BALTIMORE COUNTY ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY

African American Thematic Study

FINAL REPORT

Prepared for
The Baltimore County Office of Planning and
The Landmarks Preservation Commission

Submitted by
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PROJECT BACKGROUND

The African American Thematic Study of Baltimore County, Maryland involved the documentation of 40 countywide communities and their resources. The project began in October 2002 and was completed in July 2003. It was undertaken for the Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) with direction from the Baltimore County Office of Planning. Baltimore County provided the funding for the project, which was administered by the Baltimore County Office of Planning. Tim Dugan (Chief of Planning Services), Kimberly Abe (Administrator, LPC), Amy Trexler Mantay (Planner) and John McGrain (County Historian) of the Office of Planning supervised the project on behalf of Baltimore County. E.H.T. Traceries, Inc., a Washington, D.C.-based firm specializing in architectural history and historic preservation, conducted the work. Laura V. Trieschmann, Director of Survey and Documentation, was the project director and senior architectural historian. Kristie Baynard served as the project manager and architectural historian. She organized and oversaw the preliminary assessment, archival research, on-site survey, and final production of the survey products. Jana Riggle acted as architectural historian and surveyor, assisting in several aspects of the project as needed including research, preliminary assessments and on-site surveys.

METHODOLOGY

A. On-site Survey

The survey of the African American communities in Baltimore County involved the physical examination of the neighborhoods and their resources. The importance of the on-site survey was to determine the development and history of the areas according to its built fabric. Planner Lenwood Johnson, Baltimore County Office of Planning, marked the locations of many of the African American settlements on a county map. Louis S. Diggs provided assistance with a number of the settlements, particularly in the southwestern section of the county. Mr. Diggs had documented many of these southwestern settlements by conducting oral history interviews with local residents. Rosita “Bunny” Hill, a member of the Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Commission, provided additional information on the location of northern settlements. Ms. Reigns gave a tour of northern Baltimore County in order to help locate the smaller settlements and provide some background history.

Specific boundaries, or relative boundaries in several cases, were determined by the on-site survey. Following the boundary determination, the numbers of historic and non-historic resources within each settlement were tallied. General descriptions of the setting were noted including sidewalks, streets, vegetation, topography, set backs, and landscaping. Settlements were categorized as rural, suburban, residential, or commercial. The types and styles of the resources in each settlement were described, noting representative individual buildings when applicable. Specific building types, including churches, cemeteries and schools, were described in detail.
MIHP forms: The survey of African American settlements in Baltimore County involved the physical examination of the communities and their resources to determine the architectural evolution of the buildings and to summarize their history as it applied to the African American thematic study. The survey of each settlement began with a physical examination of the neighborhood. The principal step of the on-site inspection involved capturing a general understanding of the neighborhood as a whole. This involves determining the physical evolution of the area, including any significant changes, alterations, and additions. Each of the resources was studied from the exterior; no interior survey was conducted. While on site, a survey checklist was completed and
photographs taken. The survey checklist was designed to aid in the consistent examination of settlement and its resources by mandating written recordation of the findings. The checklist addressed various aspects of the settlement including the site, the setting, integrity, and the buildings’ structural systems and exterior appearance. The survey form was an essential tool for recording information about historic buildings and was indispensable in the preparation of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Places (MIHP) Form.

B. Photographic Documentation

During the on-site examination, black-and-white photographs, color slides, and digital images were taken of each African American survey district. The number of photos ranged from 4 to 18 and was relative to the size of the neighborhood. The photographs ranged from general views of streetscapes to elevation views of individual buildings. The black-and-white photographs were printed on 5" x 7" paper, as required by the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT). The photographs, negatives, and slides were labeled according to MHT standards. Digital images were submitted to Baltimore County on CD-roms.

C. Archival Research

The archival research of the African American settlements followed certain procedures, but differed according to the history of the specific survey districts and their locations in Baltimore County. In general, however, the following steps were undertaken to research all settlements recorded.

a. Land Record Research
b. Equity Case Research
c. Assessment Record Research
d. Census Research
e. Biographic Research
f. Historic Photographic Research
g. Literature Research
h. Map Research

**Land record research** begin at the Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation where, using the building’s address, the name of the current owner and deed reference was obtained. Using the deed reference, the most current deed was then located and reviewed at the Baltimore County Court House. Starting with this most recent deed, full deed research was then conducted at the Courthouse and the Maryland State Archives. A chain of title, based on the deed research, was created that documents ownership of the property. The land records were only researched for settlements retaining an individual resource or to aid in the determination of land ownership. Deed research was not conducted for every resource or settlement.
Equity case research was conducted on those properties that have been the subject of an equity or chancery case during their history. Equity cases generally resulted following the death of a property owner and recorded the final outcome of ownership. These papers were located at the Maryland State Archives and were often descriptive of the property and its improvements. The existence of an Equity Case was discovered during land record research and examined if deemed necessary to properly document the history of a particular settlement.

Assessment record research was conducted when believed necessary to aid in the proper documentation of an individual resource or settlement district. Generally speaking, assessment record records from 1876 to the mid-20th century were most descriptive. Earlier assessment records, including the 1798 Federal Direct Tax records and the 1840-1850 assessment, were examined on those few buildings in this study that date to this period. The assessment records document the number, type and materials of improvements on a property, give an assessed value of the improvements and the land itself, and may also list personal possessions of the owner of the property, including silver and furniture. Assessment record research was particularly useful in this project because, in conjunction with deeds and maps, narrowed the established date of construction of a particular building. Tax book research was conducted at the Maryland State Archives. Assessment research was not conducted for every resource or settlement.

Census research involved the examination of U.S. Census records, located at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and the Maryland Hall of Records in Annapolis. Census research was conducted on the residents from the mid-19th century until 1930 (available in April 2002). Census information proved helpful in this project by providing insight into the occupants of the property and their racial makeup. Census records list the resident of the property and their dependents, their occupations, their place of birth and their parents’ place of birth. The census also lists how old the resident is, how long he/she has been married, and how many children a mother has had, and how many of those children are alive. Although not all useful, this information speaks to the socio-economic and cultural make-up, not only of the property itself, but of the area in which the specific property is located.

