

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
 HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. BA 358
 Magi No. 0303585510
 DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)
 historic Union of Brothers and Sisters
 and/or common Fords Asbury Lodge No. 1

2. Location
 street & number 11646 Philadelphia Road ___ not for publication
 city, town White Marsh vicinity of Councilmanic District 5
 congressional district
 state Maryland county Baltimore County 2nd

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Lodge Hall

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)
 name Union of Brothers and Sisters of Fords Asbury Lodge No. 1
 street & number P. O. Box 86 c/o Cheryl H. Worthington telephone no.: 410-396-2967
 city, town White Marsh state and zip code MD 21162

5. Location of Legal Description
 courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building liber WPC 572
 street & number 401 Bosley Avenue folio 279
 city, town Towson state MD 21204

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys
 title Maryland Historical Trust Inventory
 date December 8, 1971 federal state county local
 depository for survey records 100 Community Place
 city, town Crownsville state MD 21032

Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

BA 358
MHT Inventory No.

name of property: Union of Brothers and Sisters

Section number 7 Page 2



m a r g i n

m a r g i n

Union of Brothers and Sisters about 1988.

7. Description

Survey No. BA 358

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The lodge hall is a very plain, vernacular, two-story frame building now covered with composition shingles. The original wall covering is wood clapboarding.. The building is gable roofed. The structure is three bays wide both front and back. The front entrance in the northernmost or right- hand bay at first floor level through a plain paneled wooden door under a sheltering hood roof. The building is usually kept shuttered to keep out intruders. A photo in the Perry Hall book of 1970 shows that the windows are double-hung sash types. Photos of 1988 show that there were double front doors under the hood, but one door opening has been deleted and the wall covering expanded to hide the space; two windows shown on the road side of the building in the 1988 photo have also been sealed. There is a small side entrance on the west, or left hand, gable-end of the lodge; this entrance is approached by a small deck with railing. The foundation is rubble stone later covered with concrete.

The lodge is very close to the edge of Philadelphia Road. The property is immediately south of the terminus of Carrington Avenue and just north of the terminus of Allender Road. At present the lodge backs up to woods but at least two plans have been filed for industrial installations on the property to the immediate west. The lot is a long, wedge-shaped parcel running 421 feet along Philadelphia Road. The State Assessments computer bank had this tract, Parcel P351, matched up with the wrong owners. Conversely, the tax data in the same data base calls a property much farther up the road "Colored Lodge at Loreley" but that designation is erroneously attached to Parcel P136 which is really the site of Howard's Church, alias the Forges Church, or Loreley M. E. Church South.

County schools built to order were usually not two stories high in the 19th century; School Commissioners records show that Dr. Walter T. Allender, last trustee of the 18th century Free School fund, built the school first and then presented it to the board by letter in 1874.

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

Specific dates 1874 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

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.

SUMMARY

The lodge hall under discussion was originally a segregated school building. Its upstairs meeting room also served the needs of a local benevolent association that eventually got possession of the building after the school children were relocated farther down the road.

Matilda C. Lacey in her 1970 book on Perry hall revived the memory of “Scholars’ Plains,” a 100-acre parcel of land purchased in 1724 with funds from the Provincial tax on tobacco exports; the property was supposed to provide subsistence to a schoolmaster who would conduct the county’s first free public school. (1) The trustees were called Visitors and were required to get sufficient land cleared for the teacher’s crops. Proof that the school functioned is in a run-away slave notice for “Negro Seth” who in 1757 fled from Baltimore County Free School and his owner the schoolmaster Patrick Brannan. (2) Miss Lacey sponsored the erection of an historical highway marker that still stands on Allender Road near the B. & O. Railroad’s Philadelphia branch, marking “Scholars Plains.” The marker states that the land was sold in 1857 and the proceeds put into the building of two schools, one for white students, the other for African Americans, or in the words then in use “colored children.” (3) The inscription is misleading in that the county never spent anything for the education of African American children until after emancipation, in fact not until 1872, and even then, a community was expected to furnish a school house or hall for the class rooms. (4) The Baltimore County Historical Society and Miss Lacey misinterpreted their sources because the account of spending of money for blacks in 1857 is not found in J. Thomas Scharf’s 1881 county history. (5) Scharf gives no date but states that the “venerable” Dr. W. T. Allender was the last trustee of the Free School and it was he who sold the land, no date given, and built two schools. Scharf’s description of a 10-acre school lot for the white school was disputed in Amy C. Crewe’s history of the school system published in 1949 (6) The list of school houses in Scharf’s history did not list a colored school in the 11th Election District at what was then Little Gunpowder Post Office. Strangely enough, a “school” is shown on both the Sidney and Browne county map and also on Robert Taylor’s 1857 map somewhere southeast of Asbury United Methodist Church, apparently on Red Lion Road which was once the main route to Philadelphia. Most likely, the school shown on those maps was the old Free School, because Scharf states that it had been on the premises of James Hawkins when he was writing about 1881 or shortly before—and there is a Hawkins property shown on Red Lion Road in the 1877 atlas.

Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

BA 358
MHT Inventory No.

name of property: Union of Brothers and Sisters

Section number 8 Page 2

A partial history of the school/lodge is contained in a bill of complaint filed in 1922 by the Board of Education when that agency sought to prove that the lodge members had no title to the former school structure. This legal action generated a great deal of text and the author of the bill of complaint claimed that the county had owned the school house for at least 70 years, which would have pushed it back to 1852. There was no proof offered for such antiquity. The members of the lodge claimed that they had been granted ownership or at least use of the building by a citizen, John C. Pencil, who had bought the ground from the old board of county school commissioners and let the commissioners build the school on his grounds in 1880. The Board of Education's evidence accounted for all the sales of Scholars Plains lots, which ranged from the 1852 to 1877 in small transactions. By their reckoning, the only structures standing on unsold pieces of Scholars Plains were the lots containing the lodge hall and the 1861 school house at 11530 Philadelphia Road, (the Loreley School, MHT Site Number BA 131). Loreley School was originally for white children, and it was School No. 1, Election District 11, the "Little Gunpowder School" in the 1881 list in Scharf's history; Dr. Allender was one of its local trustees; that school was later turned over the black children who had been studying in the lodge hall. That transfer took place shortly before 1922 according to the testimony. The reply of the lodge members via their attorney Lawrence C. Ensor was that they had been using the second story of the lodge hall for an estimated seventy years. (7)

The lodge hall is not found on the 1877 Hopkins atlas plate for Election District No. 11. Not far up the road toward Harford County was a structure marked "Ch." for "church." This was the Forges Church alias Howard's Chapel that stood on the ironworks tract. That church lot was a chip out of the 1,040-acre "Forge Lot" containing the Ridgely Ironworks, and although once rebuilt, it is gone without trace.

The minutes of the school commissioners showed that at a meeting of November 24, 1874:

A letter was received from Dr. W. F. Allender offering a furnished school house to the Board, for a Public School for colored children forever. On motion the house was accepted. (Colored School 2, District 11 is occupying this house). (8)

This document seems to be the needed proof to date the school/lodge hall but it does not explain why it is not shown in the 1877 atlas. Bromley's 1898 atlas shows a small square that is probably the lodge; it also shows the Howard Chapel as merely "Ch." The same markings appeared in the 1915 Bromley atlas. The streets of the Loreley suburb also appeared in the Bromley atlas and on modern tax maps although the subdivision has never been carried out.

The 1922 lawsuit involved considerable legal expertise, and a plat of Scholars Plains was made by William Whitney, County Surveyor, a recognized master of title work. The plaintiffs in the case were all the persons who ever acted as the Baltimore County School Visitors, the predecessor body to the school commissioners and to the Board of Education. Leading the list of those sued was the Rev, William Tibbs of the Church of England who lived in the 18th century and probably chaired the first Board of Visitors. Dr. Walter T. Allender was also sued. (9)

Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

BA 358
MHT Inventory No.

