

Survey # WA-III-166  
Street Address Rohrsersville School Road  
Town, State Rohrsersville, Maryland 21779  
private X, public     

Approximate date 1919 (Cracker Barrel)

Built in 1919 is this Colonial Revival Style school building which served the community from the time of its construction until it closed in 1978. It is a U-shaped brick building on high stone foundations. The front is characterized by a raised entrance with a cross gable with an arched opening. Cast stone lintels are above the main level openings. These openings consist of a central entrance with flanking windows with ranks of five side by side classroom windows with a common lintel. Sets of steps lead to an entrance deck. The lower level has windows in the foundations. They are three over three light sash with segmental arches. The roofing material is asbestos shingles. This, the fourth Rohrsersville School, is situated on high ground with a scenic vista, near the site of the preceding school which was built in 1880. The building and site reflect the educational history of the community. 1 contributing building.

#### **MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA**

- I. Geographic Organization: Western Maryland
- II. Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930
- III. Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning  
Social/Education/Cultural

- IV. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): School

Photo Reference: Photo # 43

Form Prepared By: Paula S. Reed, PhD, Architectural Historian  
Woodward-Clyde  
200 Orchard Ridge Drive  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Date: 6/97

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WA-III-166

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Rohrsersville School

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number Rohrsersville School Road  not for publicationcity, town Rohrsersville  vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Washington

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	public	occupied	agriculture	museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	commercial	park
structure	both	work in progress	educational	private residence
site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	entertainment	religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	in process	yes: restricted	government	scientific
	being considered	yes: unrestricted	industrial	transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

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

name Rohrsersville Ruritan Club

street &amp; number 21023 Rohrsersville School Road telephone no.: (301) 432-5541

city, town Rohrsersville state and zip code MD

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse Liber 666

street &amp; number 95 West Washington Street Folio 149

city, town Hagerstown state MD

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date of move _____
<input 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.

Resource Count = 1

Rohrersville School is a two-story brick Colonial Revival style school building, located on the west end of the Rohrersville School Road; a short cross road in the south end of the Village of Rohrersville. The paved road ends at the school and continues on as a dirt road to a modern residence that is visible at a distance. Besides the school only two dwellings are located on the road along with picnic shelters at the adjacent Ruritan Park.

The school maintains a prominent setting on a hill with a panoramic view of the valley and is within short walking distance of Main Street in Rohrersville. It is surrounded by woodland to the south, the Ruritan Park to the north, the valley to the west, and a treeline to the east. Overall the setting is peaceful and serene. A stone retaining wall, characteristic of the Village of Rohrersville, is located in front of the school directly along the road. Concrete steps and a metal railing lead from the road up the hill to the school's entrance. The main floor is reached by a flanking set of concrete steps which also contains a door in the facade of the steps that leads to the ground floor.

The symmetrical building is basically U-shaped. This shape is interrupted on the east and west side walls where the north ends of the side walls project about two feet from the remaining south end of the side walls. The roof line has a plain frieze with an open overhanging eave. The roof is covered with silver finished diamond shaped asbestos shingles and snow guards line the edge. Major characteristics of the building are its stone ground floor, brick main floor, and a hip roof. All of the building's openings are boarded over, either on the exterior or interior of the building, for protection from vandalism. Wood windows in the ground floor have 3/3 lights with a segmental arch. Double-hung windows on the main floor are long and rectangular and have 6/6 lights.

The north facade features three bays with a central gable characteristic of the Colonial Revival style. The middle bay contains a half-glass double door with a 4-light flat transom and cast stone lintel. One window flanks each side of the door and paired louvered semi-circular windows are located in the gable. The two identical end bays contain a ribbon row of five 6/6 light windows that feature a continuous cast stone lintel. Three equally-spaced windows are in each of the flanking bays in the basement.

The east and west (side) elevations are identical. No windows are located in the main floor of the north ends, there are two basement windows. The south ends of the sides contain a single window followed by a ribbon of five windows, identical to the facade. Four windows are in the basement. A new chimney, as noted by the change in bricks from the rest of the building, is located between the single window and the ribbon windows. An older corbelled chimney projects from the roof on this side of the building.

