

Capsule Summary
SM-432,
Drayden Schoolhouse
Drayden
Private

Circa 1890

The Drayden Schoolhouse is significant as one of about eight one-room school buildings which survive in St. Mary's County. Further, it is one of the best preserved African-American schoolhouses in the county. Unlike most extant schoolhouses, this structure still occupies its original site and has not been significantly altered. The schoolhouse is also significant as one of the few historic landmarks which still remains within the village of Drayden, now a quiet crossroads community.

The Drayden Schoolhouse stands on a one acre lot, originally part of "Westbury Manor," purchased by Mary Ellen Gross and Daniel A. Gross in 1889. The Gross family owned the property until 1944, suggesting that the Board of Education rented the school building from them. In 1944 the Drayden Schoolhouse was closed and students were bused to school in Jarboesville. Once the building ceased to serve as a schoolhouse, it was occupied as a residence.

SM-432, Drayden Schoolhouse
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870 -1930.

Historic Period Theme: Education

Resource Type

Category: Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: School
Residence

Known Design Source: None

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-432

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Drayden Schoolhouse

2. Location

street & number West side of Cherryfield Road not for publication

city, town Drayden vicinity of congressional district 5

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Chuck and Penny Crawford

street & number P.O. Box 135 telephone no.: (301)994-0468

city, town Valley Lee state and zip code Md.

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk of Court liber MRB400

street & number St. Mary's County Courthouse folio 490

city, town Leonardtown, state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-432

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"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" 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.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Drayden Schoolhouse stands on the west side of Cherryfield Road near the village of Drayden in St. Mary's County, Maryland. This schoolhouse stands alone in a small clearing of trees except for two frame privies which stand just south of the building. A hedge of bushes stands between the schoolhouse and the road. The building faces east with its principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Constructed around 1890, the Drayden Schoolhouse is sheathed with weatherboard siding and roofed with corrugated metal. The foundation consists of wood blocks and cinder blocks.

The east (main) elevation is pierced by a central modern entrance door covered by a screened door. No windows light this gable end elevation.

The south elevation is lit by two six-over-six sash windows with wide, plain surrounds. A third window on this elevation has been infilled with weatherboard.

The west elevation is blind. Here, an interior brick chimney pierces the roof ridgeline.

The north elevation is lit by three six-over-six sash windows with wide, plain surrounds.

The interior of the school was originally one large, open space. Later, it was divided into three discrete spaces: an entrance vestibule, a room in the southwest corner of the schoolhouse, and one large space on its west end. The partition walls which divide these spaces do not rise to the ceiling. Only the southwest room is separated from the rest of the space by a door. This door consists of two vertical boards secured with horizontal and diagonal battens. The interior walls are covered with newspaper dating to the 1940s. Beneath the newspaper, the walls are sheathed with diagonal wainscoting. The ceiling is also wainscoted. The windows provide the one decorative interior feature. The windows are finished with molded surrounds and bull's eye corner blocks. A stove pipe projects from the interior chimney stack against the school's west wall.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM=432

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 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 none Builder/Architect unknown

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 Drayden Schoolhouse is significant as one of about eight one-room school buildings which survive in St. Mary's County. Further, it is one of the best preserved African-American schoolhouses in the county. Unlike most extant schoolhouses, this structure still occupies its original site and has not been significantly altered. The schoolhouse is also significant as one of the few historic landmarks which still remains within the village of Drayden, now a quiet crossroads community.

The Drayden Schoolhouse stands on a one acre lot, originally part of "Westbury Manor," purchased by Mary Ellen Gross and Daniel A. Gross in 1889. This simple, frame, one-room schoolhouse appears to have been built on the property soon after their purchase. The Gross family owned the property until 1944, suggesting that the Board of Education rented the school building from them. School records show that grades one through seven were being taught here as late as 1941 (Hammett, 323).

In 1944 the Drayden Schoolhouse was closed and students were bused to school in Jarboesville. That same year, ownership of the property passed from Daniel Gross, deceased, to J. Paul Bailey, Trustee. The inventory of property for Daniel Gross in 1944 listed this property as improved with buildings valued at \$500.

Once the building ceased to serve as a schoolhouse, it was occupied as a residence. During this time, partitions were added to the interior of the building.