Biographic research was, for this project, generally conducted on the more prominent owners or residents and their families. Information on prominent residents of Baltimore County was sought in the vertical files and in published resources at Maryland State Archives. Biographic research was not the primary focus of this project, however, and was limited to a general search of readily accessible sources. The oral history interviews conducted by Louis S. Diggs, both published and unpublished, proved to be extremely informative with regard to biographic documentation for many of the settlements.

Photographic research involved the study of historic photographs that may reveal new information about a property or settlement. Historic photos can show details of an existing building or settlement that are no longer intact or they can show a building prior to its having undergone major additions or alterations. Historic photographic collections
were found in published books on Baltimore County and in the photographic collections at the Baltimore County Historical Society, Baltimore County Public Library, and the Maryland State Archives.

**The literature search** was two-fold and involves: 1) the compilation of published and unpublished sources on the history of Baltimore County and on its historic architecture, and 2) the compilation of published and unpublished sources on the African American settlements being studies. General knowledge of the history and architecture of Baltimore County provided a greater understanding of the settlements being studied and provided a context into which the individual building and neighborhood histories fit. A general history was gleaned from books, articles, National Register forms, and other reports, such as the historic context prepared by EHT Traceries in 2001 (revised 2003). Specific information on the settlements being studied was gathered from the vertical files of the local, county, and state repositories, individual property owners within those neighborhoods, and other local organizations. Information ranged from newspaper articles to previous surveys to more substantial studies. This research was essential to the documentation of the properties recorded at the mid-level as well as those recorded at the intensive level.

**Map research** involved the study of maps and drawings from the founding of Baltimore County until modern times. The maps were collected from the Baltimore County Public Libraries, the Maryland State Archives, and the Geography and Maps Division of the Library of Congress. Other than plat maps sometimes found in deed books, drawings of individual properties have not been located. Investigation of plats and drawings of individual properties, however, was not intensively pursued. Other sources included general research into specific settlements, research into the business or organization that may have been associated with the settlements, research into newspaper articles and more.

D. **Documentation of Survey Findings**

Upon completion of the on-site and archival study, a Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) form and capsule summary was prepared for each of the properties. The forms were completed synthesizing the findings from both the on-site and archival studies.

**MIHP forms:** The Office of Planning identified the areas to be included in the thematic study. These neighborhoods were scattered throughout the county. This work included exterior on-site survey, with a location map, a copy of the relevant USGS map, and photographs (black-and-white, slides, and digital images). The research addressed land ownership (deed research if applicable), tax assessments, and biographical history. The forms contained a detailed architectural description of the settlement, a capsule summary, assessment of integrity, and a statement of significance.
A total of 37 MIHP forms were created for the African American settlements. Two settlements were combined into other areas because of their proximity to one another, resulting in the completion of two MIHP forms rather than four. Two settlements contained only the extant church--both previously documented with an MHT identification number. Thus, an addendum was completed for both of these two churches.

**National Register Historic District Nomination:** Winters Lane in Catonsville was documented for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. This property was recognized for its architectural merit and historical significance. The proposed area was assessed for its integrity and eligibility prior to documentation as historic district. This work resulted in the completion of a National Register nomination, with a detailed architectural description, inventory, statement of significance and history, and boundary justification, for the Winters Land Historic District.

**E. Disposition of Survey Documentation**

All of the original documentation, including photographs, digital images, and slides, of properties documented were submitted to the Office of Planning. A second set of archival MIHP forms with associated products including negatives was submitted directly to the Maryland Historical Trust.
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ARCHITECTURE

The history of the African American settlements in Baltimore County began as early as 1798 and continued well into the middle part of the 20th century. The variety of building types identified as part of the African American Thematic Study, which documented 39 settlements countywide, included residential buildings, churches, cemeteries, schools, and social halls.

The materials used in the construction of the dwellings, churches, and schools include log, stone, brick, and wood frame. The identification and dating of log buildings is difficult to discern in Maryland, and particularly in Baltimore County where it was a common practice to clad log structures with wood shingles or weatherboard siding, as was done with timber-frame structures. Identified log structures, specifically dwellings, include Loreley (BA-3124), Overlea (BA-3055), and the Richard Cromwell House on Troyer Road (BA-3117). Stone, a rare construction material, in the African American settlements, was sometimes found as the building material of choice for schools and churches. Examples include the school in Sparks (BA-3089) and Mt. Gilboa Chapel (BA-637) in Oella (BA-3092). Stone was noted as a dominant foundation material throughout Baltimore County in each of the survey districts. Very few African American buildings in Baltimore County were constructed of brick, which like stone was used for church and school. Throughout the county, wood frame was the predominate building material for African American resources largely because it was a readily available construction material and thus cost effective.

Many of the African American resources, in particular the dwellings, stand on random rubble-stone foundations and are constructed of wood frame capped by a gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. Typically, houses are clad with wood shingles or weatherboard siding, or original siding materials such as asbestos shingles. A few of the solid foundations in the survey districts have been parged and a large amount of the buildings have wood-frame additions and replacement porches. Non-historic materials do exist but not in the high numbers as seen in other communities throughout Baltimore County.

High-style architectural interpretations in the African American communities were most commonly found on the local church. The lack of high or textbook styles on residential and educational resources appears to have been a conscious choice by the property owner and/or building, presumably to allow for financial reasons and tradition. The settlements studied reflect only a very few styles, including Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival. However, the ornamentation attributed to these high styles was minimal. For example, the Gothic Revival style was displayed on residential buildings in the form of a cross gable typically pierced with pointed- or round-arched windows. Popular throughout the mid-19th century through the 20th century, the Gothic Revival style was a favorable style for African American churches.
Residential Resources

The residential settlements primarily contain single-family dwellings, although a few of the communities included a handful of multiple-family houses. Chase (BA-3120), Edgemere (BA-3061), and Schwartz Avenue (BA-3046) included examples of multiple-family housing.