name of property: Union of Brothers and
Sisters

Section number 8 Page 3

As to the lodge, its origin is well documented by county incorporation records. It may have lacked a home at first; the lodge was a benevolent association designed to provide burial expenses and emergency funds for its members as so many 19th century organizations did. The lodge members were also largely the members of Asbury United Methodist Church. The 125th anniversary pamphlet gives the date of organization as January 24, 1872. The first incorporation was under the name Union of Brothers and Sisters of Fords Assembly, filed on October 28, 1873, recorded in the old Chattel Records now at Annapolis (10) Another document re-incorporated The Union of Brothers and Sisters Fords Asbury No. 1 and was recorded in the incorporation records. (11) That document gave the location of the lodge as "at Fords Asbury, Baltimore County." All these references to "Ford's" seem to be a corruption of the word "Forge," reflecting the Ridgely Forges and all the other iron enterprises on both Little and Great Gunpowder Falls. Local historian Matthew Johnson found memories of the lodge holding a meeting at the "rocks with the iron bolts" on Great Gunpowder Falls near the present B. & O Railroad bridge where the Joppa Iron Works once operated. (12) The signatures on the January 7, 1879, re-incorporation document were Ferdinand Hackett, Henry Underwood, Tobias Harris, John E. Hackett, Richard Smith, and Upton Hammond. A revised certificate of incorporation dated May 28, 1896, was certified by Judge N. Charles Burke. Officers listed in that charter were Louis Pims, John E. Hackett, John R. Walters, and Abraham Wicks.

The Lodge continues to bear the "No. 1" in its title, reflecting the existence of two other lodges, now extinct, that operated at Gravel Hill (No. 2) and Mountain (No. 3), both in nearby parts of Harford County.(13) Following the lawsuit of 1922 about ownership of the building, the lodge purchased the premises from the Board of Education for about \$1000, judging from the revenue stamps on the deed. (14) The "same as" clause of this deed showed that the property had not changed hands since Thomas Tolley sold to William Tibbs and the School Visitors in 1724. (15) The Board of Education had won its case, and any idea that the school lot had ever belonged to John C. Pensel was not accepted by the Circuit Court. (This intersection was called Pensel's Corner in the 1958 place names article by William B. Marye in the *Maryland Historical Magazine*.) (16)

The lodge was in the newspaper in 1988 when one or more vandals got inside and scrawled officer Thomas Lucadamo showed the county historian through the building. At first the police incomprehensible graffiti about "San Juan Moneys" and "Juan Andino" on the wall. Police thought they were dealing with a hate crime. (17) Later the damage was blamed on a "drifter," Juan Andino himself who lived in New York and confessed to breaking into a "building in Baltimore." (18)

In 1997, the lodge issued an anniversary booklet with a photo of the 1896 charter, various portraits, and a message from the lodge president Roosevelt Austen. (19)

Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

BA 358
MHT Inventory No.

name of property: Union of Brothers and Sisters

Section number 8 Page 4

The statistics from the school house era in the 1909-1910 season were reported in the annual report of the County School Commissioners and showed that at School No. 22, District 11, Ella True Miller of Loreley was the teacher. (20) Entire cost of running the school was \$447.93, the line items as follows:

Fuel	\$23.50
Apparatus & furniture	3.00
Teacher's Salary	319.00
Repairs	66.30
Sanitary Expenses	13.65
Kindergarten & Manual Training	1.68
Books	20.90.

A similar report for 1915-1916 Gave Mrs. Susan F. Williams of Mount Washington as the sole teacher for Loreley, School 22, Election District No. 11. (21)

NOTES:

1. Matilda C. Lacey, *Perry Hall, An Invitation to Memory* (Perry hall, 1970).
2. *Maryland Gazette*, Annapolis, September 1, 1757.
3. Baltimore County Historical Society, "Historical Roadside Markers," (Cockeysville, 1970).
4. Amy C. Crewe, *No Backward Step Was Taken* (Baltimore, 1949), p. 209.
5. J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County* (Philadelphia, 1881), p. 924.
6. Crewe, *No Backward Step*, pp. 11-14.
7. Baltimore County Judicial Records, WPC 301:391-406, Maryland State Archives, Annapolis. The school for white pupils is fully documented in *Eleventh Annual Report of the School Commissioners of Baltimore County* (Baltimore, 1861, page 9) where the completion of a school built to Dr. Allender's order is described as 36 by 26 feet with a back building 12 by 29 feet "with double privies in the rear . . . the front side has three projecting hoods supported on brackets." (That school is MHT Site BA 131).
8. Journal of Proceedings of School Commissioners off Baltimore County, 1874, folio 226., Board of Education, Greenwood. Dr. Allender also served as school trustee in Election District 11.
9. B.C. Judicial Records, WPC 301:391. Dr. Allender's house was shown in the 1877 atlas on Allender Road on a rise of land overlooking Bird River. His house called Mount Ararat is apparently extinct. It was possibly within present Gunpowder State Park.