Handwritten notes:
 Drayden
 Schoolhouse

SM-432, Drayden Schoolhouse
St. Mary's County
8.1 Description

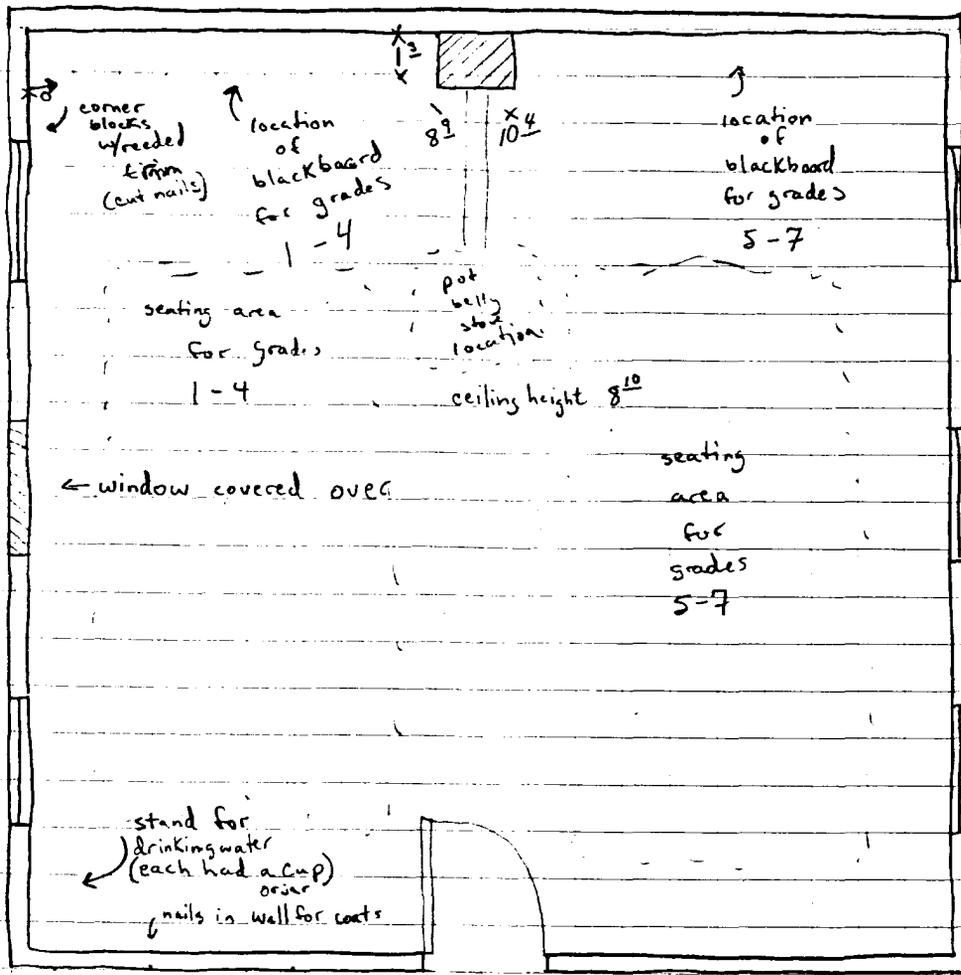
Chain of Title

TO: Patricia C. Crawford
FROM: John R. Kennedy and Mary A. Kerig, his wife.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EWA 874, folio 455.
DATE: March 11, 1994
NOTES: Transfer of 1 acre +/- being a part of Westbury Manor.

TO: John R. Kennedy and Mary A. Kerig, his wife.
FROM: Katherine N. D'Esposito, Treasurer of St. Mary's County
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 400, folio 490.
DATE: March 3, 1988.
NOTES: Sale of property is the result of Circuit Court Decree in case 87-1047, John R. Kennedy, et al vs. Raymond L. Holt, et al. Property is 1 acre +/- .

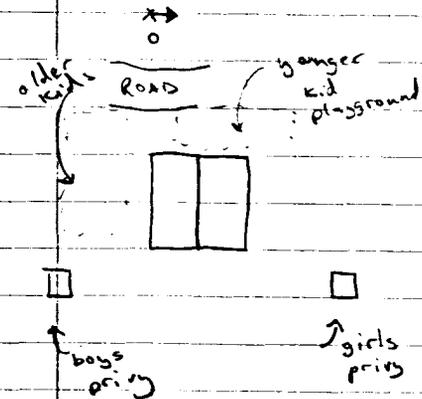
TO: J. Paul Bailey, Trustee.
FROM: Daniel Alexander Gross
RECORD: St. Mary's County Estate ACM 1, folio 506.
DATE: May 9, 1944.
NOTES: There is no record of the death of Mary Ellen Gross, who appears to have pre-deceased her husband. Daniel A. Gross died intestate. At his death, his real estate was listed as one acre valued at \$100 with buildings worth \$500 (St. Mary's County Inventory Record JWG 1/333). J. Paul Bailey, personal representative of the estate, apparently held the property as a Trustee until its sale in the 1980s.

TO: Mary Ellen Gross, wife of Daniel A. Gross.
FROM: Mary E. Jackson and William Edward Jackson
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JFF 12, folio 53.
DATE: December 15, 1889.
NOTES: Transfer of 1 acre +/- being part of "Westbury Manor." This is a portion of land conveyed to Mr. Jackson by Henry Watts, and subsequently by Mr. Jackson to Mary E. Jackson in JFF 4/275.



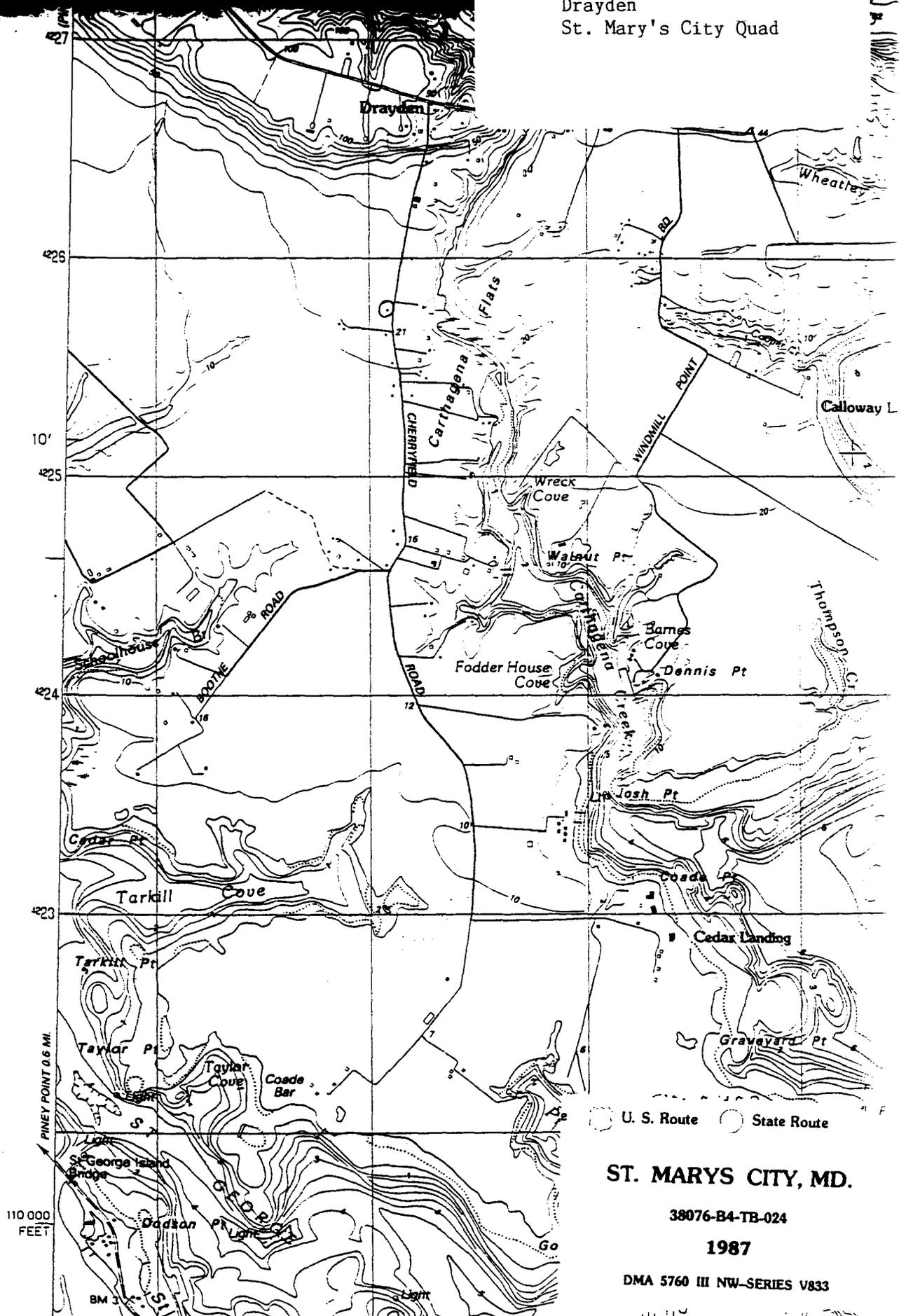
→ so paint originally
 → diagonally set beaded board
 → intermediate summer
 → backed floor joists laid over
 → sills → scarf joint new
 → vally ball, seesaw, baseball across the street
 → Francis Morgan would go home for lunch, principal of D.
 → Luther Harold Stuckey
 → Sam Morgan
 Curd Stokesman
 = teachers
 → lived there until 1992
 → pretty full little
 → Francis Morgan transferred to St. Peter's in the 3rd 5 - she is presently 67

→ school day 8-4
 no holidays
 → moveable desks
 ↓ allow the floor to slip



Drayden "Colored" School
 Cherryfields Road
 February 23, 1997
 Drawn by: Kirk Ranzetta
 Jack Bowes
 SM-432

