

AA-914

Old Galesville Elementary School, (Galesville Community Center)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 06-11-2004

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property/District Name: Galesville Community Center Survey Number: AA-914

Project: CDBG Agency: ACDS

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Galesville Community Center, located in Galesville, Anne Arundel County, MD, was built as an elementary school for African American children in 1929 and expanded in 1931. The school was one of fifteen schools in the county built with money provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund and known as "Rosenwald" schools; six of these fifteen schools survive. The Galesville School is eligible for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places, under Criterion C, as a good example of a Rosenwald School.

Built in 1929, the Galesville Community Center was constructed as an African American school with funds provided by Julius Rosenwald. Rosenwald, President of Sears, Roebuck Company from 1909 to 1924, was the benefactor of many social causes, one being equality of blacks in the South. The Julius Rosenwald Fund was responsible for the construction of 5,357 black schools in the South by 1932. Rosenwald school designs represented state-of-the-art school building construction provided by the foundation and published in a booklet entitled, Community School Plans. The Galesville school was built as a one-room school in 1929; in 1931 a second classroom addition was made to the original school building. The building is constructed of wood frame and features large and long 6/1 windows grouped in pairs.

The Galesville Community Center survives as a good representative example of a "Rosenwald" school and is one of six such schools that survive in Anne Arundel County. The building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Review and Compliance Files

Prepared by: Donna Ware

To Ellen Freese and Kim Williams July 13, 1995
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable

Oliver B. Redout v rec'd. Feb 8, 1996; reviewed Feb. 13, 1996.

Copy

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

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

Known Design Source: _____

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic OLD GALESVILLE ELEMENTARY

and/or common GALESVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER (since 1957)

2. Location

street & number 916 West Benning Road not for publication

city, town Galesville vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Anne Arundel

3. Classification

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

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

name Galesville Community Center Organization, Inc.

street & number c/o Harriett Hull, Box 62 telephone no.: 798-1270

city, town Galesville state and zip code MD 20765

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County of Registry of Deeds liber 1186

street & number folio 469

city, town Annapolis state MD Also: Liber 3510/
Folio 882 (Quit-

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys Claim deed from Bd. of Ed. to A.A. Co.)

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD

7. Description

Survey No. AA-114

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History

Specific dates _____ **Builder/Architect** _____

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 earliest discovered reference to Galesville's "School House lot" is in an 1870 deed from the estate of George Gale to Samuel Stein of Baltimore. However, it is not clear for how long the "lot" had been thus designated, or when the first "School House" was built upon it.

Tracing the chain of title back to 1843 produces a deed from Wm.F.Stewart to Geo.B. Stewart (WLG 26/542 for 290 acres, part of which included the site of "the School House lot", but there is no mention of such a "lot" in the deed description.

In 1849 a deed from Geo.B.Stewart to George Gale (JHN 4/343) for 21-1/8 acres, also including the "School House lot" site, again makes no mention of such a "lot" being excepted from the transfer. It is not until 1870, when this 21-acre parcel is re-sold to Samuel Stein by Alexander Randall, Trustee for the estate of George Gale, that the deed refers to the School House lot: "...containing and laid out for Twenty one acres and one fourth of an Acre of land and exclusive of one acre of ground laid off for the School House lot." (SH 4/242) Further, it is not until 1878 that a "School House" actually appears on the map: the Hopkins Atlas of A.A.Co. not only identifies the location of the School but also outlines its shape as that of a "T".

Dorothy L. Dunham in her book Galesville, Maryland (p.59) claims there existed a one-room schoolhouse on the site as early as 1836, but she fails to list documentary evidence to support this claim. The 1860 Martenet Map of A.A.Co. shows no schoolhouse in Galesville.

My conclusion is that George Gale, who bought the land in question in 1849 and died in 1856, may have declared his intention to set aside this lot for a school before he died, but no school was actually built there until after 1860, or perhaps even after 1870 when the land was sold to Stein.

In 1889, the School House, which had been serving only white children since at least 1878, became the Galesville school for black children, and a new one-room school for whites was built on Church Lane.

In 1926 the old school burned. Between 1926 and 1931 black children attended school at the "hall" behind Chew's Chapel in Owensville, a three-mile hike from Galesville and four miles from Cumberstone. In 1929 the A.A.Co. Board of Education built a

(continued separate page)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AA- 914

A.A.County Board of Education files, 2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, Md.

