

WI-627
Powell Schoolhouse
Powellville vicinity
Private

1898

One of the most distinctive nineteenth-century rural school buildings to survive in Wicomico County is the former Powell School located along Mt. Hermon Road. Moved to this location in 1977 in a plan to adapt the building as an antique shop, the building was also saved from demolition. Distinguishing the single-story rectangular frame structure is a steeply pitched gable roof enhanced with a cross gable over the entrance bay. The cross gable is embellished with a layer of alternating diamond-shaped and round butt fishscale shingles, and the edge of the roof has an extended eave supported on small, pierced brackets. Surviving on the interior is vertical beaded edge wainscoting.

Built in 1898, the school was located for many years on a site donated by Elisha Powell. In 1936 the facility was closed by the Wicomico County Board of Education. After its closing the schoolhouse was moved several times, and for a long period was used as a utilitarian outbuilding and/or migrant housing on the farm of Garman Brittingham. Its adaptation as an antique shop occurred in 1977-78.

7. Description

Inventory No. WI-627

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 Powell Schoolhouse stands at 35093 Mt. Hermon Road west of Powellville, Wicomico County, Maryland. The schoolhouse was moved to this site in 1977 from a location on the Garman Brittingham farm. It has been moved there from a site at the corner of Powell School Road and Mt. Hermon Road, which was its second site. The schoolhouse stands behind a mid twentieth-century brick dwelling and garage with its principal elevation facing southeast and its gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Built in 1898, the single-story rectangular schoolhouse is supported on a concrete block foundation, and the exterior is clad with a combination of plain weatherboards and fishscale shingles. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Rising through the southwest gable end is an interior end brick chimney.

The southeast (main) façade is a two-bay elevation with a side entrance in the northern bay. A c. 1880 four-panel door has been installed in the entrance, which also incorporates a four-pane transom. The door was salvaged from an old house around Pittsville. A machine-produced row of Victorian bed molding enhances the door lintel. Highlighting the entrance bay is a cross gable sheathed with a variety of diamond- and round-butt fishscale shingles. The extended eave of the roof has an open soffit, exposed and decorated rafter tails, and small pierced brackets under the bargeboards. The adjacent bay is marked by a six-over-six sash window. The sash were salvaged from another building as well.

The northeast side elevation is defined by a pair of six-over-six sash windows. The edge of the roof has an extended eave and open soffit. Pierced corner brackets support the bottom end of the bargeboard. The southwest gable end is similar with six-over-six sash windows on the first floor and a small multi-pane window lighting the second floor. Piercing the gable end is the interior end brick stove chimney.

The northwest (rear) wall is a two-bay elevation with a pair of six-over-six sash windows.

The interior has been reworked over the years. Surviving around the perimeter of the room is vertical beaded board wainscoting, which is capped by a heavy chair rail incorporating a gouge on its top surface as a place for chalk. The window and door openings are framed by late nineteenth-century bulls-eye block surrounds. A second floor was installed in the schoolhouse with a modern stair of reused materials rising against the northeast gable end wall. The floor is original and its surface is marked by marks in the wood where desks were formerly fixed.

8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-627

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input 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
Construction dates 1898	

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.)

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¹ Personal Interview with Walter L. Donaway, 15 October 2001.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Personal Interview with Walter L. Donaway, 15 October 2001

