

Some buildings and sites are also listed in the Maryland Historical Trust's Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP). Each MIHP-listed resource included in this brochure contains a corresponding MIHP number in the description. More information about each property may be found by entering its MIHP number or searching by name online at <https://mht.maryland.gov/digitalibrary.shtml>.

Additional information about the Sykesville Colored Schoolhouse can be found at www.townofsykesville.org/2153/Historic-Colored-Schoolhouse.

To learn more about the African American experience in Carroll County, please visit www.carrollmediacenter.org/carroll-county-history-project/

For artifacts and information related to African American Heritage and Carroll County, please visit the Historical Society of Carroll County at 210 E. Main St., Westminster, MD 21157 or at www.hsccmd.org.

PHOTO CREDITS

#6, #10, #12, #16, #17: MIHP

#20 Henryton Nurses: Private Collection

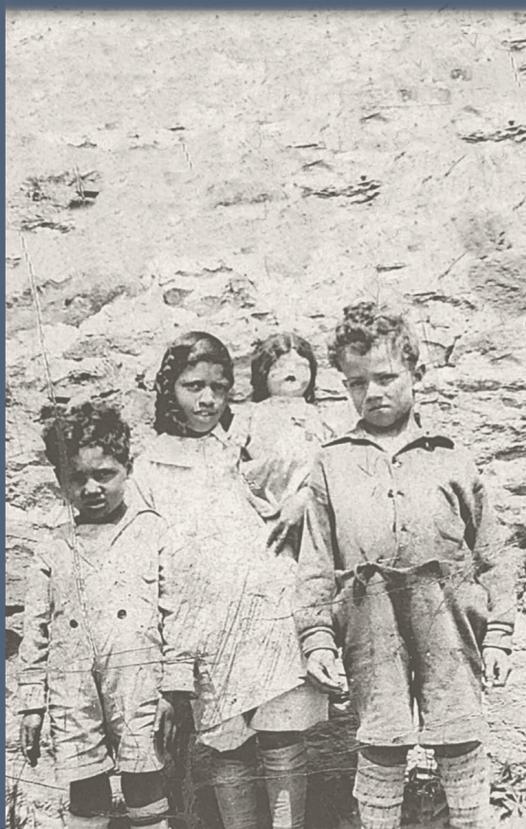
#20 Henryton Postcard: *Carroll County Times*

On the cover: schoolchildren Emerson, Mae, and Warren Dorsey stand in front of the Sykesville Colored Schoolhouse in 1927. Photograph courtesy Carroll County Times

Color photographs by Skelly and Loy, Inc. 2014

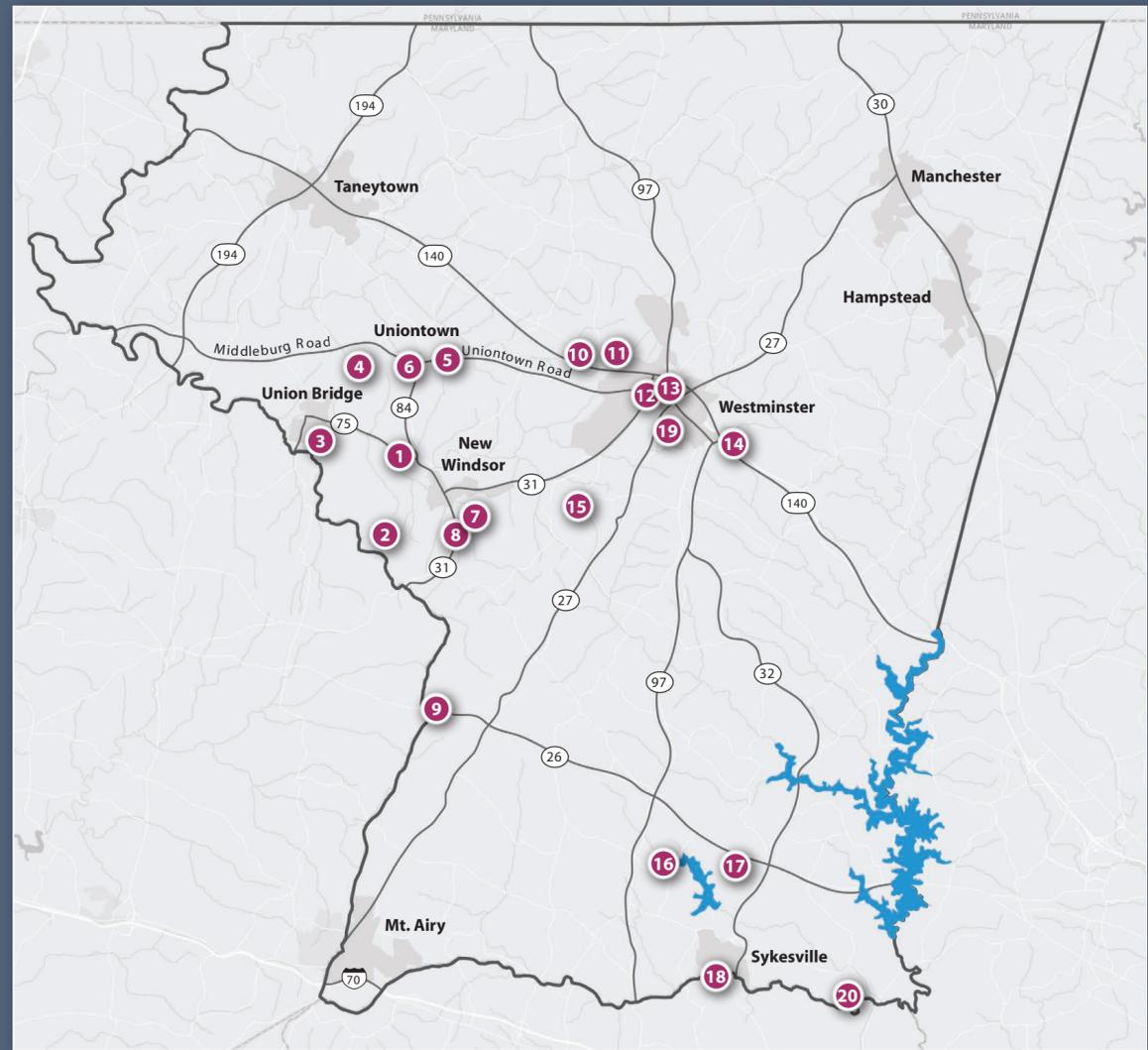


CARROLL COUNTY AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE GUIDE



AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE SITES

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- 14 Ellsworth Cemetery** (Leidy Road, Westminister)
MIHP: CARR-767 Condition: Restored Related Sites: 12, 13

Ellsworth Cemetery, established in the mid-19th century, provided burial grounds for congregations without land for a cemetery and for burials unassociated with a local church, such as those in "Strangers Row," a line of about 100 unmarked graves at the north end. The cemetery also includes many African American Civil War veterans, who could not be buried within the city limits. Nicholas Paroway, who died in 1876 at the age of 110, is among those interred. 'Old Nick' lived on Union Street and was highly regarded in Westminister, as indicated by an extensive obituary in the local paper and an 18-verse poem composed in his honor. Paroway was born into slavery in 1766 but lived long enough to earn his freedom and the right to vote.



- 15 Western Chapel and Cemetery** (Western Chapel Road, New Windsor vicinity)
MIHP: CARR-516 Condition: Demolished (church) Related Site: 8

Western Chapel was established in 1868, and its church building was erected by 1873. Like the White Rock Church near Eldersburg, Western Chapel was founded by emancipated worshippers following the Civil War. The church burned down in the 1950s, but the outline of its foundation is still visible in the center of the cemetery. The cemetery contains the burials of Civil War veterans such as J. Squirrel, who served in Company G of the United States Colored Troops' 28th Regiment.



- 16 White Rock Church and Cemetery** (6300 White Rock Road, Eldersburg)
MIHP: CARR-1011 Condition: Altered Related Site: 17

The White Rock Church was organized as a Methodist Episcopal church in 1868 and had a strong mission of outreach to its local African American community. A log school building (demolished) was constructed before work started on the church, and in 1893, church members formed the White Rock Building Association No. 1 of Carroll County. Reuben and Laura Thomas' ca. 1898 house is an example of the building association's work. The church was originally built by freedmen as a simple frame structure with a prominent front gable roof. A cemetery, which dates to the founding of the church, is located to the north and west of the building.



- 17 Reuben and Laura Thomas House** (Private residence, Eldersburg vicinity)
MIHP: CARR-616 Condition: Altered Related Sites: 16

The Reuben and Laura Thomas House was constructed between 1894 and 1898 by the White Rock Building Association No. 1 of Carroll County. Organized through the White Rock Methodist Episcopal Church and incorporated in 1893, the association purchased land, constructed houses, and offered mortgages to the local African American community. Similar benevolent associations were formed in many communities to assist freed peoples to purchase residences and burial sites or provide for health, education, and general welfare. Reuben Thomas was a trustee of the church and the president of the building association from at least 1894 to 1919. Thomas, a farmer, lived in the house with his wife, Laura, and four of their children.



