

CARR-1428

Charles Street Colored School  
Westminster

1887

**Summary:**

At their May 1883 meeting the School Board noted: "A written application for a 'colored' school in the 'East End' of Westminster, was received, and action thereon postponed." The request was repeated in June of 1887. "David Ireland and other colored citizens from the east end of Westminster . . . repeated their requests for an appropriation of two hundred fifty dollars towards a house for a colored school . . . . the request was unanimously granted." By early December authorization was given to paint the woodwork of the school. The Charles Street School continued to function as an education facility for black children for many years. The 1918 Sanborn Map describes it as a public school with stoves for heating and no lights. It must have been about this time that the Board decided to close the building. As yet, the reasons are unknown. It was offered for sale in May 1920. The building was sold to Isaac Bruce for \$500. According to the 1927 Sanborn Map, he converted the school to a dwelling. It's fate at present is unknown.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. CARR-1428

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Charles Street Colored School

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 37-39 Charles Street

not for publication

city, town Westminster

vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county Carroll

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Gordon G. Dorm

street & number 32 Charles Street

telephone no.:

city, town Westminster

state and zip code MD 21157

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse Annex

liber CCC 541

street & number 55 North Court Street

folio 68

city, town Westminster

state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

# 7. Description

Survey No. CARR-1428

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

Contributing Resources: 1

The Charles Street School is located at 39 Charles Street in Westminster, in central Carroll County, Maryland. The building faces southwest towards Charles Street, and is a one-story, one-bay by three-bay structure with a rubble stone foundation, asphalt shingle siding over German siding, and a gable roof of standing-seam metal with a northeast-to-southwest running ridge. The southwest elevation has a double-width opening in the center that is now boarded up. It had a gabled pent roof that had a northeast-to-southwest ridge. There is a new wood porch here now. The building has corner boards.

The northwest elevation, north bay, has a six-panel door. The middle two panels are glazed. There are CMU steps leading up to this door and a shed-roof portico. The center and west bays each have a 6/6 double-hung sash with a wood sill and later plain trim. It is clear that this trim was added later because the mortises for the shutter hinges are in the frame, but not in the trim. The building has a wood boxed cornice.

The southeast elevation is identical to the northwest elevation. There is an interior brick chimney centered on the ridge on the northeast side. The northeast elevation foundation has a pair of vertical-board doors set to the north. The first story has two 6/6 sash. The openings were lowered, and board infill was placed above the existing windows. There are no openings in the gable end.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1887 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
 Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

### Summary:

At their May 1883 meeting the School Board noted: "A written application for a 'colored' school in the 'East End' of Westminster, was received, and action thereon postponed." The request was repeated in June of 1887. "David Ireland and other colored citizens from the east end of Westminster . . . repeated their requests for an appropriation of two hundred fifty dollars towards a house for a colored school . . . . the request was unanimously granted." By early December authorization was given to paint the woodwork of the school. The Charles Street School continued to function as an education facility for black children for many years. The 1918 Sanborn Map describes it as a public school with stoves for heating and no lights. It must have been about this time that the Board decided to close the building. As yet, the reasons are unknown. It was offered for sale in May 1920. The building was sold to Isaac Bruce for \$500. According to the 1927 Sanborn Map, he converted the school to a dwelling. It's fate at present is unknown.

Geographic Organization: Piedmont  
 Chronological/Development Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930  
 Historic Period Themes: Architecture, Education  
 Resource Types: Rural Vernacular, School

In the 1870's, John C. Frizzell purchased the old Winchester property and laid out the largest addition to Westminster around the existing house, along Green, Church, Charles, George, and Center Streets. The plat shows two parcels of land marked "Reserved" between lots 51 and 52, and suggests that the larger of these two was intended to be an extension of Sycamore Street sometime in the future. It would never happen, as the lots eventually became the property of the School Board.

At the May 1883 meeting the School Board noted:

Significance (continued)

Section 8 Page 2

A written application for a "colored" school in the "East End" of Westminster, was received, considered, placed on file, and action thereon postponed.

The request was repeated in early June of 1887 and again, three weeks later. At the latter meeting the Board recorded:

Charles Street Colored David Ireland and other colored citizens from the east end of Westminster, and John Adams and others from the vicinity of Western Chapel, repeated their requests for an appropriation of two hundred fifty dollars towards a house for a colored school at each place. On motion of Mr. Prugh the request was unanimously granted, the money to be paid on completion of the houses, and the lot in each case to be deeded to the Board.

The Board required most communities to raise at least part of the funds for the new school building, which apparently helped to illustrate the commitment of the neighborhood to the project, and thus the amount of support and attendance the school would receive once in operation. This seems to have been the case with the Charles Street School, as in November:

The Building Committee of Charles Street colored schoolhouse, in Westminster, reported that they were behind in funds to pay for their house, as much as one hundred sixty-three dollars and forty-four cents, and prayed help of the Board. After some discussion, it was unanimously agreed to give them an additional sum of one hundred dollars, on condition that they secure the Board from danger of liens on the house for the residue.

Everything apparently worked out, as by early December authorization was given to paint the woodwork of the school.

Many school buildings were being constructed of frame, especially those for new schools, and the Charles Street building seems to be no exception. Brick structures tend to have been reserved as replacement buildings for established schools. Segregation, however, and a stronger emphasis on white schools, was still a fact of life in Carroll County. This became clear in July 1889, when the School Board ordered:

That the Fall term of the white schools begin on Monday 9th September; and that there be only two terms of the colored schools allowed, the first to begin on Monday, 14th October, and continue to the Christmas holidays unless good reason be shown for making exceptions.

Significance (continued)

Section 8 Page 3

As it turned out, there were good reasons to make exception to this arrangement, and the School Board received petitions from several black school districts requesting that their schools open at the same time as the white schools. The Board recorded in early September:

It appearing that Section 1 Chapter XVIII Public School Laws requires that the Colored Schools be kept open the same length of time as the White Schools.

As a result, the old order was rescinded and all schools were ordered to open on 16 September.

The Charles Street School continued to function as an educational facility for black children for many years. The 1918 Sanborn Map describes it as a public school with stoves for heating and no lights. It must have been about this time that the Board decided to close the building. As yet, the reasons are unknown, but many small buildings were closed in the 1920's, as the schools were consolidated into larger, more centralized new buildings. It was offered for sale in May 1920, and was described at that time:

The property is improved by a weatherboarded building, one and one-half stories in height with metal roof, which building heretofore has been used as a public school building for colored children, but has since been abandoned for that purpose. The property is in good condition. . . .

The building was sold to Isaac Bruce for \$500, but the transaction did not go without a hitch. The deed notes that:

. . . the said Board of Education of Carroll County. . . acquired possession of this said lot or parcel of land, on or about the year 1886, and prior thereto had erected on said property a Public School building which has since then been improved and has held adverse possession of said lot or parcel of land since on or about June 27, 1887 until the present time and it was not until the said grantor had offered said property at public sale that it was discovered that there was not of record among the Land Records of Carroll County any deed in the name of this Grantor; that the said lot. . . will be found designated as lot marked "Reserved", between lots Nos. 51 & 52 in said Plat of Frizzell's Addition to Westminster . . . .

While their dates were not quite accurate, the general history was.

The Bruce family was a prominent African-American family in the east end of Westminster. According to the 1927 Sanborn Map, they converted the school to a dwelling.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1428

Significance (continued)

Section 8 Page 4

Though they did not retain it long, the building probably continued as housing for Westminster's African-American community until recently. Its fate at present is unknown.

KS/lc:5-30-95:CARR1428.sig

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CARR-1428

Land Records  
Plat LDM 1-119  
Weeks, Building of Westminster  
Democratic Advocate, 21 May 1920, p. 4, c. 7

Minutes of School Board, 7 May 1883; 6, 27  
June 1887; 15 Nov. 1887; 5 Dec. 1887;  
29 July 1889; 2 Sept. 1889

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 77' x 160'

Quadrangle name Westminster

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth M. Short, Historic Planner

organization Carroll County Planning Department

date July 12, 1995

street & number 225 North Center Street

telephone (410) 857-2145

city or town Westminster

state MD

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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

CARR-1428  
Charles Street Colored School  
37-39 Charles Street

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
Mary Elizabeth Haifley Ruth Ella Senseney	Carroll	Gordon G. Dorm	Carroll	5-4-1973	CCC 541	68	Deed fee simple	\$10.00, lots 51 & 52 of Frizzell's Addition to Westminster, 77 feet by 160 feet, see plat JBB 40-154 or LDM 1-119
Robert J. Cooke, trustee	Carroll	Sarah Elizabeth Study Baile Mary E. Haifley Ruth Ella Senseney	?	9-12-1968	CCC 449	151	Deed fee simple	\$10.00 Sarah Baile - life estate (1) lots 51 & 52 (2) lot 48
Sarah Elizabeth Study Baile & David J. (husband)	Carroll	Robert J. Cooke, trustee	Carroll	9-12-1968	CCC 449	149	Deed fee simple	\$10.00 (1) lots 51 & 52 (2) lot 48
Hezekiah Study & Anne M. (wife)	Carroll	Elizabeth Study Baile	?	9-26-1928	EMM 151	415	Deed fee	\$10.00 lot marked as "Reserved" between lots 51 & 52, 12,320 sq.ft. (1)
Isaac & Annie S. Bruce (wife)	Carroll	Hezekiah & Anne M. Study (wife)	Westminster Carroll	5-8-1928	EMM 150	479	Deed fee simple	\$650, 12,320 sq.ft. (1)

CARR-1428  
 Charles Street Colored School  
 37-39 Charles Street

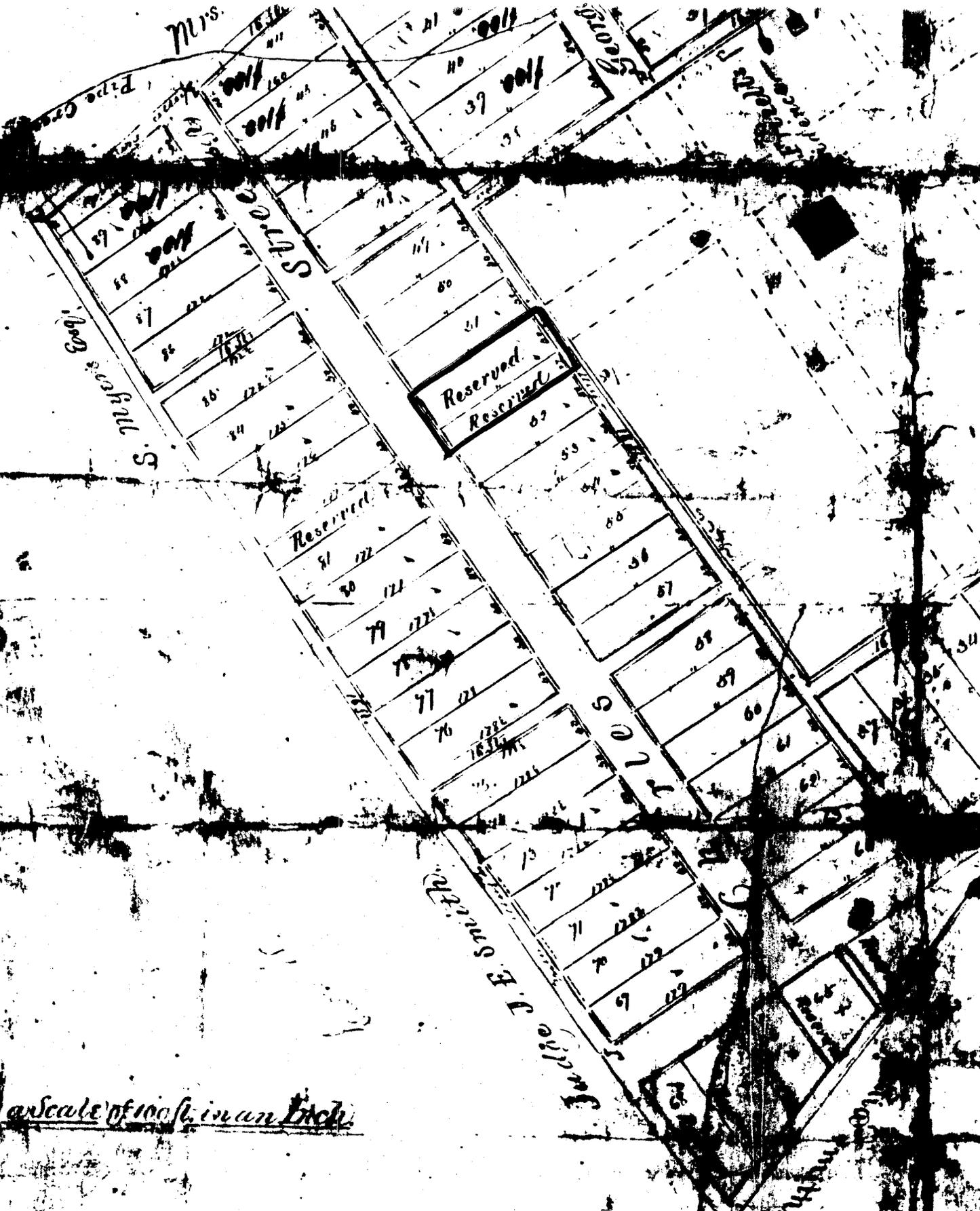
CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
Board of Education of Carroll County	MD Corp.	Isaac Bruce	Carroll	8-9-1928	EOC 137	21	Deed fee simple	"Known as the Colored School Property" public sale, 6-2-1920, \$500; ". . .the said Board of Education of Carroll County. . .acquired possession of this said lot or parcel of land, on or about the year 1886, and prior thereto had erected on said property a Public School building which has since then been improved and has held adverse possession of said lot or parcel of land since on or about June 27, 1887, until the present time and it was not until the said grantor had offered said property at public

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 Charles Street Colored School  
 37-39 Charles Street

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
								sale that it was discovered that there was not of record among the Land Records of Carroll County any deed in the name of this Grantor; that the said lot will be found designated as lot marked 'Reserved', between lots Nos. 51 & 52 in said plat of Frizzel's Addition to Westminster.... "
David Ireland, Reuben Walker, Samuel Bowens, Nelson Edwards, Isaac Bruce, Levi Bruce & George Dorsey		Board of School Commissioners of Carroll County		6-27-1887	not recorded now lost		Deed	
David W. Mason & wife		David Ireland, etal		5-6-1886	WNM 64	310		
William Oursler & wife		David W. Mason		5-1-1884	FTS 61	57		
William P. Maulsby, etal, trustees		William Oursler		8-9-1881	FTS 56	199		#2014 Equity



*a scale of 100 ft. in an inch.*

CARR-1428  
 Charles Street Colored School  
 37-39 Charles Street

Plot of Frizell's Addition to Westminster  
 JBB 40-154, LDM 1-119

# CITY OF WESTMINSTER

**Groceries, Etc.**  
 Groceries, Hardware, Woodens, Fish, and all kinds of  
 in Dry Goods and Notions,  
 in Queensware, Glassware,  
 Fans, Fancy Goods, Groceries  
 & Etc.,  
 in Dry Goods, Groceries,  
 Four and a half miles north  
 of Turphis Road.  
**Hotels.**  
 of Central Hotel,  
 of Westminster Hotel,  
 of Moscor House.

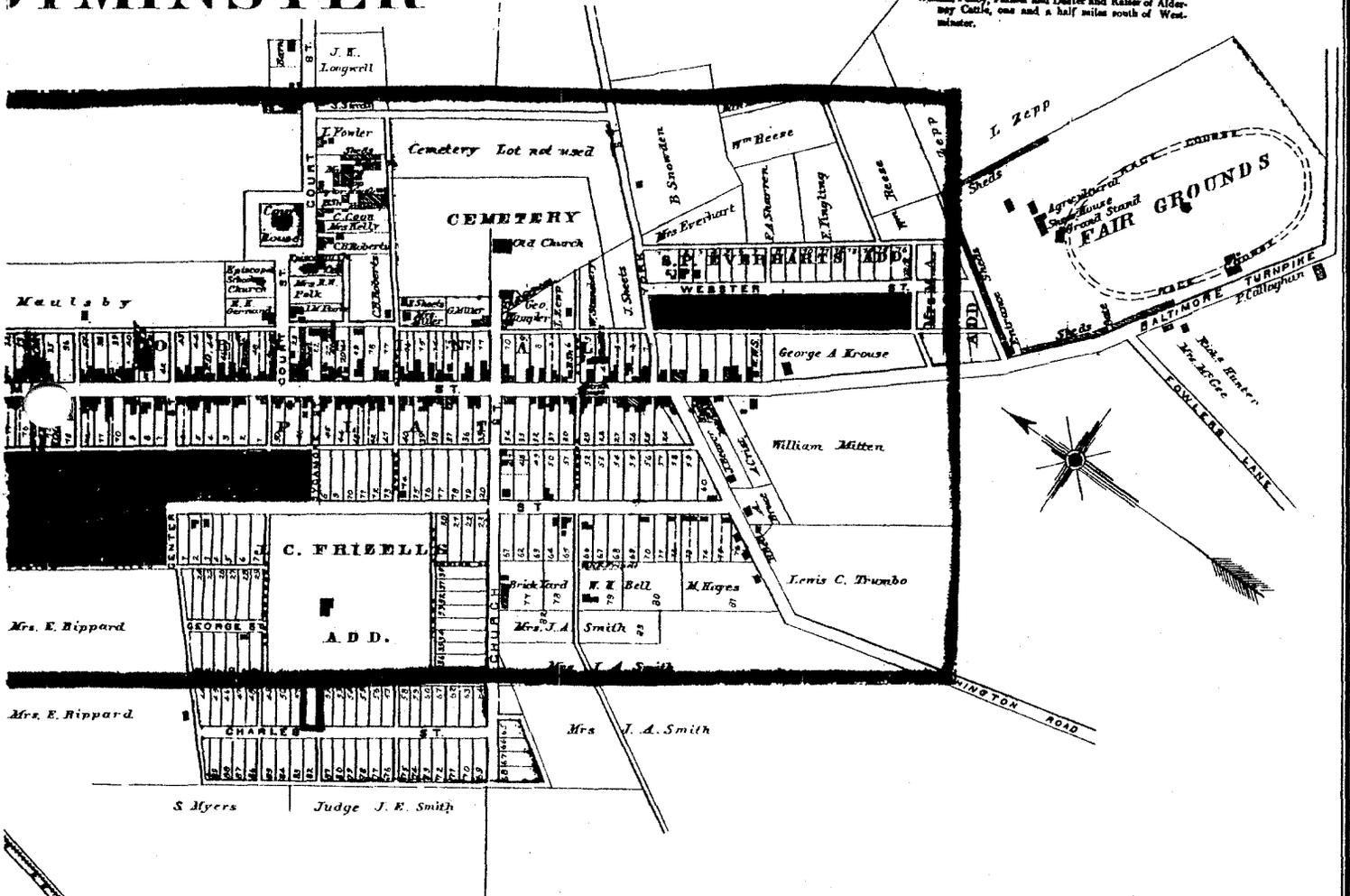
**Lime and Lime Stone.**  
 Thos. F. Goodwin, Farmer and Proprietor of Lime Kiln,  
 Lime and Lime Stone for sale. Kiln one mile  
 southwest of Westminster.  
 Josephus A. Orndorff, Farmer and Proprietor of Lime  
 Stone Quarry, and Raiser of Improved Stock.  
 Wm. Bachman, Farmer and Proprietor of Lime Stone  
 Quarry and Iron Ore Bank. Also, Breeder of  
 Devonshire Cattle.  
 Henry B. Riegel, Farmer and Proprietor of Lime Stone  
 Quarry.  
 Joshua Corbin, Farmer and Lime Burner, two and a half  
 miles southwest of Westminster.  
 Wm. H. Orndorff, Farmer; also has for sale Lime Stone  
 and Lime. One and a quarter miles southwest of  
 Westminster.  
 K. Bankard, Farmer and Dealer in Lime Stone and Lime,  
 one and a half miles southwest of Westminster.  
 Jacob Myerly, Farmer and Dealer in Lime Stone and  
 Lime, one mile southwest of Westminster.

**Mills.**  
 John D. Keop, Miller. Custom Grinding and Sawing  
 done promptly. Also, Farmer and Proprietor of  
 Stone Quarry.  
 Remond Mackley, Manufacturer of Flour, Feed, &c.  
 Highest cash price paid for Wheat, Corn, &c.  
 Mill one and a quarter miles southwest of West-  
 minster.  
 David Moul, Farmer and Proprietor of Grist and Saw  
 Mills. Keeps constantly on hand Flour and Feed.  
 Custom work done promptly. Two and a half  
 miles southwest of Westminster.  
 Albert Winters, Farmer and Manufacturer of Flour,  
 Feed, &c. Custom Sawing and Grinding done  
 promptly. One and a half miles east of West-  
 minster.

**Newspapers.**  
 "The Advertiser." Published every Saturday by W. H.  
 Vandenberg. The best advertising medium in Ma-  
 ryland, at \$2.00 per year. Job work of every style  
 and variety neatly executed.  
 "American Sentinel." Established 1836. Published  
 weekly at \$1.50 per annum in advance. It has  
 the largest circulation and is the best advertising  
 medium in the county. E. J. Rippard & Co., Pub-  
 lishers.

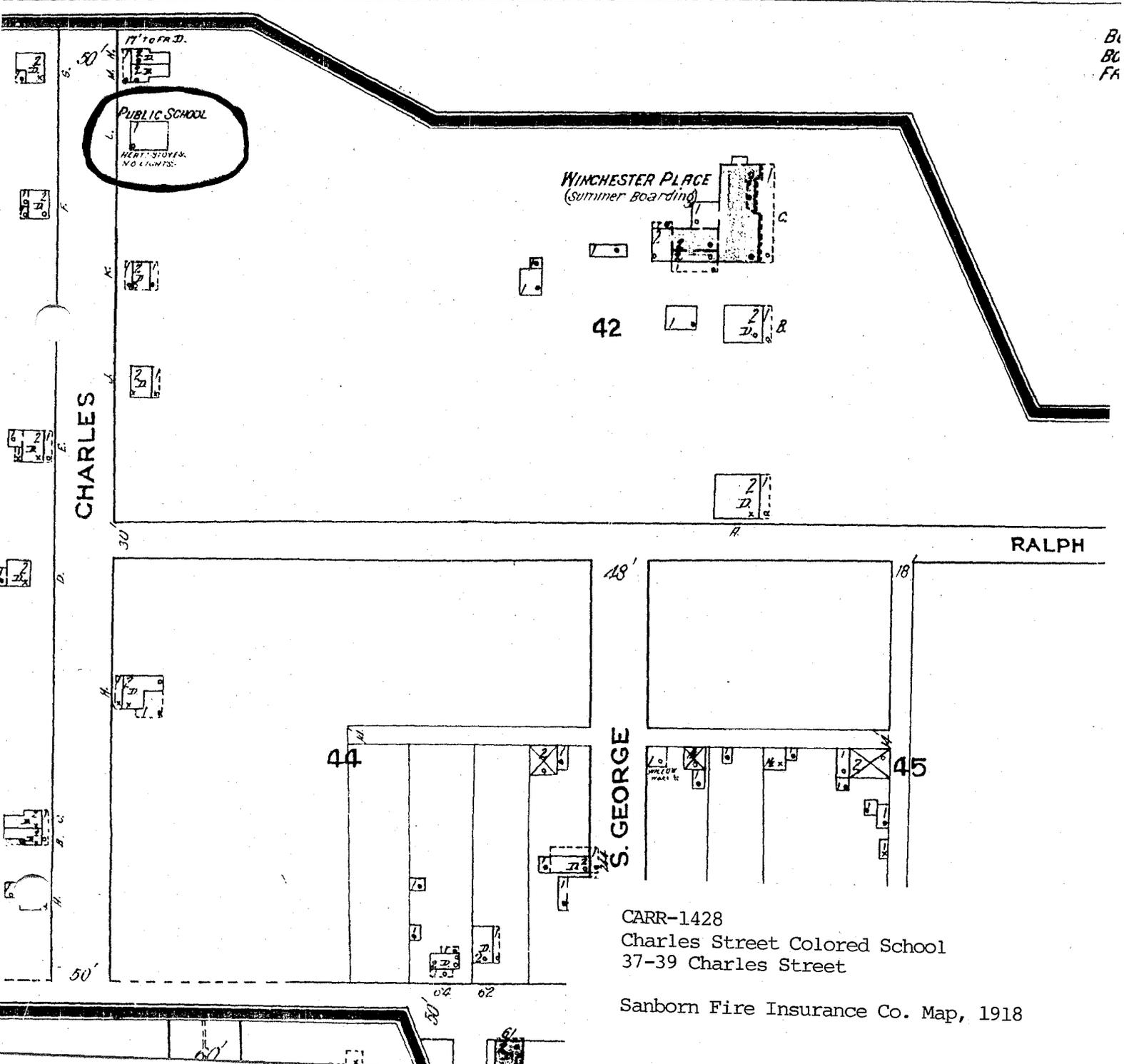
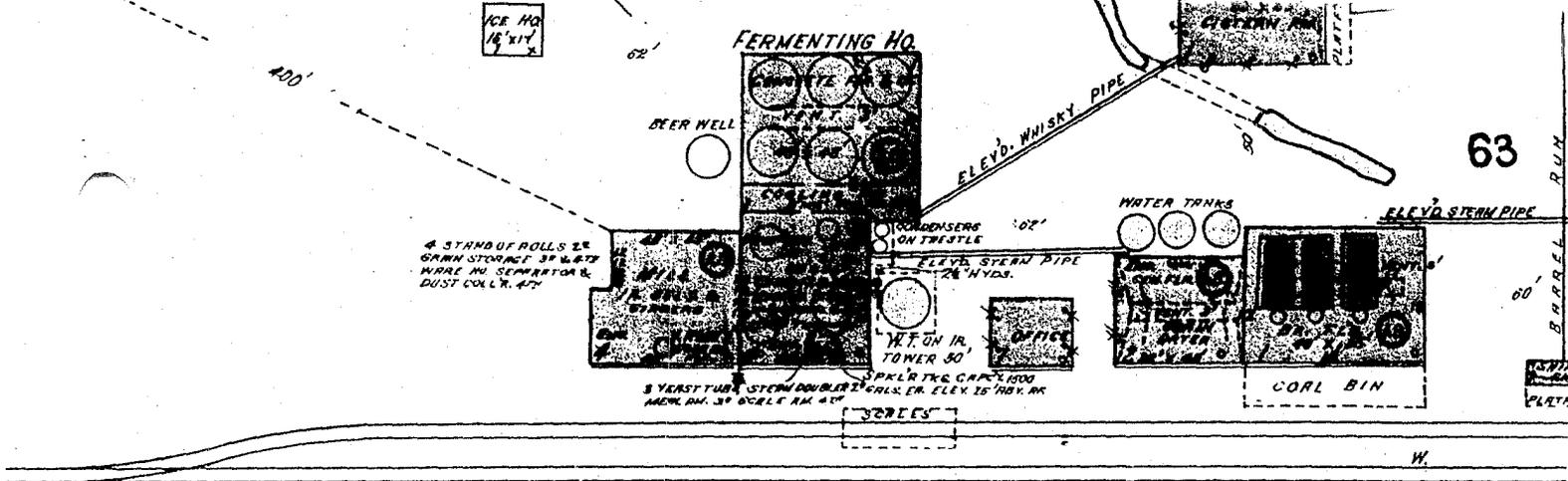
**Stock Raisers and Dealers.**  
 David H. Ryan, Farmer and Breeder of Durham Cattle  
 and Raiser of Gray Brahma and Black Buff Chick-  
 ens. Two miles north of Westminster.  
 F. H. Orndorff, Farmer and Dealer in Alderney Cattle,  
 and Berkshire and Chester Hogs.  
 A. H. Fahrman, Farmer and Breeder of Chester and  
 China Hogs, one and a half miles northwest of  
 Westminster.  
 H. E. Moreslock, Farmer and Raiser and Breeder of  
 Short Horned Cattle, selected from best strains.  
 Breeder of Gray and Black Backing Chickens.  
 Two and a quarter miles west of Westminster.  
 James Schaefer, Farmer and Raiser and Breeder of  
 Short Horn Durham Cattle and Mixed Stock, one  
 and a half miles west of Westminster.  
 William Fealy, Farmer and Dealer and Raiser of Alder-  
 ney Cattle, one and a half miles south of West-  
 minster.

# WESTMINSTER



CARR-1428  
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 37-39 Charles Street

Lake, Griffin & Stevenson Atlas, 1877

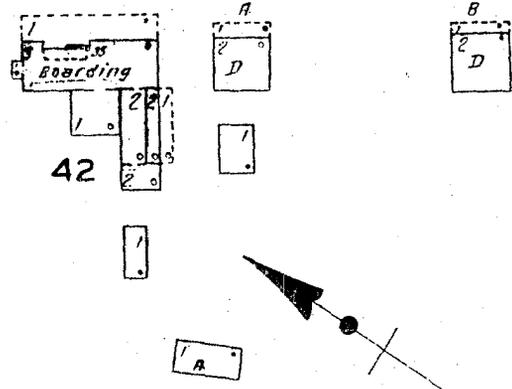


CARR-1428  
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 37-39 Charles Street

Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. Map, 1918

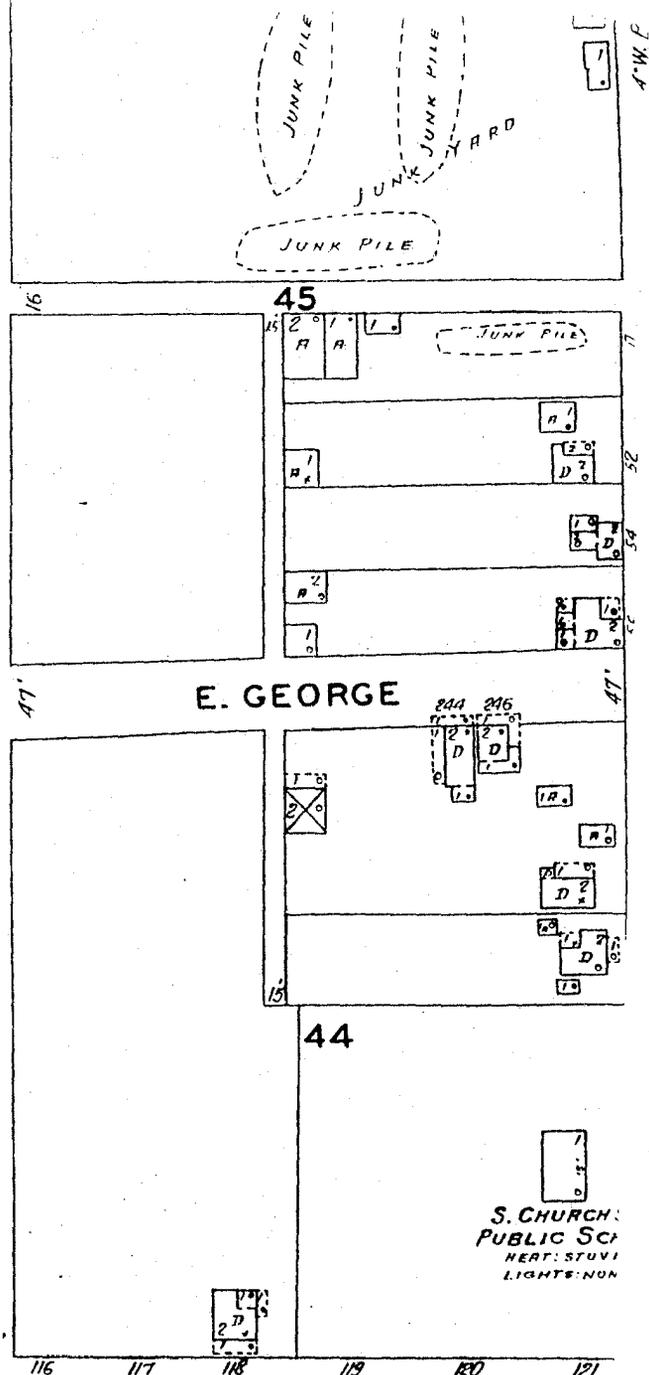
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WINCHESTER PLACE

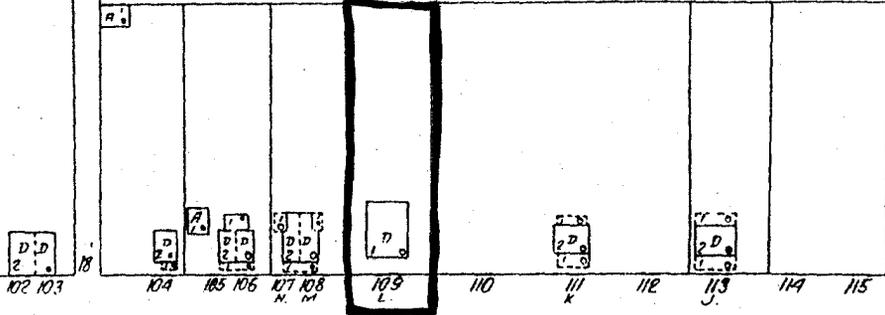


S. RALPH

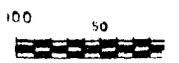
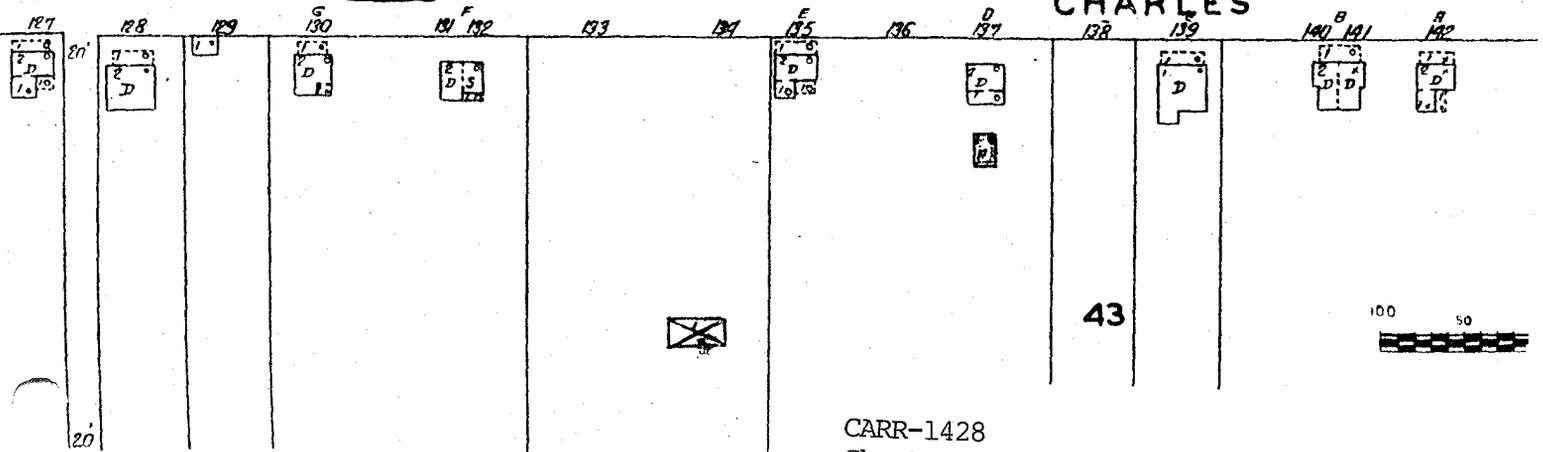
E. GEORGE



S. CHURCH:  
PUBLIC SCH  
HEAT: STUVE  
LIGHTS: NON



CHARLES

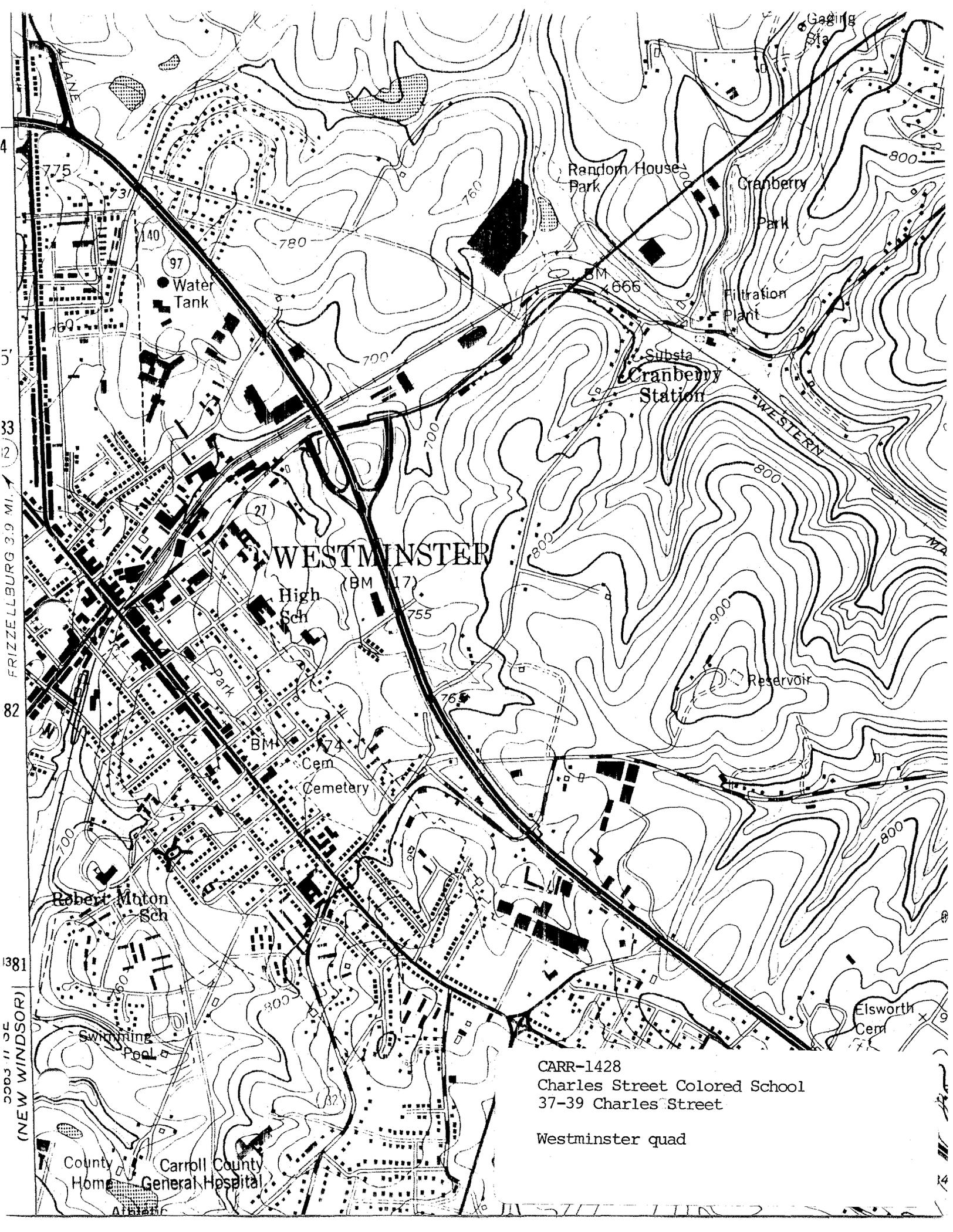


CARR-1428  
Charles Street Colored School  
37-39 Charles Street

Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. Map, 1927



CARR-1428  
Charles Street Colored School:  
37-39 Charles Street



FRIZZELLEBURG 3.9 MI.  
33  
12  
82  
1381  
(NEW WINDSOR)

# WESTMINSTER

CARR-1428  
Charles Street Colored School  
37-39 Charles Street

Westminster quad



CARR-1428

Charles Street Colored School  
39 Charles St. - Westminster  
Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: JAN 1995 \*\*12 1995

MSK

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
NW & SW elevs.

1/1