

S M -277  
ABELL SCHOOL  
Abell  
Private

1890's

The northern block of this two-part structure is the Abell School, which was built for the local black children in the late 1890's. It is representative of the schoolhouses built for students of both races in rural areas at that time. According to local informants, Luke Clark and other leading Negro farmers and watermen in the community believed so strongly in education that they mortgaged their land to obtain the money to acquire the land and construct the school.

S M.-277  
Abell School  
Abell, Md.  
Private

c. 1890

This abandoned, one story frame building was constructed as a school house with one room to serve the Negro children of the Abell community. It was built on land acquired by the black landowners in the community. In later years an L addition was attached. The school had been whitewashed, and with its green trim and scalloped eaves boards it would have had an attractive appearance. Local people taught in this school for many years. Together with the Love and Charity Social Club (S M.-281) hall nearby, this school would have constituted on the center of the community.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC The Abell School

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER South side of Abell Road, c. 200 yards east of junction of Abell Road and T Routes 242 and 470.

CITY, TOWN Abell  VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7

STATE Maryland COUNTY St. Mary'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 type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Abandoned

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME United Parents Trustee Association Telephone #: None

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Abell  VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 20606

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, LIBER #: Map 46 P. 319  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. St. Mary's County Courthouse Folio #: 109/388; P. 131  
STREET & NUMBER 83/483

CITY, TOWN Leonardtown STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE None

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

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This small structure stands on the south side of the Abell Road between the road and the Love and Charity Hall. It is now abandoned and gutted and is rapidly deteriorating, though most of the framing timbers remain sound at this time.

The school has an L plan with the original block running north-south, perpendicular to the road. This block is one story in height, one bay in width, three bays in length. The entranceway opens into the west length of the older block and is sheltered by a cantilevered porch with an A-roof. The structural system of this block is balloon frame with the members having been cut by a circular saw and fastened by cut nails. There are no mortice and tenon joints nor any evidence of hand-work. The sills are large, debarked logs whose top surfaces have been cut by a circular saw. The weatherboards had been white-washed, and the trim around the doorways and windows painted green. These features as well as the boxed eaves which were trimmed by boards cut into a scalloped pattern, gave the building an attractive appearance when it was in use, and an appearance that would have been enhanced by the grounds that were kept clean and well-ordered by the children.

The interior of the original block was clad with 1" x 4" planks painted blue. The floor boards were narrow tongue and groove strips of flooring. A brick stove flue ascended the exterior of the east gable end, indicating that the school was heated.

The new block was similar in construction, except that its frame was attached by wire nails throughout. In size, it consisted of only 2 bays in length and one in width, though it appears larger due to an additional room that was built on the southern gable end of the original block and which is joined to this block. In appearance, the newer sections lack the more decorative entranceway and trim of the original, for they were added to meet the needs for more space and were, therefore, to be inexpensive and utilitarian and were somewhat set off from the public and decorative front.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 checked="" 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)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

Black History

SPECIFIC DATES C.1890 BUILDER/ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
 According to Mrs. Bernice Sherman, a life-long resident of the Abell community, her father, Luke Clark, and other responsible black leaders in the community mortgaged their land to put up the money to buy the land for the school and to pay for its construction. The organization was named the United Parents' Trustee Association. Luke Clark was the President. His home, in which Mrs. Sherman resides, has been surveyed as part of this project. Mrs. Sherman also said that the school only owned the land on which the building stood, so the Love and Charity Hall -- the black beneficial society located close by -- bought additional property for the children to play on. Luke Clark's other daughter, Julia Clark, taught at this school for many years.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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