Maps: Simon Martenet's Map, 1860; G.M.Hopkins Atlas, 1878.

Interviews: Harriett Hull (798-1270); William R. Woodfield (867-0595); Alma Strong (867-2148) Galesville, Maryland by D.L.Dunham, The Paper Mill, Severna Pk, Md. 1980.

10. Geographical Data

Discovering Our School Community by Grade V, 1952-3,
Galesville Elementary School, Novene O. Holt, Principal.

Acreege of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Deale 1957; photorevised 1970

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

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 S. Wetherill, Volunteer

organization Anne Arundel Co. Committee/MHT

date 5/86

street & number P.O. Box 1573

telephone _____

city or town Annapolis

state MD 21404

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

A new one-room school for blacks at the same site on W. Benning Road. The right (north) half of the present Galesville Community Center is the 1929 structure. The left (south) half was added in 1931 to create a 2nd classroom. In 1944, the school had 81 children enrolled in the first through eighth grades. The following year, the seventh and eighth graders began riding the bus to Bates High School in Annapolis, the only highschool for black children in Anne Arundel Co.

With integration in 1956, the "Galesville Colored Elementary School" was closed and its pupils were bussed to Shady Side until a larger joint school could be built in Galesville. In 1961 the Carrie Weedon School was completed. It operated until 1985 when it was closed due to declining enrollment.

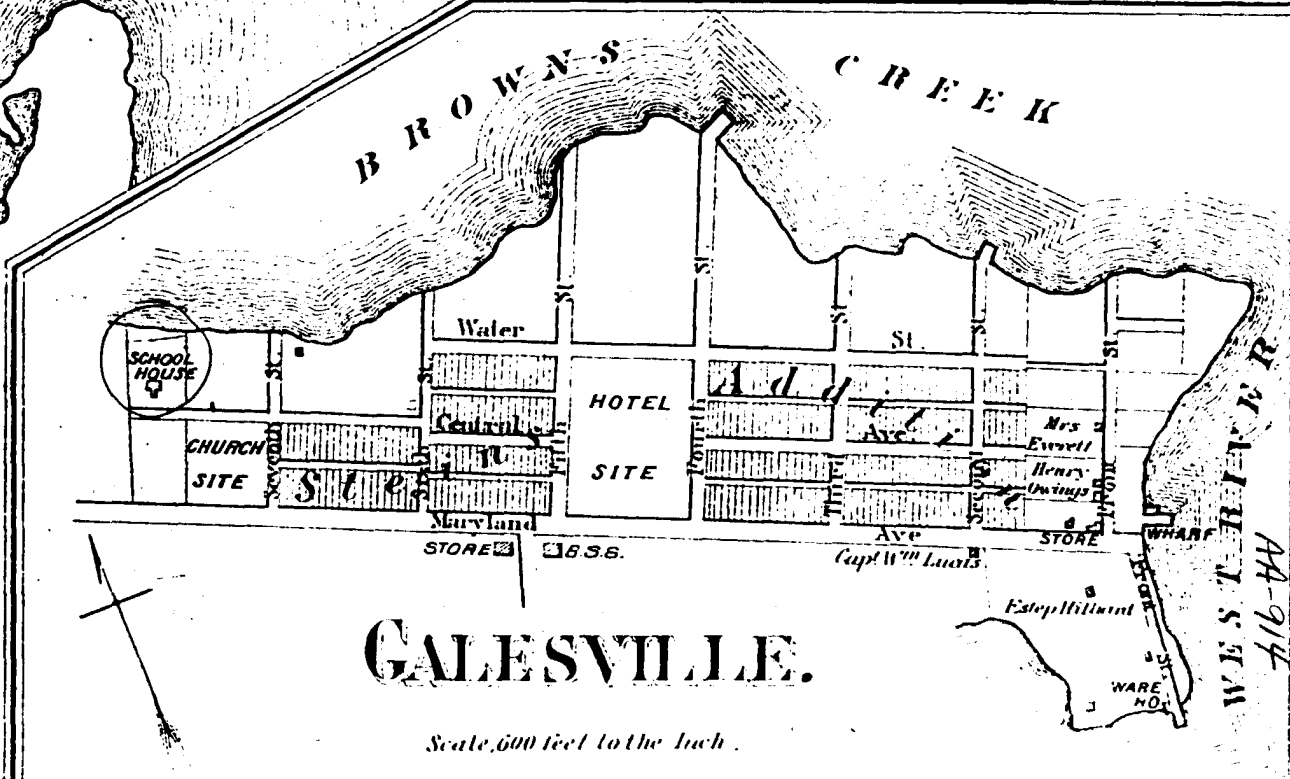
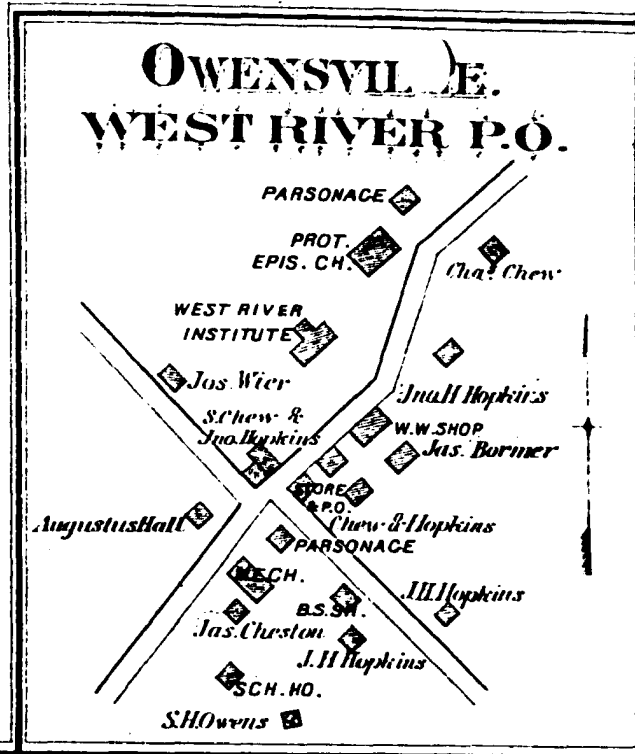
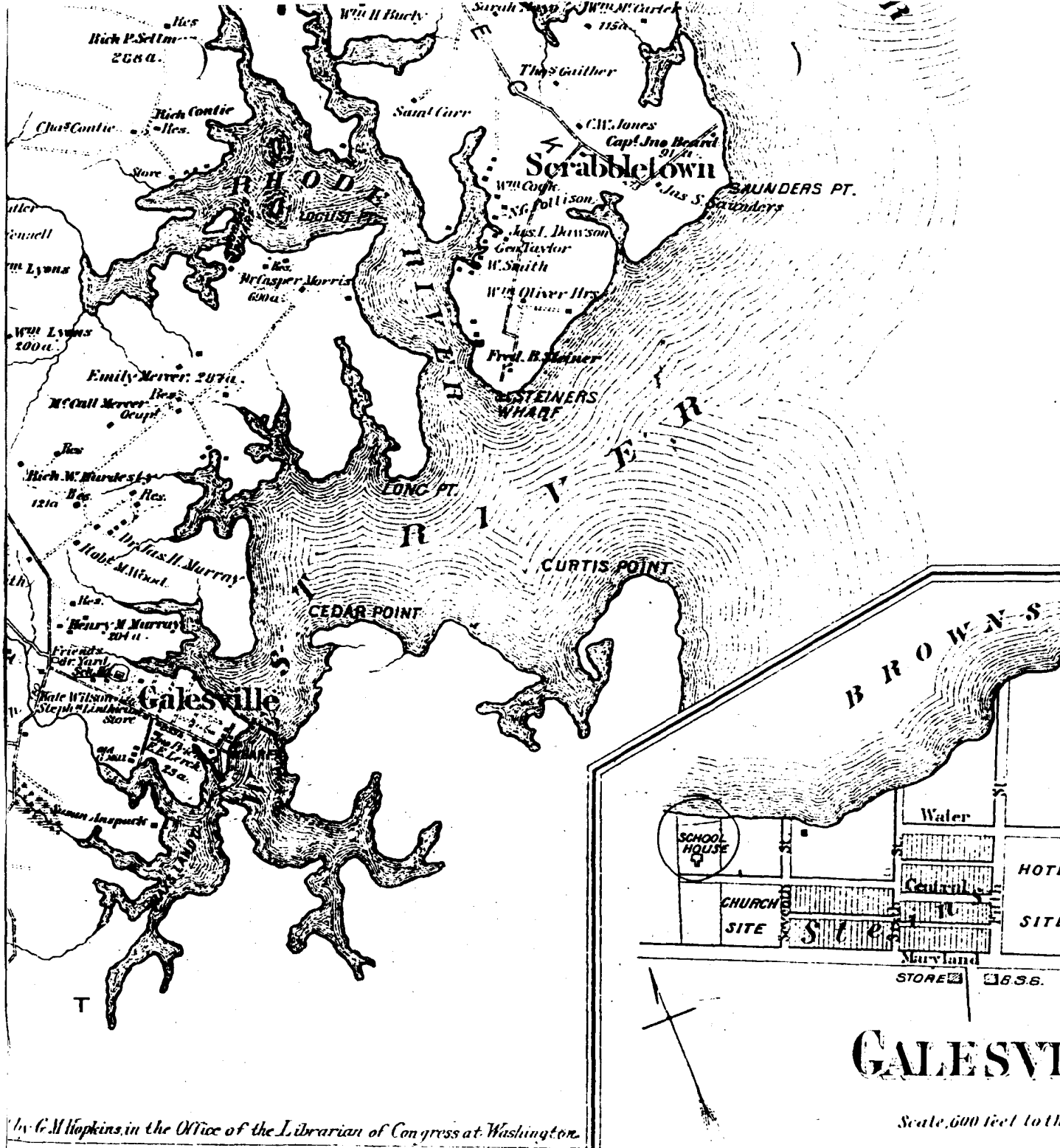
Meanwhile, in 1957, a group of black residents had formed a community association to save their old schoolhouse on W. Benning Road. Between 1957 and 1968 they staged annual fund-raising parades and "Miss Galesville" competitions for the purpose of buying and renovating the building.

In 1958 the School House was sold at auction to an out-of-county bidder. But Galesville businessman William Woodfield interceded for the black community and was granted a right of purchase by the Bd. of Education. He helped the Community Center Organization buy the building at a cost of \$1,000. (Liber 1186/Folio 469, Feb. 14, 1958)

Title to the land on which the old School House sits has never been perfectly clear. The County Bd. of Ed. has no record of ever acquiring the so-called "School House lot" referred to in Samuel Stein's 1870 deed. Furthermore, when the second classroom was added to the school in 1931, its construction spilled over the boundary line onto adjacent private property. So the Bd. of Ed. in 1937 purchased two additional parcels from the heirs of Samuel Stein to correct the mistake. In 1958, when the Board sold the School House to the Galesville Community Center Org. for \$1000, it could give a deed for only the 1931 portion of the building (the south classroom) and the land purchased in 1937 from Stein's heirs. It could not give clear title to the north end of the building which sat on the original "School House lot". This situation did not become a problem until 1980 when the County's Community Development Block Grant Office offered financial assistance to the Galesville Community Center Org. to construct a septic system and install indoor plumbing in the school building. When it became clear that the Community Org. did not own the land where the septic system was to be built, the Block Grant Office tried to persuade the Bd. Of Ed. to transfer its interest in "the School House lot" to the County by means of a quit claim deed. But Col. Smith, President of the Bd. of Ed., would not sign such a deed for lack of apparent title to the property. So, the offer of Block Grant money was withdrawn and the improvement plan for the Community Center was scrapped.

In 1982, in an unrelated procedure, under a new President, the Bd. of Ed.'s Planning and Construction Dept. included "Old Galesville Elementary" ("0.833 acre, date acquired: unknown, present use: none") in a list of surplus properties to be transferred to the ownership of the A.A.Co. Government. (Title 4, Section 114 of the Public School Laws of Md. requires the transfer of surplus school property to the local county government.) On August 4, 1982, five surplus properties were transferred by warranty deeds. "Old Galesville Elementary School, bounded by Galesville Community Org. Inc. on the south and Brown's Creek on the north" was transferred by quit claim deed (3510/882), including "the building and site".

Thus, as matters stand now, the Galesville Community Center Org. owns only half of the old School House. A.A. County owns the other half by virtue of a quit claim deed, adverse possession rights, and historical use of the property.