- 18 Sykesville Colored Schoolhouse** (518 Schoolhouse Road, Sykesville)
MIHP: CARR-1487 Condition: Restored

The Sykesville Colored Schoolhouse was built in late 1903 for \$530.50. By 1916, 32 students were enrolled there. The school operated until 1938, when Carroll County consolidated its African American schools. In 1939, the building was sold and converted into a residence. Since 2000, the schoolhouse has been restored and furnished to its 1904 appearance. The one-story frame building has an exposed fieldstone foundation and clapboard walls. Students and their families valued education: alumni recall walking for miles each day to get to school, where students used outhouses and drank from a shared dipper. The school now functions as a museum and is open for tours and educational field trips.



- 19 Robert Moton School** (300 South Center Street, Westminister)
Condition: Altered

Three schools in Westminister have been named for Robert Moton, a leading African American educator at the Hampton Institute in Virginia and the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. The first, at the corner of Charles and Church streets, was constructed in 1930 to serve 60 high school students from across the county. The local community furnished the five classroom school, established a library, and organized a parent-teacher association. In 1948, a concrete block school with gymnasium (pictured) was constructed at Charles and South Center streets. It served as the African American high school until schools were integrated in 1955. The school operated until 1976, when the third and current Robert Moton School was constructed on Washington Road, and is now home to the county health department.



- 20 Henryton State Hospital**
(Former Henryton Road, Marriottsville vicinity)
MIHP: CARR-1616 Condition: Demolished

Henryton State Hospital was founded in 1923 as the Colored Branch of the Maryland Tuberculosis Sanatorium. Tuberculosis, a leading cause of death in the early 20th century, was prevalent among African Americans due in part to poor living conditions. At the time, treatment relied on clean air, good food, and a healthful environment. On a south-facing hillside, the campus took advantage of the sun and westerly breezes. Two hospital wings with broad porches on each level flanked a central administration building, and a children's hospital stood among cottages that housed doctors, nurses, orderlies, attendants, cooks, maids, and chauffeurs. The sanatorium operated until 1962, when medical advancements made the facility obsolete. All but one of the former buildings, a brick power house far from the complex, were demolished in 2013.



Since the 19th century, African Americans have played a vital role in Carroll County's growth and progress, building unique institutions to serve their growing communities. Today, the houses, schools, hospitals, churches, cemeteries, and other historic sites within the county serve as a physical record of their cultural heritage. These places tell the stories of not only the men, women, and children who were enslaved, but those who were soldiers, doctors, artists, teachers, and more.

The resources contained herein include both standing buildings and historic sites. Although some have been lost, the places and the stories that remain are reminders of the profound changes that have taken place, the obstacles overcome, and the timeless survival of community in Carroll County.

1 St. Luke's (Winters) Lutheran Church Gravestones
(701 Green Valley Road, New Windsor)
MIHP: CARR-92 Condition: Intact Related Site: 9

African Americans Boss Hammond and Caleb McPeak worked as stone carvers during the mid-19th century. Boss Hammond was born into slavery ca. 1800. He began carving his distinctive greenish-gray markers out of locally quarried Sams Creek Metabasalt in 1830 and continued through the late 1850s. Hammond never learned to read or write, but his artist's eye is evident in his delicate flourishes and the deeply chiseled word SACRED. He purchased freedom for himself and his family with money made from stone carving. Caleb McPeak's style is more restrained but still distinctive, with characteristic uppercase inscriptions and banded detail spanning each slab.



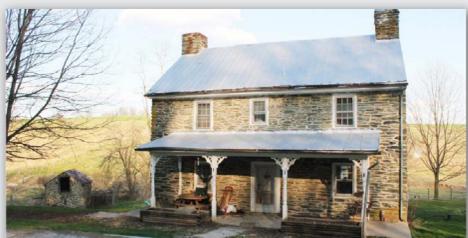
Boss Hammond



Caleb McPeak

2 Yost Greenwood Farm
(Private residence, New Windsor vicinity)
MIHP: CARR-1390 Condition: Intact

The two-story stone farmhouse at the Yost Greenwood Farm was built ca. 1795 by a traveling stone mason using enslaved labor. In the 1880s, Nancy Sanders, reportedly 114-years old, recalled the story of the house's construction. She came to the New Windsor area with her owner, George Robeson, a stone mason from Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. During the two years that Robeson spent building the house, the teenaged Sanders cooked meals for the mason's other enslaved workers and drove a team of oxen dragging large stones from nearby hillsides to the house site.