The south (rear) elevation has a recessed entrance within the U-shape containing a entry that is identical to the facade with a half-glass double door and single flanking windows. No windows are on the main floor of the projecting bays on either side of the entrance. The east bay has two windows in the basement and one has an air conditioner in it. The west bay has one blind (bricked-in) basement window.

The interior was not accessible.

Alterations to the building exterior appear to be minimal given the limited visibility due to the boarded entrances. A 1944 photograph shows the original windows and doors. All of the existing openings retain the same shape as those in the photograph. The building retains a high degree of integrity.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below				
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1400-1499	archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1500-1599	agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1700-1799	art	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1800-1899	commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Specific dates	1919	Builder/Architect			Unknown		
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D			
and/or Applicable Exceptions:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national	<input type="checkbox"/> state	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local				

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

The Rohrersville School is significant as an example of a Colonial Revival style school built in a village setting and for its importance in providing education and community stability to a rural farming community. The Rohrersville School is the fourth and final school to be built in Rohrersville.

### History

The Village of Rohrersville's fourth and final school was built in 1919. The village is located in the fertile area known as Pleasant Valley between South Mountain and Elk Ridge in southern Washington County and began developing in the early 1800s as a result of the surrounding agricultural countryside and the location of a grist mill in the village along the Antietam Creek. Local tradition states that Rohrersville's first school was built in 1800 near the point where Trego Road meets Rt. 67, one mile south of the village. It was built of logs and later brick cased. On Sundays the building was used as an inter-denominational church. It served as a school until 1850 when a new school was built. The first school was sold in 1867 and torn down. The relocation of the school from the surrounding countryside into the village was an indication of the growth of the families within the village. The new school was reportedly located at the south end of pig alley, a small thoroughfare running from the Post Office on Main Street up to Rohrersville School Road, within close distance of the existing school<sup>1</sup>.

The size of the school built in 1850 is unknown, but it appears it was not large enough to serve Rohrersville thirty years later. In 1880, a new two-story four-room school was built. This school was built near the site of the extant school on Parcel 1 on land sold to the County School Commissioners in 1879 by John and Susan Mullendore. The Mullendores were prominent farmers in the area and the historic Mullendore farm is located directly to the south of the extant school. The addition of this school was a reflection of the prosperous period the village had in the late 19th century that extended into the early 20th century after the arrival of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in 1867 at a station known as the Rohrersville Station in Trego, just west of Rohrersville.

Close to forty years later a new school was needed. Rohrersville's population in 1877 was 106 and in 1920 it would grow to 150. While small in number, this was an almost 50% increase in the village's population that also translated to additional students from the village as well as from the surrounding area. Apparently in response to the increased population and to acquire an updated facility, the Board of Education purchased a parcel adjacent to the former school building from Samuel and Lizzie Mullendore in 1918. According to John Mullendore's will, Samuel was John's son and was farming the land. While the new school was under construction, classes were held at various sites throughout Rohrersville

<sup>1</sup> Woodring, Frank. "Rohrersville Schools Provide Community with Common Bond." Maryland Cracker Barrel, Feb./Mar., 1994, p. 6.

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DOE  yes  no

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including a private home, the social room of the United Brethren Church on Main Street, and a former store. The school reportedly had four rooms with two grades per room<sup>2</sup>.

A local article states that the Board of Education made numerous repairs in the summer of 1943 and residents of the community made additional improvements<sup>3</sup>. Efforts to locate building plans from the Board of Education and the County Commissioners were unsuccessful. Finally, after almost sixty years in operation, the Rohrsersville School closed in June 1978, ending a 178-year tradition of providing education for children in Pleasant Valley and an anchor of stability of the area. The building is now owned by the Rohrsersville Ruritan Club.

