

CARR-317

UNIONTOWN ELEM. SCHOOL
PETER CHRIST HOUSE (site)

1931

Uniontown

public

CARR-317 Uniontown Elementary School and Peter Christ House (site)
Peter Christ House (SITE)

Peter Christ was a watch and clock maker who appears to be the original owner of this house, and it may be Christ and his wife who are seated in this photograph. Christ purchased the property in 1824-25. It was sold from his estate in 1877. The printing office was operated by his son Jacob H. Christ, who was involved in Uniontown newspaper publishing during the 1860s. According to Dr. J. J. Weaver, Jr., Christ was editor of **The Enterprise**, a local monthly newspaper of about six months duration in 1859-60. It received such a good response that Christ started **The Weekly Press** as editor and proprietor in 1860. Its motto was "Independent in all things, and neutral in none." Weaver states that it had wide influence over the area's citizens, and its editorials stood in firm support of maintaining the Union and opposing the efforts to draw Maryland into the Secession movement. The economic depression caused by the war brought an end to the newspaper after nearly three years of publication. Then Jacob H. Christ ran a job printing business for several more years.

The house in this circa 1870 photograph has several notable features that were frequently found on houses throughout this region during the nineteenth century. Foremost is its shuttered windows. The louvered shutters kept sunlight out during the summer months while allowing a comforting breeze. Paneled shutters kept the dust from the dirt roads from entering the house. Representative details are also found in the door panels, wood siding and shingle roof. The photograph also illustrates Uniontown's street details from the late nineteenth century. The dirt road, brick sidewalk, hitching post and shade from the street trees depict a typical street scene. Also note how the bench and wooden chest play a role that is assumed by front porches in later styles of architecture.

Edwin G. Gilbert owned the property during the late nineteenth century when the easternmost section of the building housed the Carroll County Savings Bank from 1883 to 1907 (see photograph on page 8). The remainder of the structure was a dwelling. The building continued in use as housing until the 1920s when it was torn down and the property sold to the county school board.

Uniontown Elementary School 3455 Uniontown Road

3455 Uniontown Road was part of the Peter Christ estate in 1876. It was sold to David Fuss, who in turn sold it to Oliver Hiteshew. In 1887, Hiteshew sold the property to the county school board which erected a one-story brick school on the property and sold the antiquated Uniontown Academy. The newer building was a two-room structure that had a coal stove between the rooms for heat (see photograph on page 53). By the 1920s, the school's enrollment had outgrown the structure. The first and second grades met in one room and the third and fourth grades in the other room of the brick schoolhouse. The fifth, sixth, and seventh grades met in the hall at 3463 Uniontown Road. The current elementary school was built in 1931 with the old schoolhouse forming its rear wing. The old building was torn down in 1955 when a new wing was erected.



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
225. N. Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157

WESTMINSTER PLANNING DISTRICT

FIELD SHEET--HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY

SURVEY NUMBER: CARR-317

NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:

UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Easting/Northing

U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP: New Windsor

PRESENT FORMAL NAME:

ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:

PRESENT USE: School

ORIGINAL USE: School

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:
Excellent () Good (X)
Fair () Poor ()

THEME:

STYLE:

DATE BUILT: 1931

COUNTY: CARROLL

TOWN: Uniontown

LOCATION:
3455 Uniontown Rd

COMMON NAME: Uniontown Elementary School

FUNCTIONAL TYPE: School

OWNER: Bd. of Education of Carroll Co.

ADDRESS: 55 N. Court St
Westminster Md 21157

ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:
Yes (X) No () Restricted ()

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:
Local () State () National ()

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

- Foundation: Stone (X) Brick () Concrete () Concrete Block ()
- Wall Structure
 - Wood: Log () Post and Beam () Balloon ()
 - Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick (X) Stone () Concrete () Concrete Block ()
 - Iron () D. Steel () E. Other
- Wall Covering: Weatherboard () German Siding () Board and Batten ()
Wood Shingle () Shiplap () Novelty () Stucco () Sheet Metal ()
Aluminum () Asphalt Shingle () Brick Veneer () Stone Veneer ()
Bonding Pattern: Stretcher Other:
- Roof Structure
 - Truss: Wood (X) Iron () Steel () Concrete ()
 - Other:
- Roof Covering: Slate () Wood Shingle () Asphalt Shingle () Sheet Metal ()
Built Up (X) Rolled () Tile () Other:
- Engineering Structure:
- Other:

Appendages: Porches () Towers () Cupolas () Dormers () Chimneys () Sheds ()
Ells () Wings () Other:

Roof Style: Gable () Hip () Shed () Flat (X) Mansard () Gambrel () Jerkinhead ()
Saw Tooth () With Monitor () With Bellcast () With Parapet ()
With False Front () Other:

Number of Stories: 2

Number of Bays: 3 x 2

Approximate Dimensions: _____

Entrance Location: center

THREAT TO STRUCTURE:
No Threat () Zoning () Roads ()
Development () Deterioration ()
Alteration () Other: School replacement

LOCAL ATTITUDES:
Positive () Negative ()
Mixed (X) Other:

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

See Uinton Md. A Walking Tour
Photo of Christ House - p. 8 and p. 26
Photo of Elementary School p. 25 and p. 53

REFERENCES:

1862 Martenet's Map:
1877 LG & S Atlas:

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane () Woodland () Scattered Buildings ()
Moderately Built Up () Densely-Built Up ()
Residential () Commercial ()
Agricultural () Industrial ()
Roadside Strip Development ()
Other:

RECORDED BY:

ORGANIZATION:

DATE RECORDED:

C D E F G H J K

17

640,000 FT
39°35'00"

630,000 FT

Joins Map 18

9

39°32'30"

FT

Sanitary Landfill

RAYWELL AVE
600

Francis Scott Key HS

UNIONTOWN
Uniontown ES

21157

CARR-317
Uniontown Elementary School
ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1990

21764

Bark Hill Bible
GLENN HILL

BARK HILL
KEY HEIGHTS

CLEAR RIDGE

Branch

CLEAR RIDGE

LOWMAN 3400

Pipe Creek

84

Creek

GREEN

Wolf

LINWOOD

800

VALLEY

RIDGE

Roop

Linwood Brethren

Saint Lukes Luth

WINDSOR VIEW

Little

21776

NEW WINDSOR

75

COLLEGE AVE
New Windsor MS
Sulphur Springs Pk
WATERGATE
MANNING
TOWN HALL
New Windsor Presb
PILSON DR

WINTERS 1000

WINTERS 1000

CHURCH 7200

HILL 3500

CARR-317

4386

4385

CARR-317
Uniontown Elementary School
New Windsor Quad, 1953, 60 PR 1971

35

4383

4382

5563 II SW
(UNION BRIDGE)

3E 3.4 MI.

