





=====

**6. Function or Use**

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: school

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: museum

=====

**7. Description**

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

roof Metal

walls Brick

other Wood

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

**8. Statement of Significance**

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1860-1950

Significant Dates 1860

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Washington County Free Library, Hagerstown, MD

=====

**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property 0.5 acre

USGS quadrangle Clear Spring, MD-PA

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>18</u>	<u>255220</u>	<u>4393310</u>	C	_____	_____
B	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____
	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>					

Verbal Boundary Description: Boundaries are shown on the plat which accompanies this nomination, and conform to the courses and distances indicated thereon.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property, 0.5 acre, comprises the remnant of the property with which the resource is historically associated, and constitutes an appropriate setting.

=====

**11. Form Prepared By**

=====

name/title Jean Crolius Ehman  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date September 1997  
street & number P. O. Box 1644 telephone (304) 876-3614  
city or town Shepherdstown state WV zip code 25433

=====

**Additional Documentation**

=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====

**Property Owner**

=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

=====

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 7

WA-V-007  
Wilson School  
Washington Co., MD

=====

Description Summary:

The Wilson School is a one-room schoolhouse, constructed 1859-60 on the historic National Road in Washington County, Maryland. It is a simple gable-fronted building constructed of brick laid in common bond on a stone foundation. It has undergone few alterations and has been restored as a local museum.

General Description:

Constructed in 1859-60, the Wilson School is located at the end of Rufus Wilson Road near the former alignment of the National Road about four miles east of Clear Spring in Washington County, Maryland. The rectangular building stands one room wide and three bays deep, constructed of brick laid in common bond above a random rubble limestone foundation. Its simple, gable-front composition reflects a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style which was commonly employed for rural school buildings in the mid-19th century. Large 9/6 sash windows define the longitudinal bays, set in openings with flat brick arches and wooden sills. The entrance is located in a small vestibule which projects from the south gable end. While the masonry of the vestibule does not appear to be keyed into that of the main block, the character of the brickwork and detailing of the two elements is very similar, indicating that not much time passed before the addition of the vestibule. The entrance comprises a single door below a three-light transom. A brick exterior chimney is located on the south gable, west of the vestibule. The north gable end is unfenestrated except for a small louvered ventilator located near the peak. The west elevation is three bays wide; the northernmost bay holds a secondary entrance, probably converted from a window opening in the early 1940s in response to safety requirements, while the remaining bays retain 9/6 sash windows in openings topped with flat brick arches. The roof is covered with ridged metal, and there is a pronounced overhang at the eaves.

The interior is finished throughout in plaster above random-width tongue-and-groove wainscoting capped with a beaded chair rail. Window architraves

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 8

WA-V-007  
Wilson School  
Washington Co., MD

=====

are trimmed with simple flat boards with a beaded edge. At the north end of the school room is a two-foot-wide platform.

The building has been restored and furnished to interpret a country school of the period. A three-panel blackboard is located at the north end, and another blackboard is located at the rear of the schoolroom, east of the entrance. A pot-bellied stove is located to the west of the entrance. Furnishings include school desks representing various periods.

The Wilson School has undergone few alterations. Some repairs and repointing have been made to the limestone foundation and common bond brick walls, especially on the north elevation, and a window on the west elevation was altered to a doorway.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 9

WA-V-007  
Wilson School  
Washington Co., MD

=====  
Significance Summary

The Wilson School is significant under Criterion A for its association with the early development of education in Washington County. Constructed in 1859-60 by local merchant Rufus Wilson to serve his son and neighbors' children, it was incorporated into the county's public education system in the 1890s and remained in use until it closed in 1950, the last operating one-room school in Washington County. It is also significant under Criterion C as a well-preserved representative example of a type of one-room school building typical of rural Maryland in the third quarter of the 19th century.

Resource History & Historic Context

In 1859, Rufus Wilson began building the school on property owned by the family of his late wife, Elizabeth Brewer Wilson, for his only child, John Wilson, and neighborhood children. The school opened in 1860 and remained in operation until 1950, when it was closed following the recommendations of a survey team from New York City commissioned by the county Board of Education. At that time, it was the only remaining one-room schoolhouse in Washington County, and had an enrollment ranging from Kindergarten through Fourth Grade.

Before it became part of the Washington County school system, the Wilson School was operated privately at a tuition ranging from \$20 to \$30 per term. In 1890, John D. Brewer, who had inherited the property, formally transferred it to the Board of the County School Commissioners.

The Free School system in Washington County was established in 1864 and enacted the following year by the General Assembly of Maryland. The period 1867-76 saw the greatest expansion of school building in Washington County; during this period, schools numbered 127 in all, 45 of log construction, 40 built of brick, and only six with more than one room. The Wilson School is the only example of its type in Washington County which retains integrity.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section : 8 Page 10

WA-V-007  
Wilson School  
Washington Co., MD

=====

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:	Piedmont
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870
Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:	Architecture Education
Resource Type:	
Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function and Use:	School
Known Design Source:	None

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   9   Page  11 

WA-V-007  
Wilson School  
Washington Co., MD

=====

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Washington County Board of Commissioners Minutes, 1865-1887

Washington County Land Records

Register of Wills, Washington County

Second Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and reports of the President of the Boards of County School Commissioners for the period ending June 30, 1867. Annapolis: Wm. Thompson of R., printer, 1868.

Hewitt, Downs and Louise, "Washington County Retired Teachers," ms., n.d.

Bushey, George M., "Schools in Washington County Early 1900s," ms., 1902.

Williams, Thomas J. C. History of Washington County, Maryland. Orig. pub. Hagerstown, MD, 1906; rpt. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co, 1968.

Scharf, J. Thomas History of Western Maryland. Orig. pub. Philadelphia, 1882; rpt. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co, 1968.

Taylor, Gladys R. and Leona Robinson, "Wilson School," ms., ca. 1940.

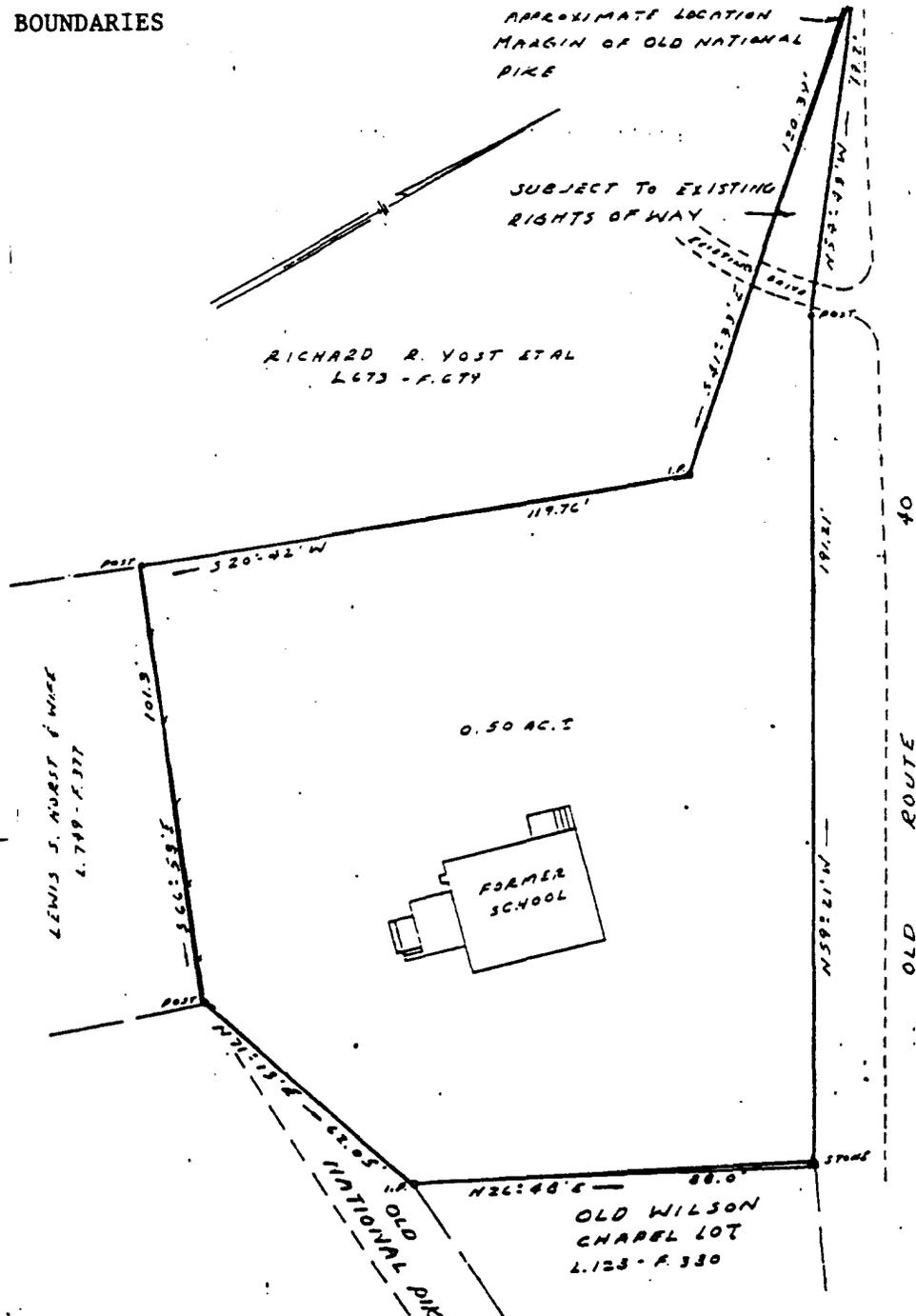
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 12