### Themes

Social/education/culture in Rohrsersville, Maryland, 1800-1947: The history of providing education to the Rohrsersville area is evidenced in the existence of schools in the community for over a century. The construction of the last Rohrsersville School in 1919 reflected the sustained growth of the village since the first school was built in the village in 1850. The school, together with the businesses and churches, were crucial to the success of a self-sustaining rural village in Washington County.

Early 20th century public architecture in Rohrsersville, Maryland: The Colonial Revival style influence of the Rohrsersville School portrays the architectural time period within which it was built and coincides with the growth of the community in the early 20th century. The building's central gable and hip roof reflect the Colonial Revival style while the ribboned, or combined windows, are significant as a typical feature of early 20th century school design. The school is the only public building in Rohrsersville of this style.

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<sup>2</sup> Woodring, Frank. "Seclusion Within Pleasant Valley Enables Rohrsersville to Retain Charm." Maryland Cracker Barrel, Dec./Jan., 1993, p. 24.

<sup>3</sup> Woodring, Frank. "Rohrsersville Schools Provide Community with Common Bond." Maryland Cracker Barrel, Feb./Mar., 1994, p. 6.

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### Chain of Title

08/02/1879 John A. & Susan A. Mullendore to Board of Education (Board of County School Commissioners)  
Parcel 1  
Liber 78, Folio 469

08/22/1918 Samuel J. & Lizzie M. Mullendore to Board of Education  
Parcel 2  
Liber 153, Folio 600

10/17/1938 Samuel J. & Lizzie M. Mullendore to Board of Education  
Parcel 3  
Liber 210, Folio 530

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### HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

#### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Social/Education/Cultural  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community  
Planning

Resource Type:

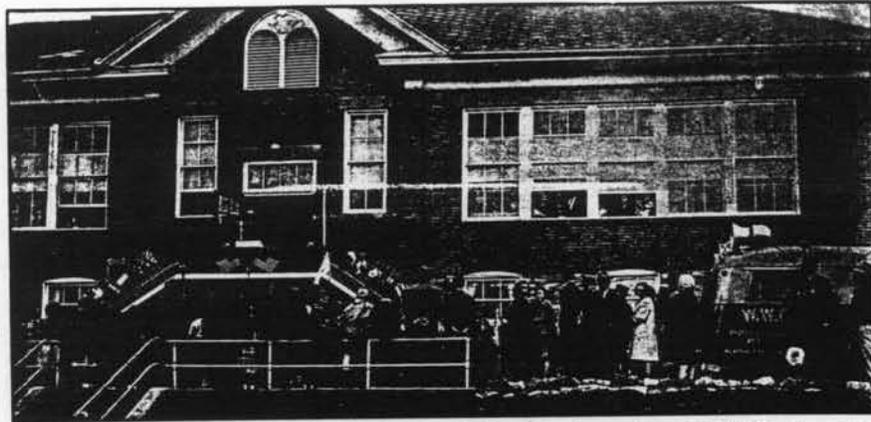
Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Education/School