Single-family residential buildings in Baltimore County’s African American settlements include a variety of building forms. Common forms identified were shotgun houses, American Foursquare houses, Cape Cods, bungalows, I-houses, L-shaped and T-shaped houses. The most common form stands two stories high and is constructed of wood frame. The structures typically measure two bays across. The following neighborhoods were noted to have this common house type: Lutherville (BA-3085), Cuba Road (BA-3088), Oella (BA-3093), Bare Hills (BA-3050), Loreley (BA-3124), Sparks (BA-3089), Edgemere (BA-3061), East Towson (BA-2564), and Granite (BA-3095), among others.

The shotgun house was a popular form built by and for African Americans in the southern region of the United States during the latter part of the 19th and early half of the 20th century. It is a one- to two-story structure, measuring one room wide and several rooms deep. Each of the rooms is placed in a line with the roof ridge perpendicular to the street. The name comes from the thesis that a shot could be fired through the front door and continue through the rear door without interruption. Only a small number of communities in Baltimore County exhibited shotgun houses, including Campfield (BA-3122), Edgemere (BA-3061), Bond Avenue (BA-3086), and Turner’s Station (BA-3056).

Cape Cods and bungalows in the African American settlement areas range in date from the 1900s to 1950s. The one-and-a-half-story "Cape Cod" cottages exhibit the familiar detailing and form commonly associated with the Colonial Revival style. This form provided an adequate and affordable housing mode for the growing population of working- and middle-class residents of Baltimore County, while mimicking the fashionable style of the period. The bungalow mimicked the plan and massing traditionally associated with the fashionable Queen Anne style; yet, the bungalow form like the Cape Cod was invariably one to one-and-a-half stories in height. The bungalow is covered by a low-pitched, intersecting gable roof that encompassed the often-wrapping porch. The irregular plan allowed for additional window openings and direct access to the porch from various secondary rooms. The modest arrangement of the wood-frame buildings made them one of the most popular low- to middle-income domestic forms in growing suburban communities across the United States. These popular building forms were exhibited in Win-Oak (BA-3045), Hopewell Avenue (BA-3058), Halethorpe (BA-3047), Goodwood-Hyde Park (BA-3060), Bradshaw-Philadelphia Road (BA-3125), Bond Avenue (BA-3086), and Foote’s Hill (BA-3092). The term American Foursquare is a two-story, four-room-per-floor house plan without a hall, a much-used concept that refers to the hall/parlor plan of the 18th century. Dating from between 1910 and the 1930s, American Foursquare dwellings are found in a number of the settlements, including
An extremely popular vernacular type in the Mid-Atlantic and Mid-West region is the I-house. The culmination of three basic elements – two-story height, one-room depth, and side-gabled roof – creates the form of the I-house. Baltimore County, and its African American settlements, is impregnated with hundreds of I-houses. The first architectural historian to recognize and coin the term I-house was Fred Kniffen in 1936. Conducting research in the South, Kniffen first referred to an I-house as a popular mid-western type in Louisiana. He used the term I-house to signify its migration to Louisiana by builders originating from mid-west states as Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa. Through many years of fieldwork between the 1930s and 1960s, Kniffen explains that the I-house is a type that moved across the east to the mid-west from the south and mid-Atlantic regions. Keeping the three basic elements, the construction materials, floor plans, and chimney placement of the I-house remains variable. I-houses are seen throughout Baltimore County constructed from brick, stone, and wood frame (some possibly log). The chimney placement tends to be on the exterior or interior ends. What Kniffen concludes by examining house types throughout the mid-west, middle-Atlantic, and south is that early on the I-house was a local symbol to exhibit prosperous economic attainment in rural areas. Exhibited throughout the mid-Atlantic region and the south, particularly prominent in Kentucky, the two-story dogtrot or saddlebag house was sided to give the appearance of an I-house. This became a common thread throughout each region. Kniffen explains that “of all old folk types, the I-house is by far the most widely distributed, notably as a rural dwelling.” As such, the I-house was extremely popular in nearly all of the African American settlements in Baltimore County. These include Foote’s Hill (BA-3092), Chase (BA-3120), Schwartz Avenue (BA-3046), Hopewell Avenue (BA-3058), Cowdensville (BA-3051), Church Lane (BA-3048), Chattolanee (BA-3049), Big Falls (BA-3118), Back River Neck (BA-3119), Bengies (BA-3059), and Campfield (BA-3122), to name only a few.

Churches

Many of the African American neighborhoods in Baltimore County are culturally and physically centered around churches. Typically, these neighborhoods were settled due to the existence of a local church and the supporting amenities they provided. The continued existence of these religious institutions, which also provided space for neighborhood social activities, speaks to the stability of some of the communities. Twenty-six churches were documented as part of African American Thematic Study; a list of African American associated churches in Baltimore County is included in the inventory.

Church denominations represented in African American survey districts:
  African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.)
  Baptist
  United Methodist (U.M.)
The majority of the African American communities in Baltimore County and City had a single church within their neighborhood. Examples of settlements with more than one church include Turner’s Station (BA-3056), East Towson (BA-2564), and Winters Lane (BA-3067). Of the African American settlements surveyed, nine communities did not have a church within its survey boundaries: Win-Oak (BA-3045), Schwartz Avenue (BA-3046), Halethorpe (BA-3047), Bare Hills (BA-3050), Bengies (BA-3059), Granite (BA-3095), Back River Neck (BA-3119), Forge Road (BA-3123), and Bradshaw-Philadelphia Road (BA-3125). Several of these neighborhoods, such as Win-Oak, Bengies, Back River Neck, and Bradshaw-Philadelphia Road, were within close distance to African dominated churches.

Churches are typically constructed of wood frame (possibly timber frame or log) and have a basilica-type plan featuring a rectangular-shaped footprint. The majority of the churches are capped with a front-gabled roof and many have either a front entry vestibule or a steeple/bell tower atop the roof. The vernacular African American church buildings range in size from one to two stories in height and are generally two to four bays deep. The smaller churches in Baltimore County, some of which were previously documented, include the 1865 Greenspring U.M. Church (BA-1620), the 1874 Union M.E. Chapel (BA-2100), the 1877 Bazil A.M.E. Church (BA-2183), and the 1914 Campfield A.M.E. Church (BA-3122). Several of the larger African American churches include the 1867 St. Luke’s M.E. Church (BA-1255), the 1892 Stephenson A.M.E. Church (BA-3089), 1881/1906 St. James A.U.M.P. Church (BA-2564), and the 1908 Edgewood U.M. Church (BA-3085).

Four non-residential African American communities include churches:
- Monkton School/Isaiah Baptist Church in Monkton (BA-2102)
- Pine Grove Church in Pine Grove (BA-1554)
- Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church in Long Green (BA-0928)
- Piney Grove Methodist Church in Piney Grove (BA-3087)

**Schools**

The 19th- and early-20th- century residents of the African American communities in Baltimore County were not provided with purpose-built county public schools. Further, African American children were prohibited from attending white public schools. The countywide solution that appeared in these settlement areas was to add this educational function to the church activities, as the church was the center of the community. Many of the churches constructed from mid- to late-19th century and the first decade of the 20th century intentionally built full-height basements. The basements were then used as to house the school. Churches with educational facilities include St. James A.U.M.P Church in East Towson (BA-2564), Gough Church in Cockeysville (BA-847), and Mt.
Gilboa Chapel in Oella (BA-3094). Unfortunately, a number of communities did not have the necessary funds to build a large church, forcing them to use the sanctuary as the school. Examples include Greenspring U.M. Church in Garrison (BA-1620) and Bazil A.M.E. Church in Cockeysville (BA-2183). During the mid-19th century, the Mt. Olivet U.M. Church on Winters Lane (BA-3067) in Catonsville held third and fourth grades because the schoolhouse at 100 Edmondson Avenue was not large enough to do so. The fifth and sixth grades were located in the grocery store on the southwest corner of Winters Lane and Edmondson Avenue.

In February 1870, the Baltimore County Board of School Commissioners voted to provide funding for black education, but the General Assembly did not mandate local support for black schools until 1872. At this time, publicly supported teachers were supplied. To encourage the establishment of African American schools, the School Board of Baltimore County appropriated money to every 'colored school' in the county having twenty or more pupils enrolled. Public schools constructed for African Americans are prefixed with a 2 in front of their number, such as public school #22 in Granite (BA-3095) or ‘colored’ school #21 on Winters Lane (BA-3067) in Catonsville.

A list of African American schools in Baltimore County is included in the appendix.

Social Organizations

Social organizations, like the churches, helped to advance the sense of community in all of the African American neighborhoods. These organizations included a number of elk and freemason lodges that utilized meeting space in private homes, groceries, and churches until they could purchase property or have purpose-built structures completed. The extant lodges or social halls identified in the African American Thematic Study were located in Loreley (BA-3124), Winters Lane (BA-3067), Turner’s Station (BA-3056), Sparks (BA-3089), East Towson (BA-3564), Win-Oak (BA-3045), and Schwartz Avenue (BA-3046). The 1924 African American school in Halethorpe functioned as a recreational building for the Halethorpe Civic League beginning in 1959.

HISTORY

By 1840, as noted in the census records, the population of Baltimore County had reached nearly 135,000 residents, with 126,784 of the population being whites and free African-Americans. The census included nearly eight thousand slaves, the slight majority being female. Within ten years, the 1850 census reported that the population of Baltimore County had nearly doubled, with 210,646 residents. This included 174,853 whites and 6,718 slaves. The population of free African-Americans had grown from 21,453 to 29,075. As documented by the 1840 and 1850 census records, Baltimore County was overwhelmingly the most populated county in the state of Maryland, with Baltimore City by far the largest city. In 1840 and 1850, however, Baltimore County had the fourth largest population of slaves and free persons of “color” in the state. The total Baltimore County population was 54,135 at the time of the 1860 census. This number equals
46,722 white people, 4,231 free African Americans, and 3,182 slaves. By this time, Baltimore County had the twelfth largest population of slaves and free persons of “color” out of the twenty-one counties in Maryland.

African Americans in the county gathered together to provide both economical and social support for each other. Settlements gathered around the churches and either used the church edifice or residences as a place to teach their children and have prayer meetings. Employment for men was found as laborers on farms, quarries, railroads, mills, or as chauffeurs and waiters. The women either worked at home or provided services to local white families as washerwomen or housekeepers. Historically, it was a rarity for residents in communities to be business owners. Exceptions to this are confined to the larger communities such as Turner’s Station (BA-3056) and Winters Lane (BA-3067), where it was more conducive to have an African American-owned business.

The churches, schools, and lodges sustained African American communities by providing the people a sense of place. The families have remained together and continue to do so. Exhibited in the census figures, particularly for 1920 and 1930, many households contained the immediate and extended family members. It was also not uncommon for a household to contain 10 or more people. One household in Bengies (BA-3059), according to the 1920 census, had a total of 18 members with 16 children listed.

Many of the African American children in Baltimore County had a difficult time receiving a sufficient education. The county neither provided funding for the construction of public schools nor certified teachers until 1872. The county did not provide transportation, so a large majority of children walked long distances, sometimes up to five miles, to attend school. The local public schools or community-supported schools held grades one through seven. Until desegregation in May 1954, residents were required to pass a standardized test in order to attend an African American high school. Only three African American high schools, including the school in Sparrows Point and the Carver School in East Towson (BA-2564), were located in Baltimore County during the first half of the 20th century. When the Supreme Court ruled against school segregation in the 1954 decision of Brown v. the Board of Education, Baltimore County has fourteen all-black schools, twelve of which were elementary school. The integration process moved slowly, with of the 4,182 black children in the county, fifty percent still attended all-black schools in 1964.

**TODAY**

The African American settlements included in the Thematic Study were at one time entirely African American. A few of these neighborhoods remain this way. However, quite a few of the communities have become mixed race, including Chase (BA-3120), Bengies (BA-3059), Halethorpe (BA-3047), Back River Neck (BA-3119), Belltown (BA-3096), and Bradshaw-Philadelphia Road (BA-3125). Many of the elderly residents interviewed by Louis S. Diggs claim that this occurrence has happened for several reasons, the main reason being that the young residents leave the community for more...
urban areas such as Baltimore City, Towson, and Cockeysville. Without the younger generation, the African American community will eventually be lost.

