

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-1517
Fork School
6740 Sunshine Avenue
Kingsville, Baltimore County
1862 Ca.
Private

Fork School is located at 6740 Sunshine Avenue in Election District Eleven in Baltimore County. The vernacular wood frame school, which was converted to a residence in 1954, was constructed circa 1862 on land acquired by Thomas Gorsuch. In 1881, Augusta M. Payne was the teacher at the Fork School. The Fork School was acquired by the Fork Christian Church and used as a Sunday School from 1922 until 1954. Presumably the architecture firm of Dixon and Dixon, headed by Thomas Dixon, constructed Fork School as a one-room schoolhouse circa 1862, on property previously owned by the Gorsuch family, who owned numerous parcels in the area in the second half of the 19th century. The architecture firm of Dixon and Dixon designed the Baltimore County Courthouse in Towson under the name of Dixon and Baldwin. The one-room schoolhouse served the northern Baltimore County area from its location near York Road, a major thoroughfare connecting Baltimore and Pennsylvania. The building was one of numerous schools designed in the 1860s and 1870s by the architecture firm of Dixon and Dixon, known for their design of rural vernacular schoolhouses.

The one-story, six-bay wide vernacular building is constructed of wood frame with square-butt, wood shingle cladding. A one-story, three-bay wide porch with a shed roof and Tuscan columns dominates the façade, which faces northwest along Sunshine Avenue. Rising from the side gable roof, which is clad with standing seam metal, is a central interior brick chimney with parging. On the rear of the house, there is also an exterior chimney constructed of concrete block. The windows, which appear to have been replaced when the school was converted to a dwelling, hold 2/2 horizontal sash windows and have square-edged wood surrounds and sills. Set in the one story wing on the west side of the main block is the main entry with a single-leaf, 15-light door. Paterae cornerblocks adorn the wood molding around this entry. There are also double-leaf wood doors with one light in each leaf. A projecting gable bay with two sash windows and a triangular shaped ventilator in the gable end defines the northernmost bay.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-1517

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Fork School

other

2. Location

street and number 6740 Sunshine Avenue __ not for publication

city, town Kingsville __ vicinity

county Baltimore County

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

name Paul Douglas Brooks

street and number 6740 Sunshine Avenue telephone Not Available

city, town Kingsville state MD zip code 21087

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 12676 folio 450

city, town Towson tax map 54 tax parcel 268 tax ID number 1108069151

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 at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> _district	<input type="checkbox"/> _public	<input type="checkbox"/> _agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X_building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X_private	<input type="checkbox"/> _commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> _structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> _defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> _site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X_domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> _object		<input type="checkbox"/> _education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> _funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> _work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> _government	<input type="checkbox"/> _unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> _health care	<input type="checkbox"/> _vacant/not in use	Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
		<input type="checkbox"/> _industry	<input type="checkbox"/> _other:	<u>1</u>

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1517

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.

Constructed circa 1862, the Fork School was converted to a dwelling in 1954. The one-story, six-bay wide vernacular building is constructed of wood frame with square-butt, wood shingle cladding. A one-story, three-bay wide porch with a shed roof and Tuscan columns dominates the façade, which faces northwest along Sunshine Avenue. Rising from the side gable roof, which is clad with standing seam metal, is a central interior brick chimney with parging. On the rear of the house, there is also an exterior chimney constructed of concrete block. The windows, which appear to have been replaced when the school was converted to a dwelling, hold 2/2 horizontal sash windows and have square-edged wood surrounds and sills. Set in the one story wing on the west side of the main block is the main entry with a single-leaf, 15-light door. Paterae cornerblocks adorn the wood molding around this entry. There are also double-leaf wood doors with one light in each leaf. A projecting gable bay with two sash windows and a triangular shaped ventilator in the gable end defines the northernmost bay.

To the north of the school, there are two circa 1980 outbuildings: a garage and a shed. The one-story, two bay wide wood frame garage is clad in pressed vertical boards and has a front gable roof with asphalt shingles. The garage features two roll-up wood doors that are paneled with lights and a plywood shed addition to the northwest. There are three Tuscan post supports at the front of the garage and the roof has overhanging eaves and a boxed wood cornice. Set on a poured concrete foundation, the wood frame shed is clad in pressed vertical board siding. The shed features a side gable roof with asphalt shingles and double-leaf plate glass doors.

.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1517

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

Specific dates 1862 ca., 1922, 1954 **Architect/Builder** Dixon and Dixon

Construction dates 1862 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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Fork School is located at 6740 Sunshine Avenue in Election District Eleven in Baltimore County. The vernacular wood frame school, which was converted to a residence in 1954, was constructed circa 1862 on land acquired by Thomas Gorsuch. The Fork School was acquired by the Fork Christian Church and used as a Sunday School from 1922 until 1954.

Presumably the architecture firm of Dixon and Dixon, headed by Thomas Dixon, constructed Fork School as a one-room schoolhouse circa 1862, on property previously owned by the Gorsuch family, who owned numerous parcels in the area in the second half of the 19th century. The architecture firm of Dixon and Dixon designed the Baltimore County Courthouse in Towson under the name of Dixon and Baldwin.¹ The one-room schoolhouse served the northern Baltimore County area from its location near York Road, a major thoroughfare connecting Baltimore and Pennsylvania. The building was one of numerous schools designed in the 1860s and 1870s by the architecture firm of Dixon and Dixon, known for their design of rural vernacular schoolhouses.

In the mid-19th century, the town of Fork Meeting was a small rural community near Joppa Road and the Harford Turnpike. According to the 1850 Atlas of Baltimore County, the village had a post office, a meetinghouse, a tavern, and a number of dwellings. The town continued to remain small in nature and by 1877, there was also a hotel, a store, and the Fork School. In 1881, Augusta M. Payne was the teacher at the Fork School.² In 1915, the map continues to show the schoolhouse, meetinghouse, store, and hotel. However, at this time, there appears to be a more densely populated residential area near the intersection of what is currently Harford and Fork Roads.

¹ Patrick Gilbert. "Bond School: One Room Many Memories." Sun. June 27, 1993. P. 1B. See also Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County*, Towson, MD, (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979), p. 134.

² Thomas J. Scharf, *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), p. 916.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1517

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*, Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
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.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory
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.
-

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .325 Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name White Marsh Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Fork School, located at 6740 Sunshine Avenue in Kingsville Maryland has been associated with this site since its construction circa 1862. It is identified as parcel 268 on Tax Map 54.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald, R. Weidlich and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 2, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

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 21032-2023
410-514-7600

WHITE MARSH
QUADRANGLE



BA-0365
12900 FORK ROAD
FORK
BALTIMORE COUNTY

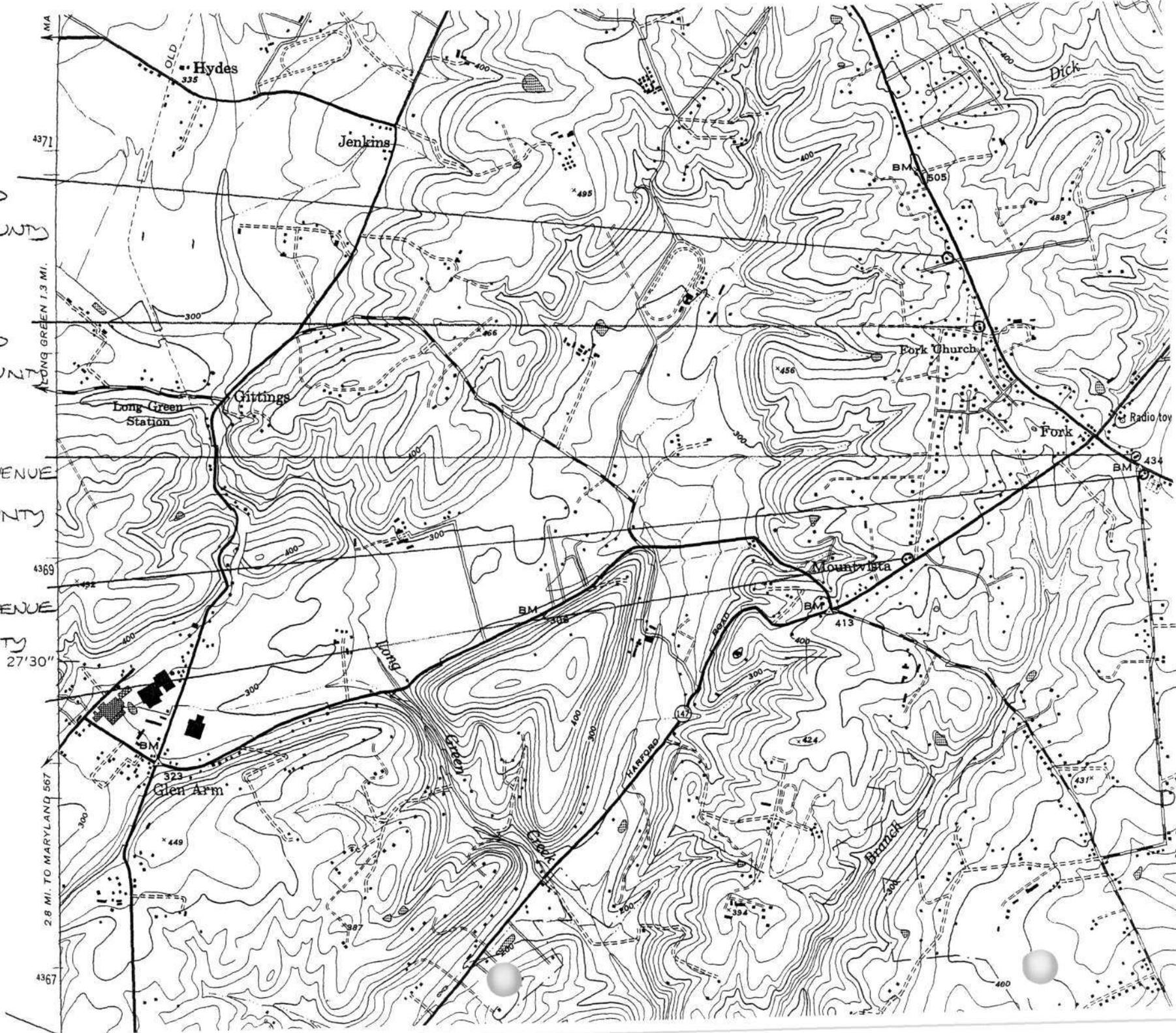
BA-0364
12800 FORK ROAD
FORK
BALTIMORE COUNTY

EA-1517
6740 SUNSHINE AVENUE
FORK
BALTIMORE COUNTY

3A-1516
5801 SUNSHINE AVENUE
FORK
BALTIMORE COUNTY

3A-0247

A-0540





BA-1517

6740 SUNSHINE AVENUE

FORK

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD-SH10

NW ELEVATION

1 of 3



BA-1517

6740 SUNSHINE AVENUE

FORK

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERES

3/2001

MD-SHPD

N CORNER

2 of 3



BA-1517

6740 SUNSHINE AVENUE

FORK

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACELIES

3/2001

MO SHED

S CORNER

3 of 3

BA-1517

FORK SCHOOL - 1862 - 6740 Sunshine Avenue (north side), just west of terminus of Stoney Batter Road. Frame, shingle-covered school built from a Dixon design; set on tract acquired by Thomas Gorsuch in 1862. Acquired in 1922 as a Sunday School by Fork Christian Church. Sold by the church in 1954 and is now used as a dwelling.