

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-3057

Norris Lane African American Survey District

Dundalk, Baltimore County

1900-1950 ca.

The Norris Lane African American Survey District is located northeast of Dundalk and north of Bear Creek in the Fifteenth District of Baltimore County. Norris Lane is first recorded in the U.S. Census in 1930 with a total of twenty-eight households. Of the twenty-eight households listed only fifteen are African American families. Seven of the fifteen African American male heads of households were from Virginia, four from Maryland, two each from Georgia and South Carolina. Households ranged from two to eight people in the African American families. Unlike any of the other African American enclaves at this time all fifteen of the African American households rented their property. Monthly rates for rent ranged from five to twenty dollars. Many of the men that lived on Norris Road worked as laborers on truck farms and steel mills. Several of the African American women also worked as laborers on the truck farms.

Norris Lane African American Survey District was developed during the early to mid 20th century. This district is a small enclave that is comprised of five streets; King Avenue, Robinson Avenue, Saffa Road, Norris Lane, and North Point Road. A total of twenty-five extant contributing buildings stand within the district. Nearly half the buildings within the district are non-contributing due to their construction date within the past fifty years. Ranging in date from 1900 to the 1980s, the houses are simple vernacular dwellings with forms representative of styles such as Colonial Revival and Craftsman. Ornament and detailing is not found on any of the dwellings. The forms and roof types of the historic dwellings seen throughout the community include bungalows (front- and side-gable roofs), Four Square dwellings, front-gable roof one- and two-story houses, and center cross-gable roof houses. Wood-frame construction is the dominant building method in the survey district with a few brick dwellings dating to the third quarter of the 20th century.

7. Description

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Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input 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.

Located off North Point Road northwest of Dundalk, the Norris Lane African American Survey District was developed during the early to mid 20th century. This district is a small enclave that is comprised of five streets; King Avenue, Robinson Avenue, Saffa Road, Norris Lane, and North Point Road. Norris Lane is the primary street that travels northeast to southwest from North Point Boulevard to North Point Road. Delk Manor is a development along Delk Court that dates to the mid 1940s. A total of twenty-five extant contributing buildings stand within the district. Nearly half the buildings within the district are non-contributing due to their construction date within the past fifty years.

The Norris Lane Survey District is a compact residential neighborhood with paved streets, level rectangular grassy lots with driveways (paved and unpaved), and even set backs. Many of the properties have chain link fences around the perimeter of the properties and foundation plantings, trees and shrubs. King Avenue and Norris Lane are the only two streets without sidewalks. Bordering the neighborhood to the northeast is the Baltimore Beltway and several commercial buildings, and to the south and west is residential and commercial development.

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The earliest building, located at the southwest corner of Norris Lane and North Point Boulevard, dates to circa 1900 and is a single-pile wood-frame dwelling with a center cross-gable roof. It is two stories in height and measures three bays across with an off-center entrance that contains a single-leaf door. Rising above the asphalt-shingle roof is one interior-center parged brick chimney. The original weatherboard siding has been reclad with several materials including Formstone, asbestos shingles, and simulated brick asphalt roll. The center cross gable has a shallow pitch and lacks the typical window opening. Covering the three bays on the first story is a replacement shed-roof porch supported with square wood posts.

A 1930s vernacular dwelling stands at 8021 Norris Lane. This dwelling has a long rectangular footprint and is two bays wide and two stories high. It is covered with a front-gable roof and is reclad with aluminum siding. The house features a half-hipped one-story screened porch and overhanging eaves.

The one Four Square dwelling in the Norris Lane survey district, 2603 Saffa Road, dates to circa 1940. It is constructed of concrete blocks and is clad with stucco. Rising two stories high, this dwelling measures three bays across. A hipped asphalt-shingle roof covers the dwelling and an enclosed half hipped-roof porch cover the first story bays. An interior-end concrete block chimney rises above the roof.

A group of bungalows constructed during the 1920s stand at 3, 5, and 7 Robinson Avenue. Each of these houses is wood frame reclad with vinyl siding and rise one-and-a-half stories high. They have side-gable roofs and either have gable- or shed-roof dormers. Each house have inset shed-roof porches on the façade, one of which has been fully enclosed. The houses feature center-interior chimneys and rest on concrete block foundations.

Another type of bungalow stands at 2510 North Point Road. It is two bays wide and one story high of wood-frame construction. Capped with a jerkinhead roof it features an interior-center brick chimney. A wood-frame addition was constructed on the northwest elevation.

Delk Manor was platted circa 1945 and contains twenty-five lots between Delk Court and Norris Lane. The vernacular houses in

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Delk Manor are either one or one-and-a-half stories in height and either wood-frame or brick construction. Built in the early 1940s, the dwelling at 8023 Norris Lane is one of the earliest dwellings in Delk Manor. This house is one story high and two bays wide with a front-gable roof. It measures four bays deep and has an exterior-end half-shouldered chimney.

8. Significance

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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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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	1900-1950 ca.	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1900-1980 ca.		

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 Norris Lane African American Survey District is located northeast of Dundalk and north of Bear Creek in the Fifteenth District of Baltimore County. The Hopkins Atlas of 1877 depicts the Methodist Episcopal Church at the northeastern corner of German Hill Road and North Point Road. Norris Lane at this time is a dirt road extending from North Point Road and ending in a dead end. The only dwelling depicted on the Hopkins Atlas is that of M. Thorn at the northeast corner of Norris Lane and North Point Road.(1) By 1915, the only addition to the area is the residence of S. Herman on Norris Lane, still a dirt road.(2)

Norris Lane is first recorded in the U.S. Census in 1930 with a total of twenty-eight households. Of the twenty-eight households listed only fifteen are African American families. Residents on Norris Road include Jessie Washington, George McCrory, Thomas Butler, Charles Jones, Henry Robinson, John Farmer, Albert Foster, Henry Young, and David Wilson. Seven of the fifteen African American male heads of households were from Virginia, four from Maryland, two each from Georgia and South Carolina. Households ranged from two to eight people in the African American families. Interesting to note is that all fifteen of the African American households rented their property. This is unlike any of the other African American enclaves at this time. Monthly rates for rent ranged from five to twenty dollars. Other enclaves in 1930 had several if not at least half or more property owners. Nine of the white residents along Norris Road owned their property. Many of the men that lived on Norris Road worked as laborers on truck farms and steel mills. Several of the African American women also worked as laborers on the truck farms.(3)

Extending as far east as North Point Road, the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps on 1959 recorded a majority of the Norris Lane survey district. Norris Lane was originally called Norris Road according to the 1959 maps. Norris Road extended from North Point Road northeast and continued across the Pennsylvania Railroad and ended at Back River. Depicted on the 1959 map of the Norris Lane survey district is Robinson Avenue, Norris Road south of Delk Manor Road, and a portion of Saffa Road. The Galilee Baptist Church is denoted as an African American church on the Sanborn map. Ten dwellings face Robinson Avenue. On the north side of North Point Road between Robinson Avenue and Norris Road are two one-story dwellings and a commercial building containing three businesses. One twin dwelling is shown at 3014-3016 Norris Lane.(4)

With a total population of 154 African Americans in the Norris Lane survey district in 1990 the area remains as one of the smaller enclaves in Baltimore County.(5)

ENDNOTES

1. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland, (Philadelphia, G.M. Hopkins: 1877).
2. Map of Baltimore County, (Philadelphia, G. W. Bromley: 1915).
3. U.S. Census, 1930, National Archives, Washington, DC.
4. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Dundalk, Maryland (New York: Sanborn Map Co., February 1959), sheet 1.

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5. Baltimore County Census, 1990, (Baltimore County Planning Office).

OWNERSHIP AS OF NOVEMBER 25, 2002

2600 Saffa Road Trustees of the Galilee Baptist Church -- tax id # 1518001050
Map 103 Parcel 542 2440 North Point Road
Baltimore, MD 21222
Baltimore County Courthouse
Liber 15788 Folio 48

2603 Saffa Road Edith and Vergie Young -- tax id # 1523502150
Map 103 Parcel 542 Baltimore County Courthouse
Liber 16379 Folio 722

2605 Saffa Road Lola Mae Williams -- tax id # 1523502410
Map 103 Parcel 542 Baltimore County Courthouse
Liber 8653 Folio 255

2612 Saffa Road Michael W. Bailey and Monica L. Young -- tax id # 22000024684
Map 103 Parcel 542 Baltimore County Courthouse
Liber 14391 Folio 302

4 Half Robinson Avenue Calvin and Mary R. Wilson -- tax id # 1523500840
Map 103 Parcel 583 Baltimore County Courthouse
Liber 2883 Parcel 400

5 Robinson Avenue Clifford A. Farmer -- tax id # 1506000130
Map 103 Parcel 583 Baltimore County Courthouse
Liber 12465 Folio 408

6 Robinson Avenue Calvin Wilson, Jr. and Rosalind Wilson -- tax id # 1523501160
Map 103 Parcel 583 Baltimore County Courthouse
Liber 13368 Folio 749

7 Robinson Avenue James and Cassie R. Jones -- tax id # 1510452940
Map 103 Parcel 583 9 Robinson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21222
Baltimore County Courthouse
Liber 4843 Folio 521

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 12.835 acres
Acreage of historical setting unknown
Quadrangle name Middle River, MD Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Norris Lane African American Survey District is located in Dundalk in the Fifteenth District of Baltimore County. The properties within the survey district have historically been associated with tax map 103 since their construction.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Kristie Baynard, Architectural Historian		
organization	E.H.T. Tracerics	dat	11/25/2002
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

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

Baltimore County Census, 1990. Baltimore County Planning Office, 1990.

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.

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

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Dundalk, Maryland: 1959.

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.













← Delk CT





BA-3057
NORRIS LANE AFRICAN
AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT
NORTH POINT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD



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MAP104-
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M.103-
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