

# Justice Marshall speaks

Black people haven't "made it" until they can "take care of the Negro out there on the corner," according to Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Speaking at the unveiling of portraits of three noted black Maryland residents including himself, Marshall said, "We haven't made it until I can go into the neighborhood to explain to them that this is still a great country."

Although he acknowledged blacks have made some progress during his speech in the lobby of the state house, he said many blacks complain to him that "you told my father the same thing and he never got it, I don't have it and I don't see it for my children."

The remarks came near the end of a speech in which he discussed his life as

a civil rights lawyer and a justice on the nation's highest court since 1967.

The other portraits unveiled were of Benjamin Banneker and Frederick Douglass.

Banneker was born in Oella in Baltimore County in 1731 and became a scientist and astronomer and helped survey and layout Washington, D.C.

Douglass, born a slave in Talbot County in 1817, escaped to freedom and became one of the leading abolitionists of his day.

Marshall said he often referred to Douglass' writing during his career as a civil rights lawyer. When he was told he was going too far, Marshall said, "I picked up Frederick Douglass and soon found out I was playing catch-up."

The portraits of Marshall, a native of

Baltimore, and the others are to eventually be hung in a museum of black history and culture to be housed in the old Mt. Moriah A.M.E. Church. The museum, which is being named for Banneker and Douglass, is expected to open within two years.

The state Commission on Afro-American History presented the portraits, painted by New York artist Hughie Lee-Smith, to the museum foundation.

State and county officials recently signed a 99-year lease for the abandoned, vine covered relic on Franklin Street to allow it to become a black history museum.

The state is to rent the 102-year-old church, which once housed one of the first free, black congregations in Maryland, for \$1 a year.

The county, which bought the church in 1971 from the Mt. Moriah congregation, had originally planned to demolish it to make way for a courthouse expansion project. But the Annapolis Historic District Commission refused to grant the necessary permits.

After a lengthy court battle, the state Court of Appeals ruled that the county was subject to the Historic District Commission's rulings. The county's courthouse project died, but a plan to turn the church into a black history museum that surfaced during the fight remained alive.

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SUPREME COURT JUSTICE  
THURGOOD MARSHALL

...seeing need to 'take care of Negro  
on corner'