George W. McDaniel

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

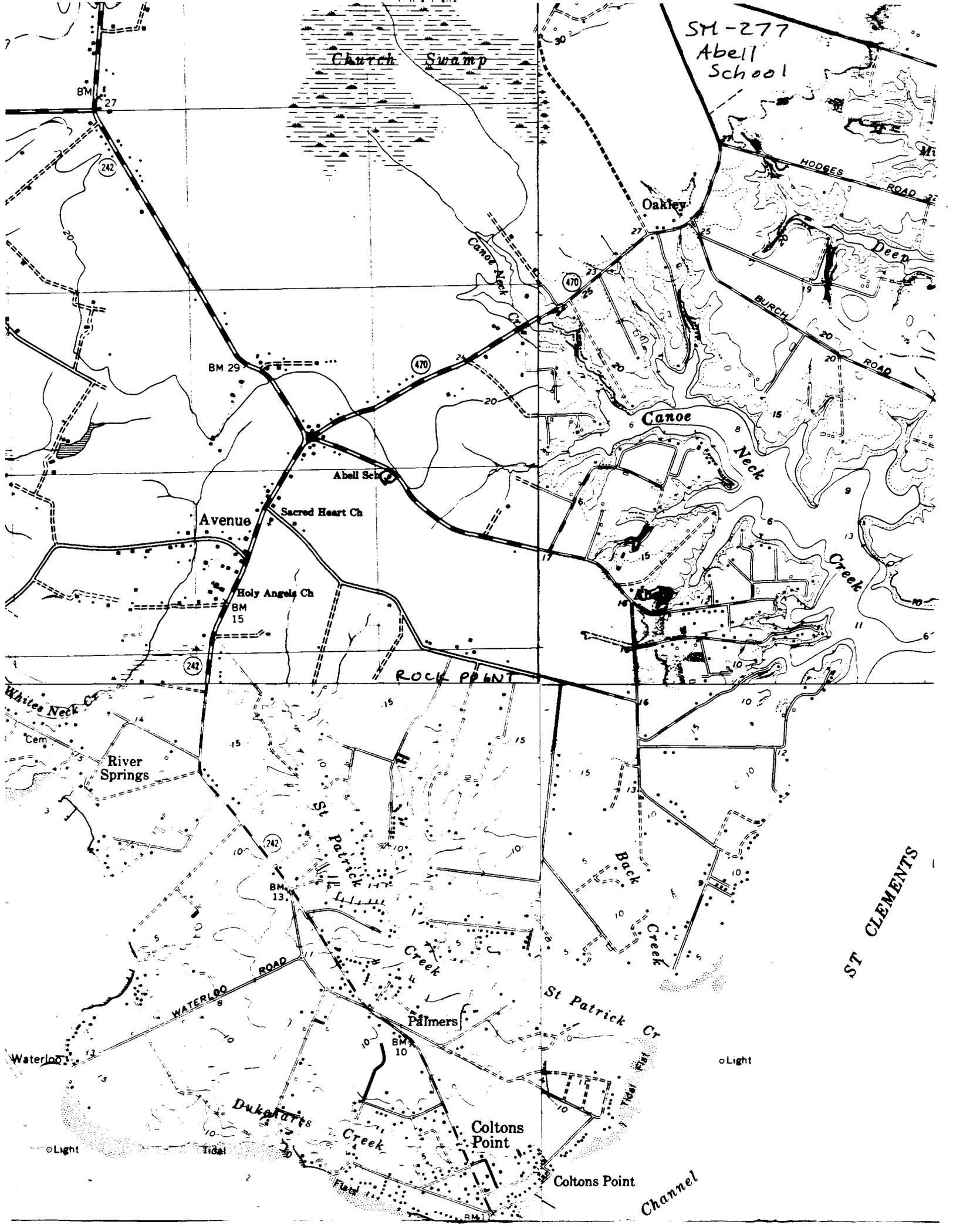
Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

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



SM-277  
Abell  
School

Church Swamp

Oakley

BM 29

470

Canoe Neck

Abell Sch

Sacred Heart Ch

Avenue

Holy Angels Ch

BM 15

ROCK POINT

River Springs

BM 13

St. Patrick Cr

Back Creek

ST CLEMENTS

WATERLOO ROAD

Palmers

St. Patrick Cr

Light

Light

Tidal

Coltons Point

Coltons Point

Channel



ABELL School

STMA - 277

ABELL, md.

GWM — 11/77

WEST facade



Abell School

STMA 277

Abell, Md.

SWM — 11/77

North facade