In addition, development pressures have greatly impacted the original size and stability of the African American settlements, which are being absorbed into non-African Americans neighborhoods. For example, the land along Pfeffers Road in the Bradshaw-Philadelphia Road (BA-3125) survey district was entirely African American, predominantly owned by the Brown family. In the past years, descendents of the Brown family have been selling land to non-African Americans, who intended to build single-family residences on the land. The increasing development and thinning of community borders made identification of the settlements difficult, as definable neighborhoods no longer existed. Some of these districts include Bengies (BA-3059), Chase (BA-3120), Back River Neck (BA-3119), Campfield (BA-3122), and Belltown (BA-3096). The boundaries of both Bengies and Chase blurred into each other and the Baltimore and Washington Railroad divided Bengies in a north-south direction. Back River Neck, Campfield, and Belltown contained numerous non-historic resources that made it difficult to determine boundaries.

Several of the survey districts were easily definable during the on-site survey conducted by EHT Traceries in 2002-2003. A few examples of these districts include Turner’s Station (BA-3056), Edgemere (BA-3061), Bare Hills (BA-3050), and East Towson (BA-2564). Physical features such as highways, railroads, water, concentrated commercial or industrial businesses, and non-historic resources such as suburban developments/communities isolated neighborhoods. Halethorpe (BA-3047), for example, is bounded by the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway (I-95), commercial enterprises on Washington Boulevard (Route 1), and several railroads including the Baltimore and Ohio and the Baltimore and Washington. Winters Lane (BA-3067) in Catonsville is a linear district set north of Frederick Road and extending to the Baltimore National Pike.
RECOMMENDATIONS

Individual, Historic District Nominations, and Multiple Property Documentation

The settlements identified in the African American Thematic Study in Baltimore County have been evaluated on a preliminary basis for their historic significance at the local, state, and national levels. As stated in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Evaluation, evaluation is the process of determining whether identified properties meet defined criteria of significance and whether they should, therefore, be included in an inventory of historic properties determined to meet the established criteria.

In association with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Evaluation is the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Evaluation. These guidelines describe the principles and process for evaluating the significance of the identified historic properties. In evaluating the African American resources of Baltimore County, both the Standards and Guidelines for Evaluation were consulted. The National Register of Historic Places is the official national list of recognized properties, which is maintained and expanded by the National Park Service on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior.

The National Register of Historic Places Criteria states:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

C. that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.
After determining how the criteria applies, the Secretary of Interior's *Guidelines for Evaluation* suggests that the integrity of the settlements should be accessed. In evaluating the integrity, factors such as new construction, non-African American development, deterioration, abandonment, and demolition should be considered if they have affected the significance of the settlements. In surveying the settlements of Baltimore County, the integrity of the neighborhoods and their resources was evaluated using the seven aspects as defined in *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. The aspects include location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Based upon the state and national guidelines and criteria, each of the African American settlements surveyed was evaluated for its eligibility for listing in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and the National Register of Historic Places.

**Individual Properties Recommended for Nomination**

1. BA-2565 Lutherville Colored School

**Historic Districts Recommended for Nomination**

1. BA-3056 Turner’s Station African American Survey District
2. BA-3088 Cuba Road African American Survey District

**Multiple Property Documents Recommended for Nomination**

1. African American Schools
2. African American Churches

**CONCLUSION**

The African American Thematic Study focused on historic African American settlements and their resources throughout Baltimore County. This project, administered by the Baltimore County Office of Planning and the Landmarks Preservation Commission, resulted in the completion of 39 Maryland Historical Trust Inventory of Historic Properties forms or addendum, complete with photographic documentation of each of the properties.

The project was designed to provide a complete and accurate understanding of the history and evolution of the individual settlements and the resource that comprise the county. The information is intended to prompt additional survey and documentation projects, including oral history interviews and National Register nominations. Additionally, it is to be used in the assessment and evaluation of these settlements by the Landmarks Preservation Commission when reviewing the effect(s) of an undertaking on a particular property.
### APPENDIX

#### AFRICAN AMERICAN SETTLEMENTS

In Order By MIHP Number

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MIHP NUMBER</th>
<th>COMMUNITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BA-2102</td>
<td>Monkton School</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA-2564</td>
<td>East Towson African American Survey District</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA-3045</td>
<td>Win-Oak African American Survey District</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA-3046</td>
<td>Schwartz Avenue African American Survey District</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA-3047</td>
<td>Halethorpe African American Survey District</td>
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<td>Norris Lane African American Survey District</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA-3058</td>
<td>Hopewell Avenue African American Survey District</td>
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<td>BA-3059</td>
<td>Bengies African American Survey District</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA-3060</td>
<td>Goodwood-Hyde Park African American Survey District</td>
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<td>BA-3061</td>
<td>Edgemere African American Survey District</td>
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<td>BA-3067</td>
<td>Winters Lane Historic District</td>
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<td>BA-3085</td>
<td>Lutherville African American Survey District</td>
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<td>BA-3086</td>
<td>Bond Avenue African American Survey District</td>
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<td>BA-3087</td>
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<td>BA-3092</td>
<td>Foote's Hill African American Survey District</td>
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<td>BA-3093</td>
<td>Oella African American Survey District</td>
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<td>BA-3094</td>
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<td>Belltown African American Survey District</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA-3110</td>
<td>Oblates African American Survey District (preferred)</td>
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<td>Troyer Road African American Survey District</td>
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<td>BA-3118</td>
<td>Big Falls African American Survey District</td>
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<td>BA-3125</td>
<td>Bradshaw-Philadelphia Rd African Am. Survey District</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA-3126</td>
<td>St. Stephen's A.M.E. Church</td>
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</table>
AFRICAN AMERICAN SETTLEMENT DATES

In Order By Date

1798  BA-3117  Troyer Road African American Survey District
1840  BA-3094  Glen Arm African American Survey District
1847  BA-3051  Cowdensville African American Survey District
1850  BA-3087  Piney Grove African American Survey District
1851  BA-0928  Long Green A.M.E. Church
1852  BA-3088  Cuba Road African American Survey District
1859  BA-3093  Oella African American Survey District
1860  BA-3095  Granite African American Survey District
1865  BA-3049  Chattolane African American Survey District
1867  BA-3067  Winters Lane Historic District
1867  BA-3118  Big Falls African American Survey District
1869  BA-2564  East Towson African American Survey District
1870  BA-3046  Schwartz Avenue African American Survey District
1870  BA-3050  Bare Hills African American Survey District
1870  BA-3085  Lutherville African American Survey District
1870  BA-3124  Loreley African American Survey District
1873  BA-2102  Monkton School
1877  BA-3123  Forge Road African American Survey District
1878  BA-3126  St. Stephen’s A.M.E. Church
1880  BA-3096  Belltown African American Survey District
1880  BA-3045  Win-Oak African American Survey District
1890  BA-3120  Chase African American Survey District
1890  BA-3125  Bradshaw-Philadelphia Rd African Am. Survey District
1898  BA-1554  Pine Grove Church
1900  BA-3047  Halethorpe African American Survey District
1900  BA-3048  Church Lane African American Survey District
1900  BA-3056  Turner's Station African American Survey District
1900  BA-3057  Norris Lane African American Survey District
1900  BA-3058  Hopewell Avenue African American Survey District
1900  BA-3059  Bengies African American Survey District
1900  BA-3061  Edgemere African American Survey District
1909  BA-3055  Overlea African American Survey District
1910  BA-3122  Campfield African American Survey District
1915  BA-3119  Back River Neck African American Survey District
1920  BA-3060  Goodwood-Hyde Park African American Survey District
1962  BA-3110  Oblates African American Survey District (preferred)

*This is typically a circa date taken during the on-site survey and denotes the oldest Resource or Grave Marker.*
AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCHES

In Alphabetical Order

BA-357 *Asbury Methodist Church 11501 Philadelphia Road, Loreley
BA-2183 *Bazil AME Church 320 Sherwood Road, Cockeysville
BA-3122 Campfield ME Church 7140 Walnut Avenue, Pikesville
*The Colored MP St. John's Chapel
BA-1192 Cowdensville AME Church 1100 Sulphur Spring Road, Arbutus
BA-1058 Douten's Chapel or Dowden's Chapel 4310 Ridge Road, Fullerton
BA-300 Edgewood United Methodist Church 1434 Bellona Avenue, Lutherville
BA-3067 Grace AME Church 67 1/2 Winters Lane, Catonsville
BA-1620 Greenspring UM Church 2732 Spring Hill Road, Garrison
BA-847 Gough Church 14200 Cuba Road, Cockeysville
BA-2103 *Isaiah Baptist Church 1931 Monkton Road, Monkton
*John Wesley Memorial ME Church Site
BA-2476 Marcella Chapel 9601 Old Court Road, Granite
 Mt. Calvary AME Church 300 Eudowood Lane, Towson
BA-2101 *Mt. Joy AME Church 17223 Troyer Road, Monkton
BA-637 *Mt. Gilboa Chapel 2312 Westchester Avenue, Oella
BA-1760 Mt. Olive Baptist Church 816 York Road, Towson
 Mt. Olivet Methodist Episcopal Church
BA-654* Mt. Pleasant AME Church 235 Tollgate Road, Owings Mill
BA-928* Mt. Zion AME Church 13010 Manor Road, Long Green
*Oblates (Mt. Providence);
BA-1554 *Pine Grove Church & Cemetery 20105 Kirkwood Shop Road, White Hall
BA-1177 *Piney Grove Methodist Church 4929 Piney Grove Road, Reisterstown
BA-51 *Little Sharp Street Methodist Church 1814 Eastern Avenue, Essex
BA-1000 St. James African Union MP Church 415 Jefferson Street, East Towson
 St. John's Church
BA-1255 St. Luke’s UM Church 52 Bond Avenue, Reisterstown
BA-2062 *St. Lukes ME Church 16820 Hereford Road, Hereford
BA-3126 *St. Stephen's AME Church 1601 Old Eastern Avenue, Essex
BA-427 Stephenson AME Church 811 East Quaker Bottom Road, Sparks
BA-2146 Union Bethel AME Church 8502 Liberty Road, Randallstown
BA-2100 *Union ME Chapel 17341 Troyer Road, Monkton

Churches depicted in **bold** are documented in the MIHP survey district forms as part of the thematic study
*Cemeteries or Burials on site
AFRICAN AMERICAN SCHOOLS

In Order by MIHP Number, then Alphabetical

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<td>11646 Philadelphia Road, Loreley</td>
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<td>Granite Public School</td>
<td>10700 Old Court Road, Granite</td>
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<td>BA-1075</td>
<td>Carver High School</td>
<td>300 Lennox Avenue</td>
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<td>BA-1177</td>
<td>Piney Grove School</td>
<td>Piney Grove Road, Boring</td>
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<td>BA-2063</td>
<td>Hereford School</td>
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<td>Catonsville Colored School</td>
<td>100 Edmondson Avenue, Catonsville</td>
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<td>BA-2413</td>
<td>School #22, District 9</td>
<td>417 Schwartz Avenue, Towson</td>
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<td>Lutherville Schoolhouse/</td>
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<td>Public School #24</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA-2497</td>
<td>Shepperd School</td>
<td>17337 Troyer Road, Monkton</td>
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<td>BA-2823</td>
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<td>11601 Eastern Avenue, Essex</td>
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<td>Halethorpe Colored School</td>
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<td>Public School</td>
<td>222 New Avenue, Reisterstown</td>
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<td>Sparks School</td>
<td>7 Stoddard Court, Sparks</td>
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<td>Turner Public School</td>
<td>Pine Street, Dundalk</td>
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PERSONS INTERVIEWED BY LOUIS A. DIGGS

