Survey No. BA 2565

Magi No. 0325653702

DOE ___yes x no

# Maryland Historical Trust
# State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic: Lutherville Schoolhouse

and/or common: Colored School No. 24, District 8

## 2. Location

street & number: 1426 Schoolhouse Lane ___ not for publication

city, town: Lutherville ___ vicinity of

congressional district: Councilmanic District - 4th, 2nd

state: Maryland

county: Baltimore County

## 3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ___ district | x public | ___ occupied | ___ agriculture | ___ museum |
| x building(s) | ___ private | x unoccupied | ___ commercial | ___ park |
| ___ structure | ___ both | ___ work in progress | ___ educational | ___ private residence |
| ___ site | **Public Acquisition** | **Accessible** | ___ entertainment | ___ religious |
| ___ object | ___ in process | ___ yes: restricted | ___ government | ___ scientific |
| | ___ being considered | ___ yes: unrestricted | ___ industrial | ___ transportation |
| | ___ not applicable | x no | ___ military | x other: surplus |

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

name: Baltimore County Board of Education

street & number: 6901 N. Charles Street telephone no.: 887-5555

city, town: Towson state and zip code: Maryland 21204

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: County Courts Building liber WPC 321

street & number: 401 Bosley Avenue folio 518

city, town: Towson state: Maryland 21204

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title: None

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

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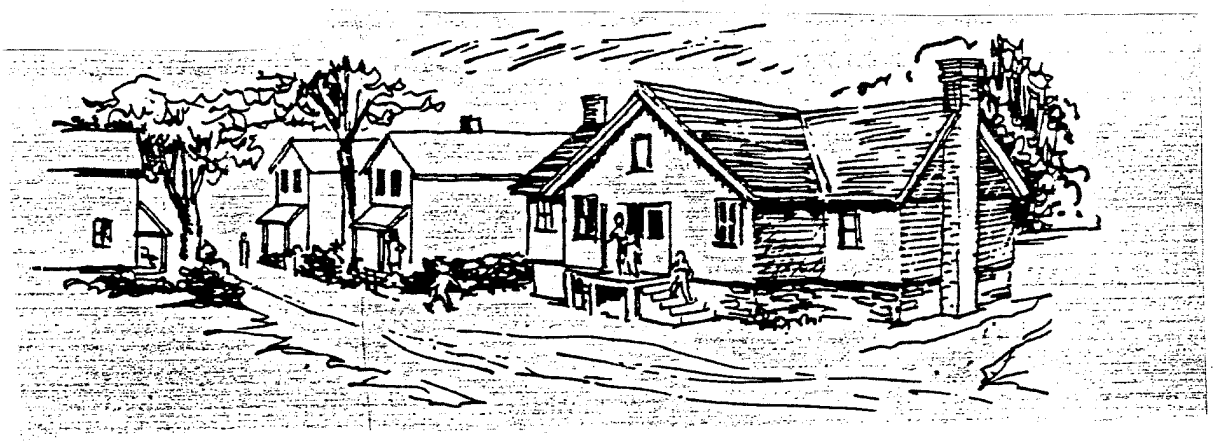
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
|---|---|---|---|
| ___ excellent | _x_ deteriorated | _x_ unaltered | _x_ original site |
| ___ good | ___ ruins | ___ altered | ___ moved date of move _____ |
| ___ fair | ___ unexposed | | |

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

The Lutherville Colored School House is a one-story frame and clapboard building on a stone foundation, gable-roofed and rather plain, a rectangular building with a central entrance pavilion facing the street, fitted with double front doors. The windows are regularly spaced and at present cannot be seen, being covered with board or plywood. Brick outside end-chimneys rise at each gable, north and south. The school was not ornamented when new but was a clean design and built of good materials, providing an ample space for two classrooms. In the years after it ceased to serve as a school, the building has been described in various reports as deteriorated but probably salvageable.

In the autumn of 1993, the roof at the south end of the building collapsed. The older part of the school is intact, with its own roof, and could be salvaged. The walls inside are lined with wainscoating and there are well drafted door frames with characteristic corner blocks.



# 8. Significance

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| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ___ prehistoric | ___ archeology-prehistoric | ___ community planning | ___ landscape architecture | ___ religion |
| ___ 400–1499 | ___ archeology-historic | ___ conservation | ___ law | ___ science |
| ___ 1500–1599 | ___ agriculture | ___ economics | ___ literature | ___ sculpture |
| ___ 1600–1699 | ___ architecture | x education | ___ military | x social/ humanitarian |
| ___ 1700–1799 | ___ art | ___ engineering | ___ music | ___ theater |
| ___ 1800–1899 | ___ commerce | ___ exploration/settlement | ___ philosophy | ___ transportation |
| x 1900– | ___ communications | ___ industry | ___ politics/government | ___ other (specify) |
| | | ___ invention | | |

**Specific dates** 1909 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B __C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national x state __local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Lutherville Colored School House was probably constructed during the building season of 1908 and was carried in the tabular list of schools in 1909 as School No. 24, District 8.(1) There were not 24 schools in the election district, but a "20" prefix was added to the number of a school reserved for African-American pupils. State laws following the Civil War (1872) required Counties to provide teachers for Black children but expected the parents to provide space for the school. Church buildings and church halls were pressed into service as schools in the 1860s. It was many years before the Baltimore County Board of School Commissioners built new schools for the African-American students. The "separate but equal" decision of the Supreme Court in 1890 probably moved the county toward providing adequate buildings, even though they tended to be of wood and devoid of embellishments.

For many years, schools for White children conformed to five basic, spartan designs prepared in 1859 by the architects Dixon and Dixon. Even with white people, the school design and its material, wood-vs.-brick or stone, depended on the prosperity of the school district and the amount of money the unpaid local school trustees could raise. Many classes for whites were in rented rooms, church halls, and in one case a corn crib.

Lutherville's first school for the African-American children began in the 1880s in a rented room in the Lutherville Colored Odd Fellows' Hall, and a photograph of the facility and students ca. 1900, was published in The Limestone Valley. (2) The commission paid $2 per month for the room. This hall is not shown in either the 1877 atlas map of Lutherville nor E. Robinson's 1882 county map. But Bromley's 1898 atlas shows that the school was on the east side of Bellona, just south of Lincoln Avenue, a block south of Edgewood Church. (3)

The Board of School Commissioners bought a one-third acre from Ellen B. Corkran and her husband on December 17, 1907 for $300. (4)

The school was probably constructed in the building season of 1908. The annual report of the Commissioners for the year ending July 31, 1909, shows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Cost, New Building | $1,061.44 |
| Cost of Books | 37.07 |
| Total | $1,987.47 |

(5)

The G. W. Bromley 1915 atlas showed this as a "Colored School" on the west side of an unnamed street. (6) On December 31, 1925, the Board acquired a 0.5-acre tract on the east side of the same street. (7)

This type of segregated school was rendered unconstitutional in 1954 following the case of Brown-v.-Board of Education, and Baltimore County quickly complied with the new thinking and the school was abandoned in 1955, turned to storage use. (8)

Almost 40 years after segregation was struck down, the school is now of historic interest rather than a shameful reminder of exclusion. It was realized at this time that there were apparently no other small schools surviving that had been built exclusively for black students -- some other schools having been "hand-me downs." Remarkably enough, one of the Schoolhouse Lane residents, Marie Jackson, age 92, had witnessed the building of the school as a small child and then became one of its pupils. When interviewed in the local weekly in 1993, she expressed a hope that the building would not be auctioned to a white person, but the county, while eager to protect the neighborhood, was faced with having to make any auction open to all, otherwise it would be perpetrating discrimination. An alternate proposal was to sell the building to the Lutherville Community Association for $1.00. (9)

Mrs. Jackson had been interviewed at the time of the American Bicentennial in 1976 or before and recalled that two of the earliest teachers were Miss Roberta Fernandez and Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson. Graduates of the 7th grade were eligible to go to Baltimore City to attend high school, as until 1939 there were no black high schools in

the county. The students attended either Dunbar or Douglass High School when they chose to go on. Tuition was paid by Baltimore County.

**NOTES:**

1. Annual Report, Public Schools, Baltimore County, Maryland, Year Ending July 31st, 1909 (Towson, 1909). p. 6.

2. Greater Timonium American Bicentennial Committee, Inc., The Limestone Valley (Timonium, 1976), p. 89.

3. George W. Bromley, Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland, (Philadelphia, 1898), Plate 19.

4. Baltimore County Deeds, WPC 321:518.

5. Annual Report . . . . 1909, p. 15.

6. George W. Bromley, Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, 1915), Plate 22.

7. Baltimore County Deeds, WPC 627:509.

8. Greater Timonium, Limestone Valley, p. 88.

9. Loni Ingraham, "'Colored School' Building Will Be Sold," Towson Times, May 26, 1993, p. 10.

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SCHOOL.MHT/LANDMARK

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Loni Ingraham, "'Colored School' Building Will Be Sold," Towson Times, May 26, 1993, p. 10.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.3

Quadrangle name Cockeysville

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | | | | B | | | |
| C | | | | D | | | |
| E | | | | F | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | |

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Rectangular lot, w/s of Schoolhouse Lane, Tax Map 60, Grid 23, Parcel P279. Playground e/s Schoolhouse Lane, Parcel P278 (0.5 acre)

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| state | N/A | code | county | N/A | code |
| state | N/A | code | county | N/A | code |

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McGrain

organization Office of Planning date June 8, 1993

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue telephone (410) 887-3495

city or town Towson state Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
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