In G.M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.

Scale 600 feet to the Inch.

Inset from G.M. Hopkins Atlas of A.A.Co., Md., First Election District, 1878.

Survey No. AA-914



Deale, Md.
 USGS 7.5 minute Series
 Scale 1:24,000
 1957; photorevised 1970

AA-914
 GALESVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
 916 W. BENNING ROAD
 GALESVILLE



~~ROLL # 5~~

~~FRAME 20 or 20-A~~

AA-914

Galesville Community Center

AA Co., Md.

S. Wetherill, 2/85

West Corner



MARCH 1985

AA-914

GALESVILLE COMMUNITY CTR.

AA. COUNTY

S. Wetherill

SE Facade, detail



~~ROLL # 1~~

~~FRAME 12~~

March 1985

AA-914

Galesville Community Ctr.

AA Co. Md

S. Wetherill

South Corner



AA-914

Galesville Community Ctr.

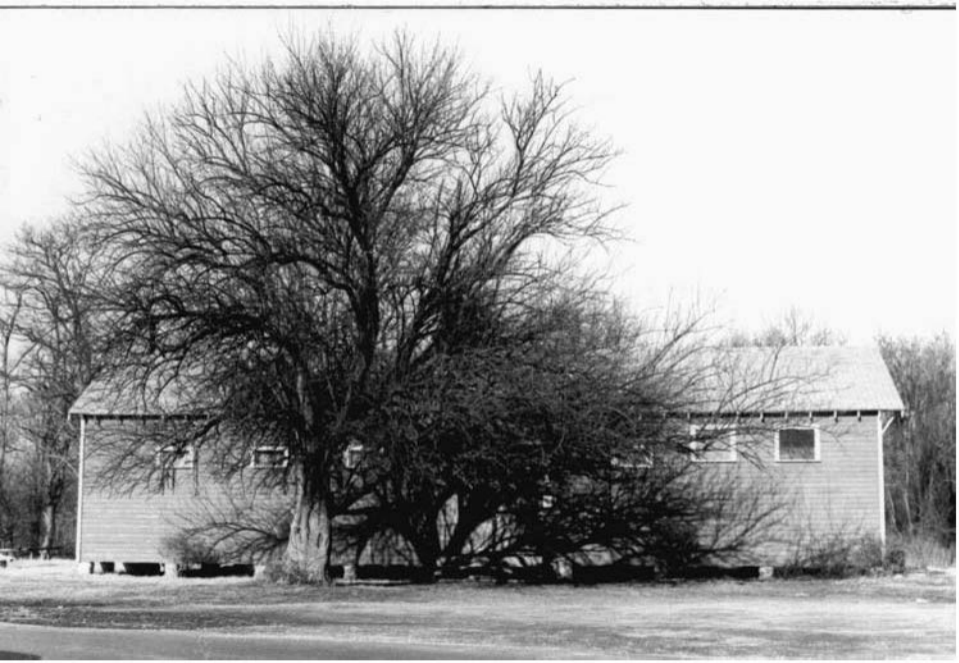
A.A. Co. Md.

S. Wetherill, 2/85

East Corner

~~ROLL #6~~

~~FRAME 27~~



AA-914

Galesville Community Ctr.

AA Co. Md

S. Wetherill, 2/85

SE Facade

~~ROLL # 6~~

~~FRAME 30~~



AA-914

A.A. Co Md.

S. Wetherill

2/1985

PRIVIES FOR GALESVILLE ~~RECREATION~~ CTR.
COMMUNITY

located North of Community Ctr. building

~~ROLL # 6~~

~~FRAME 28~~



AA-914

Galesville Community Ctr.

(Formerly Galesville Colored Elemen. Sch.

A.A. Co. Md.

~~AA~~

Dec. 1957 Xmas Party

(Bldg. closed as a school - 1956.

Not purchased as a Community
ctr. until 2/1958.)

Interior, SW end wall.

(Copy photo: Courtesy Harriett Hull)



~~#3~~

First Car in First Annual Parade (Aug 1957)
to raise money to purchase + renovate old school
seen in background. (SW elevation)

Howard and Mary Sellman seated on car
↑
President of Community Chr. Org.

AA-914 Galesville Community Center, A.A. Co. Md.

Copy photo: Courtesy Harriett Hull