

CAR-371

Bridgetown Colored 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: 09-08-2011

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Bridgetown Colored School Inventory Number: CAR-371
Address: Goldsboro Town Office City: Goldsboro Zip Code: 21636
County: Caroline USGS Topographic Map: Goldsboro Quad
Owner: Caroline County Historical Society Is the property being evaluated a district? N/A yes
Tax Parcel Number: N/A Tax Map Number: N/A Tax Account ID Number: N/A
Project: Tourist Information Points Agency: U.S.D.A.
Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ 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 ☒ yes ☐ no

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☒ D Considerations: ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None
Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Caroline County Historical Society

Due to the fact that this small black school has been moved twice and is now waiting to be moved to its final location in Goldsboro, the building is unlikely to be nominated to the National Register, however it is a reminder of importance of rural education in the late nineteenth century as it pertains to the black community. It also retains many original features that are typical of the type buildings that were being constructed as one-room schools throughout the Eastern Shore and elsewhere in the United States. The building is currently resting on blocks awaiting its final move across the street to a location adjoining the old Goldsboro Railroad Station.

Once in operation the building will be used as a tourist information point relating primarily to the Underground Railroad. It will be located on the route followed by Harriet Tubman in the 1850s while assisting slaves to gain freedom in the north.

Prepared by: Michael Bourne

Date Prepared: 3 June 2009

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒

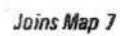
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Comments: _____

Michael Bourne
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

7/1/09
Date
7/1/09

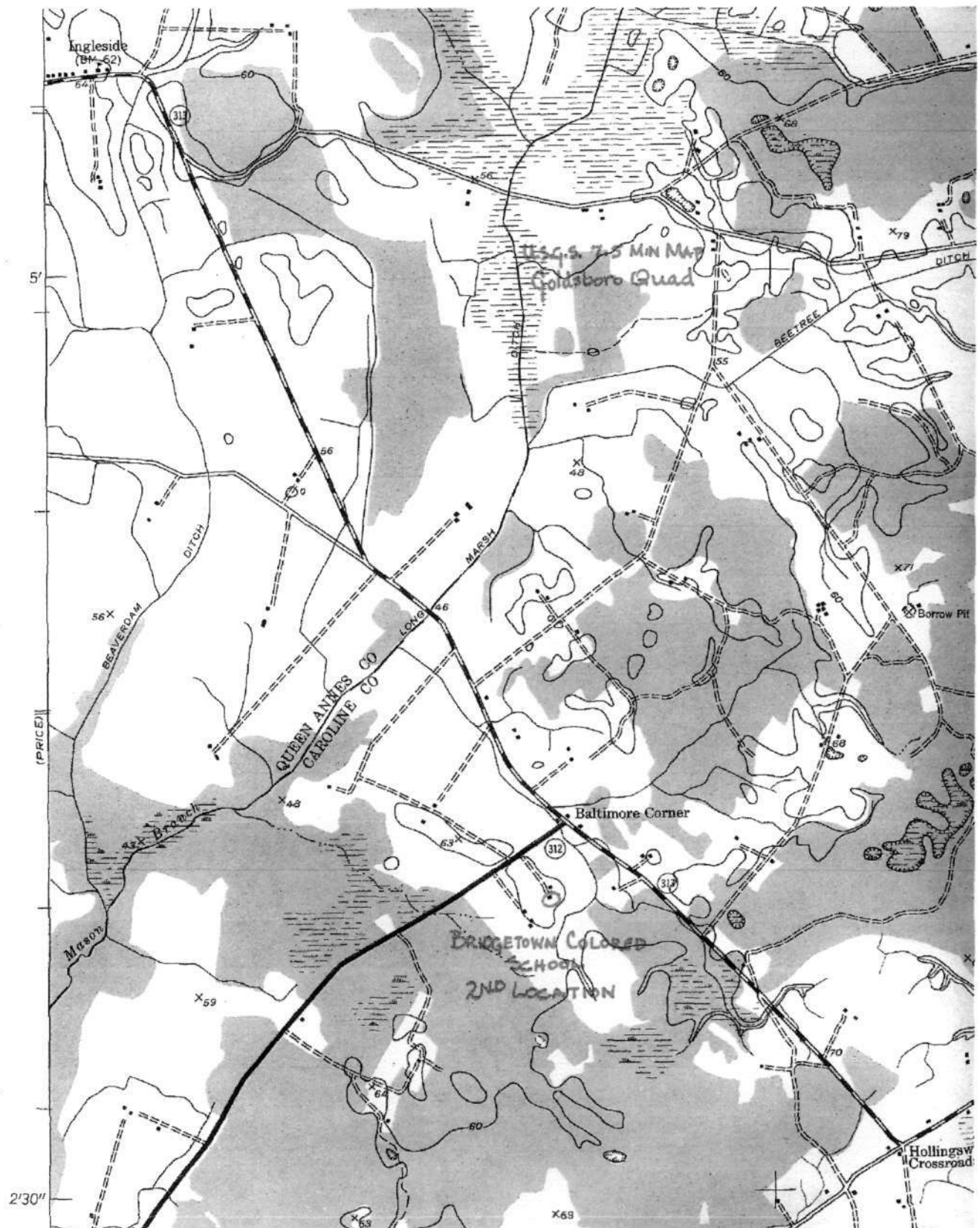
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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 2

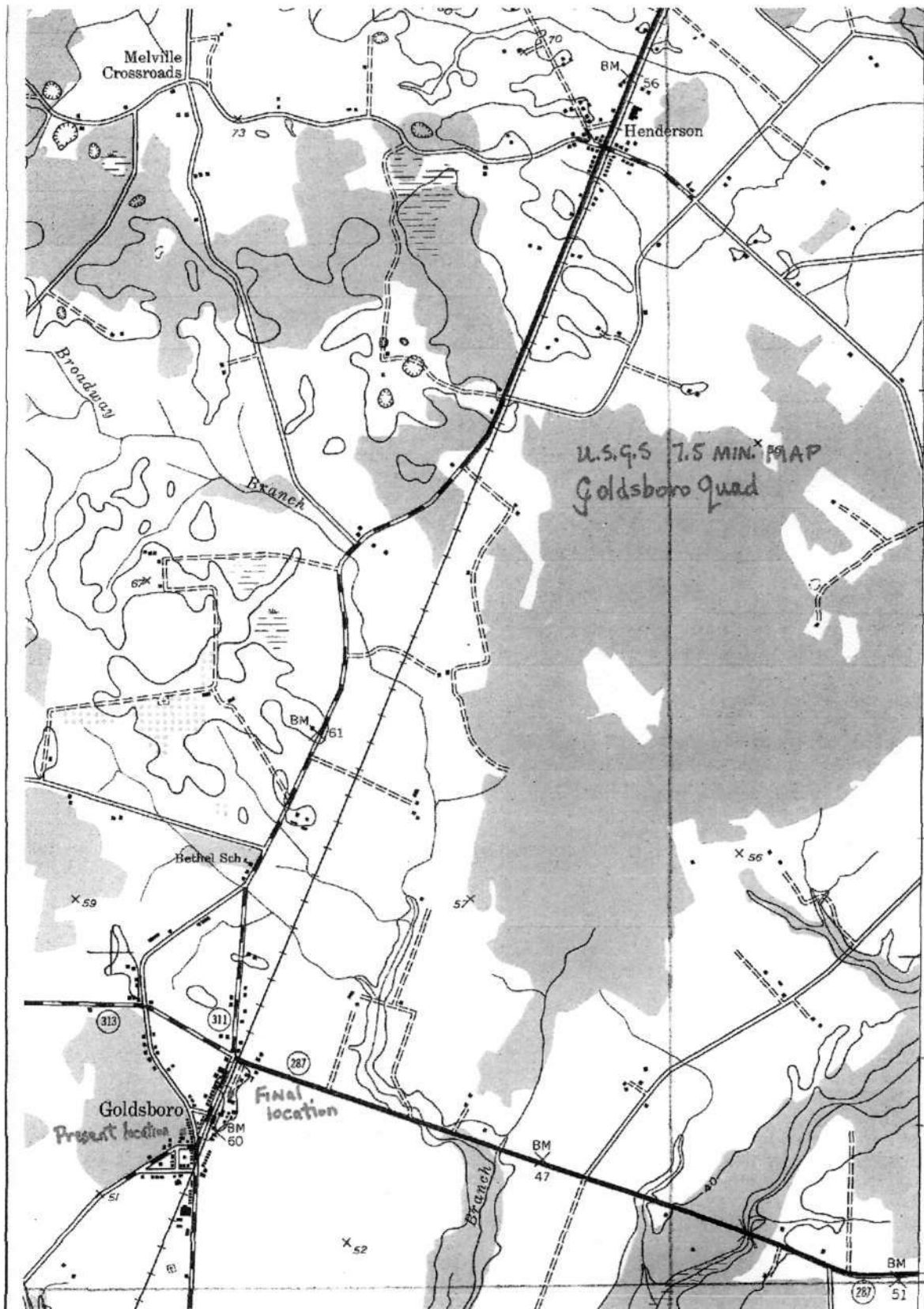
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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 3

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**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 4

CAR-371

"THE BRIDGETOWN COLORED SCHOOL"
Baltimore Corner, Caroline Co., MD

A DESCRIPTION

October 14, 2007

At the Request of J.O.K. Walsh, the old school building was visited on Sunday October 14th principally to determine the age of the building. It is planned that the building will be moved in the immediate future to a site in the town of Goldsboro, several miles east of Baltimore Corner. It is currently located on the farm of Mr. & Mrs. William Collier and their son, David. It was moved to the site soon after the farm was acquired by Mr. Collier's uncle in 1933. Its original location was on East Cherry Lane adjacent a small frame church belonging to the black community. The following is a brief description of the building:

The old Black School building is slightly east of a new brick house of David Collier that is nearing completion. The building is a small frame structure approximately 18' x 32' resting on rusticated concrete block piers. The walls are covered with red aluminum siding over plain weatherboard and the six 6/6-pane sash windows are trimmed in white. In the center of the south wall is a sliding door that was installed after being moved to the present site. The original entrance to the school building is located on the east gable and the door is now an aluminum residential door. The form of the building is similar to other late 19th century one-room school buildings of the Eastern Shore and elsewhere. There is no other opening on the east wall, but there is a single window on the west wall, probably re-located from the position of the sliding door. The north wall retains three windows, all having 6/6-pane sashes. The moderately pitched "A" roof is covered with asphalt shingles. There are no penetrations in the roof. A simple white box cornice with overhanging gable eaves separates the walls from the roof. In anticipation of the move, the sills on the north and east sides of the building have been replaced, revealing original circular sawn studs, corner posts and down bracing.

From the position of the down brace and corner post on the exposed north side it is apparent that the building was constructed in two building campaigns. The first section was approximately 18' x 20' with two windows on each side. The addition is approximately 12' long and as wide as the original section, 18'. The later windows are located close to the older corner post. Examination of the joists beneath of the structure reveals that both building campaigns spanned the shortest distance, i.e. the early joists run north-south (c. 18') and the addition joists run east-west (c. 12'). Additional central girders were installed after it arrived in this location in the 1930s.

The interior retains many features from its early days as a school building. The walls are plaster on sawn lath above tongue & groove horizontal wainscot boards similar to the first layer of flooring (c. 4" wide). There are two layers of flooring, the upper level being about 2 1/2" wide. The window trim is un-molded as is the wainscot and door trim. The ceiling is covered with wider boards that are fastened with wire nails. On the north and south walls between the east and center openings are fiber board blackboards. In the center of the floor at the end of phase I structure is a square patch in the floor and a hole in the ceiling where an original chimney rose through the roof. Because the hole remains in the ceiling, it is apparent that the chimney remained in the original location even after the addition was built.

While most of the wainscot is fastened with wire nails, the east wall wainscot is blind nailed. There is evidence of cut nails in the first section but the wire nails are not confined to the later addition.

In the attic, circular sawn rafters are visible. They are approximately 2' o.c. and simply nailed together at the apex of the roof. There is evidence of there having been a wood roof originally. The space is littered with old baskets, 2-pane sash and pieces of old furniture.

According to research in the files of the Historical Society, the property on which the school stood was acquired by the church in 1881. It is conceivable that the first section of the present structure was built soon after that date. The addition could have been built as late as c.1910. Future research may reveal more information about the development of the structure. In its new location in Goldsboro the building will become part of the interpretation of the Underground Railroad route that extended from Dorchester County, Maryland to Philadelphia in the pre-Civil War period.

Michael Bourne
Architectural Historian
October 14, 2007



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Caroline Co., MD

Michael Bourne

5/15/09

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S.E.



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