SM-432
 Drayden Schoolhouse
 Drayden
 St. Mary's City Quad



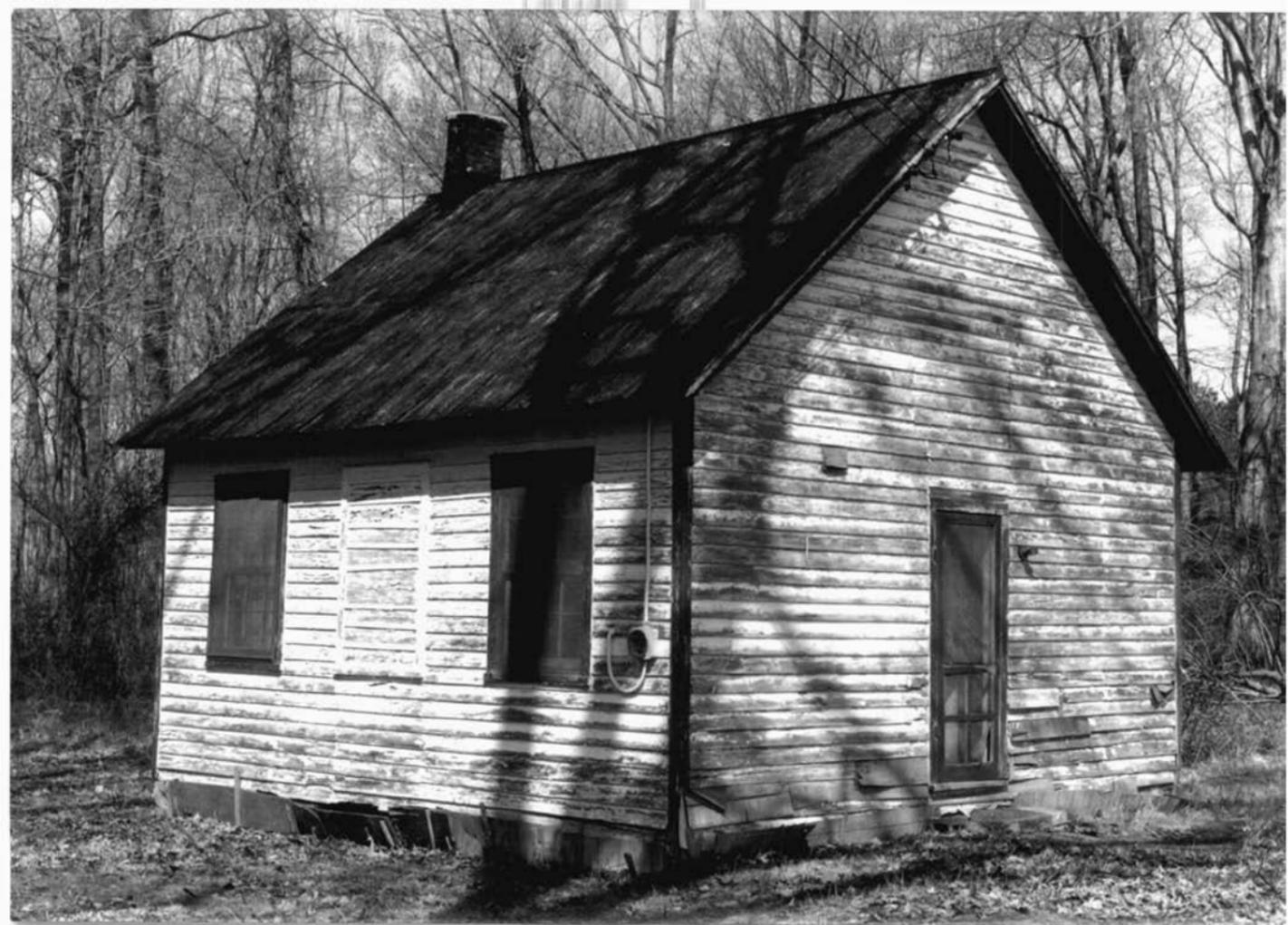
U. S. Route State Route

ST. MARYS CITY, MD.

38076-B4-TB-024

1987

DMA 5760 III NW-SERIES V833



SM-432, Drayden Schoolhouse

St Mary's County, MD

Elizabeth Hughes

April 1994

MD SHPO

SE Elevation

1/2



SM-432, Drayden Schoolhouse

St. Mary's County, MD

Elizabeth Hughes

April 1994

MD SHPO

SW Elevation

2/2



CM-438

Weyden School house

St. Mary's Church

Kirk Rauritte

10/17

10/18

Interim - Looking N

1 of 1