

T-794  
Unionville School  
Unionville  
Private

c. 1910

The Unionville school is an significant early twentieth century school building with its clipped gable roof, well-preserved exterior, and unusual history. Moved to this site during the Depression in 1932, the building building dates from around 1910. A newspaper article written about the move relates that the school was originally located in McDaniel and transported overland to the Miles River where it was placed on a scow. Coaxed across the river by the tug, "Delaware" to the northern shore Ferry farm, the schoolhouse was then hauled by land to Unionville. The project was underwritten by the Talbot County School Board, headed at the time by Dr. Thomas G. Pullen. John Bailey of Tunis Mills was identified in the article as the contractor who provided the specially built scow for the job and who moved the building. He was paid \$600 which included the construction of the scow. The school was used for village children until 1957 when it was closed. Martha Ray Greene, one of the current residents of Unionville, was the last instructor to teach in the building. The Unionville school is an important building as it relates to twentieth century schoolhouse architecture and the history of education in Talbot County.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: UNIONVILLE SCHOOL

MHT Inventory Number: T-794

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): *Architecture  
Education*
- 2) Geographic Orientation: *EASTERN SHORE*
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s): *1870-1930 INDUSTRIAL / URBAN  
DOMINANCE*
- 4) Resource Type(s): *SCHOOL HOUSE*

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common UNIONVILLE SCHOOL

## 2. Location

street & number South side of Tunis Mills Road  not for publicationcity, town Unionville  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input 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
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

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

name

street &amp; number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber

street &amp; number Talbot County Courthouse folio

city, town Easton state Md 21601

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. T-794

<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move 1932
<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.

The Unionville School is a single story frame school building that stands vacant on the south side of Tunis Mills Road in the community of Unionville, Talbot County, Maryland. The single-story school faces north with the gable roof oriented on a north south axis.

Built around 1910 and moved to this site in 1932 from McDaniel, this single story weatherboard frame school is supported by a brick pier foundation, and the building is sheathed with German style siding. A steeply pitched clipped gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The north (main) facade is a three-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. The front door is topped by a three-light transom, and the whole doorway is sheltered by a shed roof hood. The roof is supported by chamfered braces. Piercing the upper part of the front elevation is a round arched window opening protected by closed louvered shutters. The eaves are extended beyond the wall surface, and the rafter feet are exposed and decorated.

The side elevations are marked by three large-size six-over-six sash windows protected by louvered shutters. A seam in the weatherboarding is located between the first and second bay from the north. Rear entrances are fixed in the southernmost section of the side elevation.

The south (rear) elevation is defined by two pairs of twelve-pane windows. Rising through the gable end is an interior end brick chimney.

The interior was not seen.

# 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/ 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

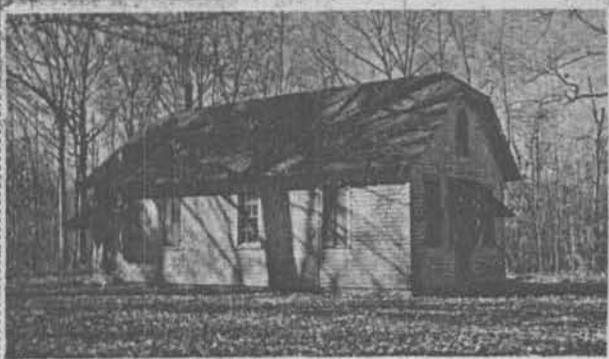
Specific dates	Builder/Architect
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check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

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## Schoolhouse Takes A Ride

1932

It was 1932, at the height of the Depression, when Talbot County's Board of Education provided a "new" school for children of the Unionville in the Miles River Neck area by moving an older building there from McDaniel. The one-room schoolhouse was transported from that community located between St. Michaels and Claiborne overland on wheels to the Miles River where it was placed on a scow. The tug, "Delaware," last of the boats built at Bethel, Del. which was once a major shipbuilding center, was used to tow the scow upriver, inching it through the Miles River Bridge where it was put ashore at Ferry Farm which adjoins St. John's Church. It was then put back on wheels and towed the mile or so to Unionville where it still stands. (See inset photo) H. Robins Hollyday, the veteran Easton photographer who took both of these photos, reports John Bailey of Tunis Mills contracted to move the building for \$600, which included construction of the scow especially for the job. The contract was arranged by Dr. Thomas G. Pullen, then Talbot's Superintendent of Schools who subsequently served for many years as State School Superintendent before his retirement.





T-794

UNIONVILLE SCHOOL

Unionville, Talbot Co., Maryland

Northeast elevation

6/90, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



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