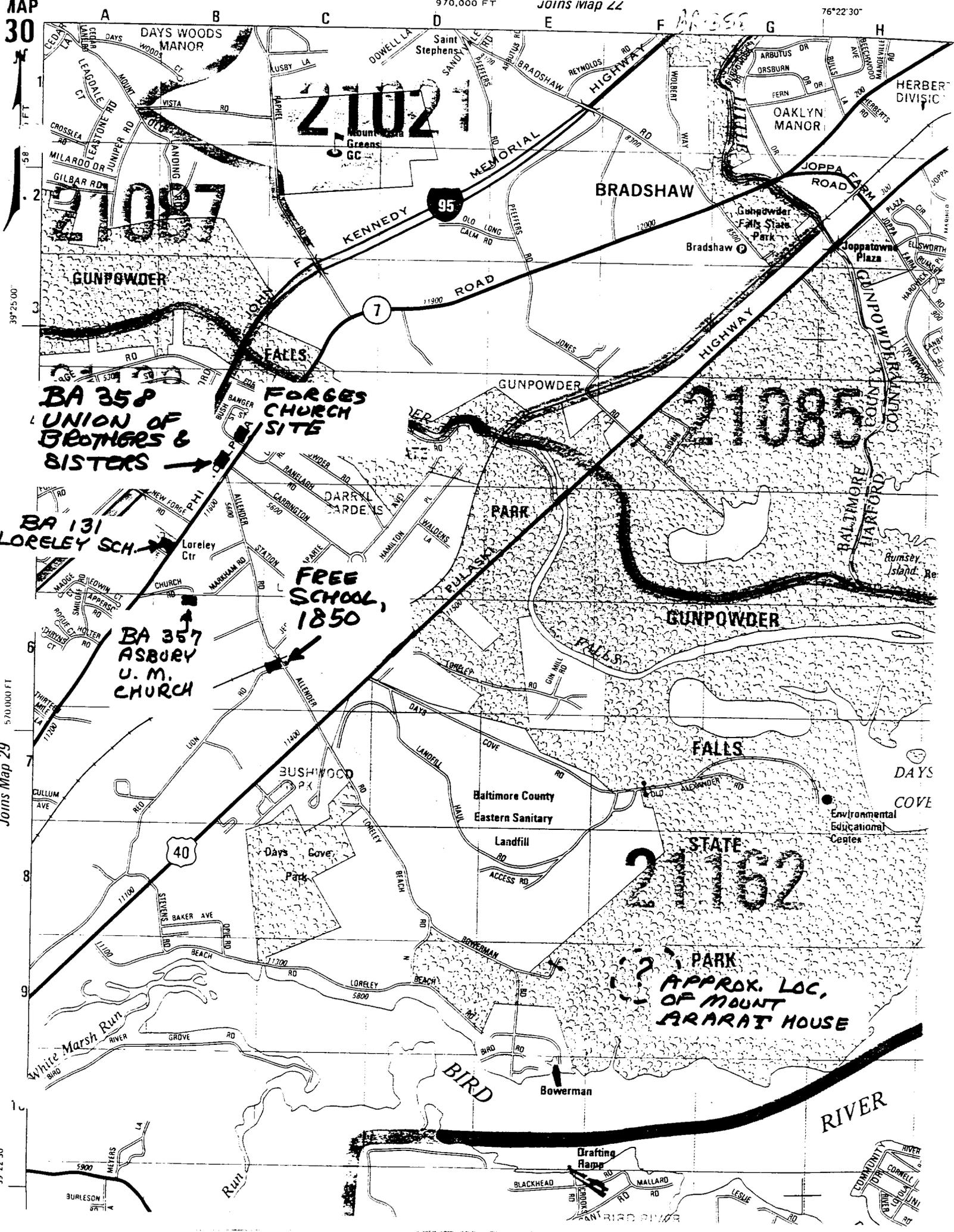
**Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

BA 358
MHT Inventory No.

name of property: Union of Brothers and
Sisters

Section number 8 Page 5

10. B. C. Chattel Records, Liber 11, folio 279, Maryland State Archives.
11. B. C. Incorporations, JB 1:203.
12. Confirming Mr. Johnson's discovery, a newspaper item reported that a Union Camp for revival services attended by both black and white participants took place near Patterson's old nailworks, *Baltimore American*, September 12, 1887. That is the place where the iron bolts could still be found in the rocks in the 1980s.
13. *125th Anniversary of the Union of Brothers and Sisters of Ford's Asbury Lodge No. 1*, (White Marsh, Md., 1997).
14. B. C. Deeds, WPC 572:279.
15. B. C. Deeds, 1S No. G, folio 374, Maryland State Archives. If we draw a plat of the property purchased by Pensel, the tract is obviously designed to dispose of all the ground still in the hands of the School Visitors except the two school lots. Pensel's ground was only 161 feet deep but stretched 1,749 feet along Philadelphia Road—which would still have left room for the lodge as a remnant parcel, B.C. Deeds, JB 104:470.
16. William B. Marye, "Place Names of Baltimore and Harford Counties," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 53 (March 1958):44n. Marye's note No. 29 reads as follows, "Capt. Clement Skerett kept a tavern called the Stone House Tavern on the Philadelphia Road (see his advertisement in the *Maryland Journal*, November 1, 1785). I think this tavern was at Cowenton or White Marsh. The new road or 'cut off' crossed the old road at the place which we used to call Knight's Corner, which is now called Pensil's Corner. From there the bridge over the B. & O. Railroad, along the western edge of Loreley was called 'the Race Course.' It is a section of the old road. The Free School stood there. The road from this bridge to Cowenton or White Marsh is a part of the old road and is called the Red Lion Road."
17. Roger Twigg, "Vandals Damage Black Social Club," *Sun*, June 9, 1988.
18. Ray Bolger, "Drifter Suspected of Vandalizing WM Lodge," *The Times*, June 16, 1988.
19. "125th Anniversary of the Union."
20. "Annual Report, Public Schools, Baltimore County, Maryland," Year Ending July 31, 1909 (Towson, 1909), p. 15.
21. *Directory of Public Schools of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Towson 1915), p. 32.



MAP 30

970,000 FT

76°22'30"

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

39°25'00"

570,000 FT

Joins Map 29

39°22'30"

21021

21087

21085

21162

APPROX. LOC. OF MOUNT ARARAT HOUSE

BA 358
UNION OF BROTHERS &
SISTERS

BA 131
LORELEY SCH.

BA 357
ASBURY
U. M.
CHURCH

FREE
SCHOOL,
1850

PARK
APPROX. LOC.
OF MOUNT
ARARAT HOUSE

Drafting
Ramps

RIVER

COMMITTEE
CORNELL
UNIVERSITY

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA 358

"125th Anniversary of the Union of Brothers and Sisters of Fords
Asbury Lodge No. 1," 1997.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name White Marsh, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

Zone	Easting			Northing					

D

Zone	Easting			Northing					

E

Zone	Easting			Northing					

F

Zone	Easting			Northing					

G

Zone	Easting			Northing					

H

Zone	Easting			Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

Long, wedge-shaped parcel on Tax Map 73, Grid 2, Parcel P135, west side of Philadelphia Road between termini of Carrington Avenue and Allender Road.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
None			

state	code	county	code
None			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McGrain, County Historianorganization Office of Planningdate December 7, 1999street & number 401 Bosley Avenuetelephone 410-887-3495city or town Towsonstate MD 21204

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438