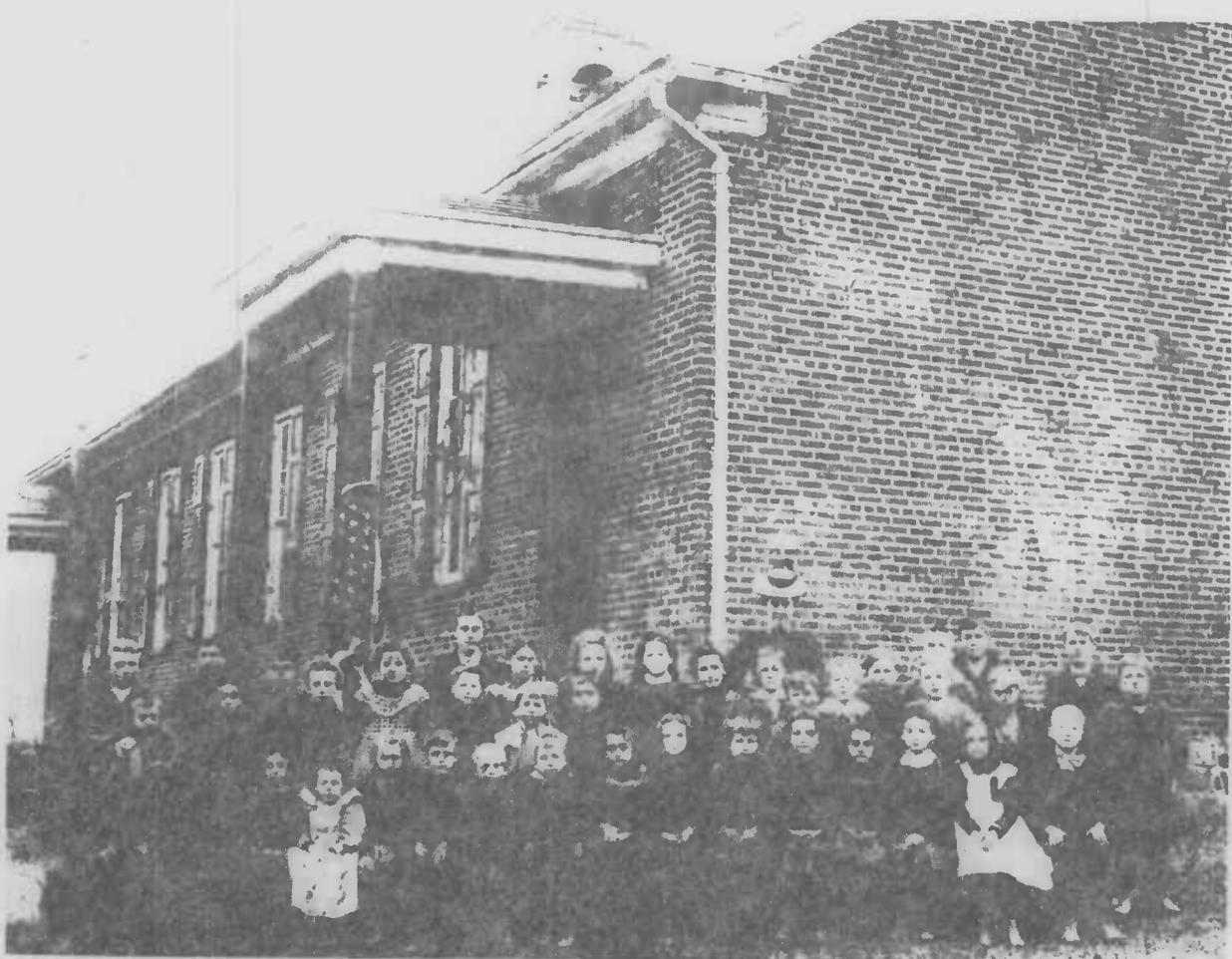


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Photograph courtesy of Mr. Thomas Devilbiss

Untontown School—The photographer of this school group used an unusual but artistic angle for his turn-of-the-century photograph. It displays the architectural features of the 1887 schoolhouse, which was a two-room structure with a bell-tower. The building served as a wing to the new Elementary School from 1931 until it was replaced in 1955.

CARR - 317



Photograph courtesy of the Historical Society of Carroll County

Carroll County Savings Bank—The second location of the Uniontown Bank is shown here in a structure that once stood on the lot in front of the Uniontown Elementary School. The bank was located here from 1883 to 1907. Shown in the photograph are (from left to right): Dr. Jacob J. Weaver, Jr., Jesse P. Garner, Davis Myers, and Edwin Gilbert.

newspaper was started in Uniontown that promoted the political causes of the community and provided world and local news. However, the new county (Carroll) was not formed until 1837, and a change in the proposed boundaries gave Westminster the central location and designation of county seat.

Uniontown maintained a slow but steady growth through the nineteenth century. The first Carroll County tax assessment in 1837 shows that there were thirty-two buildings (15 log, 12 brick, and 5 frame) in the village. By 1896, there were eighty buildings, approximately the same number that it has today. Being bypassed by the Western Maryland Railroad in 1862 contributed to the lack of substantial development during the late nineteenth century. At that time, the terminus of the railroad was Union Bridge, a town that saw dramatic growth and joined Westminster as the major commercial centers in the region. New Windsor and the newly created village of Linwood also saw commercial growth from the location of the railroad and supplanted Uniontown as the local trade centers.

While the early nineteenth century buildings are recognized as Uniontown's jewels, there are good examples of late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings that are frequently overlooked and deserve recognition. These later houses present details of architectural styles prevalent throughout this period including Italianate, Queen Anne, and Bungalow designs. Also, some of the early houses were remodeled during this period and contain ex-



1. CARR-317 Uniontown Elementary School
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. November 1984
5. Md. Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. North elevation, camera facing south
7. 1/2



1. CARR-317 Old Uniontown Bank
2. Carroll County, Maryland
3. Joe Getty
4. c. 1883 - 1907
5. Md. Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Copy from HSCC collection
7. 2/2



1. CARR-317 Uniontown Elem. School
2. Carroll Co., Md.,
3. Joe Getty
4. 11/84
5. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md
6. north elev. (camera facing s)
7. 1/1