

F: 7-1-2  
Comstock School  
Mt. Ephraim Community  
Private

1910s

This one story, three bay, frame school with neo-classical porch and other details was built by Gordon Strong, for the children of the Black community of Mt. Ephraim at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain, which Strong owned. Its construction and architecture are evidence of his paternalism. Standing close to the church, the two buildings constituted the center of the Mt. Ephraim community.

SEE FREDERICK COUNTY SITES SURVEY F-7-25 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

SEE FREDERICK COUNTY SITES SURVEY F-7-25 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Comstock School

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

West side of Mt. Ephraim Road

CITY, TOWN

Mt. Ephraim community

VICINITY OF Dickerson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Frederick

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED
- No

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

Maintained; not used

NAME

Stronghold, Inc.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

CITY, TOWN

Dickerson

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20753

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Frederick County Courthouse

Liber #: 697  
Folio #: 64

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This one story, frame school is unlike other schools of Black communities that have been surveyed in Montgomery County. While its size is similar, none of the others displays such neo-classical details in the construction. Like the other schools, the general form is Greek Revival in that the principal facade is located in a gable end. The doorway is sheltered by a half round roof supported by circular pilasters in the Tuscan style with carved brackets above the capitals.

The building is three bays in width and three, (much longer) bays in depth. The frame is sheathed with weatherboards painted yellow, and the roof is covered with wood shingles. In the center of the roof line is a short bell tower with pyridimal roof, similar to the one on the church nearby. At the rear of the school is a brick stove flue. Like the other schools in Black communities built in the 19th or early 20th centuries, it contained one room in which all seven grades were taught.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

F-7-1-2

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) <b>Black History</b>
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES 1920s BUILDER/ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This school was constructed on land owned by Gordon Strong for the children of the Black community of Mt. Ephraim. Before building the school, he had owned the land for some time. According to Paul Wilson, the school was constructed in the 1910s. His father had attended school in the log church in the 1890s.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Records of Montgomery County, Rockville, Md. Deed: 697/64.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George McDaniel, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

DATE

5/79

TELEPHONE

926-4510

STATE

Maryland

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.

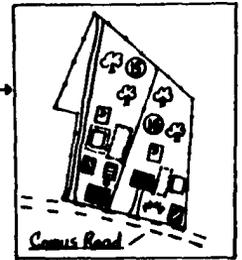
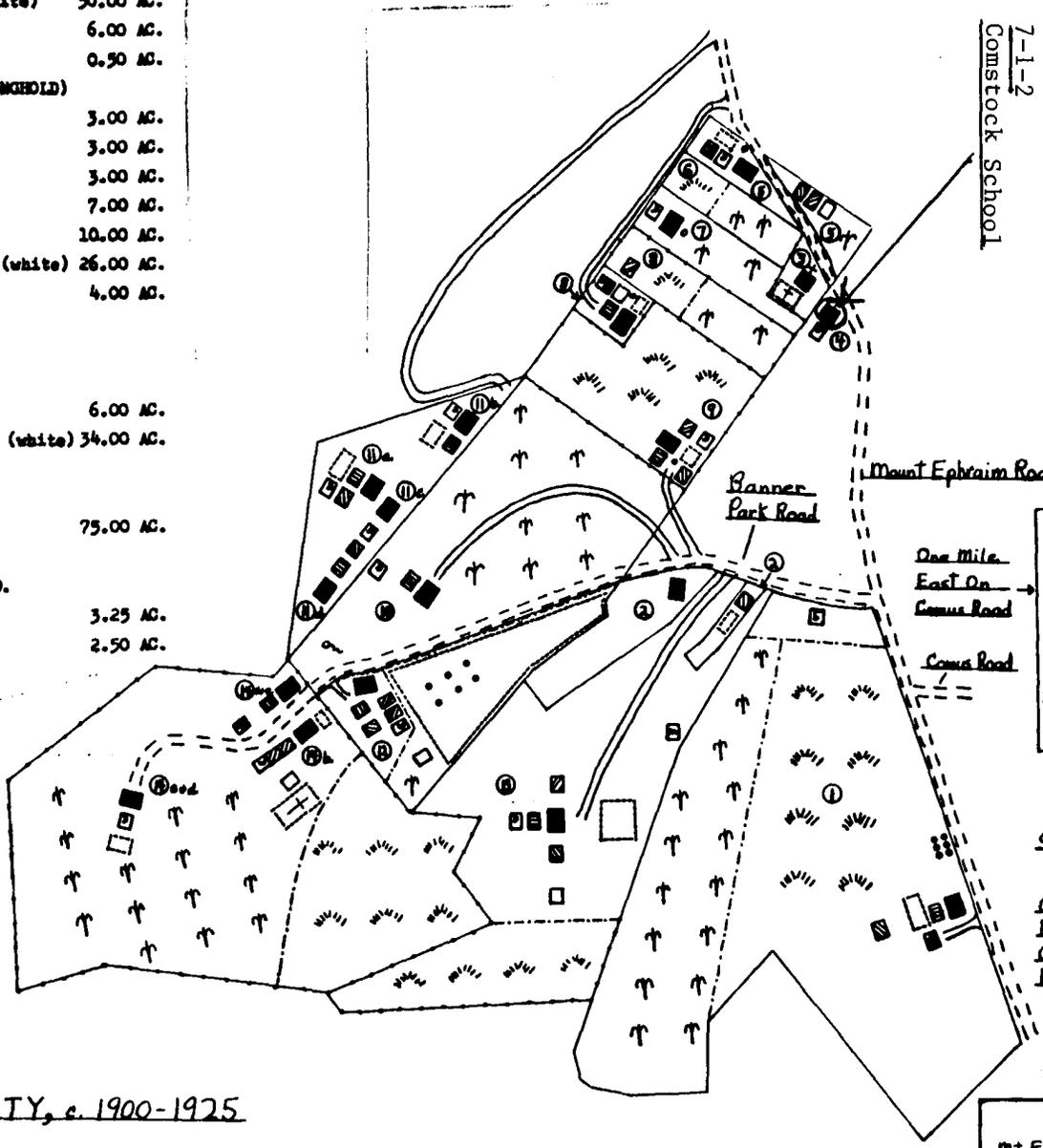
RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
Box 87, Stronghold  
Dickerson, Md. 20753  
(301) 926-4510

CHURCH	
CEMETERY	
LODGE	
COMMUNITY CENTER	
STORE	
POST OFFICE	
SCHOOL	
DWELLING	
PRIVY	
STABLE	
MEAT HOUSE	
HEN HOUSE	
MILK HOUSE	
CORN/FEED HOUSE	
PIG PEN	
GARDEN	
PASTURE	
CORNFIELD	
HAY FIELD	
ORCHARD	
FOREST	
THICKET	
WELL	
SPRING	
STREAM	
FOND	
PARCEL BOUNDARY	
FENCED PARCEL BDY.	
FENCE	
DIRT ROAD	
LANE	
PATH	
STREAM FLOW	

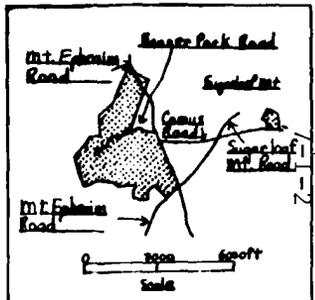
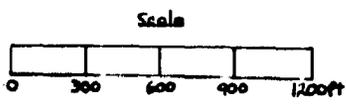
**Key**

1. WILL TURNER HSTD. (white)	50.00 AC.
2. FRED NICHOLS HSTD.	6.00 AC.
3. BELL'S CHAPEL	0.90 AC.
4. COMSTOCK SCHOOL (STRONGHOLD)	
5. WILLIAM HALLMAN HSTD.	3.00 AC.
6. HANNAH HALLMAN HSTD.	3.00 AC.
7. JAMES HALLMAN HSTD.	3.00 AC.
8. BENE HALLMAN HSTD.	7.00 AC.
9. MOSES HALLMAN HSTD.	10.00 AC.
10. CHARLIE HARRIS HSTD. (white)	26.00 AC.
11a. DAVID PROCTOR HSTD.	4.00 AC.
b. RACHEL PROCTOR HSTD.	
c. LAURA PROCTOR HSTD.	
d. CHARLIE PROCTOR HSTD.	
12. FRANK PROCTOR HSTD.	6.00 AC.
13. CLINTON NICHOLS HSTD. (white)	34.00 AC.
14a. MOODY FAMILY HSTD.	
b. MORRIS POSEY HSTD.	
c. WILLIAM PROCTOR HSTD.	75.00 AC.
d. LINWOOD PROCTOR HSTD.	
e. HARRISON RAWLINS HSTD.	
15. ARTHUR WOOD HSTD.	3.25 AC.
16. ARTHUR NAYLOR HSTD.	2.50 AC.



Source  
 Steven Donittle  
 Sugarloaf Regional Trails  
 Oral Informants  
 Charlotte Ambush  
 Frances Bowie  
 Clarence Naylor  
 Paul Wilson

MT. EPHRAIM COMMUNITY, c. 1900-1925



L-7-1-2





Cornstock School and Edith Chapel  
South Elmore  
7-1-2

Mt. Ephraim Community  
photo by Lynn McDonald  
5/77

ADL 790502.2 #12