

MORGNEC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Morgnec, Maryland
(ca 1907-12)

K-445

This structure which is now used as a house was the first and only school for the village of Morgnec. It was originally situated on the northern portion of Joshua Chapel Churchyard and was moved to its present location in the late 1930's. Although the structure has no architectural significance, it is important because it is one of the few Black school buildings remaining in the county and because it was once a vital part of its community.

Public sponsorship of schools for Black children began in 1872. According to a local resident and former student at Morgnec, this school was constructed between 1907 and 1912, and operated until the early 1930's. It housed grades one through seven. School children in the eighth grade and high school boarded in Chestertown and attended segregated schools there. After 1934, school buses were provided to carry all children from Morgnec into Chestertown and the abandoned schoolhouse was relocated and converted into a residence.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC MORGNEC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

AND/OR COMMON

Joseph Cotton House

2 LOCATION

Intersection of Rt. 291 and 447

STREET & NUMBER

Stryckening & Morgnec Roads

1st

July 2/7/94

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Morgnec

~~XX~~ VICINITY OF

Kent

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Joseph Cotton

Telephone #: none

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: no deed

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-445

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE ca 1935-4

 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Morgnec School is a small frame building which has been moved to its present location. The building has a gable roof, & the entry is in the south gable. On either side of the door and above it is a six over six sash window. The roof is finished with a simple verge board at the gables and with a plain box cornice at the eaves. On the east facade is a small shed roof porch and on the west is a low, one-story gable roofed kitchen.

The building has a green asphalt roof, grey asphalt siding and green trim. It sits isolated from the small community of Morgnec in the midst of a very well tended yard. The school originally had one room.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-445

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 ca 1907-12 BUILDER/ARCHITECT _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This structure which is now used as a house was the first and only "Col'd" school for the village of Morgnec. It was originally situated on the northern portion of Joshua Chapel Churchyard and was moved to its present location in the late 1930's. Although the structure has no architectural significance, it is important because it is one of the few Black school buildings remaining in the county and because it was once a vital part of its community.

Public sponsorship of schools for Black children began in 1872. Even after that time Black education was far from equal to that for whites. Schools were open fewer hours each day, for fewer month per year, and the teachers were paid far less. Even supplies like books and firewood were given more freely to white schools than to Blacks.*

The inequities of these two systems are apparent even today by comparing this building to the white Kennedyville School (K-391.)

According to a local resident and former student at Morgnec, the school was constructed between 1907 and 1912, and operated until the early 1930's. It housed grades one through seven. School children in the eighth grade and high school boarded in

* The practices in Montgomery County, Maryland, similiar to those in Kent, have been well documented in Black Historical Resources in Montgomery County, Maryland by George W. McDaniel (1979.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-445

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE		DATE
Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant		
ORGANIZATION		778-4600, ext. 67
Kent County Planning Commission		TELEPHONE
STREET & NUMBER		
Court House		STATE
CITY OR TOWN		
Chestertown, 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

Chestertown and attended segregated schools there. After 1934, school buses were provided to carry all children from Morgnec into Chestertown and the abandoned schoolhouse was relocated and converted into a residence.





K-445

Morgneec Elementary School

View to Northwest

Morgneec

Kent County

M.L. Fritz

3/1980

J. Tyler Campbell
FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND