

K-463

late 19th century

Lindsey House/Johnsontown School

The present Lindsay House owes its significance to its original use as a school, first for white children when the building stood at Wilkens Lane and then for black children when moved around 1920 to its present location at Johnsontown. The main section of this frame house is a gable-roofed structure, three bays wide and three long. It is tall, one story and has a gable-roofed side wing which makes the structure L-shaped in plan. The main entry is into this side wing. As originally constructed, this building closely resembled Middle School and Cliff's School (K-309) and was probably contemporary with them. When in use in Johnsontown, the school served grades 1-7 and with the Pomona school (K-457) was one of the only two black schools on Quaker Neck.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Johnsontown Elementary School, Wilken's Lane School

and/or common Lindsey House

## 2. Location

street & number West side Johnsontown Rd. at Johnsontown,  
1/3 mile south of Quaker Neck Road  not for publication

city, town Chestertown  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. & Mrs. Cornelius Lindsey

street & number Route #3, Box 136 telephone no.: 301-778-2368

city, town Chestertown state and zip code Maryland

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Court House liber WHG23

street & number  folio 276

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date   federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town  state

# 7. Description

Survey No. K-463

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>		
<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	date of move	ca. 1920
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed				

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

The main section of this frame house is a gable-roofed structure, three bays wide and three long. It is tall, one story in height and has a gable-roofed side wing which makes the structure L-shaped in plan. The main entry is into this side wing.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. K-463

<b>Period</b>	<b>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</b>			
<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 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"/> 1900–1920	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) black history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

<b>Specific dates</b>	<b>Builder/Architect</b>
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The present Lindsey house owes its significance to its original use as a school, first for white children when the building stood at Wilken's Lane and then for black children after the structure was moved to its present location in about 1920. As originally constructed this building closely resembled Middle School and Cliffs City School (both in Kent County) and was probably contemporary with them. When in use in Johnstontown the school served grades 1-7 and with the Pomona School was one of the only two Black schools on Quaker Neck.



## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Building Form and Material

1. Size - Main Section: True 1½ stories, 2 bays wide, 2 bays deep  
Wing A: 1 story, 2 bays wide, 2 bays deep  
Wing B: (rear bathroom) 1 story, 1 bay wide, 1 bay deep
2. Plan type - Single room formerly with front vestibule. Vestibule now moved to side and used as kitchen.
3. Roof type - Main Section: Shallow gable  
Wing A: Same  
Wing B: Shallow shed
4. Chimney - Located in gable of wing adjacent to main house. Made of brick.
5. Material/Walls - Main Section: Frame - Weatherboard under aluminum  
Wing A: Same  
Wing B: Frame - Aluminum and asbestos
6. Material/Roofs - All main section and wings are metal
7. Material/Foundation - All is brick
8. Age - Main Section: Late nineteenth (See Cliffs City School)  
Wing A: Contemporary  
Wing B: Mid 20th century
9. Style - Vernacular

Building Elements and Details

1. Doors - Main entry: Modern sash door located in center bay of front, main section.  
Second entry: In kitchen wing
2. Windows - Main Section: type - double hung  
lights - 2/2 & 6/6 - the original size  
details - plain trim and sills  
shutters - modern  
Wings: type - In the side is a narrow double-hung window with 4 over 4 sash similar to those seen in the vestibule at Cliffs City School  
shutters - modern
3. Dormers - None
4. Roof details - Main Section: Plain overhanging box cornice; same detail used at gable. Wings are the same.
5. Color - Current: white/black shutters

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION (continued)

6. Other - Not only has this small structure seen a number of uses, it has physically undergone a series of changes. After being moved to Johnstontown it was used with few alterations as a school. The present owner moved the original vestibule to the side, lengthened it one bay and converted it into a kitchen. The single main room was then divided into three. Finally the bathroom was added to the rear of the kitchen.

Interior Description

1. Plan type - Originally a single room with front vestibule
2. Major stair - No stairs
3. Major Mantles - No mantles
4. Major trim - Windows/doors: Plain trim  
Cornices: None  
Chair rails: Horizontal boarding on wainscoting in former school room.
5. Major doors - Modern
6. Floors - Carpet/sheet goods
7. Walls/ceiling finishes - Plaster, plywood paneling, sheetrock

Outbuildings/Site Description

1. Major outbuildings - Various sheds of no historical interest - formerly outhouses.
2. Site description - Small well-cared-for yard with poplar, elm, cedar, and catalpa trees. Located on the "V" formed by Johnstontown Road and the lane leading to Forest Dean Farm, the house faces south-east.
3. Views to/from site - Neighboring houses of Johnstontown and woodlands along the lane to Forest Dean Farm

Use of Building

1. Current - Residence
2. Historic - School

History of Building/Past Ownership

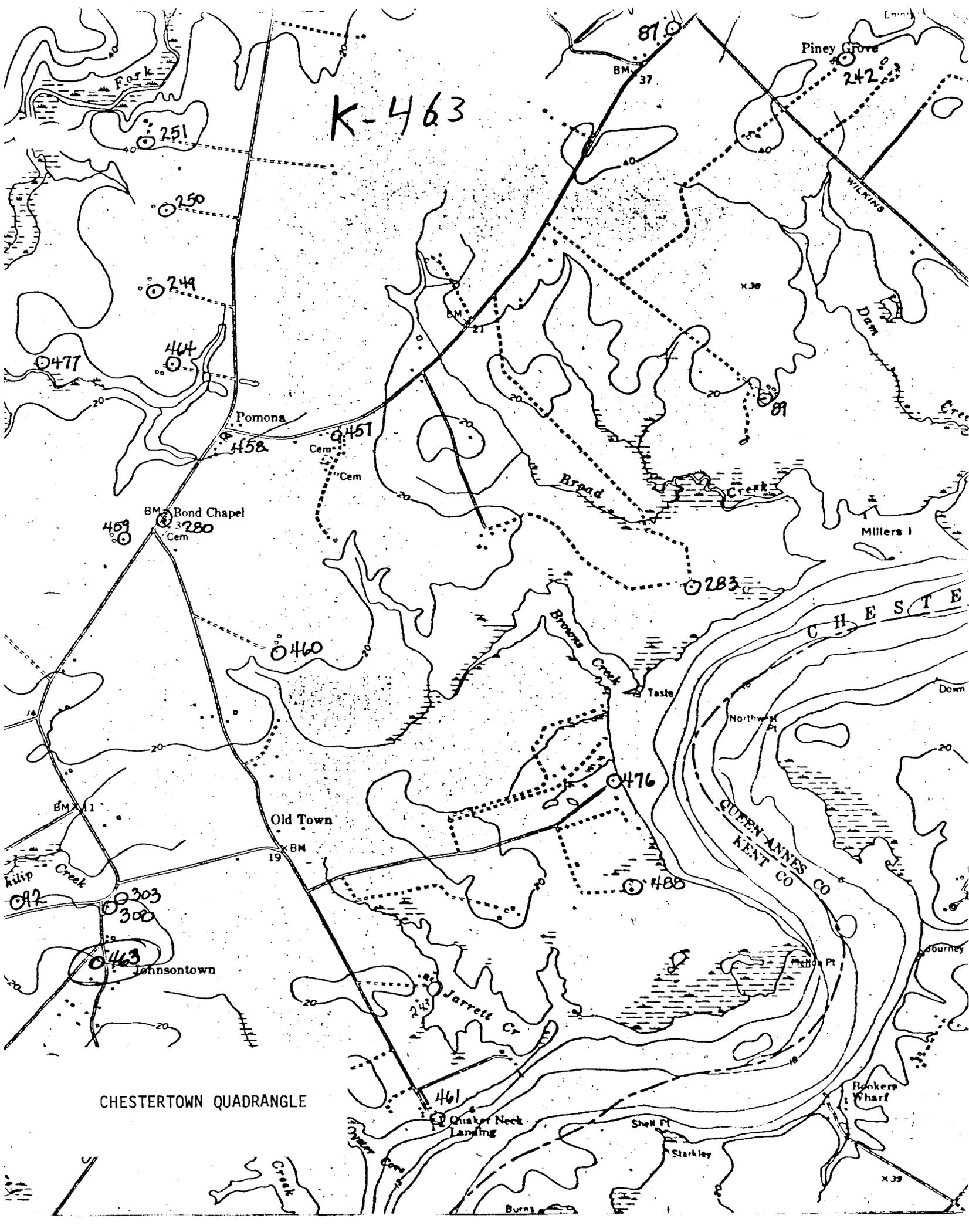
Originally the Wilkens Lane school for white children, this structure was moved about 1920 to its present location. Called the Johnstontown School, seven grades of black children were taught there.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION (continued)

The building's current owner, Cornelius Lindsey, remembers that a single "pot belly" stove in the middle of the school room provided heat for the children who were seated in two rows of benches arranged along the length of the room. Students who completed the 7 grades here went to school in Chestertown. After this school closed children were sent to elementary school at Church Lane in Pomona. Mr. Lindsey purchased the property in 1936 (RAS22/452)

K-463



CHESTERTOWN QUADRANGLE



View to West

OLD JOHNSONTOWN SCHOOL (K-463)

Quaker Neck, Chestertown, Kent County

Photograph: M. L. Fritz, July 1981



K-463

Lindsey House - Old Johnstontown School

Johnstontown Rd., Quaker Neck

M. Q. Fallaw - 8/31/86

View to west

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K-463

Lindsey House - Old Johnstontown School

Johnstontown Rd., Quaker Neck

M. Q. Fallaw - 8/31/86

View to north

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