

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-3067
Winters Lane African American Survey District
Catonsville, Baltimore County
1867-1945

The Winters Lane Historic District in Catonsville is an excellent example of a cohesive African American neighborhood that began in the mid-19th century in rural Baltimore County, Maryland. The establishment of this African American community commenced with the settlement of former enslaved along the road's northern end and the establishment of a "colored" school on property purchased by the Freedman Bureau at the southern end after the Civil War. By 1877, Winters Lane was the most subdivided north-south road in Catonsville, although a number of the lots were not yet developed. Despite its relationship to the growing Baltimore suburb of Catonsville, the African American neighborhood along Winters Lane developed in relative isolation. The linear neighborhood achieved a high level of community involvement with locally owned and operated African American businesses, churches, and social institutions established in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Winters Lane Historic District is a discontinuous neighborhood north of Frederick Road and extending just north of the Baltimore National Pike. The historic district includes Harristown, Winters Lane, and Jones Town. The Winters Lane Historic District is composed primarily of single-family dwellings augmented by a few commercial, social, and religious resources. The historic properties, which developed between 1867 and the early to mid-1940s, are vernacular in design and workmanship, reflecting the working-class status of the residents. The district contains 171 properties, including 158 residential properties, one former school, three commercial resources, three social clubs, five churches/church-related buildings, and a cemetery. A commercial corridor is located to the south of the district on Frederick Avenue with late-20th-century rental housing to the northwest.

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-3067

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.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Winters Lane Historic District in Catonsville, Baltimore County, Maryland, is a discontinuous neighborhood north of Frederick Road and extending just north of the Baltimore National Pike. The historic district includes Harristown, Winters Lane, and Jones Town. Harristown, located north of Baltimore National Pike, includes Harristown Road and the extension of Winters Lane. The linear historic district along Winters Lane runs north south with associated historic resources fronting the east-west streets of Edmondson Avenue, Shipley Avenue, Roberts Avenue, Leewood Avenue and Old Frederick Road. The remaining extant properties within the area later known as Jones Town front Melrose Avenue between Egges Avenue and Ingleside Avenue.

The Winters Lane Historic District is composed primarily of single-family dwellings augmented by a few commercial, social, and religious resources. The historic properties, which developed between 1867 and the early to mid-1940s, are vernacular in design and workmanship, reflecting the working-class status of the residents. The district contains 171 properties, including 158 residential properties, one former school, three commercial resources, three social clubs, five churches/church-related buildings, and a cemetery. A commercial corridor is located to the south of the district on Frederick Avenue with late-20th-century rental housing to the northwest. Located to the immediate east of the neighborhood is the non-historic Banneker Community Center on Wesley Avenue and a park between Shipley Avenue and Old Frederick Road.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Domestic Buildings

The housing fronting Winters Lane was largely speculative development, with single-family freestanding and twin buildings similarly constructed and detailed. Set close to the road on narrow lots, the residential and social buildings are typically wood frame with solid masonry foundations. The few masonry structures in the district were constructed of rock-faced concrete block or stretcher-bond brick. Cladding materials includes wood weatherboard, aluminum siding, vinyl siding, asbestos shingles, and some brick facing. Rooflines, reflecting the fashionable architectural styles of the period during which they were erected, are side gable, front gable, cross gable, hipped, and sloping with minimal applied detailing to the cornice lines. A number of the side-gabled roofs were accented by steeply pitched front gables indicative of the Gothic Revival style. Architectural styles influencing the forms and detailing of the vernacular buildings on Winters Lane include the Queen Anne, Gothic Revival, Colonial Revival, Bungalow/Craftsman, Cape Cod, American Foursquare, shotgun, and ranch house.

One of the oldest extant dwellings in the Winters Lane Historic District is located at 77 Winters Lane. Constructed circa 1874, the two-and-a-half-story wood-frame dwelling is three bays wide and one bay deep with a 1929 two-story shed-roof addition. The first floor of the house has a central passage flanked by five rooms. Set on a random rubble stone foundation, the house was originally clad in wood German siding that was affixed with square-head, machine-cut nails. During the 1970s, the house was reclad in vinyl siding and the one-story, three-bay wide porch on the façade was rebuilt. As a result of alterations the house is a vernacular derivative of the Colonial Revival style. All of the 1/1-vinyl replacement windows have wide, square-edged surrounds, wood sills, and louvered shutters. Two interior-end brick chimneys with corbeled caps rise from asphalt shingle roof. Returns and a boxed cornice adorn the side-gable roof. The deep, narrow lot is located along Winters Lane, with the house at the forefront of the tract. There is a slight slope at the front of the lot that extends down to the recently installed sidewalk. A paved, asphalt driveway lies to the north of the dwelling and to the rear of the house there are several mature trees. To the rear or west of the house there is a small, circular well that is contemporary to the house. Infilled in 1994, the circular well has a low stone wall constructed of random rubble stone.

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The dwelling at 77 Winters Lane is similar in form and design to the buildings at 76 Winters Lane, 79 Winters Lane, 167 Winters Lane, 129 Winters Lane, 131 Winters Lane, 171 Winters Lane, 307 Winters Lane, and 309 Winters Lane. The examples at 600 Winters Lane, 1 Wayman Street, and 6016 Harristown Road are set of larger lots, illustrating the development trends in Harristown. The examples noted in the Winters Lane Historic District are two-and-a-half-story buildings capped by a side-gabled roof, the majority of which are clad in asphalt shingles. Full-width front porches augment the center-hall plan of the dwellings, while mid- to late-20th-century additions have been constructed on the rear of the rectangular structures.

The two-and-a-half-story dwelling at 304 Winters Lane is indicative of the Gothic Revival inspired buildings lining Winters Lane. Constructed in the early 1920s, the wood-frame building is covered by a side-gabled roof marked on the façade by a steeply pitched gable. The open gable, a typical element of the Gothic Revival style is pierced by a narrow window opening that illuminates the half story. The building, now clad in asbestos shingles, has a full-width porch and double-hung window openings. A number of domestic properties reflecting similarly influences are located along the street at 204 Winters Lane, 210 Winters Lane, 300 Winters Lane, 306 Winters Lane, 1 Roberts Avenue, 6 Roberts Avenue, 907 Edmondson Avenue, and 11 Melrose Avenue.

The deep suburban lots created along Winters Lane and the flanking east-west streets necessitated the construction of narrow structures. Often the traditional rectangular form of the center-passage plan building covered by a side-gabled roof was turned, orienting the gable end to the street. The shotgun form, typical for worker and tenant housing in the South, is the smallest of the gable-end structures. Two such examples are located at 5920 and 5922 Leewood Avenue in the Winters Lane Historic District. Larger structures with gable-end façades and side entries line the streets of the historic district and allowed affordable speculative housing for many residents. These buildings are typically three bays wide, although a number of two-bay-wide structures are located in the district. Examples include the houses at 8 Melrose Avenue, 109 Roberts Avenue, 111 Roberts Avenue, 15 Shipley Avenue, 185 Winters Lane, 199 Winters Lane, 201 Winters Lane, 203 Winters Lane, 207 Winters Lane, 518 Winters Lane, and 520 Winters Lane. The two neighboring dwellings at 221 and 223 Winters Lane are front-gabled structures with the second story overhanging, creating an inset front porch on the façade.

A most cost-efficient domestic form is the bungalow, enlarged by its full-width or wrapping porches. Not a prevalent building form in the Winters Lane Historic District, the bungalow was noted typically at the northern end of Winters Lane and the east-west streets. These buildings stand one-and-a-half stories in height on raised masonry foundations. A community of four such examples, dating from the turn of the 20th century to the early 1940s, is located at 5931 Old Frederick Road, 5933 Old Frederick Road, 5935 Old Frederick Road, and 6000 Old Frederick Road. The bungalow form is also illustrated at 162 Winters Lane, 174 Winters Lane, 176 Winters Lane, 182 Winters Lane, 514 Winters Lane, 156 Wesley Avenue, and 906 Edmondson Avenue.

Another of the low-cost domestic forms noted in the Winters Lane Historic District was located in Jones Town. This one-story wood-frame structure is rectangular in form, set back from the road on a substantially large lot. The central-entry dwelling has a parged foundation, aluminum siding, and side gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. The rock-faced concrete block chimney projects from the southwest corner of the building. Other examples of this form were noted in Harristown on the extension of Winters Lane and at 309, 311, and 313 Winters Lane.

The construction of twin dwellings along Winters Lane began in the late 1910s and continued throughout the 1920s. These buildings are generally set on very narrow subdivided lots with setbacks and rear yards mirroring those of their freestanding counterparts. Influenced by the Italianate and Colonial Revival styles, the buildings are square in massing with side-passage plans augmented by rear ells. Porches, which typically generate the most stylistic influences, shelter the entry bays or extend the full width of the primary elevation. Examples are located at 118-120 Winters Lane, 144-146 Winters Lane, 308-310 Winters Lane, 20-22 Shipley Avenue, 24-26 Shipley Avenue, 28-30 Shipley Avenue, and 32-34 Shipley Avenue. The attached twin dwellings at 38A/B and 40A/B Winters Lane have paired steeply pitched gables ornamenting the façades.

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Infill residential buildings in the Winters Lane Historic District, typically constructed on larger lots historically not improved, illustrate the ranch house, cape cod, and split-level form. One noted form is the narrow rectangular box with the front gable facing the street. This form, ornamented with Colonial Revival-style detailing, is typically clad in aluminum siding with brick facing on the façade. The circa 1990 dwellings at 10 Melrose Avenue and 515-517 Winters Lane display this form and architectural ornamentation.

Many of the non-historic dwellings in the Winters Lane Historic District incorporate the historic architectural detailing and forms of their neighbors. The linear form of the historic district allowed for the exclusion of a number of these non-historic buildings.

Educational, Commercial, Social, and Religious Resources

The endurance of Winters Lane as a cohesive African American neighborhood predominately isolated from the larger community of Catonsville is based on the establishment and continued existence of educational, commercial, social and religious activities. The original use of many of these properties, particularly the educational, social and religious resources, has evolved, but the buildings remain prominent elements in the neighborhood. These include the original schoolhouse on Edmondson Avenue and Winters Lane, Banneker Public School (now the community center), Grace AME Church, Morning Star Baptist Church, Mount Olivet United Methodist Church, Full Gospel Tabernacle Church, Upper Room Prayer Garden, Temple of Faith Church of God in Christ, and Landmark Lodge No. 40 of the Free and Accepted Masons. These buildings are all purpose-built with meeting space and prominently set on larger lots. The Crescent Lodge at 169 Winters Lane, owned by Morning Star Baptist Church, was constructed as a single-family dwelling in 1910. The American foursquare structure, clad in asbestos shingles, was altered by the enclosure of the wrapping front porch.

Settlement along Winters Lane was greatly aided in 1867 by the construction of the wood-frame school at 100 Edmondson Avenue for African American children. The building, fronting Winters Lane, measures three bays wide and three bays deep. Set on a random rubble stone foundation, the one-story school is accented by Gothic Revival style detailing. The central entry holds paired wood doors with a square-edged surround. Narrow lancet-arched windows with Gothic-heads and tracery flank the entry. A fixed pointed-arch window with Gothic tracery lights the half story of the building. The front-gabled roof has overhanging eaves with exposed rafters and is topped by a louvered cupola. A two-story brick structure was constructed in the latter half of the 20th century on the east elevation of the school, which currently serves as the Full Gospel Tabernacle Church.

The Landmark Lodge No. 40 of the Free and Accepted Masons at 48-½ Winters Lane is a one-story wood-frame vernacular building that was constructed in 1889 as the Morning Star Baptist Church. The front portion of the former church sits on a solid random rubble stone foundation. Although the exterior asbestos-shingle cladding obscures the structural system, it appears as though the church was constructed in two phases, with the rear portion set on a concrete block foundation. One interior chimney rises from the northwest elevation. The building has a front-gable roof clad in asphalt shingles and features an offset canted projecting entry bay with a hipped roof. The entry is centrally located on the projecting bay and holds a six-panel single-leaf wood door. One 1/1-vinyl window pierces each of the canted sides of the entry bay. All openings have aluminum-clad surrounds.

Grace African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church at 67-½ Winters Lane was constructed in 1912, following a devastating fire that destroyed the original church. The modest church is one-and-a-half stories high, measuring three bays wide and five bays deep. The rectangular plan is augmented by a three-story corner tower, a characteristic of the Tudor Revival style in which the building was originally dressed. It is constructed of brick on the first story with a corbeled limestone watertable marking the slightly raised basement. The brick detailing on the façade is laid in Flemish bond while the side and rear elevations are laid in five-course American bond. The steeply pitched front-gable roof, clad in asphalt shingles, is marked with four front-gable dormers and an interior brick chimney. The wood-frame gable ends of the building originally were decorated with rough-textured stucco

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and half-timbering, but are now covered with vinyl German siding. The tower, originally trimmed with crenellated detailing, is wrapped with corbeled limestone stringcourses. A cornerstone on the southern end of the tower indicates the church was rebuilt in 1912, with Reverend C.H. Murray serving as pastor. A cornerstone on the north elevation reads "AME Church AD 1880," documenting the relocation of the congregation to this site in 1880. A limestone cornerstone with the inscription, "Grace AME Church Rebuilt 1902," is located on the north end of the west elevation. The cornerstone records the extensive renovation undertaken in 1902 on the original wood-frame church.

Historically, Winters Lane was supported by a number of commercial buildings, augmented by the business corridor along Frederick Avenue. Commercial enterprises along Winters Lane, which was primarily established as a residential neighborhood, were centered along the street's intersection with Edmondson Avenue and Main Street. Many of the commercial buildings at the southern end of Winters Lane maintained a relationship with the businesses along Frederick Avenue, rather than the African American population of the historic district. The most historic commercial community supporting the neighborhood was located at the intersection of Edmondson Avenue and Winters Lane. Unfortunately, the few commercial wood-frame buildings at this highly traveled crossing have been razed and replaced by mid- to late-20th-century commercial buildings. Located at the northern end of the street, the one-story building at 180 Winters Lane is one of the few historic commercial structures in the historic district. Residential buildings flank the masonry store, which has parking at the front. The storefront windows are framed in metal with no stylistic detailing. Dating from the second quarter of the 20th century, the flat-roofed commercial building has two units, housing a restaurant and store.

Often residential buildings on Winters Lane maintained a commercial component, although the domestic form and detailing of the resource remained intact. The buildings at 61 Winters Lane, 74 Winters Lane, and 81 Winters Lane, now solely utilized as single-family dwellings, are examples of this dual use.

Funerary Resources

A small cemetery is located in Harristown, on the west side of Winters Lane behind the dwelling at 610 Winters Lane (parcels 472 and 442). The overgrown cemetery hidden at the rear of residential property, including historic dwellings from the turn of the 20th century and non-historic dwellings from the latter part of the 21st century. The cemetery includes marked and unmarked graves in a severe state of deterioration caused by neglect and vandalism. The six visible headstones, all of which were laying on the ground, were made of marble and granite. The three legible headstones were those of Eliza Fuller (wife of Adam Fuller, died 1908), Lara Harris (died 1915), and George Harris (died 1911).

Winters Lane Historic District Resources

100 Edmondson Avenue 1867 Contributing (School)
823 Edmondson Avenue 1924 Contributing (Mount Olivet Methodist Church)
829 Edmondson Avenue c1970 Non-Contributing (Restaurant)
900 Edmondson Avenue 1995 Non-Contributing (CVS)
903 Edmondson Avenue 1915 Contributing
905 Edmondson Avenue 1910 Contributing
906 Edmondson Avenue 1920 Contributing
907 Edmondson Avenue 1910 Contributing

107 Fusting Avenue c1910 Contributing

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5914 Old Frederick Road c1930 Contributing
5916 Old Frederick Road c1930 Contributing
5920 Old Frederick Road c1915 Contributing
3926 Old Frederick Road c1920 Contributing
5930 Old Frederick Road 1941 Contributing
5931 Old Frederick Road 1916 Contributing
5932 Old Frederick Road 1941 Contributing
5933 Old Frederick Road 1930 Contributing
5934 Old Frederick Road 1940 Contributing
5935 Old Frederick Road 1920 Contributing
6000 Old Frederick Road 1902 Contributing

6010 Harristown Road 1897 Contributing
6016 Harristown Road 1900 Contributing
Harris Family Cemetery 1908 Contributing (dated generated from oldest visible marker)

5920 Leewood Avenue 1920 Contributing
5922 Leewood Avenue 1920 Contributing
5926 Leewood Avenue 1909 Contributing
5928 Leewood Avenue 1910 Contributing
5934 Leewood Avenue 1976 Non-Contributing

22 Main Avenue 1925 Contributing
23 Main Avenue 1925 Contributing

8 Melrose Avenue c1940 Contributing
10 Melrose Avenue 1990 Non-Contributing
11 Melrose Avenue c1904 Contributing
12 Melrose Avenue c1930 Contributing

1 Roberts Avenue 1909 Contributing
2-4 Roberts Avenue 1903 Contributing
3 Roberts Avenue 1910 Contributing (altered)
5-7 Roberts Avenue 1945 Contributing (Second Morning Star Baptist Church,
now Upper Room Prayer Garden)
6 Roberts Avenue 1910 Contributing
8 Roberts Avenue 1975 Non-Contributing
10 Roberts Avenue 1920 Contributing
14 Roberts Avenue 1910 Contributing
18 Roberts Avenue 1990 Non-Contributing
20 Roberts Avenue 1910 Contributing

2-4 Shipley Avenue 1911 Contributing
6 Shipley Avenue 1920 Contributing
8-10 Shipley Avenue 1908 Contributing
12 Shipley Avenue 1909 Contributing

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14 Shipley Avenue □ □ 1911 □ □ Contributing
15 Shipley Avenue □ □ 1930 □ □ Contributing
16 Shipley Avenue □ □ 1911 □ □ Contributing
17 Shipley Avenue □ □ 1929 □ □ Contributing
18 Shipley Avenue □ □ 1952 □ □ Non-Contributing
20-22 Shipley Avenue □ □ 1911 □ □ Contributing
24-26 Shipley Avenue □ □ 1911 □ □ Contributing
28-30 Shipley Avenue □ □ 1911 □ □ Contributing
32-34 Shipley Avenue □ □ 1911 □ □ Contributing

156 Wesley Avenue □ □ 1927 □ □ Contributing
206 Wesley Avenue □ □ c1930 □ □ Contributing (altered)
207 Wesley Avenue □ □ 1968 □ □ Non-Contributing

21 Winters Lane □ □ 1910 □ □ Contributing
28A/B Winters Lane □ □ 1910 □ □ Contributing
30 Winters Lane □ □ 1900 □ □ Contributing
32 Winters Lane □ □ 1899 □ □ Contributing
34 Winters Lane □ □ 1900 □ □ Contributing
36 Winters Lane □ □ 1900 □ □ Contributing
38A/B Winters Lane □ □ 1910 □ □ Contributing
40A/B Winters Lane □ □ 1910 □ □ Contributing
42 Winters Lane □ □ 1910 □ □ Contributing
44 Winters Lane □ □ 1909 □ □ Contributing
46 Winters Lane □ □ 1889 □ □ Contributing
48 Winters Lane □ □ 1889 □ □ Contributing
48-1/2 Winters Lane □ □ 1889 □ □ Contributing □ □ (Freemason Lodge)
50 Winters Lane □ □ 1895 □ □ Contributing
52 Winters Lane □ □ 1900 □ □ Contributing
57 Winters Lane □ □ 1896 □ □ Contributing
58 Winters Lane □ □ 1920 □ □ Contributing
59 Winters Lane □ □ 1897 □ □ Contributing
60 Winters Lane □ □ 1994 □ □ Non-Contributing
60-1/2 Winters Lane □ □ 1899 □ □ Contributing
61 Winters Lane □ □ 1910 □ □ Contributing
62 Winters Lane □ □ 1910 □ □ Contributing
62-1/2 Winters Lane □ □ 1954 □ □ Non-Contributing
63 Winters Lane □ □ c1910 □ □ Contributing
65-65-1/2 Winters Lane □ 1899 □ □ Contributing
67 Winters Lane □ □ 1910 □ □ Contributing
67-1/2 Winters Lane □ □ 1912 □ □ Contributing □ □ (Grace AME Church/Parsonage)
69 Winters Lane □ □ 1899 □ □ Contributing
71 Winters Lane □ □ 1909 □ □ Contributing
73 Winters Lane □ □ 1992 □ □ Non-Contributing
76 Winters Lane □ □ 1900 □ □ Contributing
77 Winters Lane □ □ 1874 □ □ Contributing

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-
- 78 Winters Lane 1900 Contributing
 - 79 Winters Lane 1909 Contributing
 - 80 Winters Lane 1902 Contributing
 - 81 Winters Lane 1899 Contributing
 - 82 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 83 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 84 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 85 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 100 Winters Lane c1915 Contributing
 - 104 Winters Lane 1915 Contributing
 - 106-108 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 112 Winters Lane 1972 Non-Contributing
 - 113 Winters Lane 1979 Non-Contributing
 - 117 Winters Lane 1920 Contributing
 - 118-120 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 119 Winters Lane 1900 Contributing
 - 121 Winters Lane 1900 Contributing
 - 122-1/2 Winters Lane 1900 Contributing
 - 123 Winters Lane 1916 Contributing
 - 125 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 127 Winters Lane 1909 Contributing
 - 129 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 130 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 131 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 132 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 134 Winters Lane 1909 Contributing
 - 135 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 136 Winters Lane 1986 Non-Contributing
 - 137 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 139 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 140 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 142 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 146 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 148 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 150 Winters Lane 1920 Contributing
 - 151 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing (American Legion)
 - 153 Winters Lane 1900 Contributing
 - 154 Winters Lane 1982 Non-Contributing
 - 158 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 160 Winters Lane 1920 Contributing
 - 162 Winters Lane 1920 Contributing
 - 164 Winters Lane 1920 Contributing (Morning Star Baptist Church Annex)
 - 165 Winters Lane 1990 Non-Contributing (Morning Star Baptist Church)
 - 166 Winters Lane 1923 Contributing
 - 167 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 168 Winters Lane 1920 Contributing

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-
- 169 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing (Crescent Lodge #355)
 - 171 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 172 Winters Lane 1930 Contributing
 - 174 Winters Lane 1936 Contributing
 - 176 Winters Lane 1930 Contributing
 - 177-179 Winters Lane 1909 Contributing
 - 180 Winters Lane c1960 Non-Contributing (The Brick House Store)
 - 181 Winters Lane 1909 Contributing
 - 182 Winters Lane 1922 Contributing
 - 185 Winters Lane 1920 Contributing
 - 199 Winters Lane 1900 Contributing
 - 200 Winters Lane 1920 Contributing
 - 201 Winters Lane 1900 Contributing
 - 202 Winters Lane 1919 Contributing
 - 203 Winters Lane 1900 Contributing
 - 204 Winters Lane 1920 Contributing
 - 206 Winters Lane 1920 Contributing
 - 207 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 208 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 210 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 210-1/2 Winters Lane 1920 Contributing
 - 221 Winters Lane 1921 Contributing
 - 223 Winters Lane 1925 Contributing
 - 300 Winters Lane 1930 Contributing
 - 302 Winters Lane 1955 Non-Contributing
 - 304 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 306 Winters Lane 1910 Contributing
 - 307 Winters Lane 1932 Contributing
 - 308-310 Winters Lane 1919 Contributing
 - 309 Winters Lane 1932 Contributing
 - 311 Winters Lane 1931 Contributing
 - 313 Winters Lane 1932 Contributing
 - 600 Winters Lane 1919 Contributing

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 checked="" 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 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	1867-1945	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1867-1945		

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.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Winters Lane Historic District in Catonsville is an excellent example of a cohesive African American neighborhood that began in the mid-19th century in rural Baltimore County, Maryland. The establishment of this African American community commenced with the settlement of former enslaved along the road's northern end and the establishment of a "colored" school on property purchased by the Freedman Bureau at the southern end after the Civil War. By 1877, Winters Lane was the most subdivided north-south road in Catonsville, although a number of the lots were not yet developed. Despite its relationship to the growing Baltimore suburb of Catonsville, the African American neighborhood along Winters Lane developed in relative isolation. The linear neighborhood achieved a high level of community involvement with locally owned and operated African American businesses, churches, and social institutions established in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The lack of visual continuity that resulted from the 1942 construction of West Baltimore National Pike and the mid-to-late-20th-century growth of Catonsville's urban residential community does not impact the historic significance of the discontinuous historic district, which includes Harristown, Winters Lane, and Jones Town. The Winters Lane Historic District, the largest and most intact mid-19th-century African American neighborhood in Baltimore County, has continued to maintain a sense of place with descendants of its original settlers residing there today.

The district meets National Register criteria A and is significant under the areas of community planning/development and social history with a period of significance extending from circa 1867 to 1945. The neighborhood consists of 171 properties including 158 dwellings, five churches/church-related buildings, three commercial buildings, a former school, three social buildings, and a cemetery. Of the 171 properties in the Winters Lane Historic District, 153 resources are contributing and eighteen resources are non-contributing.

Criterion A: That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

Winters Lane meets Criterion A of the National Register of Historic Places as a significant African American community that was developed by freed African Americans following the Civil War. Winters Lane, predominately located within the boundaries of Catonsville, extends north from Frederick Road past the Baltimore National Pike to include Harristown. Benjamin Winter settled in Catonsville shortly after the War of 1812 and established Winters Lane as the primary road connecting his property to the Frederick Turnpike, then a major thoroughfare connecting Baltimore to the outlying farming regions. Until the 1880s, the community of Catonsville was made up of large enslaved estates and summerhouses owned by upper-class residents of Baltimore City. Many of these large estates were bought in the latter part of the 19th century by local developers, who began to subdivide the land into smaller lots. The newly subdivided lots were then improved by smaller dwellings occupied year-round by middle-class residents.

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Following the conclusion of the Civil War in 1865, the Harris family, formerly enslaved at the Crosby estate, settled an area directly north of Winters Lane, past the Old Frederick Turnpike (Winters Lane has since been extended to reach this area). The settlement of the Harris family, along with the establishment of an African American school at the corner of Winters Lane and Edmondson Avenue in 1867 by the Freedman Bureau, prompted the growth of an African American community in this part of Catonsville. Subdivision of Winters Lane began at its northern and southern ends and moved inwards as large estates were slowly redeveloped. By 1910, seventy-five percent of African Americans residing in Catonsville lived along Winters Lane, making it one of the largest and most intact mid-19th-century African American neighborhoods in Baltimore County. Many of these original residents, with ties to the Crosby estate, have descendants living in those same dwellings today.

The African American community on Winters Lane was soon supported by a large number of businesses, churches, and fraternal organizations that served to solidify and strengthen the identity of the neighborhood. The oldest remaining African American church in Catonsville, now known as Grace African Methodist Episcopal, was established in 1868. Local groceries and the Masonic Lodge created a cohesive neighborhood and would serve as community meeting spaces for years to come.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

BALTIMORE COUNTY

Baltimore County encompasses 612 square miles of land and 28 square miles of water and is centrally located on the Maryland/Pennsylvania border. The county is bounded by Pennsylvania to the north, Harford County and the Chesapeake Bay to the west, Anne Arundel County to the south, and Howard and Carroll Counties to the west. Settlement in Maryland began in the southern half of the state in its tidewater regions, but by the 1650s, colonists had begun to move into the area that is now Baltimore County. These colonists migrated from both the coastal regions of the South and the more fully developed colonies of Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York to the north. Within Baltimore County, settlement began near the Chesapeake Bay, but by the 1680s, had begun to move inland towards the county's more northern and western regions.

The colonial economy of Baltimore County was agriculturally driven, with an emphasis on large tobacco plantations. During the 1690s, there was a decline in the number of indentured servants immigrating to Maryland, and the enslaved began to constitute an increasingly significant share of the colony's labor force. A slump in the international price of tobacco in the 18th century gave planters an economic incentive to turn away from indentured servants (short-term investments) and towards enslaved labor (long-term investments). In 1715, there were approximately 3,000 people living in the Baltimore County region, one-fifth to one-sixth of who were enslaved. The enslaved population approximately doubled in each of the following generations until about 1800. Since the tobacco economy required no towns, few existed in Baltimore County during the 17th century. The plantation system dispersed the population over a wide area, and the colony as a whole lacked a vibrant commercial middle class.

Facing a slide in tobacco prices, wealthy landowners began to look towards alternative investment opportunities such as the production of iron. In 1725, the Principio Company developed the first commercial ironworks to be located in the state of Maryland. Their success cleared the way for the entrance of competitive firms, and in 1733, the Baltimore Company was developed as the first locally owned and operated ironworks in Maryland. The Baltimore Company became one of the most successful businesses in 18th-century America and one of the largest landholders in southern Baltimore County. Amongst its properties were "Gorsuch," "Phillipsburg," and "Orange" on the east side of Gwynns Falls, "Bear Hills," on the north, and "Georgia" and "Fredrickstadt" (the present Catonsville-Arbustus area) on the west. In 1764, the company owned 150 enslaved persons and 30,000 acres.

CATONSVILLE, 1745-1940

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Extensive road development benefited the growth of the entire county from its earliest days. In 1695, the Old Philadelphia Road provided the first public post route running from Annapolis to Philadelphia, crossing Gunpowder Creek at Long Calin Ferry. This major transportation route was contemporary with other roads considered among the oldest in the county, including the Old Indian Road, Frederick Road, Liberty Road, Reisterstown Road, and York Road. Re-laid in 1784, these turnpike roads were completed by 1809, connecting most of Baltimore County to the developing City of Baltimore. The presence of the Frederick Turnpike, in particular, attracted settlers to the Catonsville area as the steady wagon traffic that ran to and from the outlying farming areas brought a steady stream of business to the region.

The Carroll family was one of the wealthiest and most prominent landholding families in 18th-century Baltimore County with members holding three out of five of the Baltimore Company's partnership positions. Charles Carroll of Doughoregan, father of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, was one of these partners. In 1810, the aggregate landholdings of the Baltimore Company were divided up amongst its members. Charles Carroll of Carrollton received the ground on the north side of the Frederick Turnpike from the present Wyndcrest Avenue to Winters Lane and on the south side of the Turnpike between Locust Drive and Smith Lane. Charles Carroll had already granted his daughter Mary and her husband Richard Caton (the namesake of Catonsville) an estate on the northwest corner of Beaumont Avenue and the Frederick Turnpike. The property was commonly called Castle Thunder. In 1810, Caton received additional landholdings of the Baltimore Company as a gift from Carroll. The official transfer of title for this property took place in 1822, with Charles Carroll and Richard Caton holding joint title by 1810. Caton was commissioned by his father-in-law to develop the land and proceeded to divide his property into twenty lots conveyed as leasehold estates.

By the 1850s, Catonsville was a well-established village with tremendous development potential. Ingleside Avenue had been established to connect Catonsville with Franklinton to the north. Benjamin Winter, who had settled in Catonsville shortly after the War of 1812 (1812-1815), had opened Winters Lane to connect his property with Frederick Turnpike. In 1854, Joseph Fusting, the namesake of Fusting Avenue, purchased the land between Winters Lane and Ingleside Avenue, subdividing it into smaller building lots than those created originally by Caton.

The arrival of the horse-drawn railway in 1862 and the steam powered lines in 1884 triggered growth in both the residential and business sectors of Catonsville, much like the completion of the Frederick Turnpike had at the turn of the 19th century. The development opportunities and amenities propelled the cost of land in Catonsville to \$1,000 per acre, precluding settlement by anyone but the upper class and their servants. Catonsville, located just six miles outside Baltimore City on an elevated plateau 550 feet above the tidewater, was considered one of the "most beautiful and healthful villages in the states." As a result, immediately following the Civil War (1861-1865), there were two types of residents living and working in Catonsville: businessmen and craftsmen, who had developed a small commercial strip along the Frederick Turnpike, and wealthy Baltimoreans, who surrounded the village with large country estates primarily used during the summer months.

During the 1880s, Catonsville experienced a number of significant changes to the traditional social fabric as the large mid-19th-century estates were subdivided and developed with modest suburban housing. Development efforts of the last decades of the 19th century sought to capitalize upon the village's image as an elite suburb and led to a period of intense suburban growth that was furthered by the introduction of electric streetcar lines in the 1890s along both Frederick Road and Edmondson Avenue.

Smaller independent and speculative builders who catered to working and middle class undertook construction of the modest single-family dwellings at the turn of the 20th century in Catonsville. Prosperity throughout Baltimore County increased from 1900 to 1917 as a greater number of families could afford the suburban housing available in Catonsville. Although the events of World War I (1914-1918) brought new construction to a halt, the building boom continued again in the 1920s. By 1940, Catonsville was home to a significant number of middle-income residents and its heritage as an upper-class summer village was no longer clearly evident.

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African Americans in Catonsville

The preponderance of large plantations in the latter part of the 18th and first half of the 19th centuries brought a number of African Americans to Baltimore County. The largest of the enslaved-holding estates in the Catonsville area recorded by the 1860 census included the John Glenn Estate (25 enslaved), the Lurman Estate (6 enslaved), the John Hewlett Estate (6 enslaved), the Riley Estate (12 enslaved), the Freeman Estate (3 enslaved), the John Thomas Estate (8 enslaved), and the George Rimeken Estate (6 enslaved). Other estates in the area included the Burger Estate on Rolling Road and the D.C. Howell Estate located on Frederick Road at what is now Belle Grove Avenue.

As the Civil War approached, “negro” recruiting stations were established throughout Maryland. Bounties were granted to encourage the enlistment of Maryland enslaved whose masters were presumed loyal to the Union. Under this system, the enslaved would be freed and receive \$50 upon entering the army and an additional \$50 after his discharge. As recounted in *Baltimore: The Building of an American City* by Sherry H. Olson, enslaved owners were “compensated \$300 to \$400 from the federal and state governments for the loss.” The endorsement of this system led to the collapse of the enslaved market in Maryland and was the impetus for the movement towards a new statewide emancipation constitution. This constitution was adopted on November 1, 1864 and most freedmen were then immediately drafted into the army. After the war, some freed enslaved returned to the Catonsville area to establish homes of their own and seek employment.

African American Settlement Along Winters Lane

The African American population of Catonsville settled predominately along Winters Lane, which was not extensively developed and was detached from the neighboring white communities. Secondary smaller concentrations of African Americans lived along Asylum Lane (now Wade Avenue) and Taylor Avenue.

Harristown

African American settlement at the northern end of Winters Lane was the result of the subdivision of the enslaved-holding Crosby estate. Following the Civil War, the Harris family, formerly enslaved on the Crosby estate, settled an area north of the present Baltimore National Pike. It is not definitively known how the family originally acquired that property, which locally became known as Harristown, as descendants tell alternative stories. John Brown wrote in “A Paper on Harristown” that “the ground was given to the Harris family by the Crosby family, and as each one of the Harris family married, they were given a plot of ground to build a home on.” Joseph E. Gross, a Harris descendent, wrote in “A Partial History of Harristown,” that Thomas Harris, a Civil War veteran, was granted land by the federal government on the northern end of Winters Lane, which he then distributed to his sons. Part of the Winters Lane Historic District, the African American settlement in Harristown played a significant role in the establishment and continued stability of the neighborhood that began to develop south of the Baltimore National Pike. Many of the original Winters Lane residents, with ties to the Crosby estate, have descendants living in those same dwellings today.

School and Winters Lane

Settlement at the southern end of Winters Lane was aided in 1867 when the Freedman Bureau purchased property along the northeast corner of Winters Lane and Edmondson Avenue “to be deeded to the colored people of Catonsville and their successors forever, for a school and educational purposes.” A body of trustees was appointed to ensure that the newly acquired property at 100 Edmondson Avenue would be used for its intended purposes. The trustees, a mix of black and white residents, were John J. Herbert, Charles Thomas, Reverend Libertus VanBokkelen, Lemuel Govans, and Remus Adams. The original school as described in *It All Started on Winters Lane*, “was very small. It had a wood burning stove, but no electricity or bathroom facilities. Because of its size, several grades had to be moved across the street on Edmondson Avenue to Mount Olivet United Methodist Church and

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to the grocery store on the southwest corner of Winters Lane and Edmondson Avenue.” The original school housed the first and second grades, while the church served the third and fourth grades, and the second floor of the grocery was for the fifth and sixth grades.

Late-19-century and Early-20th-century Development

By the third quarter of the 19th century, Winters Lane had become a “main route” with both white and black families and businesses residing along the street. Examination of Hopkin’s 1877 Plan of Catonsville reveals that a small number of narrow buildings lots had begun to be developed along the northern and southern ends of Winters Lane with larger estates remaining along its central length, especially on the western side. In fact, Winters Lane was the most subdivided north-south road in Catonsville, although a number of the lots were not yet developed. Between Frederick Turnpike and Old Frederick Road, Winters Lane was improved with approximately thirty-four dwellings and two schoolhouses. North of Old Frederick Road in Harristown, the property flanking the future extension of Winters Lane largely rural with no subdivided lots. The streets extending from Winters Lane, which were generally located at the southern end of the road closer to Frederick Road, were partially subdivided and improved by the construction of single-family dwellings. By 1877, at least twelve buildings fronted Melrose Avenue to the west of Ingleside Avenue in the area later to be known as Jones Town.

The majority of these dwellings in the Winters Lane Historic District in 1877 were set on long narrow rectangular lots directly on the street. One of the few exceptions was more imposing 19th-century residence of Ann Winters, which was located at the center of a large lot to the immediate west of the intersection of Winters Lane and Fusting Avenue. Names noted on the 1877 Plan along Winters Lane include J. Seager, Mrs. Fusting, William Gerwig, Anderson, Griffin, and A. Gould, in addition to Mrs. Winters. Edmondson Avenue, which extended eastward halfway between Frederick Turnpike and Old Frederick Road, retained several large-scale mid-19th-century properties historically used as summer homes. Those noted on the Plan are General J.W. Horne, Mrs. Fusting, and A. Gould. The two schoolhouses on Winters Lane included the colored schoolhouse at the northeast corner of Winters Lane and Edmondson Avenue and Catonsville’s school for white children at the northeast corner of Winters Lane and Melrose Avenue. North of Old Frederick Road in Harristown, the property owners included Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. W. Prue, and Mrs. Johnson. The owners noted along Melrose Avenue were Smith, A. Bassler, Mrs. Marr, J.C. Sullivan, and Fusting.

The development of the school combined with the settlement of the Harris family property helped create an environment in which the African American community of Catonsville flourished. By 1880, Catonsville was home to 498 African American residents, the majority of which worked as laborers or farmhands. The 1880 census noted that twenty-five percent of Catonsville’s 309 heads of households were black. By 1898, Winters Lane had been almost completely subdivided into smaller lots with the exception of the properties owned and improved by M. Robb and Ann Winters on the western side of the street, just north of Frederick Turnpike. At the northern end of the road, south of Old Frederick Road, Charles Shipley, H. Clay Suter, and C.C. Speed maintained several acres of undivided property fronting Winters Lane. By this time, the area known as Jones Town was improved by the construction of a number of single-family dwellings, both twin and freestanding structures. Jones Court (later avenue) was created at the center of the block bounded by Melrose Avenue, Ingleside Avenue, Frederick Road, and Egges Lane. The cul-de-sac was accessed from Ingleside Avenue and was improved by three twin dwellings and one large two-and-a-half-story dwelling, all constructed of wood frame. Additionally, fronting Melrose Avenue north of the cul-de-sac were several single-family wood-frame dwellings occupied by African American residents with strong associations to their neighbors on Winters Lane. Institutional improvements established to serve the community by this time included the Grace African Methodist Episcopal Church at 67-1/2 Winters Lane south of Edmondson Avenue, and Morning Star Baptist Church (later the Landmark Lodge No. 40, Free and Accepted Masons) at 48-1/2 Winters Lane.

The 1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, which shows only the southern portion of Winters Lane, documents the form and size of many of the buildings constructed in the latter part of the 19th century. Typically, the single-family dwellings were freestanding or

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twin structures, supported by rear ells and full-width front porches. A group of four tenements were noted just north of Fusting Avenue. The buildings on Winters Lane and the flanking side roads are equally set back from the street with deep rear yards, some improved by one-story sheds. The wood-frame houses stood two to two-and-a-half stories in height with side- or front-gable roofs and minimal architectural detailing. Little new construction occurred by 1910 at the southern end of Winters Lane, although property on the western side of the street (formerly owned by M. Robb) was subdivided into four unequal lots and a single improvement constructed.

By 1910, over seventy-five per cent of Catonsville's African American residents were living along Winters Lane and its adjacent cross streets. According to the 1910 census, African Americans made up one-fifth of Catonsville's overall population. The majority of the inhabitants of Winters Lane residents were laborers, household workers, craftsmen, and manufacturing operators. One-third of black residents owned their own houses, while just one-half of white residents were property owners. Census records from 1910 and 1920 indicate the residents on Winters Lane, north 12 Winters Lane to Old Frederick Road, were African American. Similarly, Leewood Avenue, Wesley Avenue, Main Avenue, Shipley Avenue, and Roberts Avenue were home to African Americans. African American citizens also occupied the section of Melrose Avenue known as Jones Town. Melrose Avenue to the west of Egges Lane, east of Winters Lane, was home to white residents. This lack of social continuity created a discontinuous neighborhood by the 1930s and made Jones Town vulnerable to development pressures in the middle part of the 20th century.

The 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows wood-frame dwellings along the length of Winters Lane, the Grace African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Catonsville School for Negroes, two groceries on the corners of Edmondson Avenue and Winters Lane, the Morning Star Baptist Church, the Negro Chapter of the International Order of Odd Fellows, and St. Martin's Parochial School. The 1915 Bromley Atlas recorded the continued development along Winters Lane and Jones Town, which was now accessed from Melrose Avenue. The Harristown area, with the extension of Winters Lane north of Old Frederick Road, was shown to include ten single-family freestanding dwellings, outbuildings, and a cemetery. This included the property owned by J. Johnson, Shugars, and the thirty-acre tract of Maggie Lynch. The property on the east side of Winters Lane north of Old Frederick Road, which was owned by Margaret Lynch, remained undivided and improved by a single dwelling and stable. Harristown was ultimately serviced by Wayman Street, Lincoln Avenue, Johnson Street, McGrady Square, and Harristown Road. The Jones Town neighborhood was predominately African American, with "Negro tenement" housing noted on the 1910, 1919, and 1925 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. The housing included several single-family dwellings, twin dwellings, and a large two-and-a-half-story tenement that was originally constructed as a single-family dwelling. This tenement was razed by 1930 and replaced by a row of thirteen attached masonry dwellings intended to serve as homes for the many black residents of the area.

By 1919, the Winters' property has been subdivided and redeveloped by the construction of St. Marks Hall. The two-story wood-frame Winters' house, however, remained intact on the property until the late 1950s.

As noted on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Winters Lane was largely developed by single-family dwellings, a few commercial establishments, social and religious institutions, and educational buildings in the mid-1920s. Overwhelmingly, these properties were owned and occupied by African Americans, a significant number of who were descendent of former enslaved persons and freemen who had settled along Winters Lane in the 19th century. The single-family dwellings were generally two stories in height, covered by front- or side-gable roofs and augmented by rear ells. The number of outbuildings was reduced in comparison to the first decades of the 20th century, when most properties maintained a shed, garage or stable. The churches and social buildings, typically one to two stories high, were generally masonry in construction with large rectangular footprints. These structures were interspersed within the neighborhood, standing along side single-family dwellings.

African American Schools, Churches, Businesses, and Social Organizations

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Schools

The small wood-frame schoolhouse on the northeast corner of Winters Lane and Edmondson Avenue at 100 Edmondson Avenue was completed in 1867 and spurred the initial development of Winters Lane. The school, located on property purchased by the Freedman Bureau, was started through the efforts of private citizens. This school was originally called Colored School #1, but was later referred to as Colored School #21 by Winters Lane residents.

In February 1870, the Baltimore County Board of School Commissioners voted to provide funding for black education, and the General Assembly did not mandate local support for black schools until 1872. At this time, a publicly supported teacher was supplied. In History of Baltimore City and County, Sharf reports that Josephine Jones was the teacher at the Catonsville Colored School in 1881. Eventually, Baltimore County obtained title to the Catonsville School and, in 1943, sold it to the Full Gospel Tabernacle Church.

In 1907, a proposal for the construction of a new school building for white children led to a controversy over potential uses for the old Catonsville High School at 20 Winters Lane. Frank E. Davis of the firm Davis and Davis designed this school, which was built in 1899 at the corner of Melrose Avenue and Winters Lane. A proposal was made for the building to be utilized as a new school for African American children, but after considerable controversy regarding the property's proximity to the town center, the building was sold to St. Mark's Parish. In 1910, a new white school was completed on Frederick Road just east of Bloomsbury Avenue.

The Banneker School located at the corner of Main and Wesley Avenues was completed in 1923 as the new school for African American children. The Women's Civic Club of Catonsville campaigned for the construction of this facility, citing the original schoolhouse's lack of heating, plumbing facilities, and deteriorated condition. The Banneker School is an eight-room building named in honor of Benjamin Banneker, who was known as American's First Black Man of Science whose family had lived approximately two miles to the west of Baltimore County. The school served the children of many neighboring African American communities including Oella, Halethorpe, Coddensville, and Winters Lane. In the early 1960s, the public schools of Baltimore County were integrated and Banneker School was converted into a community center.

Churches

The growing population of African Americans in Catonsville and similar neighboring communities prompted the construction of several churches representing various denominations. The continued existence of these religious institutions, which also provided space for neighborhood social activities, speaks to the stability of the Winters Lane community. In contrast, many of the contemporaneous African American communities in Baltimore County and City had a single church within their neighborhood. Grace African Methodist Episcopal Church was one of the first such churches constructed on Winters Lane, followed by the Morning Star Baptist Church, Mount Olivet Methodist Church, and the Full Gospel Tabernacle Baptist Church. Other African American churches in the community include the Back to the Bible Temple for All People, the Temple of Faith Church of God in Christ, the Bethlehem Christian Community Church of God, the St. Paul Christian Church and the Bread of Life Christian Center.

Mount Gilboa African Methodist Episcopal Church was the first African American church to be established within the Catonsville region. Located in Oella, the church has been in existence since the 1700s. The Grace African Methodist Episcopal Church, established in 1868, is the oldest African American church still in existence within the boundaries of Catonsville. At the time of its establishment, the church was known as the St. Johns African Methodist Episcopal Church. The congregation initially met at the schoolhouse on corner of Winters Lane and Edmondson Avenue. In 1879, services were held in a new building that had been moved from Baltimore City to the present site at 67 Winters Lane. At that time, the church was renamed Grace African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1910, fire destroyed the church. Two years later, in 1912, the current sanctuary was completed in the

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fashionable Tudor Revival style of architecture.

In 1896, the Morning Star Baptist Church bought the property located at 48-1/2 Winters Lane and built a church at a cost of \$150. A new building was purchased at the corner of Roberts Avenue and Winters Lane about 1930 and the original church was sold to Landmark Lodge No. 40, Free and Accepted Masons. In 1979, the congregation of the Morning Star Baptist Church moved to their current location at 154 Winters Lane.

The Mount Olivet Methodist Church was established about 1912 in a building at the southeastern end of Winters Lane. The congregation was named the Little Catonsville Mission Church. On July 27, 1924, the church was moved to its present location at 823 Edmondson Avenue and was renamed Mount Olivet Methodist Church.

The Full Gospel Tabernacle Baptist Church was established in 1922. On April 24, 1933, the church leased the former Morning Star Baptist Church building at 48-1/2 Winters Lane. In 1943, the Church purchased the original "colored" school at 100 Edmondson Avenue at Winters Lane. The Full Gospel Tabernacle Baptist Church was founded by Reverend William Adams, the son of Remus Adams, was an original trustee of the original school.

Businesses

An unusually large number of African Americans in Catonsville owned their own businesses, which were established for the most part to serve the immediate community. As with churches, the establishment of businesses, particularly those owned and operated by resident African Americans, was rare in Baltimore County in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The June 2, 1934 edition of the Clarion, Catonsville's African American newspaper, contained advertisements for:

The Lincoln Grocery – 1 Old Frederick Road - Harry and Mrs. Jones owners
M.T. Ralins Fresh Meats and Vegetables –Edmondson and Winters Lane
Mrs. Susie Page Grocery and Confections – 185 Winters Lane
Ridgely W. Coats, Feeds, Seeds, and Poultry Supplies – 16 Winters Lane
Page C. Elliot Ice, Wood and Coal – 61 Winters Lane.
George W. Williams Confectionery and Grocery – 89 Winters Lane
Mrs. Catherine Williams Groceries and Meats/Tea Room – 151 Winters Lane
Charlie Hayes Taxi Service – 81 Winters Lane
Peoples Barber Shop with L.B. Owens Proprietor – 89 Winters Lane
County Club Casino – 74 Winters Lane

Other black-owned businesses noted in the early part of the 20th century included Fannie and Charles Hayes' Confectionery at the corner of Winters Lane and Main Avenue, Clara Kings' Tavern on Winters Lane (opened in the 1930s), William Adams' taxi service, and Mr. Davidge's Grocery Store across the street from 151 Winters Avenue.

Katherine Williams' store at 151 Winters Lane was amongst the most prominent of the African American-owned businesses. This store, featuring green groceries, fresh meats, and a tearoom, was located in the same building as Bob Mathew's tailor shop. The building was later converted into a barbershop with a poolroom operated by John Boston on the second floor. Today, the building is home to the American Legion.

Samuel Torsell started the Clarion on September 7, 1919 as a weekly publication for the Grace African Methodist Episcopal Church. Although originally focusing on church news, the paper soon began to report issues relating to the entire African American community. This new focus is reflected in its policy statement of June 2, 1934:

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This paper advocates 1. Good School; 2. A high school for colored children in Baltimore County; 3. Equal salaries for county school teachers regardless of color or sex; 4. Adequate police protection; 5. Adequate sanitary health provisions.

The Catonsville Cooperative Corporation, which was incorporated on September 1, 1890, was important to the development of African American businesses in Catonsville, prompting Winters Lane residents to operate and eventually own local commercial establishments. This organization was started by a group of black men who pooled their resources to open various businesses, including the recreational Greenwood Electric Park in the 1920s. Members, all of who resided in the Winters Lane area, included William Washington, Frank Duckett, W. Ashley Hawkins, John Thomas, John Scott, Rufus Washington, George H. Johnson, Ethel Martin, and Charles Woodland. The active group held their meetings, the last of which was in the 1960s, in the rear of the Washington Grocery Store on Winters Lane and Edmondson Avenue. At the time of its demise, there were about 523 shareholders.

The Casino Gardens, a well-known nightclub, was located at the corner of Winters Lane and Main Avenue. Owned by Charles Woodland and operated by Ike Dixon, the Casino Gardens was extremely popular in the 1930s and 1940s, hosting a variety of famous black bands and entertainers. Similar social and commercial enterprises included the Greenwood Electric Park; the Negro Chapter of the International Order of Odd Fellows, which hosted dances on Winters Avenue throughout the 1920s; and the Elks Club, which was popular for family-oriented entertainment.

Social Organizations

Social organizations, like the churches, helped to advance the sense of community for which Winters Lane was known and also isolated it from the segregated activities of Catonsville and Baltimore County. 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 constructed along Winters Lane.

The Crescent Lodge #355, established on April 5, 1923, is one of the oldest African American organizations in Catonsville. Originally, the elks lodge held meetings in the Odd Fellows Hall. In 1932, the organization purchased their present building at 169 Winters Lane, also the home of the Emma Williams Temple No. 358.

Winters Lane was also home to Landmark Lodge No. 40, Free and Accepted Masons Masonic Temple, which was established on June 7, 1905. In 1929, the organization moved from their former location on the corner of Roberts Avenue and Winters Lane to 48-1/2 Winters Lane, the original site of the Morning Star Baptist Church.

Other African American organizations include the Emma Williams Temple No. 358 I.B.P.O.E of W (1925); the Martha Chapter #25 O.E.S.P.H.A. (1922); the American Legion Post #263 (1952); the American Legion Auxiliary #263 (1953); Leathia Lee Nursery School (1965); the Holly Manor Improvement Association (1968); the Douglas Park Improvement Association (1968) the Banneker Optimist Club (1970); the Baltimore County NAACP Chapter (1978); and Concerned Citizens of Catonsville (1983), to name a few.

Winters Lane and Catonsville Today

Catonsville experienced rapid expansion in the first half of the 20th century. The 1900 Census Report for Baltimore District 1 records the community was home to 9,408 residents. By 1940, Catonsville had been transformed from a rural village to a modern suburb of Baltimore City with a population of 21,221 and 5,000 households. The end of World War II (1941-1945) triggered an unprecedented population explosion throughout the Baltimore region. Undeveloped land in Catonsville was improved by the construction of shopping centers, housing projects, businesses, and educational institutions. Winters Lane, which was largely

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developed by the mid-1920s, was impacted by development with the construction of West Baltimore National Pike (Route 40), which was laid in 1942 as part of a World War II defense effort. As a result, a number of dwellings were razed in Harristown and along Winters Lane, physically dividing the neighborhood into two sections. The social context of the community, however, remained intact creating a discontinuous neighborhood. Today, Harristown is confined to the east side of Winters Lane and includes three historic turn-of-the-20th-century dwellings and a family cemetery.

In 1964, as a result of the declining patronage of most town centers, urban renewal plans were developed for both Towson and Catonsville. The Catonsville plan aimed to rejuvenate the business along Frederick Road, place three large parking lots in the center of town, and push back many retail stores on the north side of Frederick Road to allow for a wider street through the business core. For the African American community along Winters Lane, the project hoped to initiate the rehabilitation of housing, provide garden apartments and improve streets and sanitary facilities. The citizens rejected the plans and Winters Lane remained much as it had appeared in the second quarter of the 20th century.

The modest single-family twin and freestanding dwellings in Jones Town, however, were impacted by the growth of Catonsville as a commercial center and growing urban community. A number of the dwellings were razed and Jones Avenue was lost to later subdivisions that included large-scale apartment housing and parking for the commercial properties fronting Fredrick Avenue. The move towards multi-family housing in Jones Town began by the middle part of the 20th century and continued to the turn of the 21st century. As a result, only three buildings representing the African American population congregating in Jones Town remain. These include the family homes of the Hall, Lumpkins, and Boardley families along Melrose Avenue.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the number of African American communities in Baltimore County increased, but decreased as a percentage of the total. Historic African American communities such as those found in Turner's Station and East Towson decreased in population and were said to be "little known, forgotten, ignored and generally left to go their own ways." Twenty of these small African American communities still survived into the 1970s, yet they lacked adequate housing or land for expansion and their young people were moving out of the area. Only the north Catonsville community of Winters Lane maintained its residents, both young and old, making it one of the largest and most intact 19th-century African American neighborhoods in Baltimore County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-3067

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 49
Acreage of historical setting 55
Quadrangle name Baltimore West Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Winters Lane Historic District in Catonsville is a discontinuous neighborhood located to the north of Frederick Road and extends just north of the Baltimore National Pike. The historic district includes Harristown, Winters Lane, and Jones Town. Harristown, located north of Baltimore National Pike, includes Harristown Road and the extension of Winters Lane. The linear historic district along Winters Lane runs north south with associated historic resources fronting the east-west streets of Edmondson Avenue, Shipley Avenue, Roberts Avenue, Leewood Avenue and Old Frederick Road. The remaining extant properties within the area later known as Jones Town front Melrose Avenue between Egges Avenue and Ingleside Avenue.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Laura V. Trieschmann/Architectural Historian		
organization	EHT Traceries	date	4/25/2003
street and number	1121 Fifth Street, N.W.	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

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3067

Name Winters Lane Historic District

Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

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Maps

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Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, Atlas of Catonsville, 1910.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, Atlas of Catonsville, July 1919.

Survey Documentation

Baltimore County Historic Buildings Survey List, District 1, BA 2139. Baltimore County Office of Planning, Towson, Maryland.

Baltimore County Historic Buildings Survey List, District 1, BA 2306. Baltimore County Office of Planning, Towson, Maryland.

E.H.T. Traceries, Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, "Grace African Methodist Church, 67 1/2 Winters Lane," BA-2912. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

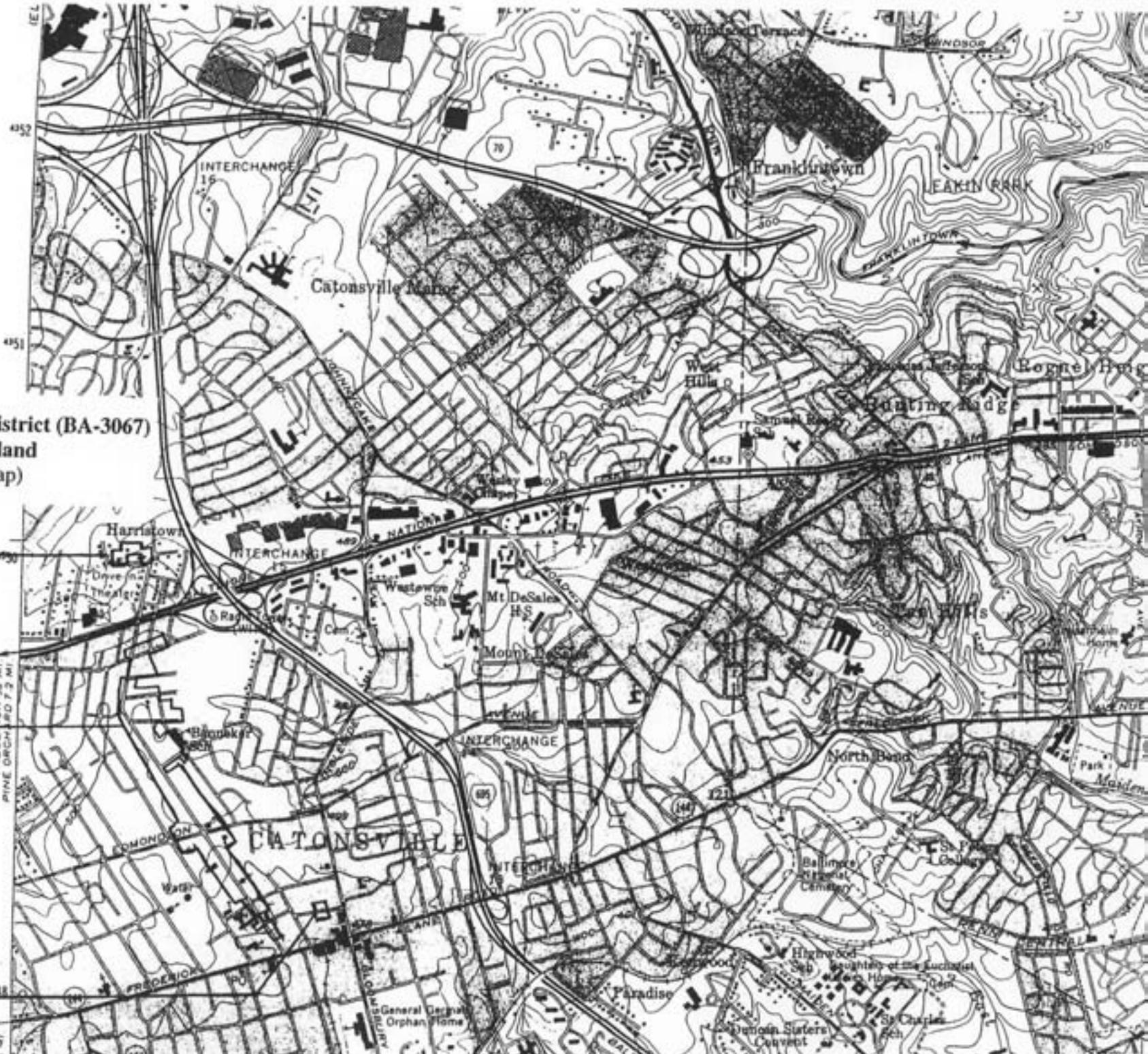






Winters Lane Historic District (BA-3067)
 Baltimore County, Maryland

- Historic District Boundaries
- Non-Contributing Resources



Winters Lane Historic District (BA-3067)
Baltimore County, Maryland
(Baltimore West USGS Map)

Harristown
Winters Lane
Jones Town