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1 acre

Acreage of historical setting _____

Quadrangle name Whaleyville, Maryland

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

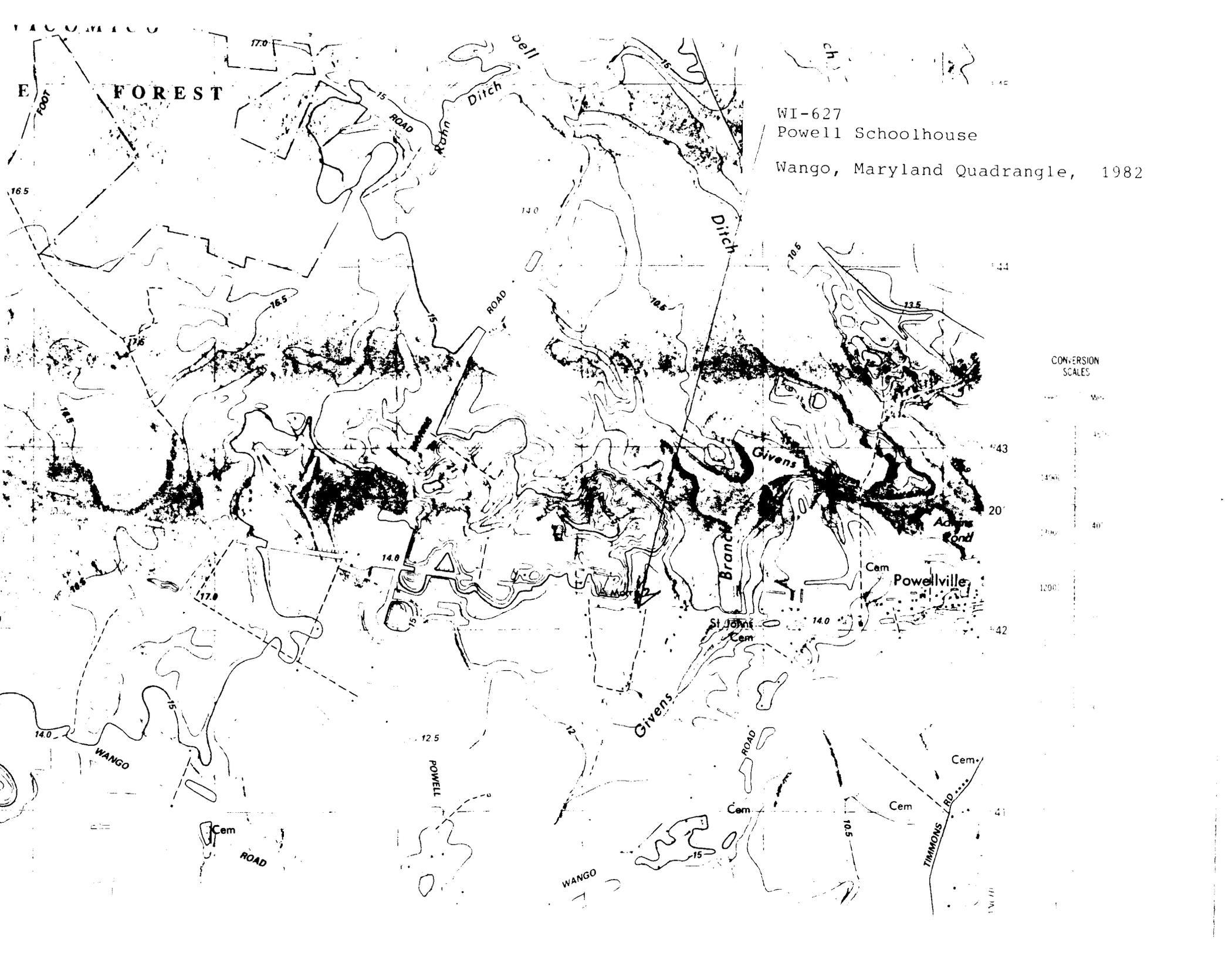
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart		
organization	Private Consultant	date	10/15/2001
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



WI-627
Powell Schoolhouse
Wango, Maryland Quadrangle, 1982

CONVERSION
SCALES



ch

FOREST

165

170

ROAD

Ditch

Ditch

140

Ditch

105

135

175

165

ROAD

105

44

Givens

43

Adams
Rondl

20

Powellville

42

St. John's
Cem

140

140

170

185

15

140

WANGO

125

POWELL

Givens

WANGO

15

ROAD

105

Cem

TIMMONS
RD

Cem

Cem

ROAD

41

170



W1-627

Power Schoolhouse

POWERSVILLE vic., Wilkes Co., N.C.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

10/01, Paul Turner, photo negative

W. J. and Historical Society

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WI-627

POWER. SCHOOLHOUSE

POWERSVILLE vic., Wicomico Co., MD

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

(V/01), PAUL TOWERS, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL TRUST

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