

Mont. : 16-12-12

Martinsburg School  
Martinsburg, Maryland  
Private

C. 1886

This small building was the one room school house that served the Black children from grades one through five in the Martinsburg community, possibly as early as 1876. Though no longer in use as a school, it retains its community purpose by serving as a center for the nearby church, where many of the former students are members. Oral histories of this school from both students and former teachers constitute a rich resource for the history of public school education in Maryland.

Mont.: 16-12-12

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Magi #

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Martinsburg School

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER North side of White's Ferry Rd.

CITY, TOWN Martinsburg CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8

STATE Maryland COUNTY Montgomery

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 type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Warren Methodist Episcopal Church Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER 22625 White's Ferry Rd.

CITY, TOWN Dickerson STATE, zip code Maryland 20753

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: EBP 15  
Folio #: 10

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M: 6-12-12

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This small one story school faces south towards White's Ferry Road. It stands about ten yards north of the road, about fifteen yards west of the Warren M.E. Church, and thirty yards south of the abandoned Love and Charity Lodge. Because of these buildings, this site was the heart of the Martinsburg community.

The roof-line of the school runs north-south, and the front door is placed in the center of the south gable end. The original block is three bays in depth, and one bay in width. The facade has a cinder block platform in front of it and a small shed roof over the door, added by Lemuel Graham from Martinsburg, a carpenter who has also added cabinets and other fixtures inside the building. The front door and trim were also added by Graham.

The frame of the building is covered with German siding with trim boards at each corner. They are painted white. The eaves have been nicely boxed with beaded boards. The cornices in the facade carried strong returns, which lent a modest Greek Revival appearance to the facade. All of this subtly indicates the value that the 19th century community gave to education.

Along the length of the building are three bays, each with window openings carrying double hung sashes with two over two panes. To the rear of the building has been attached a smaller one room frame addition. To the western side of the school has been added a cinder block section that extends almost the entire length of the original section. From the center of the original block ascends a brick stove flue.

Both the walls and the ceiling of the interior have been plastered. Lemuel Graham remembers that it was plastered in this way when he attended here in the early 1900's, and that the interior was heated by a pot-bellied wood stove.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

M:16-12-12

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

Black History

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1886

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This one room school house was one of the important centers of the Martinsburg community. Though no longer used as a school, it now belongs to Warren M.E. Church and is used as a church center, where many of its former students still attend.

In terms of the history of the school, it is rather difficult to examine it precisely during this preliminary survey, since the school carries no deed in its own name. It stands on land purchased by the Trustees of Warren M.E. Church in 1876 and may have been built soon thereafter. Research of education records may shed more light.

Many of the older citizens of Martinsburg, such as Lemuel Graham, were educated here; and some, such as Evelyn Herbert, (along with her mother earlier) taught here. According to Graham, the students sat on long benches on either side of an aisle. There were about 40 students in the school and grades one through five were taught. Teaching materials were few. In addition to arithmetic books, primers were used to teach reading and spelling. Since there was only one teacher, the older and more advanced students often taught the younger ones, while the teacher was instructing others. Thus there were classes within classes, and students were made to feel and act responsibly towards their work and that of others. One of the most important lessons they learned was cooperation. A slate blackboard for the teacher, filled the north wall, Graham recalled, while each student had his/her own smaller slate board and slate pencil at their seat. The interior was lit, Graham said, by kerosene lamps.

There is not a school house shown on this site in G.M. Hopkins' Atlas of Montgomery County in 1879. Since Hopkins omitted the Black churches in Martinsburg and Sugarland, and the school in Sugarland, it is possible that he omitted this too. Most likely it is contemporary to the land purchase, 1876.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Records of Montgomery County, County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.  
 Deed: EBP 15/10  
 Hopkins' 1879, Atlas of Montgomery County.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel, Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

6/78

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland

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  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
 Box 87, Stronghold  
 Dickerson, Md. 20753  
 (301) 926-4510



M: 16-12-12  
Martinsburg Negro School  
White's Fern Rd (MD 107), Dickerson  
C. 2000

Warren Historic Site

School w/ social hall  
behind  
east facade

Montgomery Co.



M. 16-12-12

Martinsburg Negro School

White's Ferry Rd (MD 107), Dickerson

C. 2000

Warren Historic Site

School

front

Montgomery Co.



M: 16-17-17  
Martinsburg Negro School  
White's Ferry Rd (MD 107), Dickerson

C. 2000

Warren Historic Site

School  
near

Montgomery Co.



Martinsburg School  
(Rear) (N. W. elevation)

m-16-12-12

Martinsburg, Mo.

6/78

GWM

2-19533 6a