CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-3050
Bare Hills African American Survey District
Baltimore County, MD
1870-1930

Beginning in the 1830s, Bare Hills is one of the oldest African-American neighborhoods in Baltimore County. It is located directly north of the Baltimore City line in the Third District of Baltimore County. African-American Reverend Aquila Scott settled the area along Falls Road Turnpike with the purchase of two acres of land in 1839. Several of the residences remaining in Bare Hills are noted on the 1877 Hopkins Atlas. North of the Bare Hills House, 6222 Falls Road, are four dwellings and one store lined along the south side of the road. A schoolhouse is located just north of this cluster of dwellings on the north side of Falls Road. The Bare Hills House is denoted as the residence of J. Wright, and south of this property are two dwellings along the road on the south side. Surrounding this area are the estates of Barnes, J. Hook, and Dr. W. H. Keener, in addition to the Bellona Gunpowder Company of Maryland. Only a few additions were made between 1877 and 1915 according to the Bromley Atlas. Walnut Avenue has been laid by 1915 and J. W. Gardman has plotted eight lots on the north side of the road. One dwelling has been constructed on Walnut Avenue by 1915. The 1915 map also shows the two houses at 6214 and 6216 Falls Road as twin dwellings.

Architecturally, the Bare Hills community consists of modest vernacular dwellings. Like many of the African American communities throughout Baltimore County the vernacular dwellings of Bare Hills are modest and lack stylistic treatments typical of these styles. Interpretation of style is primarily though the form of the dwelling such as four squares,

front-gable, and side-gable dwellings. Colonial Revival style is the predominant style representing forms with front-gable, side-gable, and hipped-roof forms. Construction materials used throughout the survey district include only wood frame and many of the houses are reclad with either asbestos shingles, asphalt shingles, wood shingles, or vinyl siding. The house at 6224 Falls Road is the only house within the district with its original weatherboard siding.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3050

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Bare Hills African American Survey District
other	

2. Location

street and number	Falls Road and Walnut Avenue	___	not for publication
city, town	Bare Hills	___	vicinity
county	Baltimore County		

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

name	multiple ownership		
street and number		telephone	Not Available
city, town	state	zip code	

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Baltimore County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	tax map 69
city, town	Towson	liber	folio

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
X district
___ building(s)
___ structure
___ site
___ object

Ownership
___ public
X private
___ both

Current Function
___ agriculture
___ commerce/trade
___ defense
X domestic
___ education
___ funerary
___ government
___ health care
___ industry
___ landscape
___ recreation/culture
___ religion
___ social
___ transportation
___ work in progress
___ unknown
___ vacant/not in use
___ other: _____

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
13	___	buildings
___	___	sites
___	___	structures
___	___	objects
13	0	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-3050

Condition

___	excellent	___	deteriorated
X	good	___	ruins
X	fair	___	altered

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

The Bare Hills African American Survey District is located on Falls Road (Route 25) and Walnut Avenue directly east of the Jones Falls Expressway (I-83). Bordering the community to the east is a small shopping center and a retirement center. To the north and northwest warehouses and commercial buildings border the survey district. The Bare Hills landscape is hilly and wooded. The Bare Hills survey district consists of thirteen historic dwellings on small rectangular lots; four twin dwellings and nine single-family dwellings stand in the district. The clusters of houses are sited close to the road and to their neighboring houses. Many of the dwellings have gravel driveways and are surrounded by trees, shrubs, and have foundation plantings.

Architecturally, the Bare Hills community dates from circa 1865 to 1930 and consists of modest vernacular dwellings. Like many of the African American communities throughout Baltimore County the vernacular dwellings of Bare Hills are modest and lack any stylistic treatments typical of these styles. Interpretation of style is primarily through the form of the dwelling such as Four Squares, front-gable and side-gable dwellings. Colonial Revival style is the predominant style representing forms with front-gable, side-gable, and hipped-roof forms. Construction materials used throughout the survey district include only wood frame and many of the houses are reclad with either asbestos shingles, asphalt shingles, wood shingles, or vinyl siding. The house at 6224 Falls Road is the only house within the district with its original weatherboard siding.

The earliest houses are sited at north of the Bare Hills House on Falls Road at 6236, 6238, 6240, and 6242 and date to circa 1870. Each of these houses rests on random-rubble stone foundations. The single-pile twin dwellings at 6242 and 6240 Falls Road are two-stories-high and four bays wide. Both are capped with a side-gable roof and features include two off-center single-leaf entries, 1/1 replacement windows, overhanging eaves, and a center-interior brick chimney. The house at 6238 Falls Road features an L-shaped footprint and is two-stories-high and two bays wide. Rising above the asphalt shingle roof is a center-interior brick chimney and many of the 6/6 wood-sash windows are boarded over. This vacant house is reclad with simulated brick asphalt shingles.

Dating circa 1870, the multiple dwelling at 6224 Falls rises two-and-a-half stories high and measures six bays wide. Originally, this dwelling consisted of three bays with a center entry. A three bay wide addition was constructed on the north elevation. The original building had a side-gable roof, which was altered to a center-cross gable roof succeeding the addition. Across the full-width of the façade is a half-hipped roof porch supported with square posts and square balusters. Features include 6/6 wood sash windows and a center-interior corbeled brick chimney.

Three houses stand on Walnut Avenue and date to the late 1920s. Each of these houses stands slightly farther back from the road than the previously described dwellings. Each house rises two-stories high, measures two bays wide, and features a one-story high full-width porch on the façade. The houses at 1404 and 1408 Walnut Avenue are similar with their rectangular footprints, front-gable roofs, and German vinyl-siding. The house at 1406 Walnut Avenue is capped with a hipped roof and features a hipped roof dormer on the façade. This house also has an interior brick chimney and 6/6 wood-sash windows.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-3050

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

Specific dates	1870-1930	**Architect/Builder**	Unknown
Construction dates	1870-1930		

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____ Maryland Register X 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.)

Beginning in the 1830s, Bare Hills is one of the oldest African-American neighborhoods in Baltimore County. It is located directly north of the Baltimore City line in the Third District of Baltimore County. The community is sited south of Ruxton and southeast of Lake Roland. African-American Reverend Aquila Scott settled the area along Falls Road Turnpike with the purchase of two acres of land in 1839. Purchasing land out of Hector's Hop Yard, a thirty-acre tract, it was deeded to Aquila Scott from John Zee Hook.(1)

Originally focused on the west side of Falls Road, Bare Hills is roughly bounding the community is Clarkview Road on the west, Robert E. Lee Park on the north and east, and Hollins Lane on the south. Bare Hills gets its name because of the mining for chromite and copper in the 19th century. Chromite was found in the area in 1810 and continued to be mined until 1850. At the time of settlement in the 1820s and 1830s, the area had already been heavily stripped and mined.

Aquila Scott was born a free black to Tobias Scott in 1784 in St. Mary's County. Freedom was granted to Tobias Scott and his descendents as a reward to saving his owner's life, a slave ship captain. Prior to moving to Baltimore County, Acquila Scott worked as a blacksmith and a wheelwright in St. Mary's County. In the 1820s Aquila Scott moved to Baltimore County and worked as a blacksmith and served as a reverend.(2) Acquila Scott and his wife, Priscilla, had twelve children in Baltimore County named John, William, Johanna, Mary, James Aquilla Jr., George, Susana, James, Nathaniel, Edward, Priscilla, and Ellen. In 1858 at the age of 74, Acquila Scott died at the pulpit and was buried on his land. Six years following her husband's death Priscilla died in 1864. Two years later, James Aquila Scott purchased the entire church property for $800. He continued to hold services in the church for the community.(3)

Prior to the construction of St. John's Church on Bellona Avenue in Ruxton, Aquila Scott held services in his residence along Falls Turnpike. In 1833, Elijah Fishpaw, a white landowner, deeded three quarters of an acre in Ruxton to five black men including Aquila Scott. This land was to be used as the site of an African-American Methodist Church and cemetery.(4) A stone parsonage was constructed along with a log church. The log building burned in 1876 and was replaced in 1886 by a wood-frame church on top the original stone foundation. This one-room church seats approximately 75 people.

Several of the residences remaining in Bare Hills are noted on the 1877 Hopkins Atlas. North of the Bare Hills House, 6222 Falls Road, are four dwellings and one store lined along the south side of the road. A schoolhouse is located just north of this cluster of dwellings on the north side of Falls Road. The Bare Hills House is denoted as the residence of J. Wright, and south of this property are two dwellings lined along the road on the south side. Surrounding this area are the estates of Barnes, J. Hook, and Dr. W.H. Keener, in addition to the Bellona Gunpowder Company of Maryland.(5) Only a few additions were made between 1877 and 1915 according to the Bromley Atlas. The 1915 map shows the addition of four dwellings north of the Bare Hills House. Walnut Avenue has been laid by 1915 and J.W. Gardman has plotted eight lots on the north side of the road. One dwelling has been

constructed on Walnut Avenue by 1915. The 1915 map also shows the two houses at 6214 and 6216 Falls Road as twin dwellings.(6)

Since its establishment, St. John's Church has been considered the center of the community and spiritual life for the Bare Hills residents. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s church service was held Thursday and Sunday nights. Thursdays were days off for the domestic workers. Some say that the church provided the only amusement in town. Special activities included suppers, lawn fetes, and box parties according to Marie Scott Brown.(7).

Expansion of the Bare Hills community occurred in 1925 when John W. Gardmon subdivided his farm located south of the original settlement. Gardmon, husband to the granddaughter of Aquila Scott, purchased a large tract of land in Bare Hills in 1902. Named for its scenic qualities, Gardman called the subdivision 'Pleasant View.' Several white residents put in bids for lots in Pleasant View but were denied by Gardman. He developed the land to sell only to African-Americans in order to maintain a sense of community. This development contains dwellings dating from 1950 to the present.

Attending school in Bare Hills was limited only to the white children. Black residents were forced to send their children to schools either in Lutherville or within Baltimore City. The proximity of city schools was a factor in the community's decision not to construct their own African-American school.

Very little turn over has occurred within the small community of Bare Hills until recently. Historically, it has been an integrated neighborhood between whites and blacks. Marie Scott Brown, great-granddaughter of Aquila Scott, stated that most blacks in Bare Hills worked as domestics for the whites in the larger dwellings east of Falls Road. Brown and other older residents have made statements about the lack of racial tension between the Bare Hills residents.

Bare Hills suffered a downward trend in community involvement especially by way of St. John's Church. Due to the lack of attendance the church ceased to operate in the 1960s. The recent trend beginning in the late-20th century has been for the older residents to sell their properties to Anglo-Americans. Young African-American residents move out of the neighborhood because of the unavailability of property. In the 1980s, the symbol of the community, St. Johns Church, was returned to its former glory through a substantial rehabilitation. The property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 and the Maryland Historical Trust holds an easement on the property for continuous protection. The Church property will continue to be under ownership of Scott's descendents.(8)

ENDNOTES

1. Robert A. Erlandson, Bare Hills Community Proud Of Its History. The Evening Sun, 6 August 1992.
2. Frederick Rasmussen, Where They Want To Stay Undiscovered. The Sun, 21 November 1999.
3. Linell Smith, Recycled Church. The Evening Sun, 23 October 1985.
4. Robert A. Erlandson, Bare Hills Community Proud Of Its History. The Evening Sun, 6 August 1992.
5. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).
6. Map of Baltimore County (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).
7. Linell Smith, Recycled Church. The Evening Sun, 23 October 1985.
8. Linell Smith, Recycled Church. The Evening Sun, 23 October 1985.

OWNERSHIP AS OF NOVEMBER 11, 2002

6214 Falls Road	Betty Williams -- tax id # 0310025175
Map 69 Parcel 64	6216 Falls Road

	Liber 13690 Folio 722
6216 Falls Road Map 69 Parcel 1086	Betty Williams -- tax id # 0323051625 6216 Falls Road Liber 13690 Folio 717
6228 Falls Road Map 69 Parcel 976	Dorothy and James M. Zelenka -- tax id # 0302057150 6224 Falls Road Liber 7165 Folio 141
6234 Falls Road Map 69 Parcel 658	Joseph Worthan, Jr. and Renee Worthan -- tax id # 0319012780 6234 Falls Road Liber 13335 Folio 92
6236 Falls Road Map 69 Parcel 571	Carolyn S. Levere -- tax id # 0320066100 210A Winters Lane Baltimore, MD 21228 Liber 11442 Folio 550
6238 Falls Road Map 69 Parcel 1027	William W. and Catherine M. Scott -- tax id# 0319011992 6238 Falls Road Liber 4876 Folio 715
6238 Falls Road Map 69 Parcel 1027	William W. and Catherine M. Scott -- tax id # 0319011991 6238 Falls Road Liber 3731 Folio 64
6240 Falls Road Map 69 Parcel 1021	Melanie L. Smith -- tax id # 0308055901 18874 McFarlin Drive Germantown, MD 20874 Liber 7901 Folio 748
6242 Falls Road Map 69 Parcel 858	Georgia S. White and Shirley Ann Covin -- tax id # 0308055900 18874 McFarlin Drive Germantown, MD 20874 Liber 7901 Folio 750
1404 Walnut Avenue Map 69 Parcel 976	Sedona Properties, LLC -- tax id # 0320000953 1404 Walnut Avenue Liber 16578 Folio 687
1406 Walnut Avenue Map 69 Parcel 976	Denise Dorothy Butler and Leroy W. Taylor -- tax id # 0310045225 1406 Walnut Avenue Liber 11886 Folio 175
1408 Walnut Avenue	Tyrone and Rita Smith -- tax id # 0302065800

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Bare Hills African American Survey District

Continuation Sheet
Number 8 Page 3

Map 69 Parcel 976 1408 Walnut Avenue
Liber 5979 Folio 850

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-3049

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	7.192 acres		
Acreage of historical setting	unknown		
Quadrangle name	Cockeysville, MD	Quadrangle scale	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Chattolanee is located along Greenspring Valley Road in the Third District of Baltimore County. The Chattolanee Survey District is comprised of eleven properties along Greenspring Valley Road and Spring Hill Road. The properties have been associated with tax map 68 since their construction.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Kristie Baynard, Architectural Historian		
organization	E.H.T. Traceries	dat	11/12/2002
street and number	1121 Fifth Street, NW	telephone	202/393-1199
city or town	Washington	state DC	zip code 20001

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

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. A History of Baltimore County. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Diggs, Louis S. In Our Voices: A Folk History in Legacy. Uptown Press, 1998.

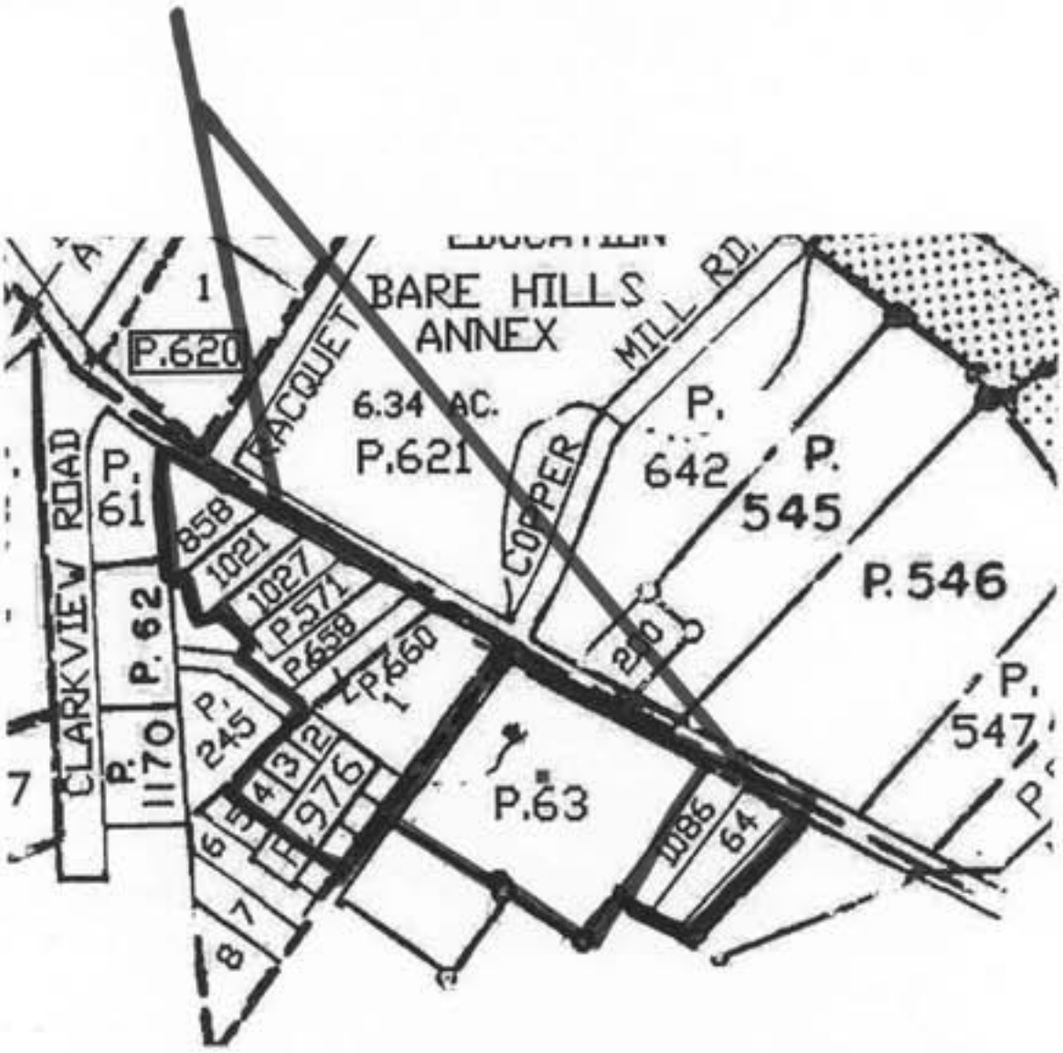
James, Ellen L. Enclave Residents Facing Problems of Long Neglect, Housing and Survival. The Evening Sun: Baltimore, October 24, 1977.

James, Ellen L. Enclaves Suffer From Neglect. The Evening Sun: Baltimore, October 28, 1977.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

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

U.S. Bureau of the Census. The Census of 1930, Baltimore County, Maryland. National Archives.

BA-3050
BARE HILLS AFRICAN
AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD