CH-391

Old Waldorf School, (Waldorf Elementary School)

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.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 12-18-2012

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___ no ___

Property Name: Old Waldorf School Inventory Number: CH-391

Address: 3070 Crain Highway City: Waldorf Zip Code: 20601

County: Charles USGS Topographic Map: Piscataway, MD Quad

Owner: County Commission of Charles County Is the property being evaluated a district? ____yes

Tax Parcel Number: 554 Tax Map Number: 8 Tax Account ID Number: 066542

Project: Waldorf Industrial Park Em. Tower –Chas.Co. Govt. Agency: FCC

Site visit by MHT Staff: ____no ___yes Name: _____ Date: _____

Is the property located within a historic district? ____yes X___no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: _____

NR-listed district ____yes Eligible district ____yes District Name: _____

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ___yes ___no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ____

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible X___yes ____no

Criteria: X A ___ B X C ___ D Considerations: ____A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Old Waldorf School is located on a small, unnamed access road, parallel to and east of Route 301. Currently, the school is situated on a lot that faces the Charles County Jaycees Community Center and is west of an office complex. Built as an elementary school, the facility opened in 1930. In 1950 a one-story masonry addition was constructed along the west end of the building. The designer is thought to be a man by the name of Mr. Kea. The contractors are documented as a local firm known as Grabis and Kilhoffer. The school continued to serve the region as such through the mid- 1970's; when it was converted for use as the County's "adult education center." The building was vacated in 1985. The building was threatened with demolition in 1994. At that time citizens formed the Friends of Old Waldorf School (FOWS) and actively worked to fundraise, organize, preserve and maintain original architectural features.

The site is significant for educational purposes and in highlighting the "distinct shift in the social and economic development of the village of Waldorf."(MIHP Form). There is substantial original building fabric intact. While additions and modifications have occurred to the property over the years, they represent distinct periods of development and have not unduly compromised the integrity of the original portions of the property.

Prepared by: Kate Mahood, Architectural Historian Date Prepared: 6/11/03

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

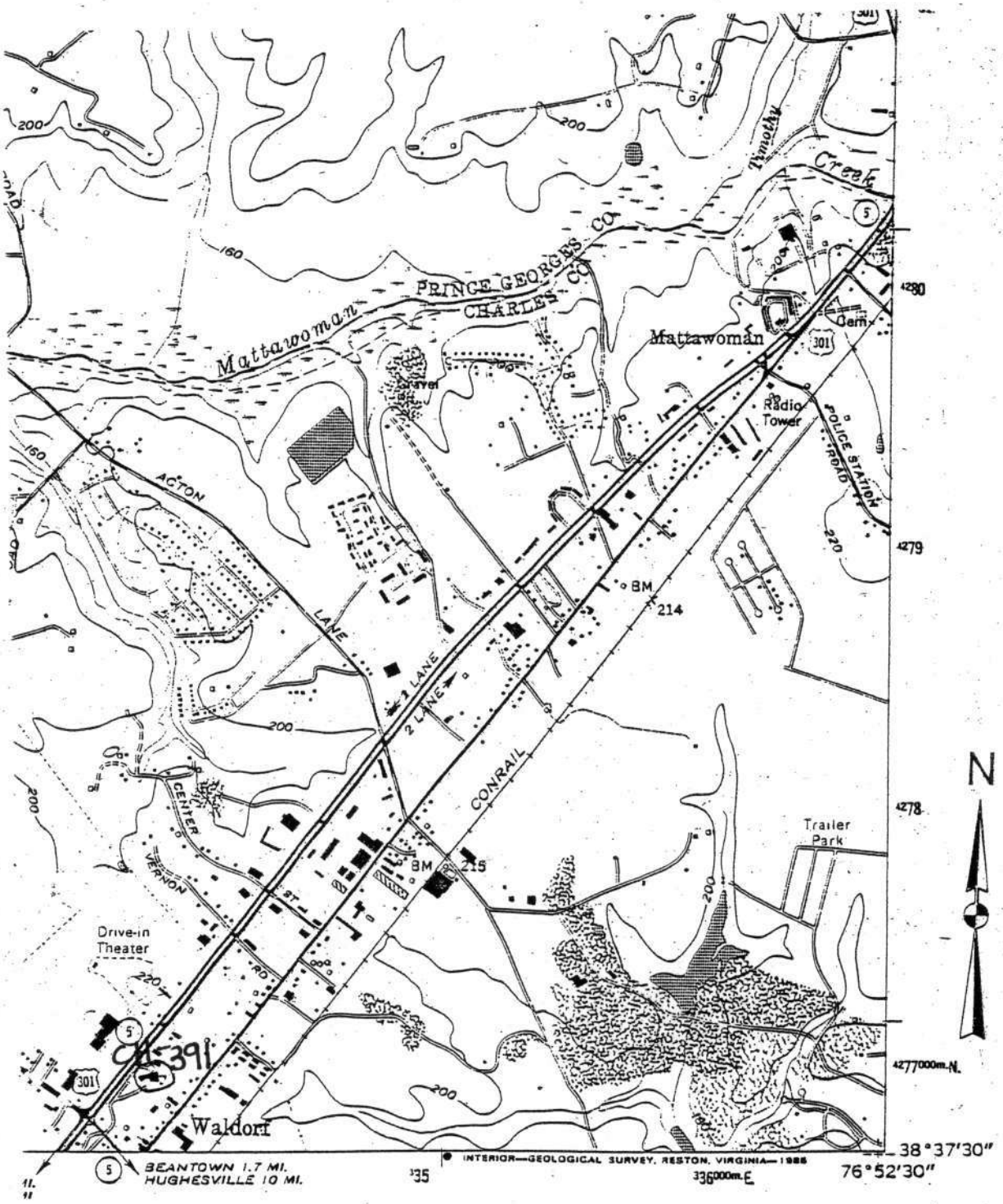
Eligibility recommended X **Eligibility not recommended** _____

Criteria: X **A** ___ **B** ___ **C** ___ **D** **Considerations:** ___ **A** ___ **B** ___ **C** ___ **D** ___ **E** ___ **F** ___ **G** ___ **None**

Comments: _____

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services — Date 7/17/03

Reviewer, NR Program — Date 7/21/03



MAHOOD AND ASSOCIATES, LLC
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY ♦ HISTORIC PRESERVATION ♦ ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

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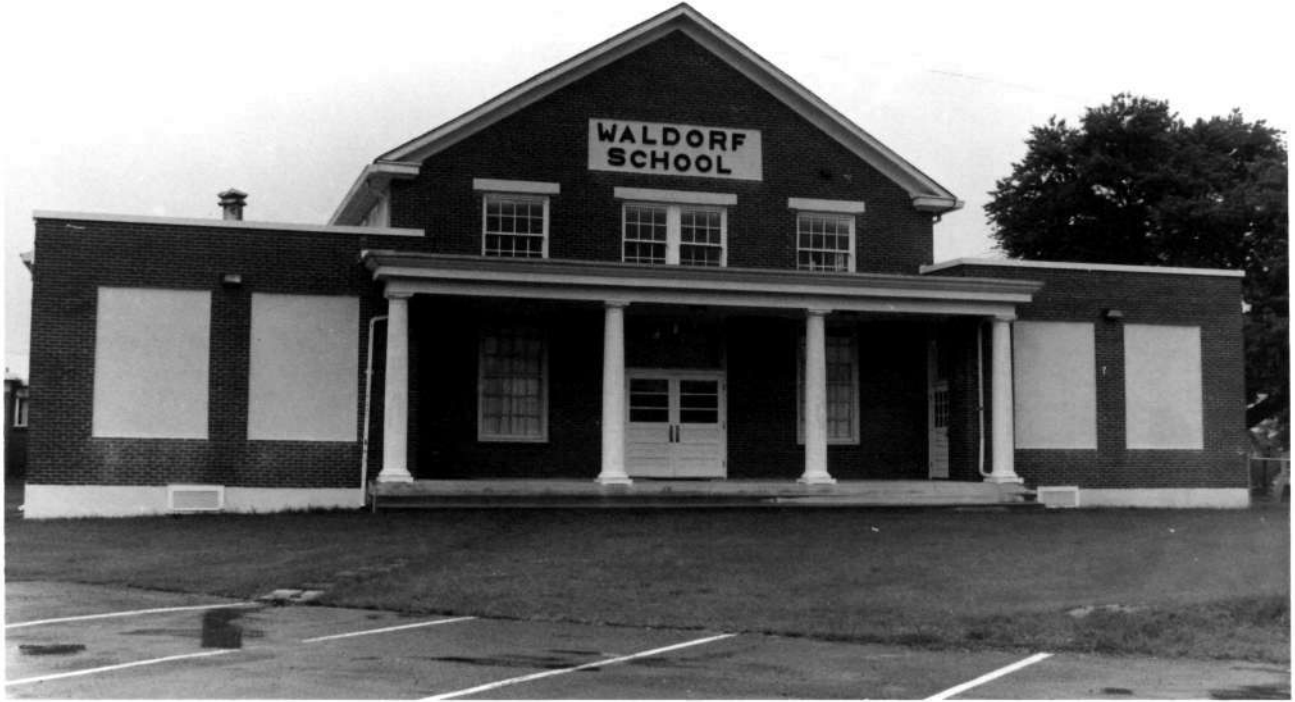
410-266-5608 (P) 410-266-5570 (F)
KATE@MAHOODASSOCIATES.COM

CH-391
OLD WALDORF SCHOOL

Scale: N.T.S.
Date: 7/8/03
Design By:
Source: USGS BRANDYWINE LAPLATA HUGHESVILLE, & PISCATAWAY QUADRANT
Job No.:


WALDORF
SCHOOL

WALDORF SCHOOL
WALDORF, MD
CHAS. COUNTY

CH-391

KATE MAHOOD
05-30-03

MD SHPO
VIEW LOOKING WEST
Photograph #1 of 2



WALDORF SCHOOL
WALDORF, MD
CHAS. COUNTY

CH-391

KATE MAHOOD
05-30-03

MD SHPO
VIEW LOOKING SOUTH
Photograph # 2 of 2

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST ADDENDUM SHEET
U.S. 301 SOUTH CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Property Name: Old Waldorf School
Survey No.: CH-391

Property Address 3070 Crain Highway, Waldorf, Charles County
Owner Name/Address County Commissioners of Charles County, P.O. Box B, La Plata MD 20646-0167
Year Built 1930, 1950

Description:

The Old Waldorf School was previously surveyed by the Friends of Old Waldorf School Foundation in 1996. Since the time of the previous survey, the property is unchanged.

National Register Evaluation:

The Old Waldorf School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The property is eligible under Criterion A because it represents the growth of Waldorf specifically and southern Maryland in general following the opening of Crain Highway in 1927. The building was later expanded in response to the population boom of the post-World War II period. The Old Waldorf School reflects expansions of the Charles County School System during these time periods. The property is not eligible under Criterion B, as historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history. The property is eligible under Criterion C as a vernacular interpretation of traditional educational and public architecture. Typical of vernacular designs, the 1930 block utilizes recognizable elements of educational and public architecture, such as the front-gable shape and the portico, to convey its function to the community. Although windows have been boarded and partitions constructed, most of the original design beneath remains intact. The 1950 block combines concrete structure, brick veneer, glass and glass block into an orderly, gridded pattern. The property retains its integrity of location, design, materials and workmanship.

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The National Register boundary for the Old Waldorf School corresponds to the boundary defined for Charles County Tax Map 8, Parcel 554. The Parcel is bounded on the northwest by Crain Highway (U.S. 301), on the southeast by an alley, and on the northeast and southwest by adjacent parcels. The boundary encompasses (2.99 acres) and includes the 1930 school and 1950 addition. All resources are contributing. The boundary represents the land acquired by the School Board for the Waldorf School over the years.

MHT CONCURRENCE:
Eligibility X recommended _____ not recommended
Criteria X A ___B ___C ___D **Considerations** ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None
Comments:

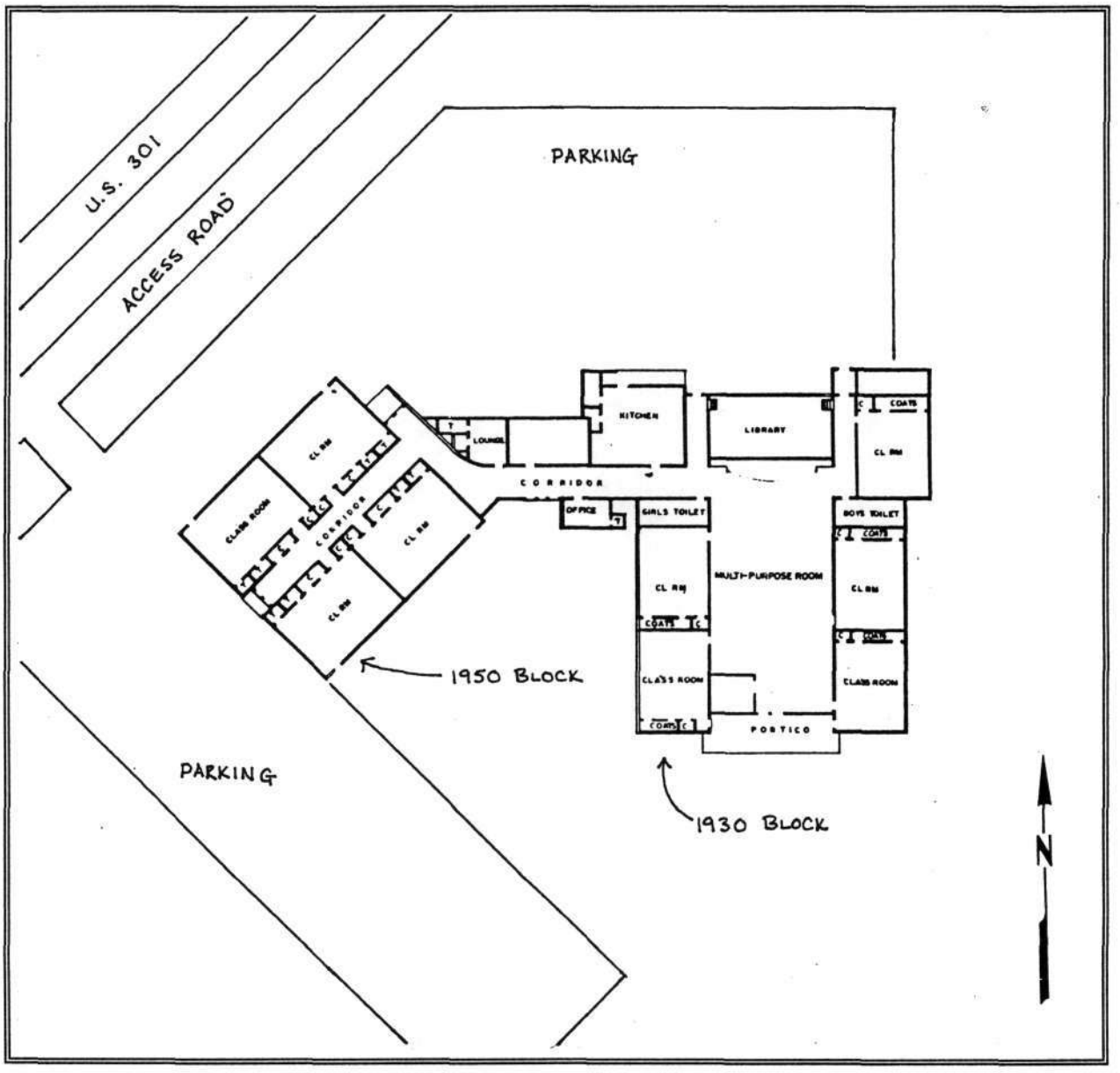
11/2/99

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services / Date Reviewer, NR program Date

Preparer:
P.A.C. Spero & Company
January 1999

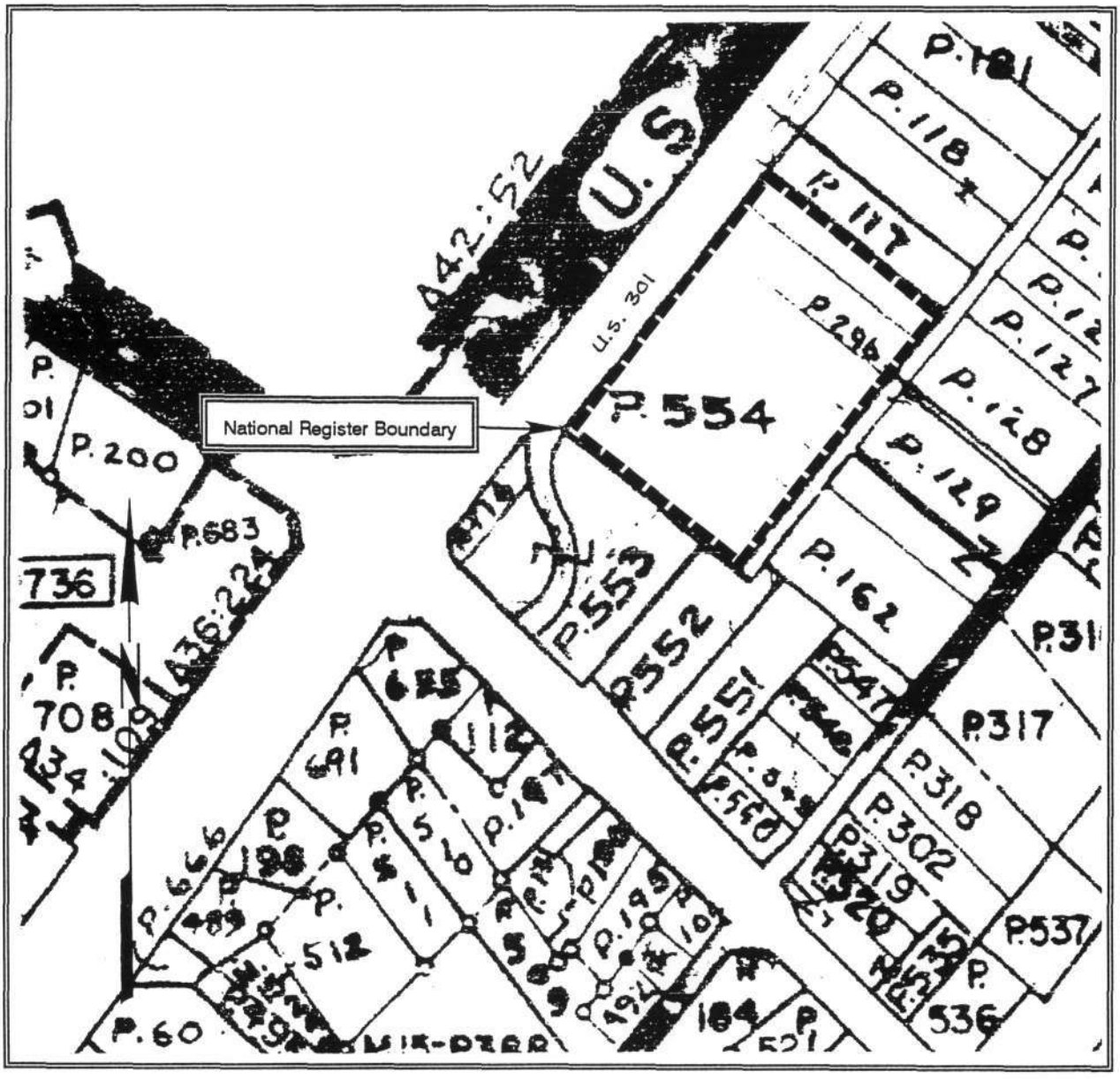
Property Address 3070 Crain Highway, Waldorf, Charles County
Owner Name/Address County Commissioners of Charles County, P.O. Box B, La Plata MD 20646-0167
Year Built 1930, 1950

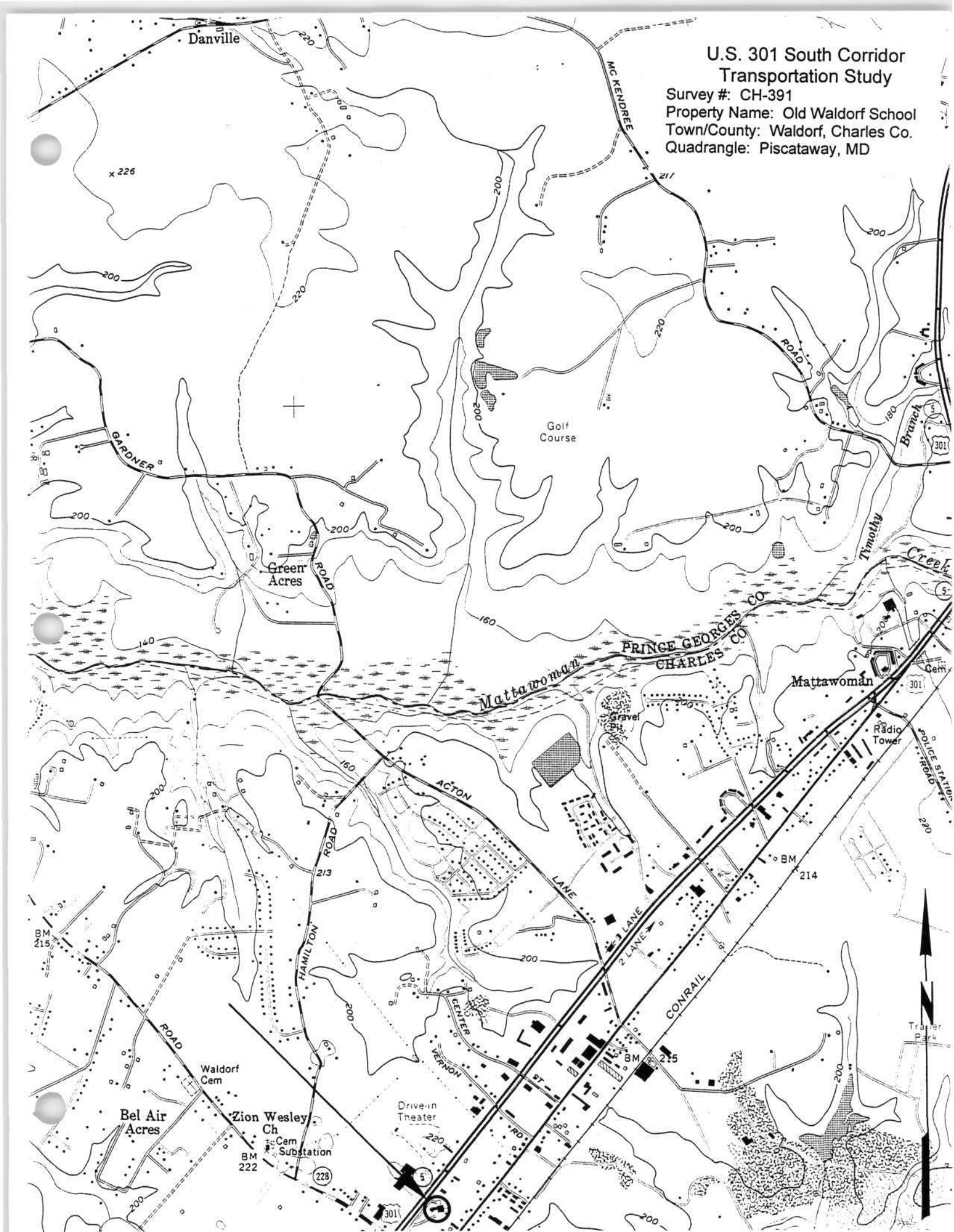
Resource Sketch Map: (from Charles County Board of Education Facilities Department)



Property Address 3070 Crain Highway, Waldorf, Charles County
Owner Name/Address County Commissioners of Charles County, P.O. Box B, La Plata MD 20646-0167
Year Built 1930, 1950

National Register Boundary Map:




U.S. 301 South Corridor
Transportation Study
Survey #: CH-391
Property Name: Old Waldorf School
Town/County: Waldorf, Charles Co.
Quadrangle: Piscataway, MD
Danville
MC KENDREE
ROAD
GARDNER
ROAD
Golf
Course
Green
Acres
ROAD
Timothy
Creek
PRINCE GEORGES CO
CHARLES CO
Mattawoman
Mattawoman
Gravel
Pit
Radio
Tower
POLICE STATION
ROAD
ACTON
LANE
HAMILTON
ROAD
BM
214
BM
215
3 LANE
2 LANE
CONRAIL
CENTER
VERNON
ST
RD
BM
215
Trailer
Park
ROAD
Waldorf
Cem
Bel Air
Acres
Zion Wesley
Ch
Cem
Substation
BM
222
Drive-in
Theater
301
228
5
N


WALDORF
SCHOOL

1) CH-391

2) Old Waldorf School, 1930 Block

3) Charles Co, MD

4) Julie Darsie

5) 1-99

6) MDSHPO

7) South elevation - View N

8) 1 of 5


WALDORF
SCHOOL

1) CH-391

2) Old Waldorf School, 1930 & 1950 Blocks

3) Charles Co, MD

4) Julie Darsie

5) 1-99

6) MD SHPO

7) SW corner - view NE

8) 2 of 5



1) CH-391

2) Old Waldorf School, 1950 Block

3) Charles Co, MD

4) Julie Darsie

5) 1-99

6) MOSHPO

7) NW elevation - view SE

8) 3 of 5



1) CH-391

2) Old Waldorf School, 1930 & 1950 Blocks

3) Charles Co, MD

4) Julie Davis

5) 1-99

6) MD SHPO

7) NW Corner - View SE

8) 4 of 5



1) CH-391

2) Old Waldorf School, 1930 Block

3) Charles Co, MD

4) Julie Darsie

5) 1-99

6) MD SHPO

7) SE Corner - View NW

8) 5 of 5

Capsule Summary
CH-391
Old Waldorf School — Private
Waldorf — 1930

The Old Waldorf School is significant as one of the last remaining vestiges of the original village of Waldorf. Built in 1930 by the construction firm of Grabis and Kilhoffer, the two-story, neoclassical style, masonry building is in good condition. The school opened as an elementary school, housing grades one through seven. In 1950 a one-story, masonry addition was built adjoining the west elevation of the school to house the growing student population.

The context of the building has changed considerably over the years as modern commercial development has proliferated along the Route 301 corridor. Fortunately, the site is buffered from the intense traffic on Route 301 by a parallel two-lane access road. Currently, a private nonprofit organization known as "The Friends of Old Waldorf School, Inc.," is in the process of raising funds to rehabilitate the structure for use as a civic-arts center.

Survey No. CH-391

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Waldorf Elementary School

and/or common Old Waldorf School (pref.)

2. Location

street & number 3070 Crain Highway ___ not for publication

city, town Waldorf ___ vicinity of **congressional district** 5

state Maryland **county** Charles

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	X public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	X other: vacant

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

name County Commissioners of Charles County

street & number Charles County Govt. Bldg.
Charles & Baltimore Streets telephone no.: 301-645-0550
P.O. Box B

city, town La Plata, MD state and zip code MD 20646

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse liber 1089

street & number 200 Charles street
P.O. Box 970 folio 101

city, town La Plata **state** MD 20646

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town **state**

7. Description

Survey No. CH-391

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	_X_ unaltered	_X_ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	___ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Old Waldorf School is located on a side road which runs parallel to and south of Route 301. The school faces southwest towards a parking lot and the Charles County Jaycees Community Center. The parking lot was formerly occupied by a ball field. A small sediment pond is located on the south side of the school. An office complex, currently occupied by an Armed Forces Recruiting Center, is located to the east. The school faces south with the roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built in 1930, the bearing walls of the main block are constructed of clay tile covered with a stucco finish on both the interior and exterior. These walls are supported by a poured concrete foundation wall. The main block is capped by a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. Shorter brick wings composed of the same material but covered with flat, asphalt roofs extend to the east and west of the main block. A sprawling, shorter, one-story, concrete block addition is connected to the school at the rear, northwest corner. Built in 1950, the addition is covered with a brick veneer and is supported by a poured concrete slab foundation. The roof is flat and covered with asphalt. The impact of this non-contributing wing on the historic main block is minimal because of its placement on the site.

The south (main) elevation of the school consists of a central, two-story, three-bay, gable end block flanked on either side by blind one-story wings. This elevation is covered by a layer of brick veneer. A one-story porch supported by Doric columns extends across the first floor of the central block. These columns are replacements. The original columns, also Doric in style, are currently being stored on the interior of the building. The porch floor consists of a cement pad and the flat roof is covered with asphalt. The roofline is finished with a decorative, molded entablature. The first floor is pierced by a slightly inset, double-door entrance. The pair of nine-light-over-three-panel doors have plain, wide surrounds and are surmounted by a fourteen-light transom. One twelve-over-twelve light window flanks the doorway on either side. These windows have stuccoed crowns and brick header sills. Above the porch, the facade is pierced by a central pair of six-over-six sash windows flanked on either side by a single eight-over-eight sash window. All are surmounted by stuccoed crowns and are currently covered with plywood. Above the windows is a recessed, stuccoed panel bearing applied black letters spelling "Waldorf School." The roofline is finished with cornice returns.

The east and west one-story wings project slightly forward of the main block. The basement level of each wing is stuccoed and pierced by a single one-light window. The wall surface is covered with a layer of brick veneer and is marked by two large, rectangular, recessed panels covered with stucco and surmounted by a brick

8. Significance

Survey No. CH-391

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion	
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science	
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture	
___ 1600–1699	___ architecture	X education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian	
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater	
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation	
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)	
		___ invention			

Specific dates 1930; 1950 **Builder/Architect** Grabis & Kilhoffer/Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B X C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state X local

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

The Old Waldorf School is significant as one of the last remaining vestiges of the original village of Waldorf. Built in 1930 by the construction firm of Grabis and Kilhoffer, the two-story, neoclassical style, masonry building is in good condition. The context of the building has changed considerably over the years as modern commercial development has proliferated along the Route 301 corridor. Fortunately, the site is buffered from the intense traffic on Route 301 by a parallel two-lane access road. Currently, a private nonprofit organization known as "The Friends of Old Waldorf School, Inc.," is in the process of raising funds to rehabilitate the structure for use as a civic-arts center.

The building of Waldorf School in 1930 represents a distinct shift in the social and economic development of the village of Waldorf. Although Waldorf appears on a post office map prior to 1872, the construction of a local railroad terminal during that year invigorated the small farming community. The dynamic growth of the town that followed was a direct result of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad line which ran from Bowie to Pope's Creek on the Potomac River. The railroad was touted as a major step forward in the modernization of the county, capable of providing area farmers and merchants with a dependable, all-weather transportation link to the Port of Baltimore. This much awaited railroad led to the creation of several "whistle stops" along its Charles County route, including Waldorf, La Plata, and White Plains.

Due to the presence of the railroad junction, the village of Waldorf eventually replaced the villages of Beantown and Piney to the east, and Bolton and Berry to the west. By the turn of the century, it had become the leading population center in the northern region of the county. In 1922 Waldorf was surveyed and subdivided by surveyor J. Spence Howard and by the late 1920's the town center was firmly established at the intersection of today's Maryland Route 5 and Route 925 (the former main road to Washington, D.C.). The town, which became the major interchange between St. Mary's County and Washington D.C., was comprised of a lively enclave of small shops, a hotel, a general store, a post office, a two-room school, train depot,

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CH-391

See Attached.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .78 acres

Quadrangle name Piscataway **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached.

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 Elizabeth Hughes, Architectural Historian

organization Friends of Old Waldorf School Foundation **date** September 1996

street & number P.O. Box 954 **telephone** 301-705-8700

city or town Waldorf **state** MD 20604

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023

header course. The plain roofline of these wings, actually a parapet roof projecting above the true roofline, is capped with concrete coping.

The east elevation of the one-story brick wing is covered with stucco. Three single lights piercing the foundation level illuminate the basement. This wing is occupied by three classrooms. Each of the two southern classrooms are lighted by a row of five nine-over-nine sash windows (now covered with plywood) with brick header sills and a small rectangular eight-light window designed to light the classroom coat closets. A single six-over-six sash window to the north of these classrooms lights the boy's bathroom. The northern section of this wing, containing one classroom and the "soup kitchen," projects about three feet forward of the southern section. As with the other classrooms, the northern classroom is lighted by a row of five windows with brick header sills. One six-over-six sash window lights the former coat closet. A second six-over-six sash window lights the small room that served as the "soup kitchen." All windows are covered with plywood. Visible above the roof of the wing are ten six-over-six sash clerestory windows piercing the longitudinal elevation of the main block and lighting the interior auditorium space.

The north elevation of the east wing is pierced by three nine-over-nine sash windows with brick header sills and a single light window at the basement level. A one-story wing extends across the rear of the central two-story main block. The north elevation of this wing, consisting of the backstage area, is pierced by five nine-over-nine sash windows (now covered with plywood) with brick header sills flanked by an exterior entrance door on either side. Although the eastern doorway is covered by a modern frame vestibule, the transom window associated with the original door is visible above the shed roof of the small vestibule addition. The original transom window located above the western door - a modern metal replacement - also remains in place. An exterior stairway leading to the basement and furnace room (located underneath the school stage) is located on this side of the building. The doorway to the basement pierces the foundation of the northern wing just below the bank of windows that lights the backstage area. A common bond brick chimney which services the furnace stands against this one story wing. To the west extends the 1950 one-story addition connecting "Old Waldorf School" with what is now a health clinic operated in this space by Health Partners, Inc. The gable end of the school's main block is visible above the one-story northern wing and is pierced by two louvered vents. This gable end elevation is finished with cornice returns.

The west elevation of the one-story wing is pierced by one six-over-six sash window, lighting the girl's bathroom, and two rows of five nine-over-nine sash windows alternating with a single eight-light coat closet window. Visible above the roof of this wing are ten six-over-six sash clerestory windows which pierce the longitudinal elevation of the main block and light the interior auditorium space.

CH-391, Old Waldorf School
Waldorf
7.2 Description

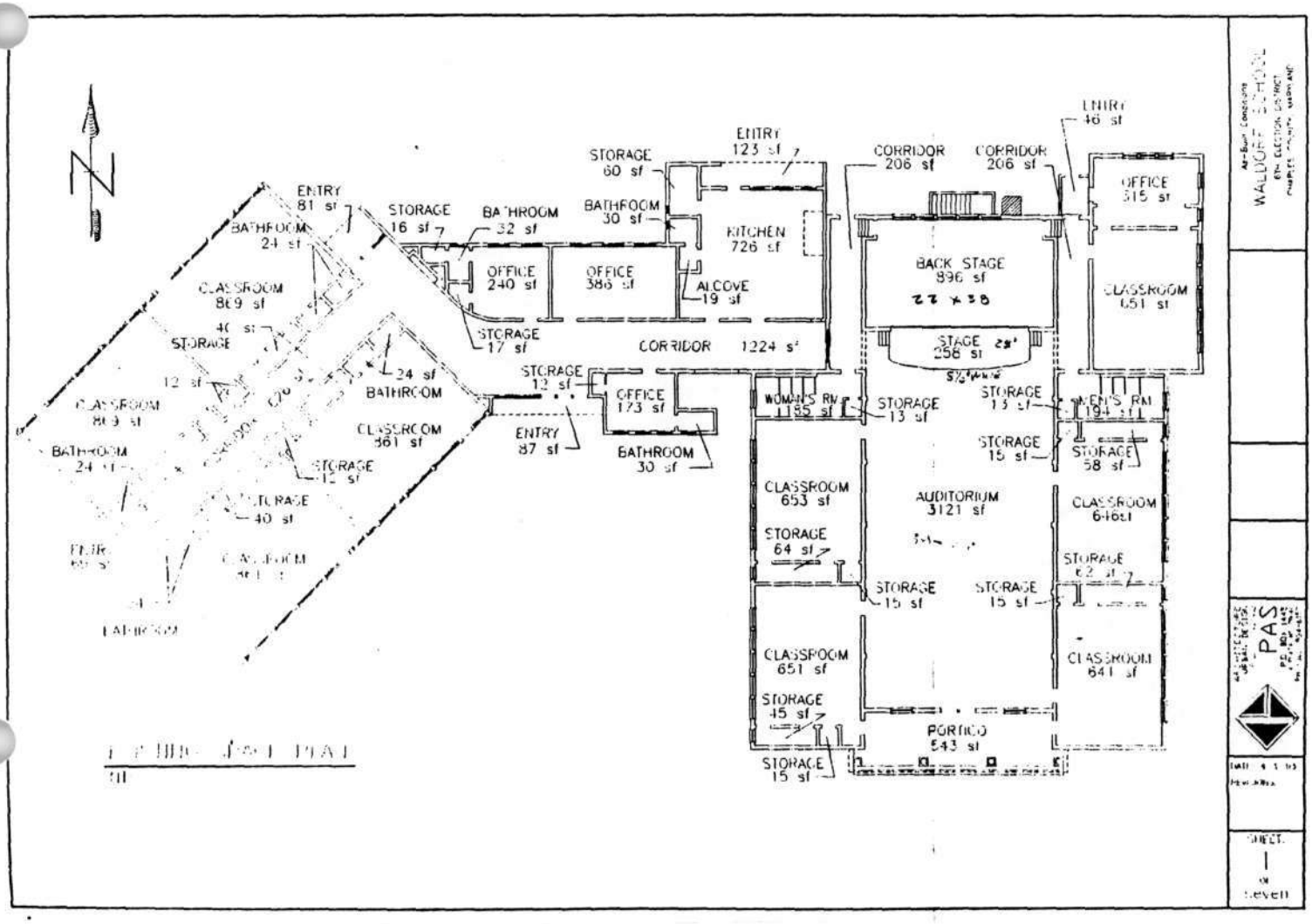
The interior of the main block is, for the most part, one large, open auditorium space lighted by clerestory windows. Only one small area located in the southwest corner of the room has been sectioned off using modern partition walls. An elevated stage with tongue-in-groove flooring is located at the north end of the auditorium. The baseboard of the stage is wainscoted. Three steps located at the east and west ends of the stage provide access to the stage from the floor of the auditorium. The stage is fitted with a built-in well for stage lights, although the stage lights have been removed. A series of eight-panel folding doors are built in to separate the backstage from the proscenium. A red velvet curtain, now replaced by a red vinyl curtain, once hung in front of the folding doors. The backstage area, used for many years as additional classroom space, was fitted with particle board partitions in the mid 1980s.

The east and west longitudinal walls of the auditorium are finished with five pilasters extending from the floor to the ceiling of the two-story building. The school is heated with radiant heat and radiators are placed throughout the interior of the building. Two five-panel doors with plain surrounds pierce both the east and west walls, providing access to four of the school classrooms. Arched openings at the north end of both the east and west walls provide access to small corridors leading to bathrooms, additional classroom space, exit doors, and the backstage area. A doorway between Old Waldorf School and the 1950 addition was originally located in the western corridor. This doorway is now sealed shut by a cinderblock partition.

The southeast classroom served as both the principal's office and a regular classroom. Chalkboards are located against the south and west walls. A door leading to the exterior, front portico is located in the southwest corner of the room. A storage closet, located in the northwest corner of the classroom, and a coat closet, accessible behind two five-panel doors, are located at the rear of the room. Each of the five classrooms at Old Waldorf School share a similar configuration, with classrooms on the east side of the building facing south and classrooms on the west side of the building facing north. A smaller room, located in the northeast corner of the building, was known for some time as the "soup kitchen" in which children's meals were prepared. Later, this room served both as a band room and as a library.

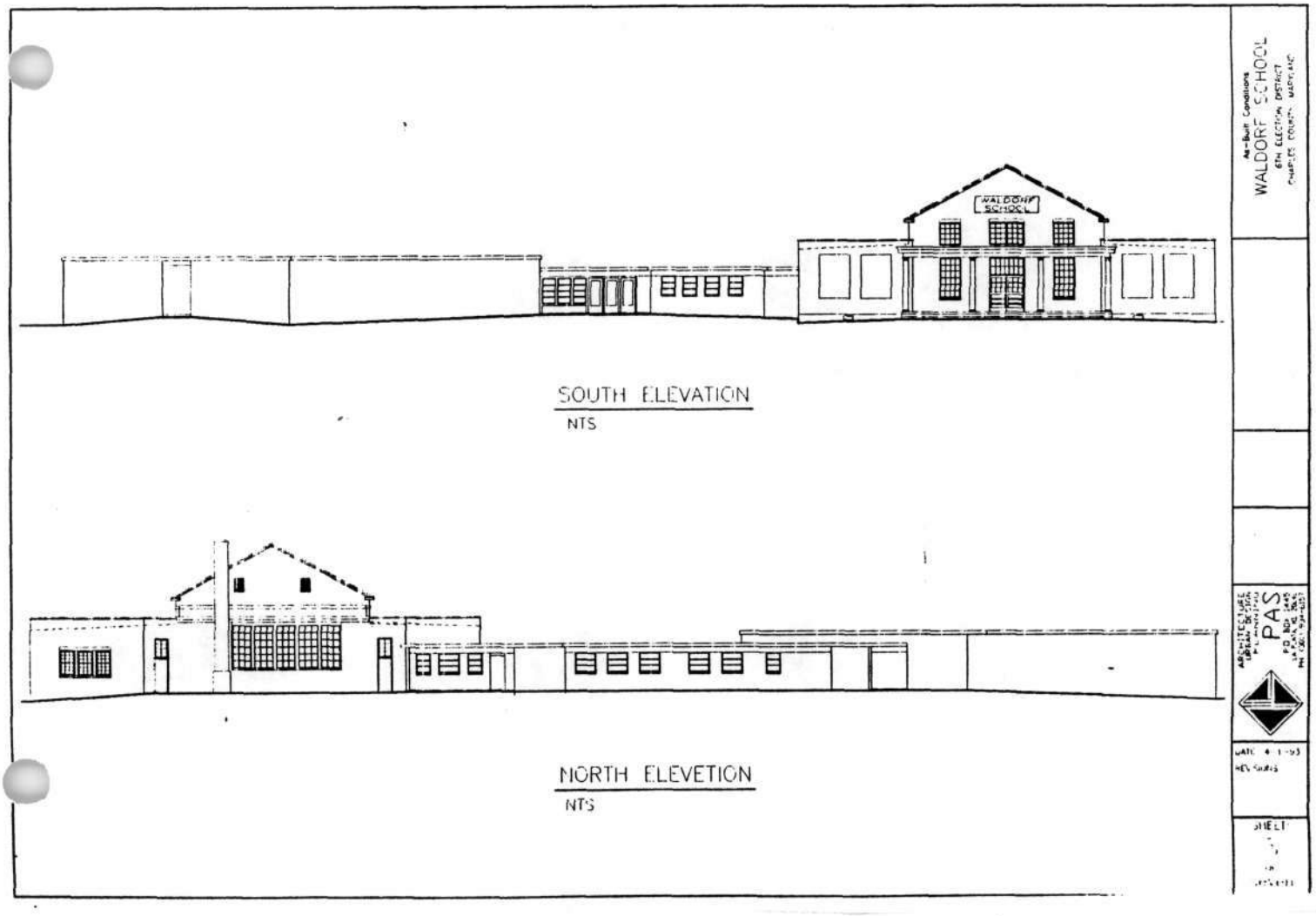
CH-391, Old Waldorf School
Waldorf
7.3 Description

Floor plan of Old Waldorf School produced by PAS Architecture Inc. as part of the Waldorf School Feasibility Study, April 1993.



CH-391, Old Waldorf School
Waldorf
7.4 Description

North and south elevations of Old Waldorf School produced by PAS Architecture Inc. as part of the Waldorf School Feasibility Study, April 1993.

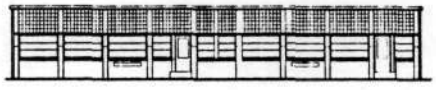


CH-391, Old Waldorf School
Waldorf
7.5 Description

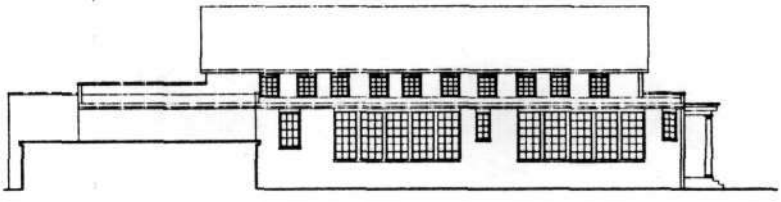
East and west elevations of Old Waldorf School produced by PAS Architecture, Inc. as part of the Waldorf School Feasibility Study, April 1993.



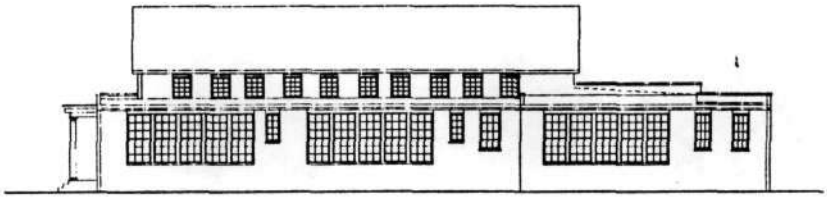
NORTH ELEVATION (ADDITION)
NTS



SOUTH ELEVATION (ADDITION)
NTS



WEST ELEVATION
NTS



EAST ELEVATION
NTS

WALDORF SCHOOL
8TH ELECTION DISTRICT

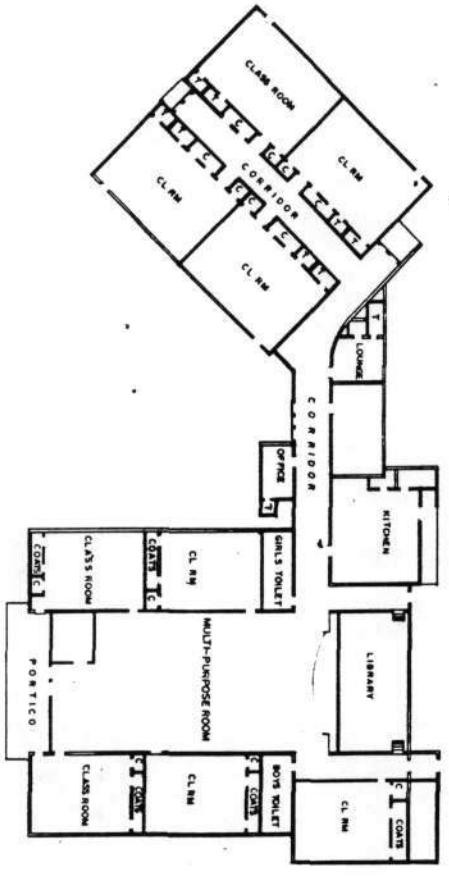
PAS

DATE: 4-1-93
REVISIONS:

SHEET:
4
of
seven

CH-391, Old Waldorf School
Waldorf
7.6 Description

Floor plan of Waldorf Elementary School produced for the Charles County Board of Education Facilities Department, September 1972.



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF CHARLES COUNTY
FACILITIES DEPARTMENT
LAPLATA, MARYLAND 20646

TITLE: WALDORF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WALDORF, MARYLAND
SCHEMATIC PLANS

DRAWN: H.F. LUND
DATE: 8-9-72
CHECKED:
APPROVED: C. ABELL
DATE: 8-15-72
DWG. NO. 31-A1

CH-391, Old Waldorf School
Waldorf
7.7 Description

Newspaper photos of Waldorf School dating to the late 1960s - early 1970s.

Waldorf Elementary School

Charles County



WALDORF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL has Glenn Wedul as principal. It has a student body numbering 218 and 12 faculty members. Located at the intersection of Routes 301 and 5, its telephone number is 645-3676.

Waldorf Elementary School

Charles County
645-3676



restaurants, taverns, and a filling station. At one time, nightclubs and motels lined Route 301 just north of Route 5 in Waldorf. Here, visitors gathered to entertain themselves with slot machines and popular nightclub acts.

Waldorf's expansion in the 1920s led to a corresponding increase in the number of students served by its single two-room school house. The Charles County Board of Education began considering construction of a modern school facility in the spring of 1929. At the same time, the Board of Education was considering school building construction elsewhere in the county, including an Assembly Hall at Glasva, a new high school at Nanjemoy, a school at Crossroads, and the addition of two rooms to the Hughesville school.

Charles County Land Records show that on August 9, 1929, following a variety of consultations with a delegation of the Waldorf School Building Committee as well as the State Superintendent's approval of the lot, the Board purchased Lot No. 35 in the subdivision of a part of the Naylor Farm. The grantors were James P. Ryon and Samuel G. Ryon trading as James P. Ryon and Brother. Then located "adjacent to the village of Waldorf," the county paid $350 for the .78 acre parcel.

At the February 28th, 1930 meeting of the Board, bids ranging from $22,000 to $30,000 were submitted for the construction of the school by Elmore Power, C. Ernest Nichols, H. Herfurth Jr., and Grabis & Kilhoffer. Grabis and Kilhoffer submitted the lowest bid, estimating the cost of construction at $22,067. The minutes of the February Board meeting suggest that Grabis & Kilhoffer were granted the building contract. Who actually designed the school remains unclear. School Board minutes show that both Mr. Kea and Mr. G. Edward Storck presented plans of the building to the Board of Education and the Waldorf School Building Committee for their review. It seems likely that Kea, already engaged in the construction of the Crossroads and Nanjemoy Schools, was awarded the contract to design Waldorf School.

The school opened in 1930 as an elementary school, housing grades one through seven. In 1950 a one-story, masonry addition was built adjoining the west elevation of the school to house a growing student population. Notably, this modern school building was being enlarged at the same time that traditional two-room schools were still in use elsewhere in the county. The Waldorf School continued to be used until the mid 1970's when the students where then transferred to several new elementary schools which were built to accommodate the burgeoning baby boom population in the Waldorf region. The school building then served as the county's adult education center until it closed in 1985.

CH-391, Old Waldorf School
Waldorf
8.2 Significance

On September 27, 1985, Waldorf School was transferred from the Charles County Board of Education to the Charles County Government (specifically, to the Board of County Commissioners). The Charles County Government boarded up the building and decided in 1988 to sell the property. Located in the center of commercial development, the land (though not the school itself) was considered to be an extremely attractive business opportunity. A public auction was held in October 1988, but the property failed to receive the minimum bid of $1.5 million. Thereafter, a number of nonprofit organizations proposed to the County Government a variety of potential uses for the school. Ultimately, none of these proposals were approved.

In April 1994, the Charles County Government approved plans to demolish the historic 1930 section of the school to support a planned health clinic in the newer 1950 west wing addition. Learning of these plans via the county newspaper (Maryland Independent) a group of concerned Waldorf School alumni formed the Friends of Old Waldorf School (FOWS) Foundation, Inc. In June 1994 FOWS was formally incorporated in the State of Maryland as a nonprofit organization created for the purpose of stopping the planned demolition and spearheading a major effort to save the school as an historic landmark. That same month, FOWS presented to the Charles County Commissioners in a public hearing its counter-proposal to the planned demolition. FOWS recommended the preservation of the school and the creation of a community-based "Waldorf School Civic-Arts Center" for the citizens of Charles County to appreciate and enjoy in the years ahead. FOWS' proposal was supported by a large number of the leading civic and arts organizations in the county. By June, a significant accumulation of cash and in-kind pledges from the local citizenry had already been acquired to support the project. Fortunately, the proposal was approved unanimously by the County Commissioners -- just weeks before the scheduled demolition of the school. In January 1996 FOWS signed a 20-year lease with the Charles County Government for the use of the Old Waldorf School at a cost of $1.00 for the original term (i.e., 20 years). Two 5-year renewal periods were also included in the lease, extending its potential use by FOWS to a total of 30 years.

Vacant for over ten years, plans for the restoration of the historic structure are now being pursued vigorously by the Friends of the Old Waldorf School Foundation, Inc. Phase One of its planned three phase effort, which included the stabilization and restoration of the building's exterior, was completed in 1995. Phase Two, involving the rehabilitation of the interior, and Phase Three, involving interior outfitting, will commence when additional funding is secured. To that end, the Friends of Old Waldorf School secured a $100,000 bond bill from the Maryland General Assembly in 1995 to fund the preservation of the school and its adaptive reuse as a "civic-arts center." Fund-raising efforts to provide the dollar for dollar match required by the bond bill are in progress by the organization at this time.

CH-391, Old Waldorf School
Waldorf
9.1 Bibliography

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Charles County Board of Education. Minutes of May 21, 1929.

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Charles County Board of Education. Minutes of February 28, 1930.

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CH-391
~~SM-391~~, Old Waldorf School
~~St. Mary's County~~ Waldorf, Charles County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930.
Historic Period Theme:	Education

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Village
Historic Function and Use:	School
Known Design Source:	None

CH-391, Old Waldorf School
Waldorf
10.1 Geographical Data

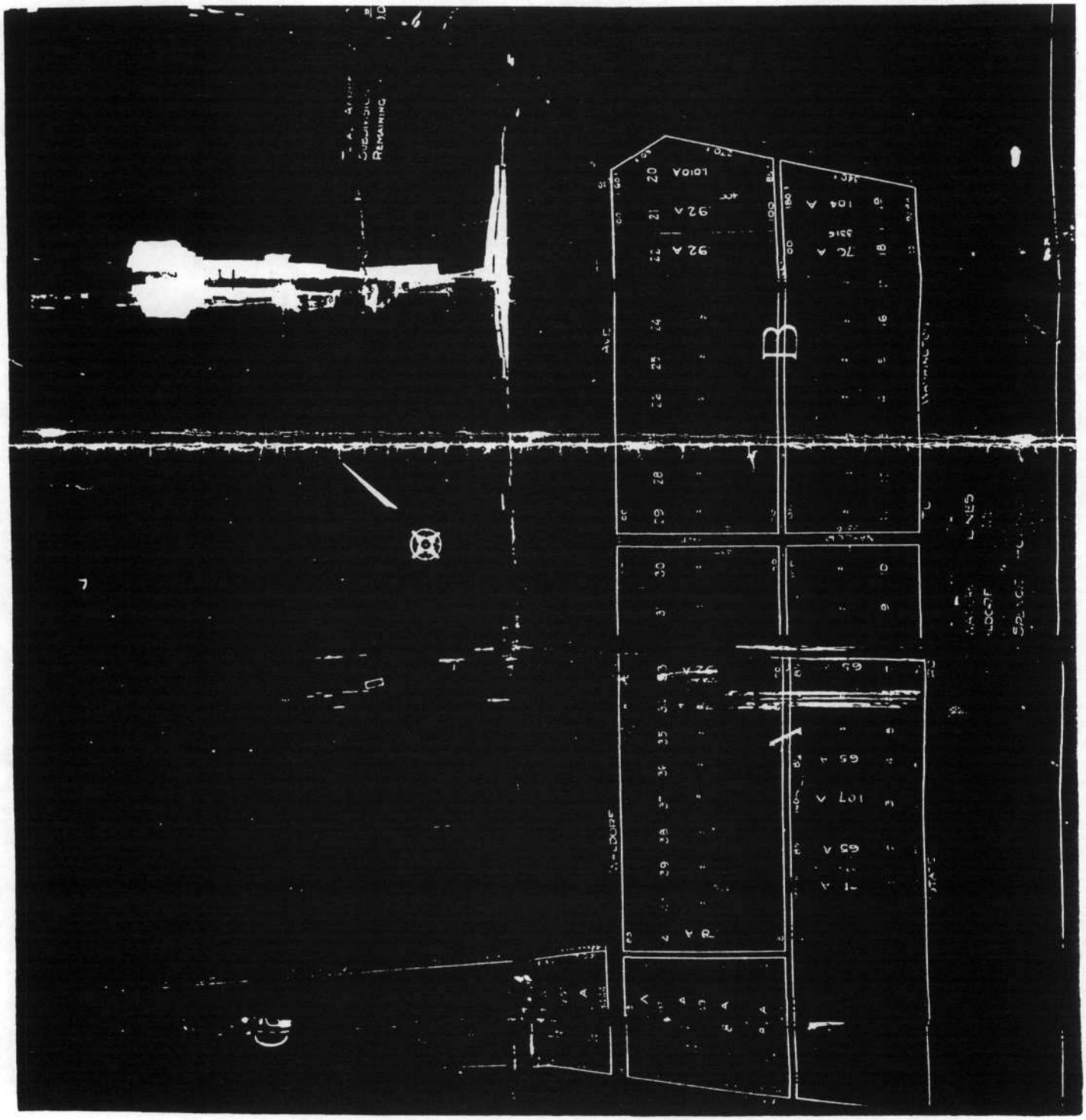
Verbal Boundary Description
Source: Charles County Land Records, Liber 9, Folio 95.

"Being Lot No. 35 in the subdivision of a part of the Naylor Farm, as surveyed and laid out by J. Spence Howard, Surveyor, in October 1922...beginning at the point where the dividing line between this lot and Lot No. 36 intersects, the East side of Waldorf Avenue, as laid down by said plat and running with said East side of Waldorf Avenue 100' to the Southwest corner of Lot No. 34; thence leaving said Avenue and running with the dividing line between said Lots Nos. 34 and 35, 400' to the West side of a 15' alley; thence with said side of said alley 100' to the Northeast corner of Lot No. 36; thence leaving said alley and running with the dividing line between Lots Nos. 35 and 36, 400' to the point of beginning, containing seventy-eight one-hundredths (.78) of an acre of land, more or less.

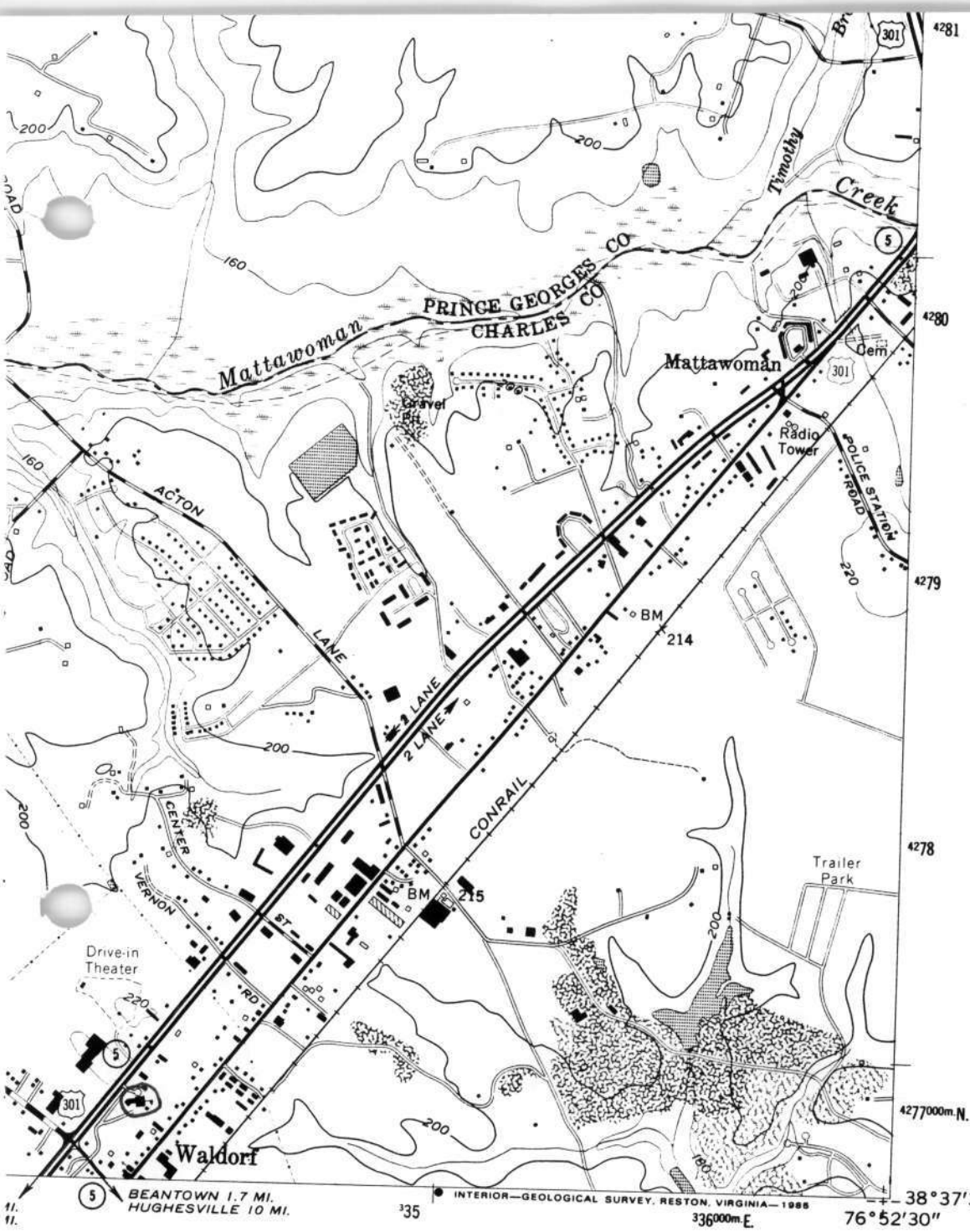
CH-391, Old Waldorf School
Waldorf
10.2 Geographical Data

Plat of the Naylor Farm by J. Spence Howard dated October 1922.

Source: Charles County Land Records


REMAINING
B
92 A
92 A
LOT A
104 A
70 A
LOT
LOT
LOT

CH-391
Old Waldorf School
Waldorf
Piscataway Quad.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty — Light-duty

Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt

U. S. Route — State Route

(HUGHESVILLE) 5661 III SE



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

PISCATAWAY, MD.
38076-F8-TF-024

1957
PHOTOREVISED 1985
DMA 5661 III NW-SERIES V833


WALDORF
SCHOOL

CH 391

Old Waldorf School

Waldorf - Charles County

Elevation - SOUTH

JUNE 1995

MARY PAT BERRY

1/4


WALDORF
SCHOOL

CH-391

OLD WALDORF SCHOOL

WALDORF - CHARLES COUNTY

NORTHWEST ELEV. - SOUTHWEST

JUNE 1995

MARY PAT BERRY

2/4



CH-391

OLD WALDORF SCHOOL

WALDORF - CHARLES COUNTY

~~SOUTHEAST~~ ELEM. - SOUTHEAST

JUNE 1995

MARY PAT BERRY

3/4



CH 391

OLD WALDORF SCHOOL

WALDORF - CHARLES COUNTY

SOUTH ELEV. - NORTH

JUNE 1995

MARY PAT BERRY

4/4