

28/11342

28/11342
61594

23A2

Capsule Summary
for
Norbeck Colored School

June 1991

Mont. Co. survey prefix :
Site number :
Approx. building date : 1927
Town/town vicinity : Norbeck
Access : Public Private

Short Description of Site:

The Norbeck Colored School, now used as a community center, is a one-story building located on the north side of Muncaster Mill Road near the intersection of Muncaster Mill and Norbeck roads. While the building has retained its original form, it has been heavily altered. It is historically significant because it is one of the few remaining examples in the county of a group of schools erected in the 1920s with money from the Rosenwald Fund to provide improved educational facilities for black children.

Analysis of Evaluation
for
Norbeck Colored School

June 1991

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Value Descr. | | | |
| Outstanding | | | |
| Considerable | | | ✓ |
| Moderate | | | |
| Minor | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Evaluation Criteria | Arch. Signif. | Arch. Integrity | Historical Signif. |

| |
|---|
| Procedure: |
| Rating = $\frac{\# \text{ of Boxes Selected}}{12} \times 100$ |
| 0 - 25 % = Unqualified |
| 25 - 50 % = Minimal |
| 50 - 75 % = Mid-level |
| 75 - 100% = Good |
| 90 - 100% = Natl. Reg. (with possible exceptions) |

Rating for this site: Minimal

Criteria:

Arch. Significance - that quality which embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose component may lack individual distinction.

Historical Significance - that quality present in sites associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history.

Arch. Integrity - determined by the number of architectural changes to the site...using the following list as a guide...(and) noting other unusual changes.

Detrimental Changes (depending on the quality of its original character):

- ___ new or relocated chimney
- ___ rebuilt foundation
- ___ new porch
- ___ original windows changed (at a later, but still historical, date)
- ___ modern windows in original frames
- ___ original windows intact but extra ones added
- ___ change in shape or size of window openings
- ___ lack of outbuildings
- ___ aluminum siding (unless original architraves and trim are retained)
- ___ asphalt or asbestos siding (over original siding)
- ___ recent change of location

Critical Changes:

- ___ aluminum siding added; architraves eliminated
- ___ additions engulfing or removing portions of original building

Value Descriptions

Outstanding - distinguished; of particular import. to Md. historic & arch. past.

Considerable - deserving of recognition; contributes to the understanding of history or architectural heritage represented in Maryland

Moderate - commonality...lack of historic signif. or arch. style, except if scarce

Minor - unimportant or inferior; little arch. worth and absence of hist. importance

Site Information Summary
for
Norbeck Colored School

June 1991

Site number :
Co. tax account number :
Street address : 4101 Muncaster Mill Road
Name of property owner : Montgomery County Board of Education
Addr. of property owner : 850 Hungerford Road
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Historic Preservation Master Plan Recommendation:

Historic Preservation Ordinance Criteria

(1) *Historical and cultural significance.* The historic resource:

- a. Has character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the county, state or nation;
- b. Is the site of a significant historic event;
- c. Is identified with a person or group of persons who influenced society;
- d. Exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, political or historic heritage of the county and its communities.

(2) *Architectural and design significance.* The historic resource:

- a. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction;
- b. Represents the work of a master;
- c. Possesses high artistic values;
- d. Represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- e. Represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or county due to its singular physical characteristic or landscape.

Environmental Setting Recommendation:

Entire parcel.

Survey No. 23/113

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Norbeck Colored School

and/or common Norbeck Recreation Center

2. Location

street & number 4101 Muncaster Mill Road not for publicationcity, town Norbeck vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other Community |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all ^{Center} owners)

name Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission

street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone no.: (301) 495-4600

city, town Silver Spring state and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber EBP 18

street & number folio 433

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Montgomery County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission

city, town 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. _____

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <input checked="" 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 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.

Significance: This building has been heavily altered. The existing windows are smaller than the original and rectangular in shape, replacing the square ribbon windows with many lights that existed in the original school (cf. attached photograph, "Norbeck Colored School Before Exterior Alterations"). The windows have no architraves and are covered with modern metal grilles. Porches have been replaced with modern materials and handicapped ramps. Earlier German siding has been replaced with modern wood stained siding. The building has retained its original form, however.

Description: The Norbeck school building is a one-story side-gabled ten-bay by two-bay structure which faces southeast; it is located on the north side of Muncaster Mill Road near the intersection of Muncaster Mill and Norbeck Roads. Two doors on the southeast elevation have small gabled hoods; they both lead to a classroom containing three windows. A chimney through the roof and two windows are located in the center of the building. Two small windows are centered on the gable end of the building facing the street, the southwest elevation. The foundation of the building is brick.

The windows and doors have been replaced, and the windows covered with metal grilles. New stained wood siding covers the building and any architraves which may have existed at the windows. Original shed hoods over the doors have been replaced, and new treated-lumber porches and handicapped access ramps have been added. The asphalted driveway covers whatever yard may have existed.

Researcher: Susan Escherich, May 24, 1991

8. Significance

Survey No. _____

| 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates 1927 **Builder/Architect** Community built/none

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 Norbeck Colored School is significant because it is one of eight remaining schools out of a group of 15 that were erected in the late 1920s with the aid of philanthropic funds; it is an early black elementary school which served both as a church and school for the nineteenth century black community of Mount Pleasant; it was one of the first structures to serve the black community as a neighborhood facility when it ceased being a school in 1951; and it is representative of the period in the county's history when schools were segregated. As such, it is an important part of the county's black history.

"The Norbeck Colored School is located in Norbeck, Maryland, which, in the mid-nineteenth century, was an important rural crossroads community. Norbeck was actually composed of two separate but related communities: Mount Pleasant, a black residential settlement established by freed slaves on Muncaster Mill Road, and a white commercial settlement at the crossroads of two of the oldest roads in the county, Baltimore Road (now Route 28, Norbeck Road) and the Washington-Brookeville Turnpike (now Route 97, Georgia Avenue); both were major thoroughfares by the early nineteenth century. The community also extended along Norbeck and Bradford Roads, east of the crossroads. The black settlement was oriented around the Methodist Episcopal Church and school, the white around a post office, general store and blacksmith shop. While remnants of both communities still exist, the environment in which they developed has changed from rural to suburban.

"Mount Pleasant was founded by the freed slaves of A.B. Wadsworth, an area farmer, around 1862. The community was situated on Muncaster Mill Road on lots donated or sold to the former slaves by Wadsworth; Mount Pleasant church and the school (now a community center) were also built on donated land. Mount Pleasant became a distinct, yet integral, part of Norbeck, with most of its residents working on the surrounding farms.

(cont.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No.

Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.5 acres

Quadrangle name Kensington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| A | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| B | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| C | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| D | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| E | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

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|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| F | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| G | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| H | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the property are the lot lines which define parcel 923, north of Muncaster Mill Road, and which are boldly delineated on the accompanying tax map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| | | | |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|

| | | | |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lois Snyderman & Susan Escherich, Historic Preservation Consultants

organization _____ date June 1991

street & number 8804 Spring Valley Road telephone (301) 654-6423

city or town Chevy Chase state Maryland 20815

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Survey No. 23/113
Magi No.
DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Norbeck Colored School
and/or common Norbeck Recreation Center

2. Location

street & number 4101 Muncaster Mill Road ___ not for publication
city, town Norbeck ___ vicinity of congressional district 8
state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input 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 |
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name Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission
street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone no.: (301) 495-4600
city, town Silver Spring state and zip code Maryland

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courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber EBP 18
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city, town Rockville state Maryland

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date 1978 ___ federal state county ___ local
depository for survey records Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission
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7. Description

Survey No. _____

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved | date of move _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | | |

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Researcher: Susan Escherich, May 24, 1991

8. Significance

Survey No. _____

| 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History | | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | | | | |

| Specific dates | Builder/Architect | Community built/none |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1927 | | |
| check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D | | |
| and/or | | |
| Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G | | |
| Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local | | |

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

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(cont.)

"Allowing for some infill growth, Norbeck was fully developed by 1879. It remained rural and agrarian until the post-World War II era brought increased development to northern Montgomery County. Within the last 20 years, much of the farmland around Norbeck has been converted to residential use. The busy roads and housing developments which today mark the Norbeck area are in sharp contrast to the rural, agrarian environment which existed when the community was founded."¹

In 1872, A.B. Wadsworth sold 1/2 acre of land to the county school commissioners for \$5.00 for use as the site of a school for black children; the school was built in the same year.² Thus, Norbeck was one of the first communities in the county to have a publicly-supported school for black children after the passage of state legislation in 1872 authorizing the use of public funds for black education.

The first school building on the site (which was destroyed by fire in 1925, rebuilt, and then demolished to make way for the existing structure) was also used by the Mount Pleasant Church until 1890.³ As one author has noted

"The black school and the black church were the centers of community activities; they often shared the same building. The preacher and the teacher were the community leaders..."⁴

Prior to the passage of the landmark legislation of 1872 (which appropriated \$50,000 for black schools in the state, with approximately \$2,000 of that earmarked for Montgomery County) black education in Montgomery County was privately supported, with county Quakers taking a leading role in the movement. The Quakers held classes for black children and adults for some 50 years before the establishment of publicly-funded schools and were responsible for the establishment of the Sharp Street Industrial School in Sandy Spring, Maryland in the mid-nineteenth century.

The existing building dates from 1927, when funds were made available from the Julius Rosenwald Fund to improve black educational facilities in the county. The Montgomery County Board of Education's report for December, 1928 noted that

"...in the recent building program, new, modern type buildings for colored children have been erected with the aid of the Rosenwald Fund and contributions from communities..."⁵

¹ Eileen McGuckian, Maryland Historical Trust, "State Historic Sites Inventory Form", 1977

² Montgomery County Land Records, EBP 18/433.

³ Nina Clarke and Lillian Brown, History of the Black Public Schools of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1872-1961. (New York: Vantage Press, 1978) p.183.

⁴ Richard MacMaster, A Grateful Remembrance, p.246.

⁵ Clarke and Brown, p.44.

The Fund was instrumental in improving the lives of blacks in the early decades of the twentieth century:

"The Rosenwald Fund was a sum of money set aside to improve the opportunities of black people in America. It was created by Julius Rosenwald, an American merchant and philanthropist. The fund contributed to construction of more than 5,000 schools for black children which included 217 teacher's homes and 163 shops for vocational training. This fund contributed \$4,364,869, the black people gave \$4,725,871 in cash, labor, and materials to build these buildings in 15 southern states. The fund also contributed to public health, higher education, research, and school libraries for blacks."⁶

Included in the list of 15 new one- and two-room schools built with Rosenwald Fund money was a two-room frame structure in Norbeck, the existing building on Muncaster Mill Road.

For several years after the school opened, there was only one teacher; one room was used for grades 1-6 and the other served as a coat closet and storeroom for wood. The building was located on a small tract with very little play room. A former teacher at the school remembered that:

"There were no inside facilities, water, or central heat. We had free books but never any new ones. These books were dirty, ragged, marked in, and often had pages missing. I don't think the teacher had anything to do with ordering supplies. As I remember, they used whatever was sent. In the new school there were two teachers. Grades began with first and continued through seventh."⁷

The Norbeck Colored School at one time housed as many as 85 students in grades one through seven. Closed in August, 1951, (three years before court-ordered school integration) the building was transferred to the county government in August, 1954 for use as a community recreation center.

- 1. Historic Period Theme(s): Social/Educational/Cultural
- 2. Geographic Organization: Piedmont (Montgomery County)
- 3. Development Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance
1870-1930 A.D.
- 4. Resource Type(s): School

⁶ Clarke and Brown, p. 43.

⁷ Clarke and Brown, p. 166.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. _____

Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.5 acres

Quadrangle name Kensington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the property are the lot lines which define parcel 923, north of Muncaster Mill Road, and which are boldly delineated on the accompanying tax map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lois Snyderman & Susan Escherich, Historic Preservation Consultants

organization _____ date June 1991

street & number 8804 Spring Valley Road telephone (301) 654-6423

city or town Chevy Chase state Maryland 20815

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

#9. Major Biographical References

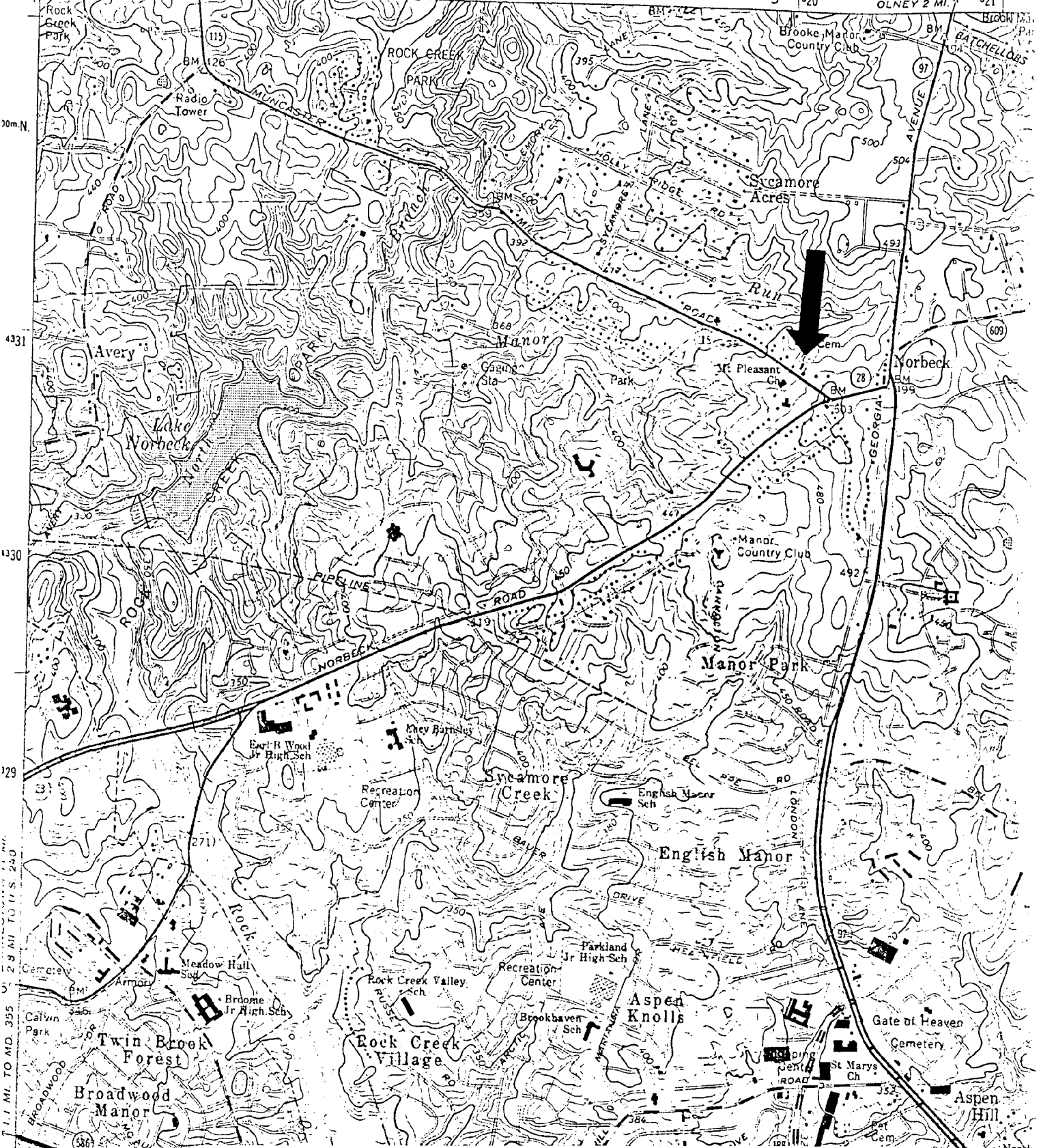
Norbeck Colored School


Clarke, Nina H. and Brown, Lillian B., History of the Black Public Schools of Montgomery County, Maryland 1872-1961. New York: Vantage Press, 1978.

MacMaster, Richard and Hiebert, Ray Eldon, A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

McGuckian, Eileen, Maryland Historical Trust Survey Form for Norbeck, 1977.

Montgomery County, Maryland, Land Records.



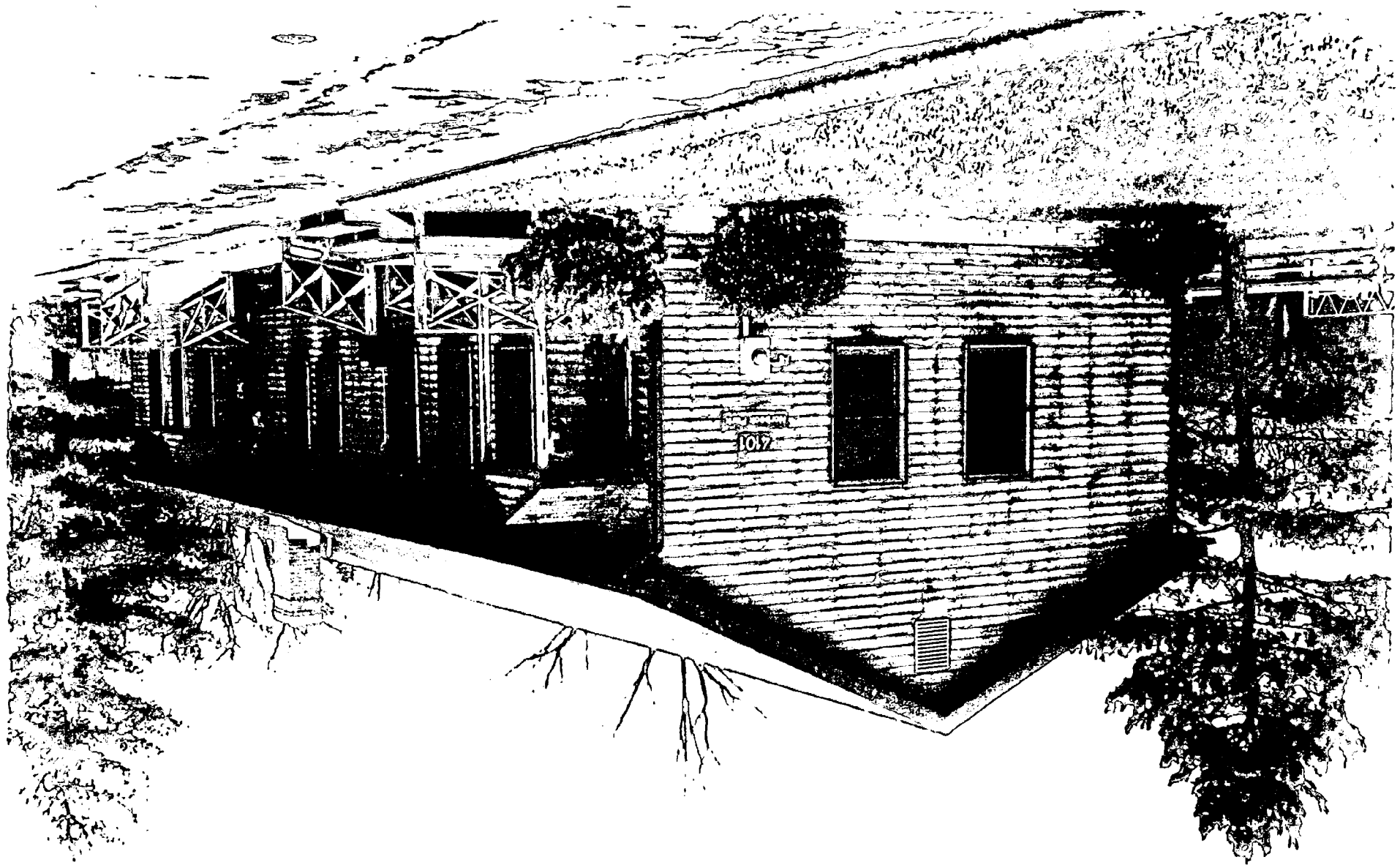
NORBECK COLORED SCHOOL 

Norbeck
Montgomery County

USGS Map
7.5 Minute Topographic Series (1:24,000)
Kensington Quadrangle

Rockville
Rockland
Twin Brook
Broadwood Manor
Twin Brook
Rockerest Park
Green Wood Knolls

Gate of Heaven
Cemetery
St Marys Ch
Aspen Hill
North Ch





Norbeck Colored School

MEMO



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

August 15, 1991

TO: Gwen Marcus, Historic Preservation Planner

VIA: Carl Hahn, Chief, Natural Resources Division *CH*
Ken Ernst, Manager, Natural & Historic Resources

FROM: Mike Dwyer *MD*, Park Historian

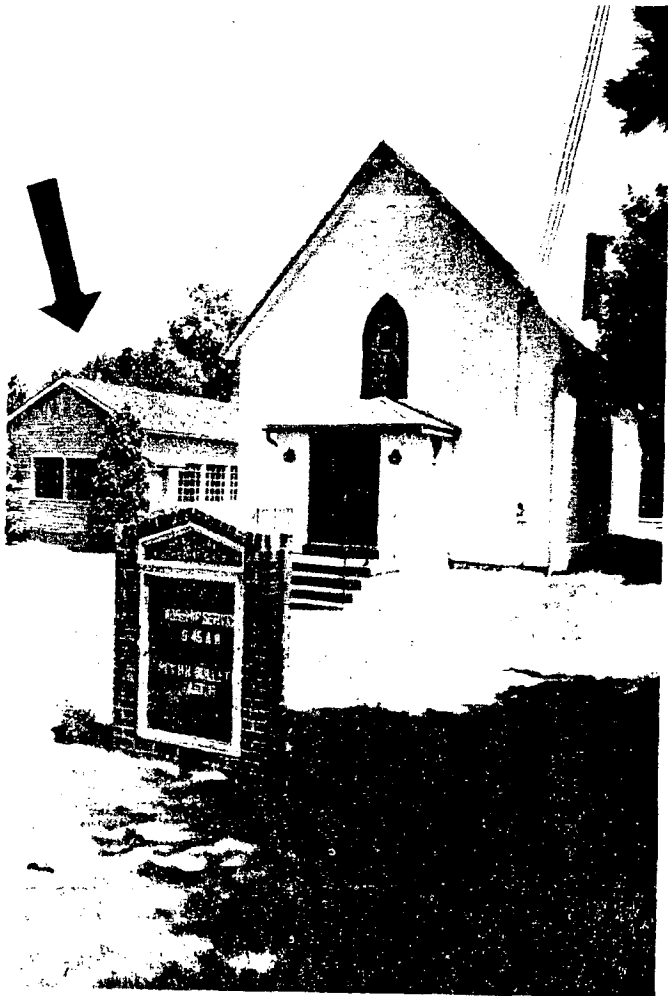
SUBJECT: Historic Park Properties in Aspen Hill Planning Area

In response to your request for comments regarding historic park resources in the Aspen Hill vicinity, my recommendations are as follows:

1. Veirs Mill Site - No physical evidence of this structure remains save for a portion of a cut on the north side of Veirs Mill Road that was apparently utilized for a head race. Our intent in including this site for the Atlas was to identify it as a good location for a historic marker.
2. Norbeck (Mt. Pleasant) Black School - An early 20th Century replacement for several previous 19th Century structures. Used as a community recreation center since desegregation and "modernized" at the request of the community a number of years ago.
3. Rock Creek Hiker/Biker Trail Bridge and
4. Pedestrian Bridge at Dewey Road - These are simple pre-fabricated truss bridges installed by the Department of Parks within the very recent past. As any such structure nominated to the Master Plan should have some engineering significance, I would hate to see the designation process trivialized by their inclusion. (A much better choice would be the old stone bridges on Beach Drive reportedly built by the C.C.C. in the 1930's)

While we normally welcome the recognition of our resources, I think that the Norbeck School is probably the only one of the four that merits designation and then only when grouped with the adjacent church and cemetery.

Norbeck Colored School Before Exterior Alterations



Current view of the
Mt. Pleasant United
Methodist Church
as it sits on the
original site.

From: Everett L. Fly
& La Barbara W. Fly,
"Northeastern Mont-
gomery County Black
Oral History Study"
(Entourage, Inc. 1983)
p. 100-106.



Norbeck Colored School

Mont Co MD

by L. Snyderman 6/91

Neg - Mont Co. Hist. Pres. Comm.

School - NW elev.



Norbeck Colored School

Mont Co MD

by L. Snyderman 6/91

Neg - Mont Co Hist Pres Comm.

School - Main (SE) elevation



Norbeck Colored School

Mont Co MD

by L. Snyderman 6/91

Neg - Mont Co. Hist Pres. Comm

Setting - looking E