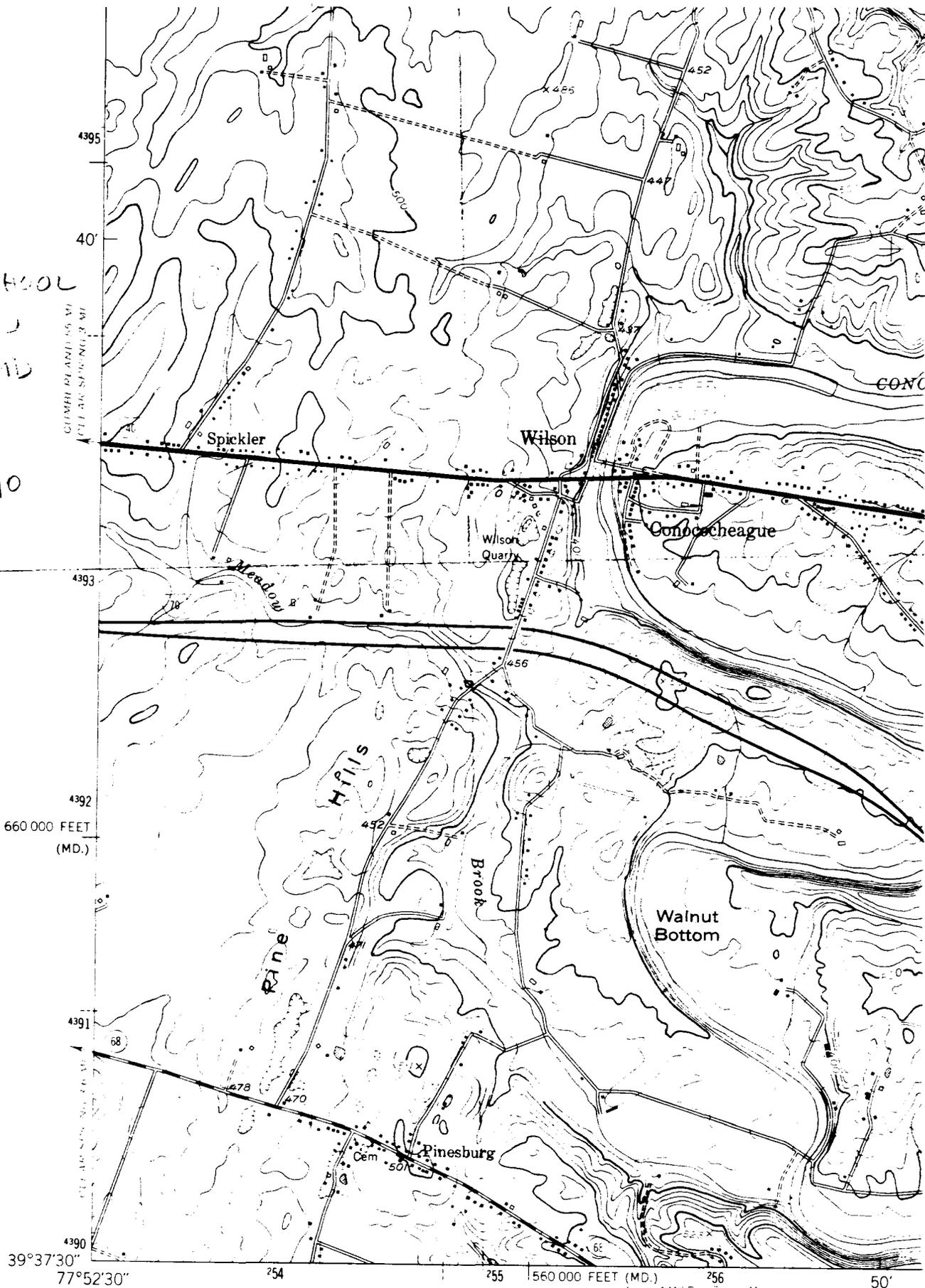
WA-V-007  
Wilson School  
Washington Co., MD

**NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARIES**



WA-V-007  
 WILSON SCHOOL  
 WASHINGTON  
 COUNTY, MD

KE-255220  
 -4395310

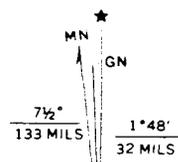


(HEDGESVILLE)  
 5463 in SW

Mapped by Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army  
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by KEK plotter  
 Aerial photographs taken 1943  
 Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1953

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grids based on Maryland coordinate system  
 and Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone





1 of 11

WA-V-007

SE elevation

WILSON SCHOOL



2 of 1'

South elevation



3081

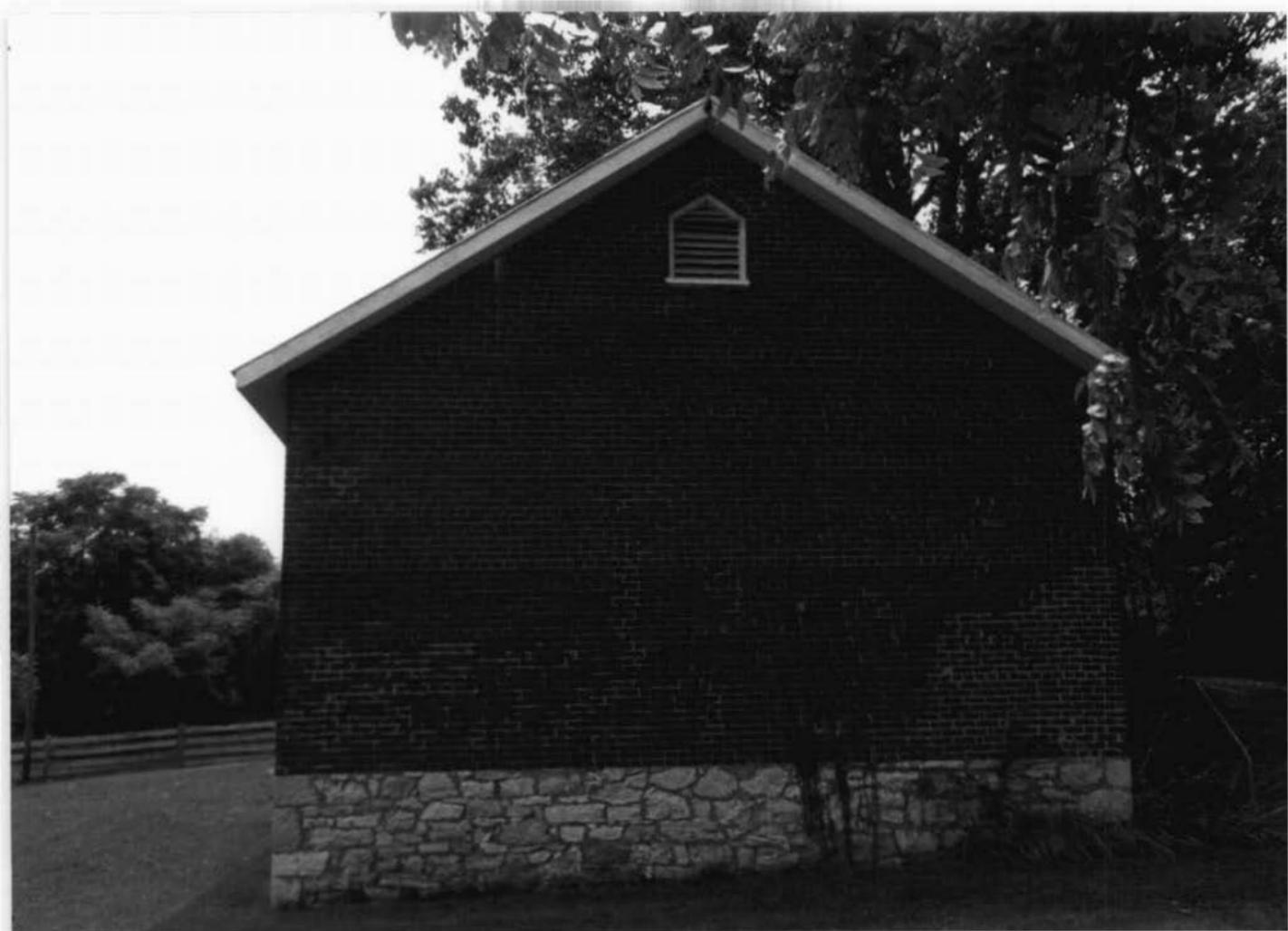
South elevation



WA-V-007

4 of 11

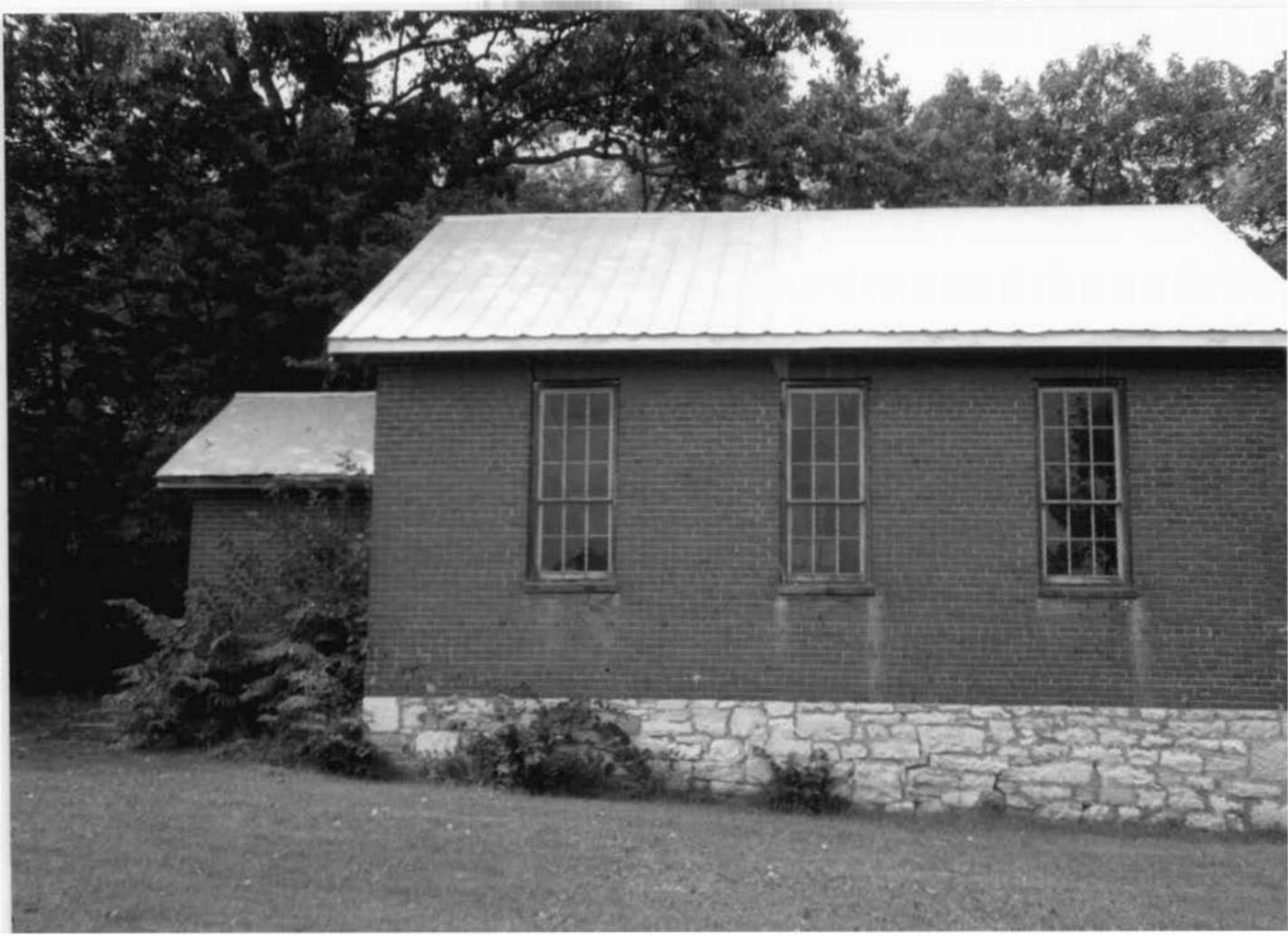
West elevation



WA-V-007

5 of 11

North elevation



3 of 11

VIA-V-007

East elevation



WA-4-007

7 of 11



Interior

WA-V-007

8 of 11



Interview

W. A. V. 001

11 of 11



Interview

WA-7-107

9 of 11



Interior

USA-V-007

15 of 11

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-V-007  
District 23  
Map 35  
Parcel 250  
MAGI # 2211815502

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Wilson School

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Wilson

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF Clear Spring

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER: Vacant

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Washington County Board of County Commissioners

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21740

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #: 306

Folio #: 211

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The former Wilson School is a one story three bay brick structure with common bond at all elevations. It has a projecting entrance bay with a door hung beneath a transom. Windows have nine over six pane sashes. The building would appear to date from the third quarter of the 19th century.

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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wilson School building is typical of many small 19th century schools in Washington County. Many have been converted to residences but this building remains vacant.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .88 acre

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

**Paula Stoner, Architectural Historian**

ORGANIZATION

**Preservation Associates**

DATE

**July 1978**

STREET & NUMBER

**109 West Main Street, Box 202**

TELEPHONE

**301-432-5466**

CITY OR TOWN

**Sharpsburg**

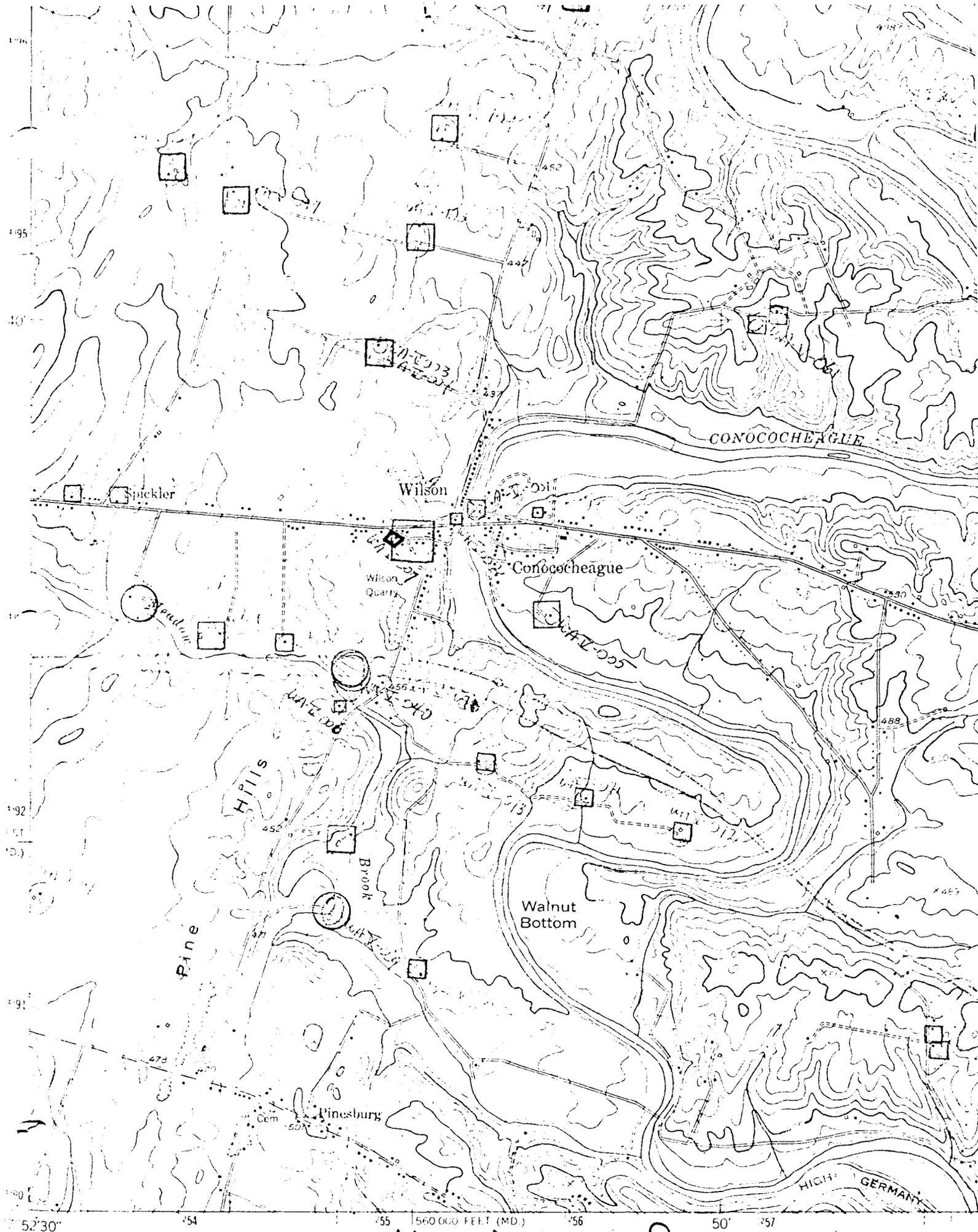
STATE

**Maryland 21782**

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.

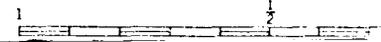
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



Mapped by Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army  
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

*Mason-Dixon quad*

*WA-V-007*





Wilson School

Wilson, Clear Spring Vicinity

114-1-0009

S :

PAULA STONER DICKE  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON DC  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY