

CH-647

## Benedict 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](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

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***Last Updated: 11-21-2003***

**Benedict Colored School**

**1922**

**CH-647**

**Benedict vic.**

**Private**

The Benedict Colored School, constructed circa 1922, is a rectangular one story, front gable structure with an incised entry porch, resting on top of a steep hill above Prince Frederick

Road. The schoolhouse is an example of the one and two room schools that once provided primary education to African American children during the first half of the 20th century.

Constructed around 1922 and in operation until 1953, the schoolhouse included one classroom in which students in grades 1-7 were taught by a single teacher.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-647

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Benedict Colored School  
other

### 2. Location

street and number 16517 Prince Frederick Road not for publication  
city, town Benedict  vicinity  
county Charles

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

name Edith Walker  
street and number 8305 Warren Drive telephone 301-932-6191  
city, town Pomfret state MD zip code 20675-3011

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 37-19  
city, town LaPlata liber 1019 folio 250

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- Other

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic		structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education		objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
			0	

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. CH-647

### Condition

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good            | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> altered      |
- 

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

The Benedict Colored School, constructed circa 1922, is a rectangular, one-story, front gable structure with an incised entry porch resting on top of a steep hill above Prince Frederick Road. The frame building is covered in beveled siding and rests on a pier foundation. A brick chimney flue pierces the roof which is covered with asphalt sheeting. Roof rafters are exposed and a louvered vent is found in the façade gable end.

The central doorway is found within a shallow inset entrance porch sheltered by a narrow shed pent. The porch and doorway is approached by wooden stairs. Small paired windows flank the main entrance. The side elevations consists of two groupings of narrow vertical windows. Near the east end are two closely set windows of 6/6 light sash construction. A larger grouping of six narrow windows of the same composition are clustered under the chimney flue that pierces the roof above. Although the interior was not examined, the window configuration may correspond to the two interior rooms identified in oral accounts as a class room, and a backroom used as a kitchen and storage room. Later, this backroom was converted into an additional classroom.

Title research suggests, and archival evidence does not contradict a construction date of 1922. Stylistically, it shows many similarities with the Pomfret Colored School (demolished) which was erected in the early 1920's and included a grouping of six large windows along the eave wall.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-647

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Specific dates** 1922

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1922

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Benedict Colored School is an example of the one and two-room schools that once provided primary education to African American children during the first half of the 20th century. Constructed around 1922 and in operation until 1953, the schoolhouse included one classroom in which grades 1-7 would be taught by a single teacher.

The period following the Civil War saw the greatest expansion in a county-wide system of education. In 1868 there were a total of 37 schools throughout the county, six of which were for African Americans. By the end of the century that number had increased to a total of 75 schools, 30 of which served African Americans. Throughout the first decades in the 20th century, an overwhelming majority of these were one or two room schoolhouses.

In 1919, Mr. Joseph Christopher Parks became the supervisor of Charles County Colored Schools and he oversaw the construction of several new schoolhouses through the Rosenwald Fund, a national foundation for improving rural, and particularly African American education in the South. Julius Rosenwald was an American merchant who in 1910 became president of the Sears, Roebuck Company. In 1917 he established the fund which was endowed with thirty million dollars. A few of the schools constructed as a result of this funding included LaPlata, Marbury, Mason Springs, Mount Hope, Oak Grove, BelAlton, Tompkinsville, Waldorf, Pomfret and quite likely Benedict Colored School.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. CH-647

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 1

Acreage of historical setting 1080638

Quadrangle name Benedict

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property at 16517 Prince Frederick Road is associated Charles County Property Tax Map37 Grid 19, parcel 19.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Cathy Currey/Historic Preservation Planner

organization Charles County Planning

date 1/25/01

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town LaPlata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-647

Section 8 Page 1

Benedict Colored School  
name of property  
Charles County, MD  
county and state

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**Chain of title:**

April 26, 1922	Pattie and George Kershaw to Charles County Board of Education 2 1/4 a. near Leck's Hall <b>39:305</b>
October 28, 1955	Board of Education to Clarence E. Toye and Martha L. Toye 2 1/4 a. purchased at public auction. <b>120:516</b>
September 25, 1984	Martha L. Toye to Edith Walker <b>1019:250</b>

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 9 Page 1

Benedict Colored School  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

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**Major Bibliographic References:**

Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History.

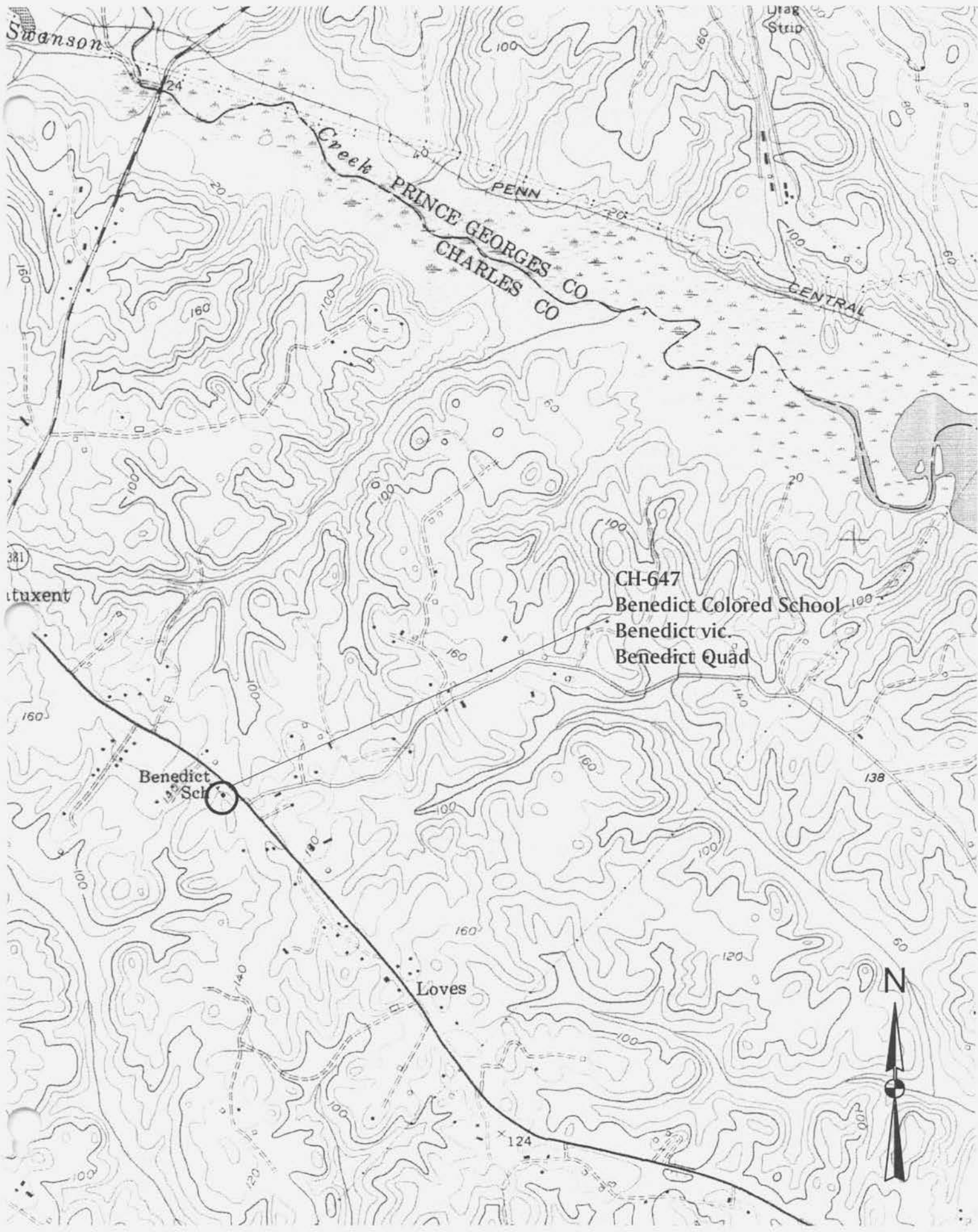
LaPlata, MD: Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Circuit Court. Land Records. Charles County Courthouse, La Plata. Maryland.

Charles County Retired Teachers Association. A Legacy: One- and Two-Room Schools in Charles County. La Plata, MD: Dick Wildes Publishing Company, 1984.

Klaphor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland.

LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.



CH-647  
Benedict Colored School  
Benedict vic.  
Benedict Quad

Benedict Sch

Loves





CH-647

BENEDICT COLORED SCHOOL

CHARLES Co, MD

1/2001

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

1 OF 2



CH-647  
BENEDICT COLORED SCHOOL  
CHARLES CO, MD  
1/2001  
C. CURREY  
MD SHPO  
LOOKING SOUTH  
2 of 2