Listed In No Particular Order

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<td>Bengies</td>
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<td>Gladys Hester Brown Austin</td>
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<td>Bessie Johns Russell</td>
<td>Chase</td>
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<td>Anna Barnes</td>
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<td>Emily Maddox</td>
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<td>Charlotte Ringgold</td>
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<td>Ruth Rogers Dorsey</td>
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46. William Eligah Griggs: Granite
47. Marva Bennett Kelly: Granite
48. Amy Jane Brooks Hawkins: Halethorpe
49. Hazel Kathryn Chambers: Halethorpe
50. Nellie Lee Williams: Halethorpe
51. Elizabeth Brooks Durham: Halethorpe
52. Donald Hawkins: Halethorpe
53. Ireland Hawkins: Halethorpe
54. Leroy Raymond Cole, Sr.: Oella
55. Odessa White Johnson: Oella
56. Lydia Lincoln Harris: Oella
57. Zola Cyrenian (Susan) Saunders: Oella
58. Jay Patel: Oella
59. Inez Johnson Lee: Bond Avenue
60. Annie Milligan: Bond Avenue
61. Rachel Clark Dean: Bond Avenue
62. Alverta Clark Jones: Bond Avenue
63. Frederick Bailey: Bond Avenue
64. Edmonia Johnson Smith: Bond Avenue
65. Frances Armeta Martin Cockey: Bond Avenue
66. Murray M. Welch, Jr.: Bond Avenue
67. Anna Rebecca Curles Carter: Bond Avenue
68. Pauline Mack: Bond Avenue
69. Helen Geist: Reisterstown
70. Eleanor Bruehl Turnbaugh: Reisterstown
71. Majorie Gill: Reisterstown
72. Ruth Whitney Seabold: Reisterstown
73. Alice Thomasine Berry Nelson: Piney Grove
74. Anna Mae Diggs Cole: Piney Grove
75. Eleanor Marie Smith Williams: Piney Grove
76. Richard Fielding Fry: Piney Grove
77. Ernest Donald Diggs: Piney Grove
78. Anna Marie Jefferson Bell: Piney Grove
79. Flora Annette Points Berry: Piney Grove
80. Mary A. Adams - Turner Station
81. Martha Allmond - Turner Station
82. Catherine Bullett - Turner Station
83. Beatrice Cabeau - Turner Station
84. Della E. Lemon - Turner Station
85. Joseph V. D'Anna - Turner Station
86. Sadie Barnett - Turner Station
87. Margaret Adams Cover - Turner Station
88. Agnes Pulliam - Turner Station
89. Mary Gwaltney - Turner Station
90. James Shelton - Turner Station
91. Catharine Byrd - Turner Station
92. James Azor Byrd - Turner Station
93. Maeives Addison - Turner Station
94. Roscoe Burman - Turner Station
95. Joseph Butler, Jr. - Turner Station
96. James A. Morton, II - Turner Station
97. Arthur (Laritha) Hancock - Turner Station
98. Della V. Hardy - Turner Station
99. George L. King - Turner Station
100. Thomas E. Bagley - Turner Station
101. Courtney Speed - Turner Station
102. Margaret Watkins - Turner Station
103. Dunbar (Edythe) Brooks - Turner Station
104. Mary E. Livingston - Turner Station
105. Linda Wade Hurd - Turner Station
106. Florence Parks - Sparrows Point
107. Charlotte Harvey - Sparrows Point
108. Annie Ruth Randolph - Sparrows Point
109. Landon Godsey - Sparrows Point
110. Gwendolyn Melvin - Sparrows Point
111. Dr. Melville Pugh, Jr., - Sparrows Point
112. Roy W. Cragway, Sr. - Sparrows Point
113. Dr. Theodore C.C. Patterson - Sparrows Point
114. Joseph Thomas, Jr. - Sparrows Point
115. Virginia Temple Diggs White - Chattolanee
116. Joseph Albert Diggs - Chattolanee
117. Thomas Russell Moore - Chattolanee
118. Sarah Fletcher Briscoe - Cowdensville
119. Marion Ellen Eley Fields - Cowdensville
120. Doris Matthews Manokey - Cowdensville
121. Margaret Williams Rose - Cowdensville
122. Adrienne Williams Jones - Cowdensville
123. Mildred Louise Williams Fletcher - Cowdensville
124. Lucille Scott Jones - Cowdensville
125. Evelyn Grace Staples Revels - Cowdensville
126. Vivian L. N. Scoefield - Cowdensville
127. Sister Claudia Sanz, O.S.P.. - Oblate Sisters of Providence
128. Sister Virginie Fish, O.S.P. - Oblate Sisters of Providence
129. Sister Mary Alice Chineworth, O.S.P. - Oblate Sisters of Providence
130. Sister Maris Stella, O.S.P. - Oblate Sisters of Providence
131. Sister M. Reparata Clarke, O.S.P. - Oblate Sisters of Providence
AFRICAN AMERICAN SURNAMES IN BALTIMORE COUNTY

This list is not inclusive. These names are derivative of names taken from cemeteries, census, and oral histories.

Adams          Edwards          Lomaz          Snowden
Addison        Fields          Lungford       Staten
Allender       Fleming         Lyles          Stearn
Armstrong      Fletcher        Lynch          Stevenson
Baker          Foote           Lyons          Sugar
Baltimore      Freeman         Mack           Swann
Barton         Friese          Madden         Talbot
Battle         Frye            Marshall       Taylor
Beard          Gaines          Matthews       Thompson
Beasley        Garrett         Maxwell        Thornton
Beatrice       Glascoe         Meyers         Tittle
Bell           Gough           Migal          Tobithan
Bennett        Govans          Miller         User
Berry          Gover           Milligan       Walker
Blackstone     Green           Moore          Walker
Bowers         Grey            Muse           Wallace
Branch         Griffin         Neal           Washington
Brooke         Griggs          Nelson         Watts
Brown          Grinage         Newman         White
Buchanan       Gwynn           Norris         Whye
Burley         Hall            Ockemy         Wicks
Butlers        Hamilton       Painter         Wilhelm
Carroll        Harris          Parker         Williams
Cassell        Hawkins         Payne          Wilson
Chatman        Hayes           Pennington     Winder
Clark          Henson          Pitts          Wippen
Cole           Hill            Pollock         Woodhouse
Coleman        Hitchens        Porters         Wright
Connors        Hodges          Preston         Young
Cooper         Holley          Prettyman      Zinzy
Cox            Holmes          Purnell         
Cromwell       Hooper          Quarrles       
Cross          Howard          Queen          
Dam            Jackson         Quigely         
Davage         Jefferson       Reed           
Davis          Johns           Reister         
Derricks       Johnson         Ringgold       
Dett           Jones           Ridout          
Diggs          Keets           Robinson       
Docking        King            Rogers          
Dorsey         Knox            Saunders       
Drummer        Lawrence        Scott          
Dutton         League          Skinner        
Edmonds        Lee             Smith          

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AND OTHER CULTURAL CENTERS

African American Cultural Center
Towson State University, Towson 21204-7097; Located on the third floor, Room 317, of the University Union.
Contact Person: Todd McFaddin, Director, A.A.C.C. Telephone: (410) 830-2641

The African American Cultural Center was set up in 1974 to educate African American students and the student body at large about the life, history, and culture of people of African descent. Its central role is to sponsor programs, speakers, film series etc. on African American subjects and to provide a center for the students and black community of Towson to gather. As part of its mission, a learning center on black history has been established that includes a small library of books and other materials on black history and culture. Policy for loans, publication, photography, etc. Material available for use on premises.

Overview of the African American Holdings:

The library contains about 100 volumes. There are copies of scholarly works, miscellaneous book titles, journals, magazines, and periodicals on black history. They also have a small collection of jazz albums (12), tapes of the gospel choir of Towson State (15 tapes), and tapes of several speeches and programs held at the University (Benjamin Hooks speech, "An Evening With Frederick Douglass" held April 14, 1983, etc.). A slide collection has been developed with five carousels of slides with prepared scripts on the following: 1) African Cities of History; 2) African Manpower Sources of European Colonial Troops; 3) Shaka and the Zulu Aftermath; 4) The Cavalry in African History; and 5) Timbuktu. There are also a number of boxes of slides with African subject matter. There are several reel-to-reel tapes in the collection, including a 25.5 minute tape from the radio program Black Perspective on hairstyle from the Afro Hut, a barber shop in Baltimore. Another tape has a selection of jazz. Eleven videotapes (not in VHF format) are unlabelled. Six volumes of loose leaf notebooks contain copies of newspaper articles related to African American subjects from the Baltimore Sun dating from the late 1980s. A computer data base on WP 5.1 focuses on important African Americans and black history. A sample of the files include the following: Banneker, Carver, Drew, Folktales, Johnson, Leary, Tubman, black cowboys, black women doctors.

Baltimore County Historical Society
9811 Van Buren Lane, Cockeysville 21030
Elmer Haile, Librarian
(410) 666-1876

Founded in 1959, the historical society occupies one wing of the Baltimore County Agricultural Building (the former poor house). The museum is housed in six rooms and includes a general store display, a kitchen display, a doll and toy room, a textile display room, and several other
rooms with miscellaneous furnishings and collections. The Library is housed in two rooms on the second floor. Volunteers staff the organization with no paid professional staff.

Overview of the African American Holdings:

There are no African American artifacts in the museum. The library has burial records and tombstone records from several black churches (detailed in a separate Collections Data Form) and a few books containing information on local African American history. The vertical files include several files on African American subjects, including: Black Communities in Baltimore County, Black History in Maryland, and Benjamin Banneker. These files contain miscellaneous articles and newspaper clippings. There are also several files on Oella, Maryland (near Ellicott City but in Baltimore rather than Howard County). These files contain photographs, newspaper articles, maps, copies of the National Register nomination to create a historic district and material related to Benjamin Banneker's land holdings and Banneker Park.

Inventory of the Collections:

A. Baltimore County Historical Society

The library has files on several black churches in Baltimore County. A file on the United Methodist Church Piney Grove contains a listing of tombstone inscriptions (a five page manuscript with 72 tombstone entries) dating from the construction of the church by free African Americans in 1849-1850. A file on Wesley Chapel ME Church contains newspaper clippings and a Xerox copy of the original Proceedings of the Board of Trustees of Wesley Chapel from June 1845 to September 12, 1874 (7 pages). A note attached to the document states that the original book was discarded on March 6, 1992. A third file on the Mount Gilboa Chapel, Westchester Avenue, Oella, contains miscellaneous newspaper clippings and a copy of the National Register application.

Number of Items in the Collection: Three files, 50 to 75 items.

Policy for loans, publication, photography, etc.: With the approval of the Board of Trustees.

African American Cultural Center

Towson State University, Towson 21204-7097;
Located on the third floor, Room 317, of the University Union.
Todd McFaddin, Director, A.A.C.C.
(410) 830-2641

Association for the Study Of Afro American Life & History (ASALH)

Julian Branch
Friends of the Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum
311 Holly Manor Rd, Catonsville 21228
LeRoy Giles, President
(410) 788-3044

Northeast Community Improvement Association
A civic organization serving the black community of East Towson.

Heritage Society of Essex and Middle River, Inc.
526 Eastern Boulevard, Essex 21221
P.M. Blitz, Archivist
Albert J. Selby, President
(410) 547-6934
BIBLIOGRAPHY

ARTICLES


*Maryland Journal*, July 13, 1867.


**BOOKS**


**GOVERNMENT RECORDS**


Baltimore County Historic Inventory, Office of Planning, Towson.


Maryland Inventory of Historic Places form for BA-427, Stephenson’s A.M.E. Church.

Mount Gilboa Chapel. National Register Nomination


**MAPS**


Sidney, J. C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

UNPUBLISHED

Clemens, S. B. and C. E. Clemens, From Marble Hill to Maryland Line, Not Published: C. E. Clemens and S. B. Clemens, 1976.


WEBSITES