

M: 13-34

Clarksburg Negro School (Site)  
Clarksburg  
Public

c. 1888-1892

This school house has been demolished, and its site developed into a community center. It was a one room school house which served several ongoing generations. Many former students still reside in the area.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Magi #

M: 13-34

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Clarksburg Negro School (Site)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

South side of Frederick Road

CITY, TOWN

Clarksburg

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	No	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

MNCPPC

Telephone #: 279-1000

STREET & NUMBER

8787

Georgia Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Silver Spring

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds

Liber #: 2956

Folio #: 105

STREET & NUMBER

Montgomery County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M. 13-34

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 school has been demolished and the new recreation center for Clarksburg stands in its place. Many of the members of Clarksburg attended this school, and remember it well. The following description of it is based upon the recollections of Miss Ethel Foreman:

This was a one room frame school house. It stood on the east side of the lane leading from the Frederick Road. Its gable end faced the road and served as the facade. In front of the school was a flag pole, and to the sides and behind the school was a play ground, where the children played dodge ball, baseball, and other games. The frame of the building was sheathed with weatherboards, which were whitewashed. The windows contained double hung sashes with 4 x 4 panes. At the peak of the roof in front was the bell tower, from which the bell tolled to bring the students to class.

The interior of the one room school house was crowded with school and personal objects, but neatly arranged. There were four rows of benches for students, fastened to the floor so the benches could not be misaligned. Each bench held two students. Behind the bench extended a desk top on which the students behind them could write. There was also a shelf below the desk top for book and papers. On each side of the center aisle, there were two desks with a narrow aisle between them. Thus there were four rows of four desks, a total of only 16 for the school, so some students no doubt had to double up.

At the front of the room was the teacher's desk. On the opposite side was a book case, which was called the "library". Along the front wall was a blackboard.

At the back of the room on one side of the door was a large desk with a hinged top. When the students arrived, they kept their lunch buckets inside this desk, and the top was used as a table. On the other side of the door was a smaller table with water buckets and dippers. Since the school had no running water, students hauled buckets of water from the Gibbs' well nearby the school. Each student was to bring his or her own cup, which was kept at their desk, but Miss Foreman recalls that some students, being students, drank directly from the dippers, even though they were not supposed to. There was also a coat rack and a box for wood for the wood burning stove. The larger boys who were "like men", hauled, gathered and split wood for the school. Since there were no janitors, they swept the floors, disinfected them with a carbolic acid solution that the school system supplied, and "oiled" them with another solution provided by the school system to keep down the dust.

Miss Foreman recalls that there was only one teacher for the school until another room was added in 1932. The teacher was always a female. She boarded with the Mason family whose house was nearby. There were seven grades, and the students were seated accordingly. The lower grades were at the front of the room, the more advanced at the ~~front~~ back.

Miss Foreman recalls that her parents attended school here, as did all of her brothers and sisters. There are many more former students of this school, and they ought to be consulted for a rich oral history of Negro education in Montgomery County.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:13-34

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/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

*Black History*

SPECIFIC DATES *1884* BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The property on which this school stood was purchased by the Negro landowner, Lloyd Gibbs, from Violetta and Abraham Rose in 1884 (Deed, EBP 32/409). There apparently is no deed that conveys this land from Gibbs to the school system or to a "Board of Trustees" for the purpose of a school. It appears that the Gibbs family were highly concerned about the education of Black children in their community and simply let their land be used for the purpose.

Based upon the records discussed in the History of the Black Public Schools of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1872-1961, it is evident that the Clarksburg school was active in the late 1880s. In 1888 records show that construction of the school house was undertaken, but by 1889 students were still in the church (the Rocky Hill Methodist Church). Thus, the school house has not yet been completed. According to Miss Foreman, her parents attended this school house in the early 1900s, so construction was probably completed in the 1890s. For more details of the history of Clarksburg school, refer to that History of Black Public Schools.

It is significant that in the days after freedom, the early churches served as schools as well. Examples of this are found here in Clarksburg, Purdum, and in Hyattstown, to name a few. The church truly was the center of the Black community.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. Land Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.: **EBP 32/.**
2. Oral interview with Ethel Foreman, not taped, Clarksburg, Md  
November and January, 1979, by George McDaniel.
3. Clarke, Nina and Brown, Lillian, History of the Black Public Schools  
**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (Cont. below)**

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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

of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1872-1961. Vantage Press, New York, 1978.

**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 W. McDaniel, Surveyor; Karen Sewell, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

Jan. 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

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, Sugarloaf  
Dickerson, Md. 20753  
(301) 926-4510



Site of Clarksburg Negro School  
at Clarksburg Recreation  
Center with William & Rachel  
Mason in background (M-13-<sup>43</sup>~~10-10~~)

1-21134 # 15-

13-34  
~~M-13-10-1~~

Clarksburg Md.

12/78 YWM