3 Pipe Creek Friends Meeting House (455 Quaker Hill Road, Union Bridge vicinity)
MIHP: CARR-14 Condition: Restored

The Quaker meeting house outside Union Bridge was the center of an active abolition movement in the early 1800s. At an 1826 meeting, local residents drafted the constitution for a new antislavery society, writing that slavery was "unjust and oppressive on its subjects" and "contrary to the principles of universal right as exhibited in the Declaration of Independence." Another local group, the Pipe Creek Protection Society, was organized for "the protection of the free colored people against wrongs of any kind practiced by unprincipled whites." Although little is known regarding these groups' activities, their formation demonstrated a significant antislavery sentiment in Carroll County, where free men, women, and children accounted for nearly half the total African American population by the mid-1800s.



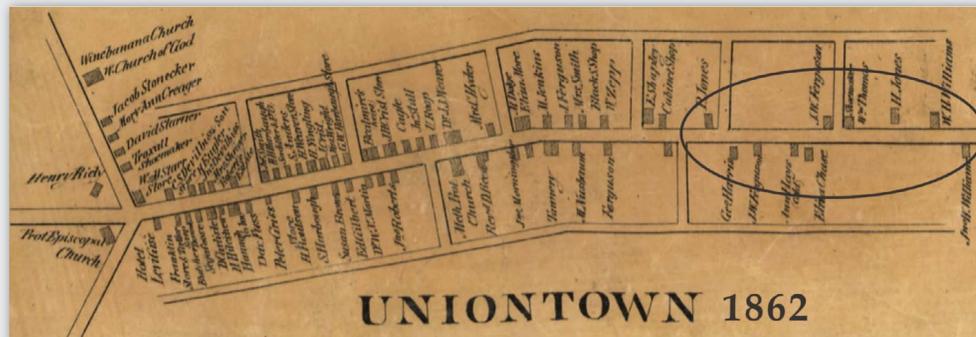
4 Bowen Chapel (4070 Bark Hill Road, Union Bridge vicinity)
MIHP: CARR-1092 Condition: Intact

This building served as both a church and a school for the African American community known as Muttontown. Although the building's cornerstone is dated 1892, the congregation was established in 1867, and a school was present at this location by 1877. As sources of organization and leadership, such churches were of vital importance to local populations. Today, the church is a member of the African Union First Colored Methodist Protestant Church.



5 East Uniontown (Private Residences, Uniontown)
MIHP: CARR-221 and CARR-226 thru 230 Condition: Altered Related Site: 6

During the late 1800s, the houses at the east end of Uniontown Road were predominantly inhabited by African American residents. Anna Hays, a free African American woman, bought a two-story log house (pictured) in 1859 for \$350. In 1896, the town doctor purchased the house as a home for his housekeeper and caretaker, a married couple named Elizabeth and Edward Lewis. Other East Uniontown residents included Dennis and Eliza Chase and their seven children; Perry and Harriet Jones, who concealed a log house within brick additions; and Samuel Brown. Many of the families worshipped in the Mt. Joy Methodist Episcopal Church (now demolished) west of town. The houses have been altered, but many retain a log core.



6 Mt. Joy Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery (Middleburg Road, Uniontown)
MIHP: CARR-352 Condition: Demolished (church) Related Sites: 5, 8

Mt. Joy Methodist Episcopal Church was one of the earliest African American congregations established in Carroll County. In 1858, formerly enslaved Singleton Hughes and his wife Eliza purchased the property for the church from free landowners Barney and Catherine Dunson. An ordained minister, Hughes organized the first meetings of the Mt. Joy congregation in a private residence. In 1880, a frame church was built using materials salvaged from a demolished church. Although the Mt. Joy Church was on Uniontown's west side, it mainly served the African American community on the east side of town. The church was used until 1962 and was demolished in 1975. The Mt. Joy Cemetery remains, and a marker shows the former site of the church.



7 Simon Murdock House (Private residence, New Windsor vicinity)
MIHP: CARR-1716 Condition: Altered Related Sites: 8, 9

The ca. 1830 two-story log house owned by Civil War veteran Simon Murdock is still visible in this enlarged dwelling. Murdock was born in 1838 to a former slave. In 1864, he enlisted in the Fourth Regiment Infantry, Company F, of the Union Army's Colored Troops. He was injured at the battle of Deep Bottom, Virginia, and was discharged in 1865. After the war, Murdock lived in the house with his wife Sarah and their five children. Murdock became a leading member of the local African American veterans' organization and was active in the neighboring Strawbridge United Methodist Church. Murdock died in 1933 at age 95 and is buried in the cemetery at Fairview Methodist Episcopal Church.



8 Strawbridge United Methodist Church (1601 New Windsor Road, New Windsor)
MIHP: CARR-1020 Condition: Altered Related Sites: 6, 7, 15

The Strawbridge United Methodist Church was established ca. 1916, and the current church building was completed in 1918 under the leadership of Reverend I. R. Berry. Simon Murdock, an African American Civil War veteran who lived in a log house nearby, may have donated land for the church and established its first Sunday school. Over time, it became the home congregation for four small churches that no longer exist, including the former Mt. Joy Church in Uniontown and Western Chapel south of Westminster. The church has been altered with front and rear additions and is accompanied by a small cemetery.



9 Fairview Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery (3325 Old Liberty Road, Taylorville vicinity)
MIHP: CARR-57 Condition: Altered Related Sites: 1, 7

The Fairview Methodist Episcopal (now United Methodist) Church may have been the first African American church built in Carroll County. The free founders of the church laid the cornerstone in 1851, constructing a log building with a fieldstone foundation. The first members included farmers, blacksmiths, masons, and carpenters. Early on, the church faced opposition from locals who were wary of allowing their enslaved workers to associate with freedmen. Renovations in 2008 essentially rebuilt the church. The cemetery contains two distinctive headstones carved by Sebastian "Boss" Hammond used for his and his wife's burials. Among the other graves are several United States Colored Troops Civil War veterans.



10 Elizabeth Lowry House (Private residence, Westminster vicinity)
MIHP: CARR-656 Condition: Demolished

In 1839, Elizabeth Lowry, a free African American woman, purchased a small property near Westminster. She lived with her daughter, son-in-law, and six grandchildren in a ca. 1830 two-story log house with two rooms on each floor. The original house was enlarged over time, starting with a frame addition in 1852. Later expansions followed Elizabeth Lowry's death in 1868. Archaeological testing undertaken prior to the demolition of the house revealed a stone-lined privy, the brick foundation of a well house, a fieldstone path, and hundreds of discarded household articles.



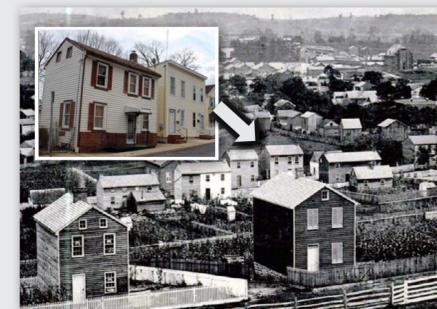
11 Thomas Jones Log House (Private residence, Westminster vicinity)
MIHP: CARR-393 Condition: Restored

This 1 1/2-story log house was home to Thomas Jones in the mid- to late 19th century. Thomas, a free African American laborer and farm hand, lived in the house with his wife Sarah and their eight children. The house was built into a sloping hillside with an uncoursed stone foundation. The single-room structure features hewn logs with V-notching at the corners. The house has an interior brick chimney at the east end near a tight corner staircase. At one time, the house had weatherboard wall cladding, two dormers, and front and rear additions, but these changes have been removed to reveal the historic structure and stabilize it for the future.



12 Union Street District (Union Street, Westminster)
MIHP: CARR-501, -502, and -506 Condition: Altered Related Sites: 13, 14

Laid out ca. 1834, Union Street was a predominantly African American neighborhood by the late 19th century. The community focal point, Union Street Methodist Episcopal Church, is still located at the midpoint of the street. The West End African School (demolished), a one-room schoolhouse constructed by state mandate in 1872, was nearby. It had a single teacher and 58 students by 1881. In the mid-20th century, African American science teachers, truck drivers, waiters, hairdressers, and housekeepers lived in the neighborhood, as did residents employed at Western Maryland (now McDaniel) College as cooks or maids. The buildings lining Union Street were generally two-story frame double houses on the northwest side and two-story log houses on the southeast side. Renovations and apartment construction have since changed the community's appearance.



13 Union Street Methodist Episcopal Church (22 Union Street, Westminster)
MIHP: CARR-503 Condition: Intact Related Sites: 12, 14

The Union Street Methodist Episcopal (now United Methodist) Church was established in 1866 on land that local residents Amos and Rebecca Bell received upon their manumission. Formerly enslaved Reverend John B. Snowden, an ordained preacher, was one of the church's founders. Snowden's grandmother, stolen from Guinea in 1767 and sold into slavery, was forbidden by law from marrying his English grandfather. His mother died when he was seven, and he passed through the hands of five different owners, teaching himself to read and working nights to purchase his freedom. He married in 1831 and had 14 children. As a Methodist circuit minister, Snowden walked hundreds of miles in Maryland and northern Virginia, retiring to Westminster before his death in 1885.

