open into a large second floor classroom that was previously two separate rooms. The large second floor room has a stage in the east end fronted with narrow tongue-and-groove vertical boards. Three small closets with five-panel doors enclose the east end of the stage.

8. Significance

Inventory No. S-511

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates _____ **Architect/Builder** Contractor J. Roland Dashiell

Construction dates 1921

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Mt. Vernon School, situated on a prominent site on the main road in the center of the village of Mt. Vernon, is architecturally and historically significant as a particularly well-preserved example of an educational structure built in response to growing demands of an increasing resident population throughout Somerset County during the early twentieth century. The two-and-a-half story hip roofed building is architecturally distinctive for its symmetrical neoclassical south (main) elevation and its relatively intact interior finishes including vertical board wainscoting, built-in cupboards, and blackboards. The banks of windows that distinguish the west elevation point to the influence of the state's reform movement during the early twentieth century which focused on improving classroom conditions in Maryland schools. Generally referred to as "day-light" windows, these large size west-facing banks of nine-over-nine sash flooded the first and story classrooms with natural light. Due to its prominent size, location, and generally well-preserved state, the Mt. Vernon School is eligible for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

During the early twentieth century, Somerset County's population topped 26,000 residents, and the demand for larger and better equipped schools for its students forced the Board of Education to finance a number of sizable buildings during the 1920s and 1930s. In the populous community of Mt. Vernon, a lot was acquired by the Board of Education from Stephen F. and Ruby B. Dashiell for the sum of \$675 on July 22, 1921.¹ The previous May a contract had been awarded to J. Roland Dashiell in the sum of \$8,600 for the construction of the two-story structure.² Two members of the Board of Education, Charles W. Long and E. B. Lankford constituted the building committee.

¹ Somerset County Land Record, WJS 84/457, 22 July 1921.

² *Marylander and Herald*, 24 May 1921.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. S-511

Name Mt. Vernon School
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

The school was used by the Somerset County school system until the late 1970s when it was sold to private owners.³

³ Somerset County Land Record, 317/824.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. S-511

Land Records of Somerset County, Somerset County Courthouse, Princess Anne.
Marylander and Herald, 24 May 1921.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.5 acres
Acreage of historical setting 1.5 acres
Quadrangle name Monie, MD Quadrangle Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	6/05/2003
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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.

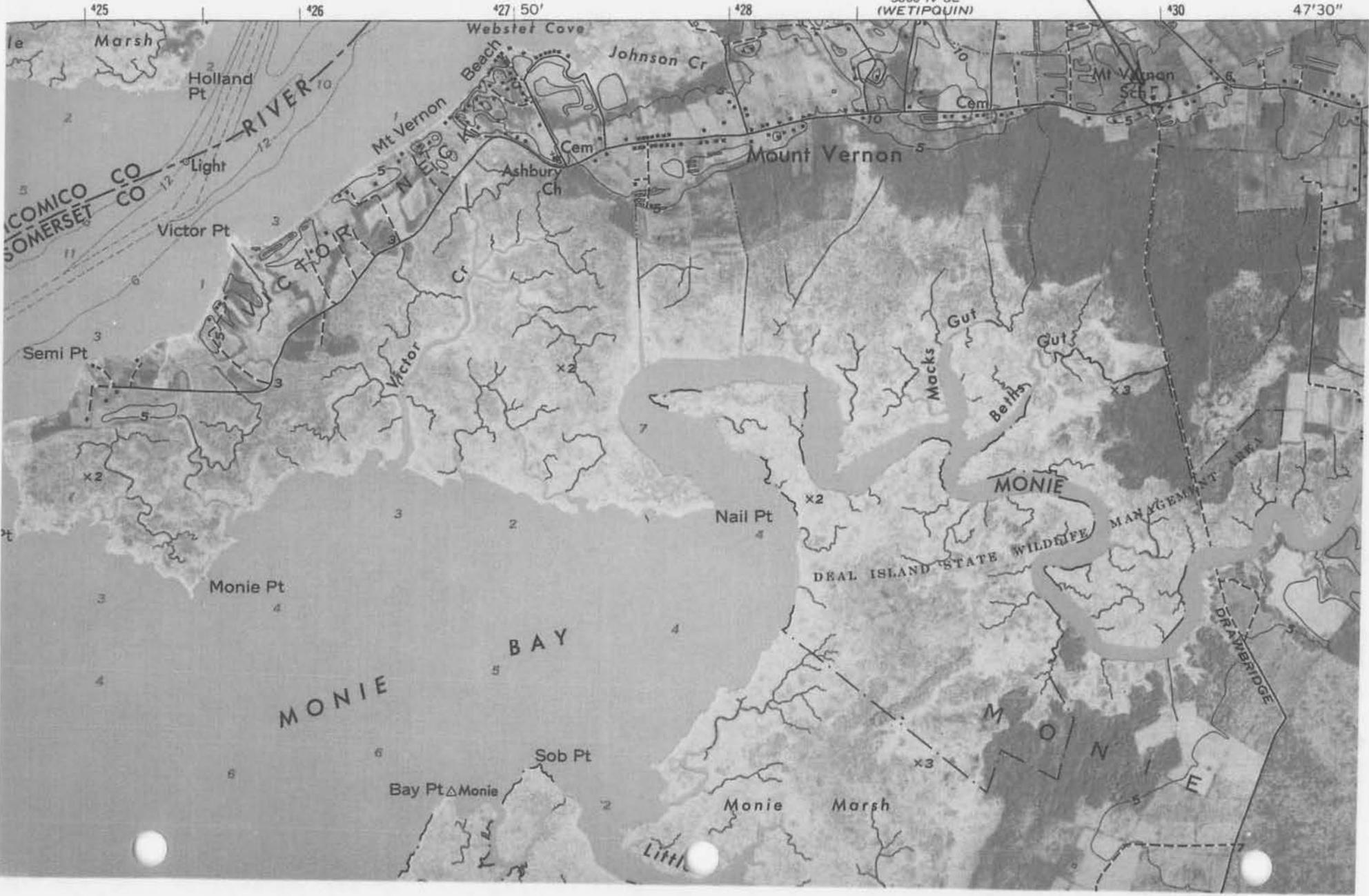
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
 DHCD/DHCP
 100 Community Place
 Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
 410-514-7600

S-511
Mt. Vernon School
Monie, MD Quadrangle, 1972

ES
INTERIOR
RVEY

STATE OF MARYLAND
MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5860 IV SE
(WETIPQUIN)



Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. S-511

Name Mt. Vernon School
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Mt. Vernon School
27440 Mt. Vernon Road
Mt. Vernon, Somerset County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 8, Parcel 64 1.5 acres

ITP 333/728 Gregory J. King and Charmaine C. Landers

to

7/31/1982 Mt. Vernon Volunteer Fire Co.

\$17,800 1.5 acres

ITP 317/827 Jackson Lee Cook and Robert J. Wilson

to

11/21/1979 Gregory J. King and Charmaine C. Landers

\$14,000

317/824 Board of County Commissioners

to

11/21/1979 Jackson Lee Cook and Robert J. Wilson

\$7,000

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. S-511

Name Mt. Vernon School
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

314/277

Board of Education

to

4/18/1979

Somerset County Commissioners

Item One: 1.5 acres

WJS 84/457

Stephen F. Dashiell and Ruby B. Dashiell

to

7/22/1921

County Board of Education

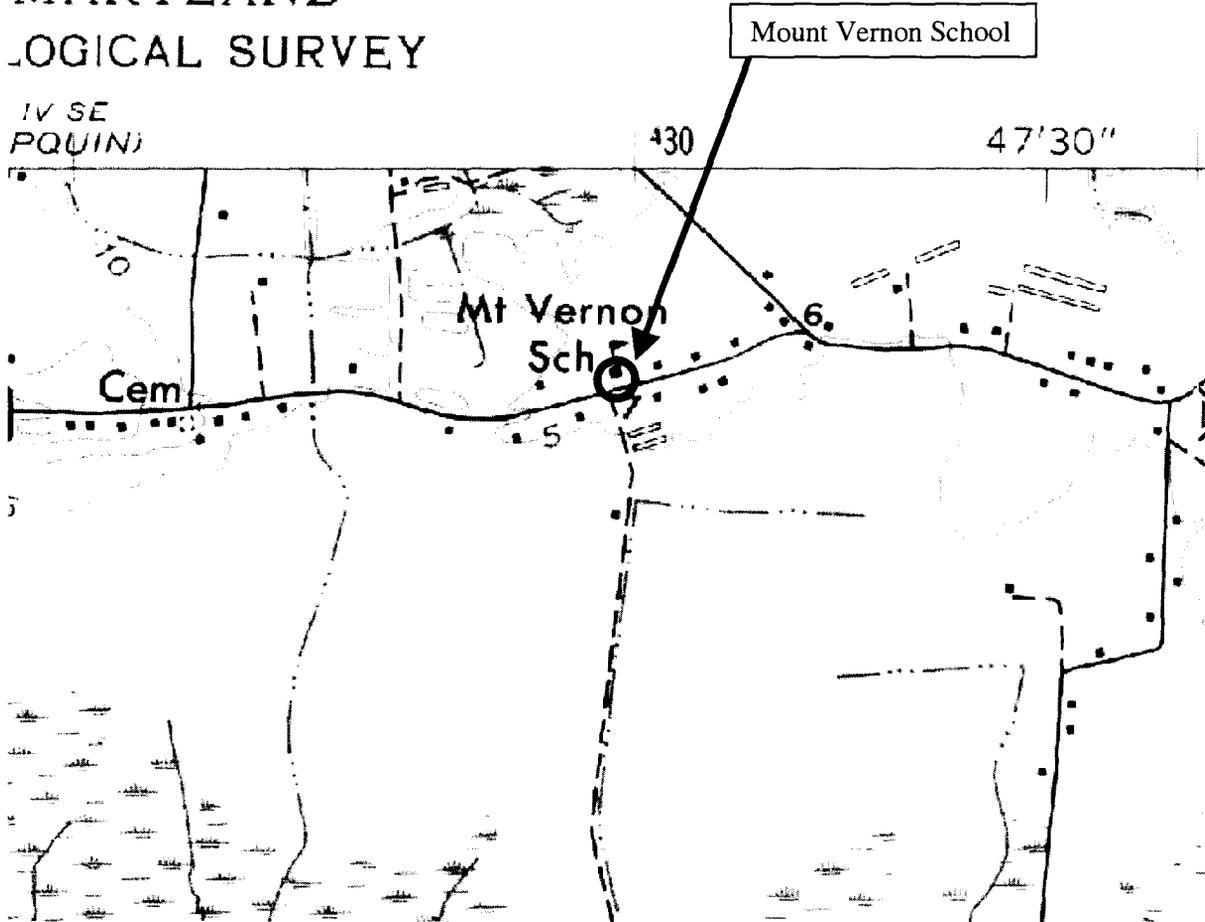
\$675

Marylander and Herald, May 24, 1921

Bids for building the school house at Mt. Vernon were received as follows: Roger B. White (concrete), \$11,205; Frank Branford, \$9,550; Frank Bradford (wood, laths, etc.) \$8,960; J. Roland Dashiell, \$8,600; Henry Mulder, \$8,960; Leonard Shrieves, \$8,960; Hastings & Parsons Co., \$14,525.52. The contract was awarded to J. Roland Dashiell. Messrs. Long and Lankford were appointed a building committee.

S-511
Mount Vernon School
27440 Mt Vernon Road, Mt. Vernon, Somerset County
Monie Quad

MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY





S-511
Mount Vernon School
Somerset County, MD
Tania Georgiou Tully
March 20, 2003
Digital Photo
SW elevation
1/14

S-511
Mount Vernon School
Somerset County, MD
Tania Georgiou Tully
March 20, 2003
Digital Photo
S elevation
2/14



S-511
Mount Vernon School
Somerset County, MD
Tania Georgiou Tully
March 20, 2003
Digital Photo
N elevation, addition in forefront
3/14

S-511
Mount Vernon School
Somerset County, MD
Tania Georgiou Tully
March 20, 2003
Digital Photo
NW elevation
4/14



S-511

Mount Vernon School

Somerset County, MD

Tania Georgiou Tully

March 20, 2003

Digital Photo

SE elevation

5/14

S-511

Mount Vernon School

Somerset County, MD

Tania Georgiou Tully

March 20, 2003

Digital Photo

NE elevation

6/14



S-511

Mount Vernon School

Somerset County, MD

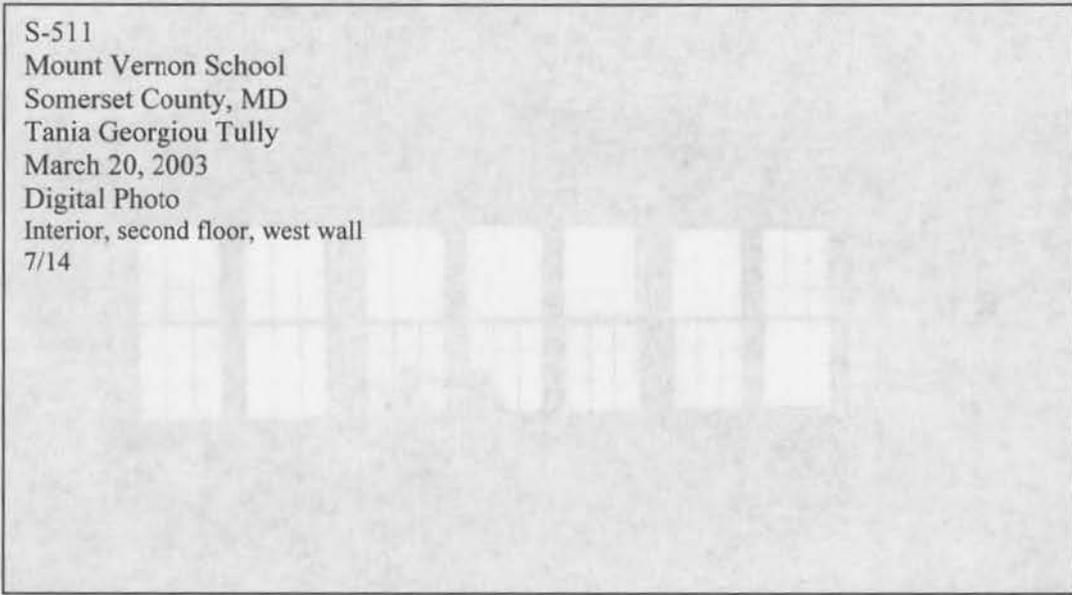
Tania Georgiou Tully

March 20, 2003

Digital Photo

Interior, second floor, west wall

7/14



S-511

Mount Vernon School

Somerset County, MD

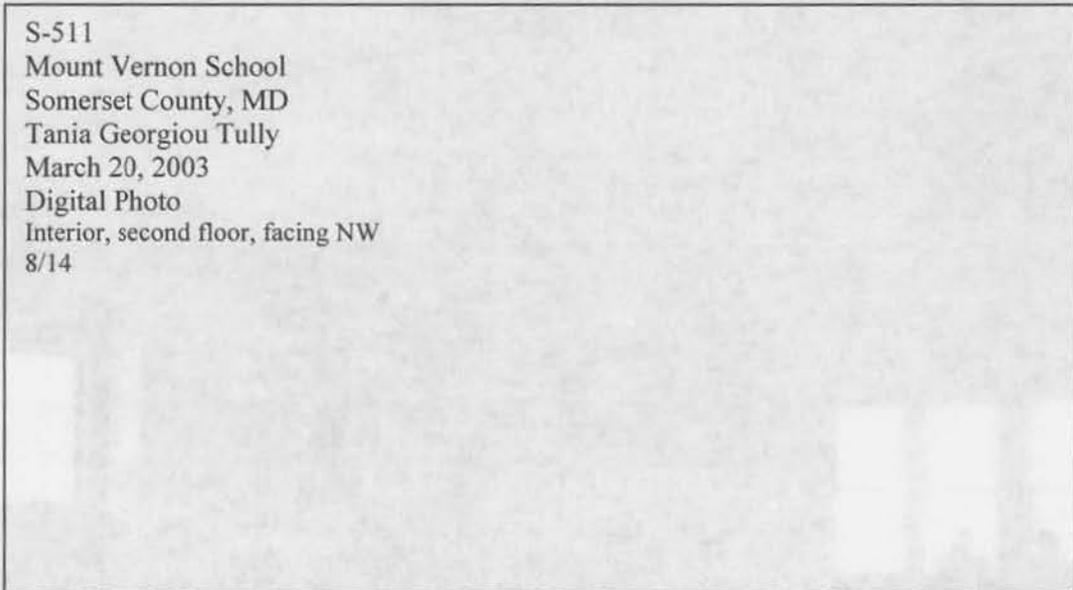
Tania Georgiou Tully

March 20, 2003

Digital Photo

Interior, second floor, facing NW

8/14





S-511
Mount Vernon School
Somerset County, MD
Tania Georgiou Tully
March 20, 2003
Digital Photo
Interior, second floor, facing NE
9*14

S-511
Mount Vernon School
Somerset County, MD
Tania Georgiou Tully
March 20, 2003
Digital Photo
Interior, second floor, facing SE
10/14

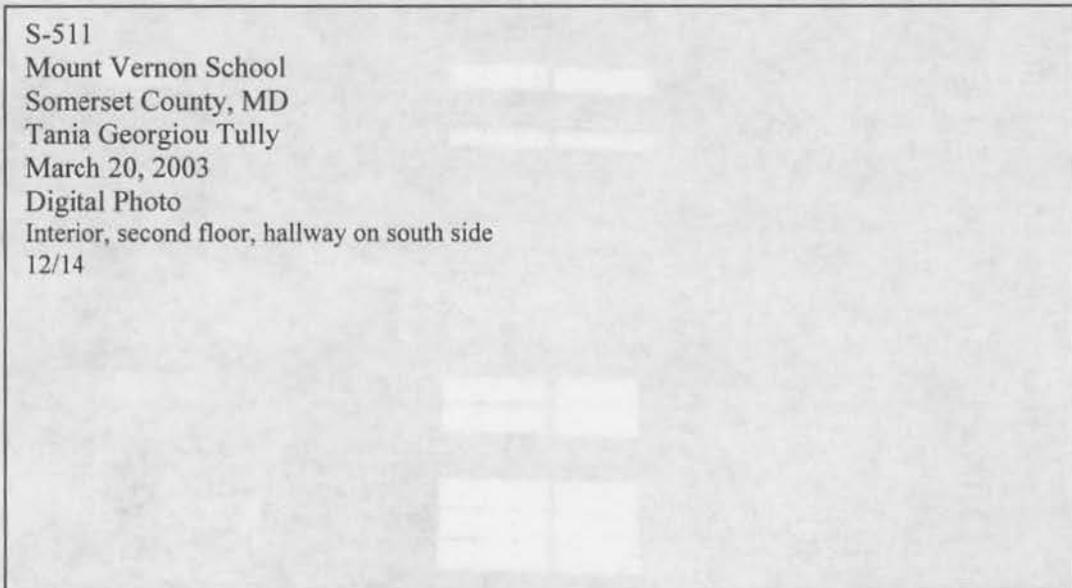
S-511



S-511
Mount Vernon School
Somerset County, MD
Tania Georgiou Tully
March 20, 2003
Digital Photo
Interior, second floor, north wall.
11/14



S-511
Mount Vernon School
Somerset County, MD
Tania Georgiou Tully
March 20, 2003
Digital Photo
Interior, second floor, hallway on south side
12/14





S-511
Mount Vernon School
Somerset County, MD
Tania Georgiou Tully
March 20, 2003
Digital Photo
Outbuilding
13/14

S-511
Mount Vernon School
Somerset County, MD
Tania Georgiou Tully
March 20, 2003
Digital Photo
Rear of schoolhouse from inside current addition. Facing South
14/14



S-511

Mt. Vernon School

Mt. Vernon, Somerset Co., Md.

Southeast Elevation

4/03, Paul Touart, Photographer

Near/ Mt. Vernon Trust

1 of 12



S-541

Mr. Venkatesh J. Srinivas

Mr. Venkatesh, Insurance Co. Ltd.

South Extension

4/23, Park Tower, P. O. Box 12, Madras

NEA / MID. 1/4. 1/4. 1/4.

1/4 of 12



S-511

Mr. Vernon ²⁰⁰⁰

Mr. Vernon, ²⁰⁰⁰ ¹ ²⁰⁰⁰

NORTHEAST ²⁰⁰⁰

1/02, ²⁰⁰⁰ ²⁰⁰⁰ ²⁰⁰⁰

NEAR RD. 145-200 ²⁰⁰⁰

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S. 511

THE VERMONT SCHOOL

MR. VERMONT, Somerville, N. H.

Address 121st, 4th Ave. - 2nd
Green Park

4/13 Fair Tuesday, 1892

Med. Soc. - 1892, on 1st

4 of 12



3-511

1st VERNON SCHOOL

MR. VERNON, SOWEN - 1 1/2, 122.

Went to room, found CRABAPPLE in
GARDEN ROOM

4/03, Paul Toward, Portland

Wetland, Hawthorn, Tree

3 or 2



5.51

MT. VERNON SCHOOL

MT. VERNON, BORNEO

NATIONAL PARK, FOREIGN CLASSIFICATION

ON GRASSY TRAIL

4/03, PAUL TOWN, PERTALAN

NEGLAND HISTORICAL TRAIL

6 of 12



S-511

MT VERNON SCHOOL

MT VERNON, SEASIDE

OFFICE INTERIOR, BRUNNEN FLOOR

4/03, PAUL TOWN, PHOTOGRAPHY

11001 MT VERNON ST. TOWN

7 OF 12



3-511

MT. VERNON SCHOOL
MT. VERNON, JIMMIE ST. C. ME
STAIRS WITH BUILT-IN
BUCKLES AND VERTICAL
BEADON BOARD WALL

4/03, LAUREL TOWER, PICTS.
NEZ./NO. HISTORICAL TRUST
8 of 12



S-511.

Dr. VERMAN 19002

1st VERMAN, 19002 500

SECOND VERMAN 19002

4/23, PAUL VERMAN, PHOTO.

NEC/MD. 19002

9 of 12



3-511

MT. VERNON SCHOOL

MT. VERNON, SOMERSET CO. MD.

SECOND FLOOR INTERIOR

4/03, PAUL TOWN, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG./NO. 148 - TRIP -

1707 12



8-511

MT. VERNON SCHOOL

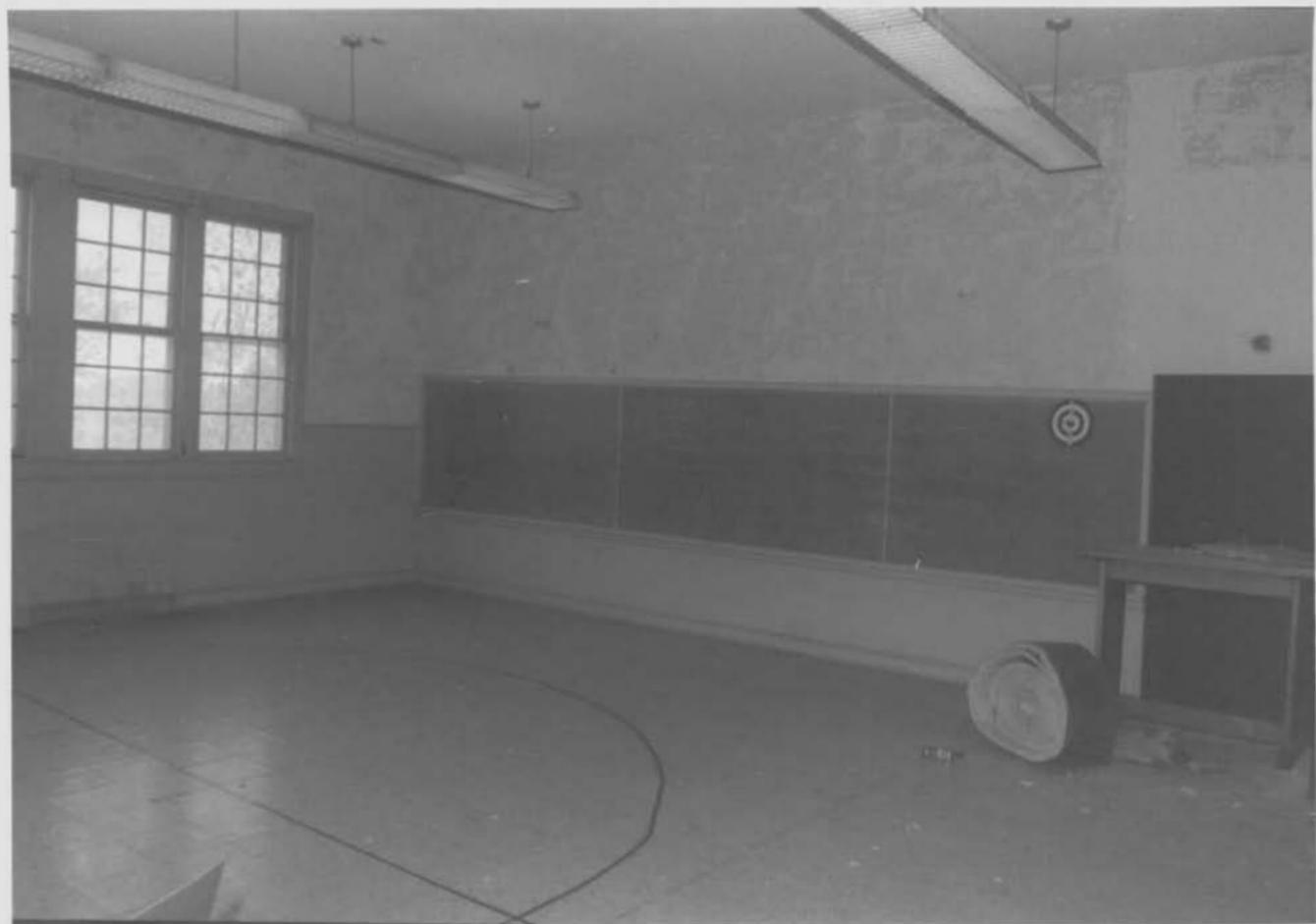
MT. VERNON, WASHINGTON, 1912.

SECOND FLOOR INTERVIEW

4/03, PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHY

WEL. / WND HISTORICAL TRAILS

11 of 12



5-9-11

MT. VERNON SCHOOL

MT. VERNON, SOMERSET CO., MD.

SECOND FLOOR YARD

4/53, PINE TREE, PINE TREE

11/1/50, PINE TREE, PINE TREE

12/12 2