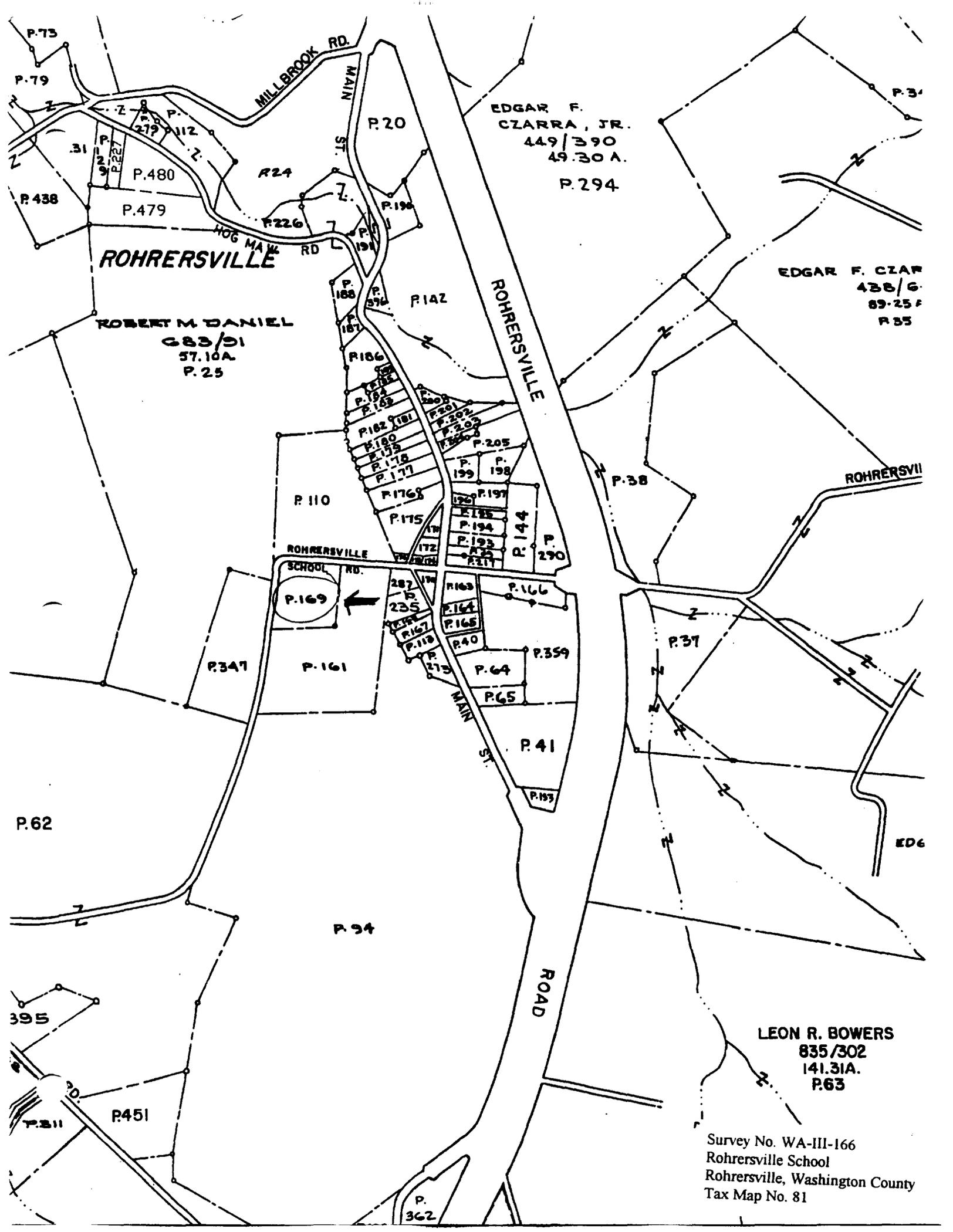
Known Design Source: Unknown





*A dedication ceremony at the Rohrersville School in the spring of 1944 featured the Washington County Commissioners and the Board of Education. Rohrersville schools, begun in 1800, finally closed in 1978. (Photo courtesy of Pauline Poffenberger)*

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Rohrersville School  
Rohrersville, Washington County  
Source: Cracker Barrel, Feb./Mar., 1994, p. 6



**ROHRERSVILLE**

**ROBERT M DANIEL**  
883/91  
57.10A  
P. 25

**EDGAR F. CZARRA, JR.**  
449/390  
49.30A.  
P. 294

**EDGAR F. CZAR**  
438/6  
89.25  
P. 35

**LEON R. BOWERS**  
835/302  
141.31A.  
P. 63

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Rohrer'sville School  
Rohrer'sville, Washington County  
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SCHOOL RD.

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ROAD

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R24

HOG MAN RD

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EDG

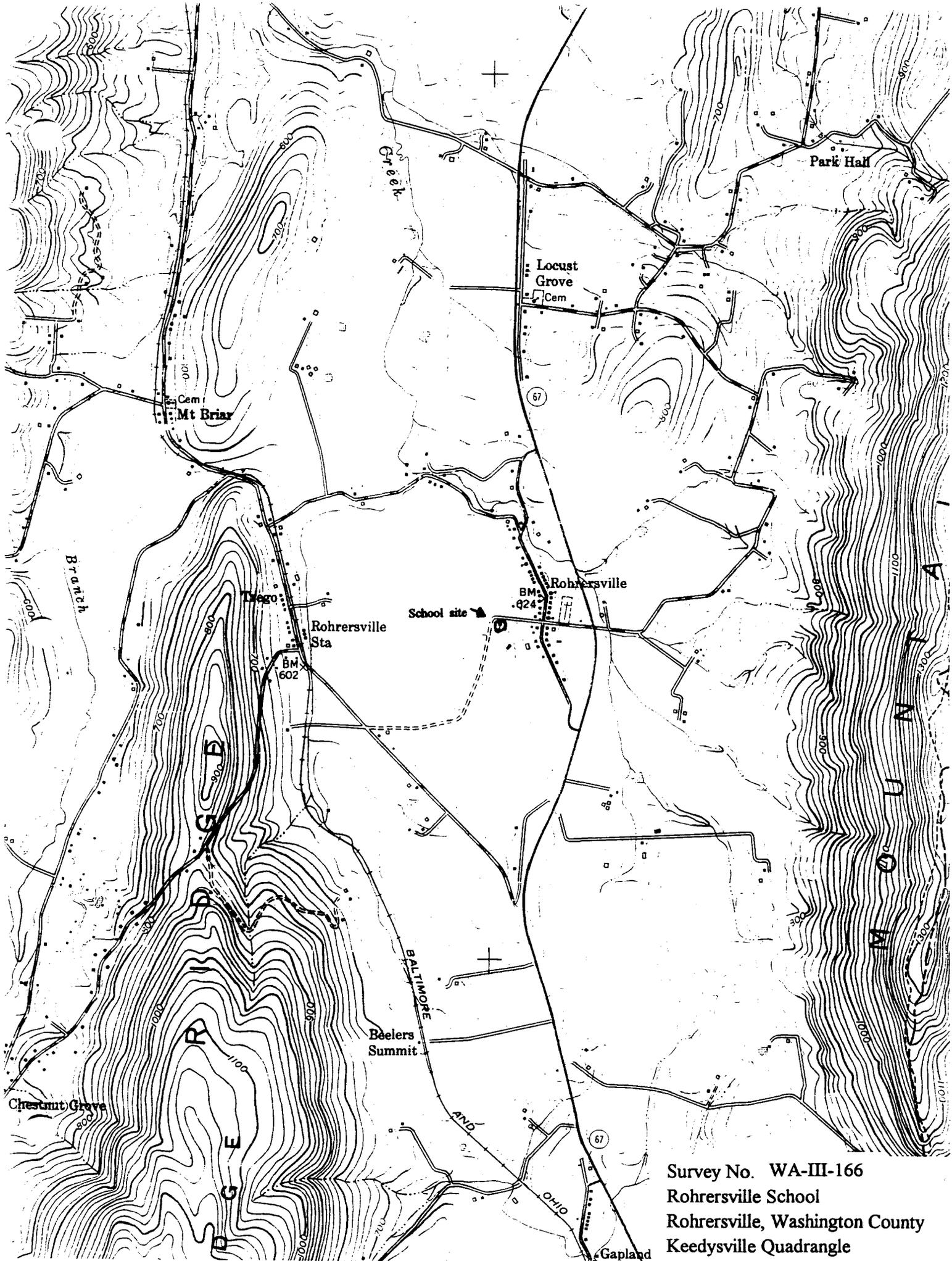
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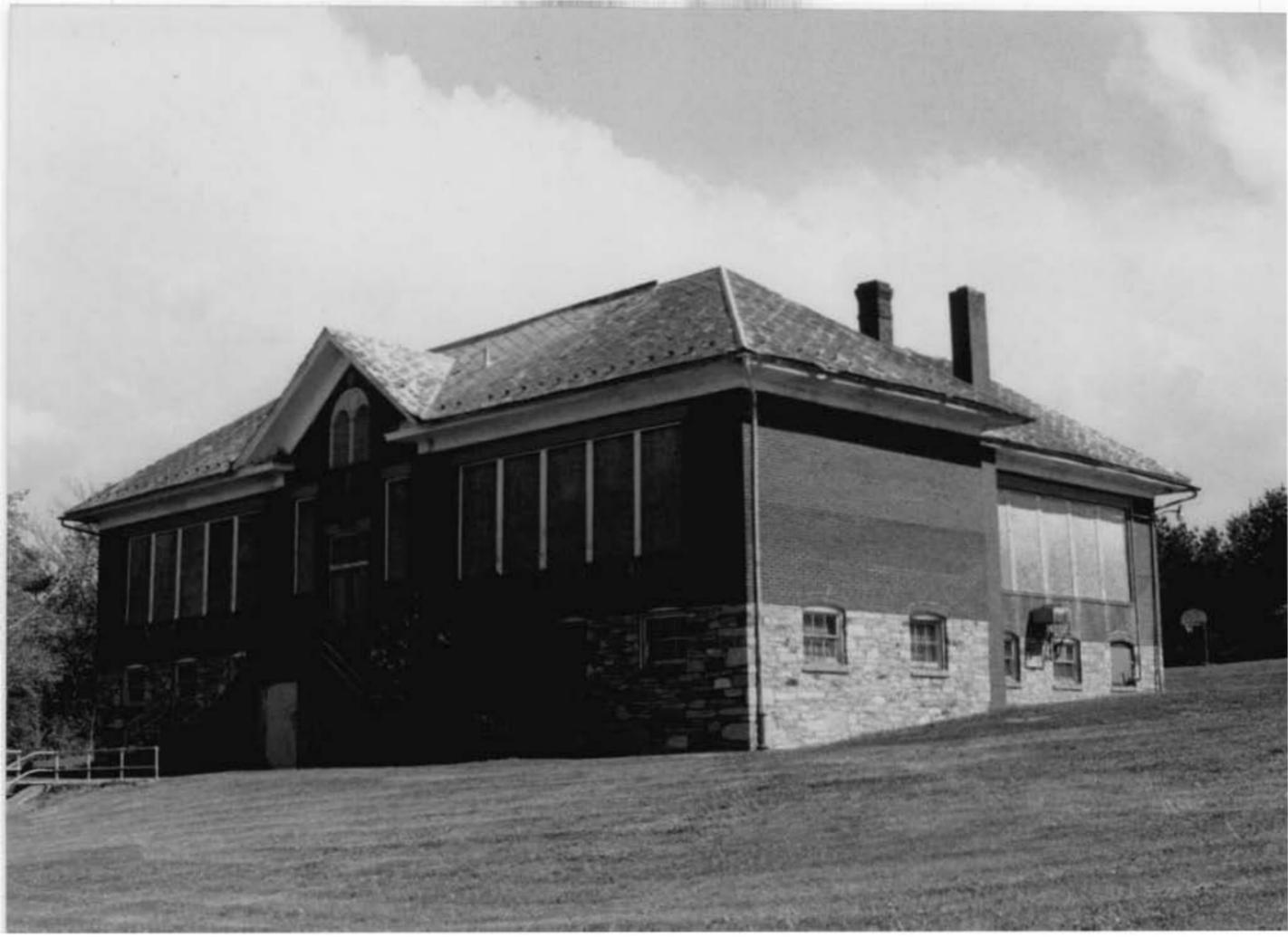
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Survey No. WA-III-166  
Rohrersville School  
Rohrersville, Washington County  
Keedysville Quadrangle



WA-III-166

Rohrersville School Rd, Rohrersville

Washington Co MD

SE Salvatue

5/97

Neg- MD SHPO

Rohrersville School, SE VIEW

#106 2/3 (cap)

(#43 cap)



WA-III-166

Rohrersville School, Rohrersville  
Washington County MD  
Sc Salvatore

5/97

Neg: MD SHPO

School, NW view

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