

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

1285

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Winters Lane Historic District  
other names BA-3067

2. Location

street & number Winters Lane & cross streets, between Frederick Rd. & Balto. National Pike  not for publication  
city or town Catonsville  vicinity  
state Maryland code MD county Baltimore code 005 zip code 21228

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments).

[Signature] 11-8-07  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby, certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
  - determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
  - Determined not eligible for the National Register.
  - removed from the National Register.
  - other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper Patricia Andrews Date of Action 12/21/2007

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
136	19	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
136	19	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

**number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

1 (Old Catonsville High School)

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
- EDUCATION/school
- SOCIAL/meeting hall
- RELIGION/religious facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
- EDUCATION/school
- SOCIAL/meeting hall
- RELIGION/religious facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY/Gothic Revival
- LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne
- LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> C. REVIVALS/Colonial Revival
- LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> C. AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation MASONRY
- walls WOOD; MASONRY; METAL; SYNTHETIC
- roof ASPHALT; SLATE
- other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

**Previous documentation on files (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Area of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black

**Period of Significance**

1867-1945

**Significant Dates**

1867

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Multiple unknown

Frank E. Davis, architect (Old Catonsville High School)

Winters Lane Historic District (BA-3067)  
Name of Property

Baltimore County, MD  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 49 acres Baltimore West, MD quad

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1																					
	Zone			Easting						Northing											
2																					

3																					
	Zone			Easting						Northing											
4																					

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura V. Trieschmann, Architectural Historian  
Organization E. H. T. Traceries date 4/2003; revised 1/2007  
street & number 1121 Fifth St., NW telephone (202) 393-1199  
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20001

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et. seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

BA-3067  
Winters Lane Historic District

Name of Property

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## SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Winters Lane Historic District in Catonsville, Baltimore County, Maryland, is a historically African-American community located between Frederick Road and the Baltimore National Pike. The linear historic district runs north-south along Winters Lane with associated historic resources fronting the intersecting streets of Edmondson Avenue, Shipley Avenue, Roberts Avenue, Leewood Avenue and Old Frederick Road.

The Winters Lane Historic District is composed primarily of single-family dwellings augmented by a few commercial, social, and religious resources. The historic properties, which developed between 1867 and the mid-1940s, are vernacular in design and workmanship, reflecting the working-class status of the residents. The district contains 155 properties, including 141 residential properties, two former schools, three commercial resources, three social clubs, and five churches/church-related buildings.

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

### Domestic Buildings

The housing fronting Winters Lane was largely speculative development, with single-family freestanding and twin buildings similarly constructed and detailed. Set close to the road on narrow lots, the residential and social buildings are typically wood frame with solid masonry foundations. The few masonry structures in the district were constructed of rock-faced concrete block or stretcher-bond brick. Cladding materials includes wood weatherboard, aluminum siding, vinyl siding, asbestos shingles, and some brick facing. Rooflines, reflecting the fashionable architectural styles of the period during which they were erected, are side gable, front gable, cross gable, hipped, and sloping with minimal applied detailing to the cornice lines. A number of the side-gabled roofs were accented by steeply pitched front gables indicative of the Gothic Revival style. Architectural styles influencing the forms and detailing of the vernacular buildings on Winters Lane include the Queen Anne, Gothic Revival, Colonial Revival, Bungalow/Craftsman, Cape Cod, American Foursquare, shotgun, and ranch house.

One of the oldest extant dwellings in the Winters Lane Historic District is located at 77 Winters Lane. Constructed circa 1874, the two-and-a-half-story wood-frame dwelling is three bays wide and one bay deep with a 1929 two-story shed-roof addition. The first floor of the house has a central passage flanked by five rooms. Set on a random rubble stone foundation, the house was originally clad in wood German siding that was affixed with square-head, machine-cut nails. During the 1970s, the house was reclad in vinyl siding and the one-story, three-bay wide porch on the façade was rebuilt. As a result of alterations the house is a vernacular derivative of the Colonial Revival style. All of the 1/1-vinyl replacement windows have wide, square-edged surrounds, wood sills, and louvered shutters. Two interior-end brick chimneys with corbeled caps rise from

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asphalt shingle roof. Returns and a boxed cornice adorn the side-gable roof. The deep, narrow lot is located along Winters Lane, with the house at the forefront of the tract. There is a slight slope at the front of the lot that extends down to the recently installed sidewalk. A paved, asphalt driveway lies to the north of the dwelling and to the rear of the house there are several mature trees. To the rear or west of the house there is a small, circular well that is contemporary to the house. Infilled in 1994, the circular well has a low stone wall constructed of random rubble stone.

The dwelling at 77 Winters Lane is similar in form and design to the buildings at 76 Winters Lane, 79 Winters Lane, 167 Winters Lane, 129 Winters Lane, 131 Winters Lane, 171 Winters Lane, 307 Winters Lane, and 309 Winters Lane. The examples at 600 Winters Lane, 1 Wayman Street, and 6016 Harristown Road are set of larger lots, illustrating the development trends in Harristown. The examples noted in the Winters Lane Historic District are two-and-a-half-story buildings capped by a side-gabled roof, the majority of which are clad in asphalt shingles. Full-width front porches augment the center-hall plan of the dwellings, while mid- to late-20<sup>th</sup>-century additions have been constructed on the rear of the rectangular structures.

The two-and-a-half-story dwelling at 304 Winters Lane is indicative of the Gothic Revival inspired buildings lining Winters Lane. Constructed in the early 1920s, the wood-frame building is covered by a side-gabled roof marked on the façade by a steeply pitched gable. The open gable, a typical element of the Gothic Revival style is pierced by a narrow window opening that illuminates the half story. The building, now clad in asbestos shingles, has a full-width porch and double-hung window openings. A number of domestic properties reflecting similarly influences are located along the street at 204 Winters Lane, 210 Winters Lane, 300 Winters Lane, 306 Winters Lane, 1 Roberts Avenue, 6 Roberts Avenue, 907 Edmondson Avenue, and 11 Melrose Avenue.

The deep suburban lots created along Winters Lane and the flanking east-west streets necessitated the construction of narrow structures. Often the traditional rectangular form of the center-passage plan building covered by a side-gabled roof was turned, orienting the gable end to the street. The shotgun form, typical for worker and tenant housing in the South, is the smallest of the gable-end structures. Two such examples are located at 5920 and 5922 Leewood Avenue in the Winters Lane Historic District. Larger structures with gable-end façades and side entries line the streets of the historic district and allowed affordable speculative housing for many residents. These buildings are typically three bays wide, although a number of two-bay-wide structures are located in the district. Examples include the houses at 8 Melrose Avenue, 109 Roberts Avenue, 111 Roberts Avenue, 15 Shipley Avenue, 185 Winters Lane, 199 Winters Lane, 201 Winters Lane, 203 Winters Lane, 207 Winters Lane, 518 Winters Lane, and 520 Winters Lane. The two neighboring dwellings at 221 and 223 Winters Lane are front-gabled structures with the second story overhanging, creating an inset front porch on the façade.

A domestic form which was popular for its cost-efficiency is the bungalow, enlarged by its full-width or wrapping porches. Not a prevalent building form in the Winters Lane Historic District, the bungalow was noted

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typically at the northern end of Winters Lane and the east-west streets. These buildings stand one-and-a-half stories in height on raised masonry foundations. A group of four such examples, dating from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the early 1940s, is located at 5931 Old Frederick Road, 5933 Old Frederick Road, 5935 Old Frederick Road, and 6000 Old Frederick Road. The bungalow form is also illustrated at 162 Winters Lane, 174 Winters Lane, 176 Winters Lane, 182 Winters Lane, 514 Winters Lane, 156 Wesley Avenue, and 906 Edmondson Avenue.

The construction of twin dwellings along Winters Lane began in the late 1910s and continued throughout the 1920s. These buildings are generally set on very narrow subdivided lots with setbacks and rear yards mirroring those of their freestanding counterparts. Influenced by the Italianate and Colonial Revival styles, the buildings are square in massing with side-passage plans augmented by rear ells. Porches, which typically generate the most stylistic influences, shelter the entry bays or extend the full width of the primary elevation. Examples are located at 118-120 Winters Lane, 144-146 Winters Lane, 308-310 Winters Lane, 20-22 Shipley Avenue, 24-26 Shipley Avenue, 28-30 Shipley Avenue, and 32-34 Shipley Avenue. The attached twin dwellings at 38A/B and 40A/B Winters Lane have paired steeply pitched gables ornamenting the façades.

Infill residential buildings in the Winters Lane Historic District, typically constructed on larger lots historically not improved, illustrate the ranch house, cape cod, and split-level form. One noted form is the narrow rectangular box with the front gable facing the street. This form, ornamented with Colonial Revival-style detailing, is typically clad in aluminum siding with brick facing on the façade. The circa 1990 dwellings at 10 Melrose Avenue and 515-517 Winters Lane display this form and architectural ornamentation.

Many of the non-historic dwellings in the Winters Lane Historic District imitate the architectural detailing and forms of their neighbors.

### Educational, Commercial, Social, and Religious Resources

The endurance of Winters Lane as a cohesive African American neighborhood predominantly isolated from the larger community of Catonsville is based on the establishment and continued existence of educational, commercial, social and religious activities. The original use of many of these properties, particularly the educational, social and religious resources, has evolved, but the buildings remain prominent elements in the neighborhood. These include the original schoolhouse on Edmondson Avenue and Winters Lane, Baneker Public School (now the community center), Grace AME Church, Morning Star Baptist Church, Mount Olivet United Methodist Church, Full Gospel Tabernacle Church, Upper Room Prayer Garden, Temple of Faith Church of God in Christ, and Landmark Lodge No. 40 of the Free and Accepted Masons. These buildings are all purpose-built with meeting space and prominently set on larger lots. The Crescent Lodge at 169 Winters Lane, owned by Morning Star Baptist Church, was constructed as a single-family dwelling in 1910. The

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American foursquare structure, clad in asbestos shingles, was altered by the enclosure of the wrapping front porch.

Settlement along Winters Lane was greatly aided in 1867 by the construction of the wood-frame school at 100 Edmondson Avenue for African American children. The building, fronting Winters Lane, measures three bays wide and three bays deep. Set on a random rubble stone foundation, the one-story school is accented by Gothic Revival style detailing. The central entry holds paired wood doors with a square-edged surround. Narrow lancet-arched windows with Gothic-heads and tracery flank the entry. A fixed pointed-arch window with Gothic tracery lights the half story of the building. The front-gabled roof has overhanging eaves with exposed rafters and is topped by a louvered cupola. A two-story brick structure was constructed in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century on the east elevation of the school, which currently serves as the Full Gospel Tabernacle Church.

The Landmark Lodge No. 40 of the Free and Accepted Masons at 48-½ Winters Lane is a one-story wood-frame vernacular building that was constructed in 1889 as the Morning Star Baptist Church. The front portion of the former church sits on a solid random rubble stone foundation. Although the exterior asbestos-shingle cladding obscures the structural system, it appears as though the church was constructed in two phases, with the rear portion set on a concrete block foundation. One interior chimney rises from the northwest elevation. The building has a front-gable roof clad in asphalt shingles and features an offset canted projecting entry bay with a hipped roof. The entry is centrally located on the projecting bay and holds a six-panel single-leaf wood door. One 1/1-vinyl window pierces each of the canted sides of the entry bay. All openings have aluminum-clad surrounds.

Grace African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church at 67-½ Winters Lane was constructed in 1912, following a devastating fire that destroyed the original church. The modest church is one-and-a-half stories high, measuring three bays wide and five bays deep. The rectangular plan is augmented by a three-story corner tower, a characteristic of the Tudor Revival style in which the building was originally dressed. It is constructed of brick on the first story with a corbeled limestone watertable marking the slightly raised basement. The brick detailing on the façade is laid in Flemish bond while the side and rear elevations are laid in five-course American bond. The steeply pitched front-gable roof, clad in asphalt shingles, is marked with four front-gable dormers and an interior brick chimney. The wood-frame gable ends of the building originally were decorated with rough-textured stucco and half-timbering, but are now covered with vinyl German siding. The tower, originally trimmed with crenellated detailing, is wrapped with corbeled limestone stringcourses. A cornerstone on the southern end of the tower indicates the church was rebuilt in 1912, with Reverend C.H. Murray serving as pastor. A cornerstone on the north elevation reads "AME Church AD 1880," documenting the relocation of the congregation to this site in 1880. A limestone cornerstone with the inscription, "Grace AME Church Rebuilt 1902," is located on the north end of the west elevation. The cornerstone records the extensive renovation undertaken in 1902 on the original wood-frame church.



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Primarily established as a residential neighborhood, the Winters Lane community historically was supported by a number of commercial buildings, augmented by the business corridor along Frederick Road just south of the district. The historic commercial focus of the neighborhood was located at the intersection of Edmondson Avenue and Winters Lane. Unfortunately, the few commercial wood-frame buildings at this highly traveled crossing have been razed and replaced by mid- to late-20<sup>th</sup>-century commercial buildings. A non-contributing c. 1960 commercial building is located at 180 Winters Lane, at the northern end of the district. Residential buildings flank the flat-roofed masonry building, which has two units and parking at the front.

Often residential buildings on Winters Lane incorporated a commercial component, although the domestic form and detailing of the resource remained intact. The buildings at 61 Winters Lane, 74 Winters Lane, and 81 Winters Lane, now solely utilized as single-family dwellings, are examples of this dual use.

## Winters Lane Historic District Resources

100 Edmondson Avenue	1867	Contributing	(School)
823 Edmondson Avenue	1924	Contributing	(Mount Olivet Methodist Church)
829 Edmondson Avenue	c1970	Non-Contributing	(Restaurant)
900 Edmondson Avenue	1995	Non-Contributing	(CVS)
903 Edmondson Avenue	1915	Contributing	
905 Edmondson Avenue	1910	Contributing	
906 Edmondson Avenue	1920	Contributing	
907 Edmondson Avenue	1910	Contributing	
107 Fusting Avenue	c1910	Contributing	
5914 Old Frederick Road	c1930	Contributing	
5916 Old Frederick Road	c1930	Contributing	
5920 Old Frederick Road	c1915	Contributing	
3926 Old Frederick Road	c1920	Contributing	
5930 Old Frederick Road	1941	Contributing	
5931 Old Frederick Road	1916	Contributing	
5932 Old Frederick Road	1941	Contributing	
5933 Old Frederick Road	1930	Contributing	
5934 Old Frederick Road	1940	Contributing	
5935 Old Frederick Road	1920	Contributing	
6000 Old Frederick Road	1902	Contributing	
5920 Leewood Avenue	1920	Contributing	

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5922 Leewood Avenue	1920	Contributing	
5926 Leewood Avenue	1909	Contributing	
5928 Leewood Avenue	1910	Contributing	
5934 Leewood Avenue	1976	Non-Contributing	
22 Main Avenue	1925	Contributing	
23 Main Avenue	1925	Contributing	
1 Roberts Avenue	1909	Contributing	
2-4 Roberts Avenue	1903	Contributing	
3 Roberts Avenue	1910	Contributing	(altered)
5-7 Roberts Avenue	1945	Contributing	(Second Morning Star Baptist Church, now Upper Room Prayer Garden)
6 Roberts Avenue	1910	Contributing	
8 Roberts Avenue	1975	Non-Contributing	
10 Roberts Avenue	1920	Contributing	
14 Roberts Avenue	1910	Contributing	
18 Roberts Avenue	1990	Non-Contributing	
20 Roberts Avenue	1910	Contributing	
2-4 Shipley Avenue	1911	Contributing	
6 Shipley Avenue	1920	Contributing	
8-10 Shipley Avenue	1908	Contributing	
12 Shipley Avenue	1909	Contributing	
14 Shipley Avenue	1911	Contributing	
15 Shipley Avenue	1930	Contributing	
16 Shipley Avenue	1911	Contributing	
17 Shipley Avenue	1929	Contributing	
18 Shipley Avenue	1952	Non-Contributing	
20-22 Shipley Avenue	1911	Contributing	
24-26 Shipley Avenue	1911	Contributing	
28-30 Shipley Avenue	1911	Contributing	
32-34 Shipley Avenue	1911	Contributing	
156 Wesley Avenue	1927	Contributing	
206 Wesley Avenue	c1930	Contributing	(altered)
207 Wesley Avenue	1968	Non-Contributing	

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20 Winters Lane	1899	Contributing	(NR Listed 1987)
21 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
28A/B Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
30 Winters Lane	1900	Contributing	
32 Winters Lane	1899	Contributing	
34 Winters Lane	1900	Contributing	
36 Winters Lane	1900	Contributing	
38A/B Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
40A/B Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
42 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
44 Winters Lane	1909	Contributing	
46 Winters Lane	1889	Contributing	
48 Winters Lane	1889	Contributing	
48-1/2 Winters Lane	1889	Contributing	(Freemason Lodge)
50 Winters Lane	1895	Contributing	
52 Winters Lane	1900	Contributing	
57 Winters Lane	1896	Contributing	
58 Winters Lane	1920	Contributing	
59 Winters Lane	1897	Contributing	
60 Winters Lane	1994	Non-Contributing	
60-1/2 Winters Lane	1899	Contributing	
61 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
62 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
62-1/2 Winters Lane	1954	Non-Contributing	
63 Winters Lane	c1910	Contributing	
65-65-1/2 Winters Lane	1899	Contributing	
67 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
67-1/2 Winters Lane	1912	Contributing	(Grace AME Church/Parsonage)
69 Winters Lane	1899	Contributing	
71 Winters Lane	1909	Contributing	
73 Winters Lane	1992	Non-Contributing	
76 Winters Lane	1900	Contributing	
77 Winters Lane	1874	Contributing	
78 Winters Lane	1900	Contributing	
79 Winters Lane	1909	Contributing	
80 Winters Lane	1902	Contributing	
81 Winters Lane	1899	Contributing	
82 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	

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83 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
84 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
85 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
89 Winters Lane	c2005	Non-Contributing	
100 Winters Lane	c1915	Contributing	
104 Winters Lane	1915	Contributing	
106-108 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
112 Winters Lane	1972	Non-Contributing	
113 Winters Lane	1979	Non-Contributing	
117 Winters Lane	1920	Contributing	
118-120 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
119 Winters Lane	1900	Contributing	
121 Winters Lane	1900	Contributing	
122-1/2 Winters Lane	1900	Contributing	
123 Winters Lane	1916	Contributing	
125 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
127 Winters Lane	1909	Contributing	
129 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
130 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
131 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
132 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
134 Winters Lane	1909	Contributing	
135 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
136 Winters Lane	1986	Non-Contributing	
137 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
139 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
140 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
142 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
146 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
148 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
150 Winters Lane	1920	Contributing	
151 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	(American Legion)
153 Winters Lane	1900	Contributing	
154 Winters Lane	1982	Non-Contributing	
158 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
160 Winters Lane	1920	Contributing	
162 Winters Lane	1920	Contributing	
164 Winters Lane	1920	Contributing	(Morning Star Baptist Church Annex)

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165 Winters Lane	1990	Non-Contributing	(Morning Star Baptist Church)
166 Winters Lane	1923	Contributing	
167 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
168 Winters Lane	1920	Contributing	
169 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	(Crescent Lodge #355)
171 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
172 Winters Lane	1930	Contributing	
174 Winters Lane	1936	Contributing	
176 Winters Lane	1930	Contributing	
177-179 Winters Lane	1909	Contributing	
180 Winters Lane	c1960	Non-Contributing	
181 Winters Lane	1909	Contributing	
182 Winters Lane	1922	Contributing	
185 Winters Lane	1920	Contributing	
199 Winters Lane	1900	Contributing	
200 Winters Lane	1920	Contributing	
201 Winters Lane	1900	Contributing	
202 Winters Lane	1919	Contributing	
203 Winters Lane	1900	Contributing	
204 Winters Lane	1920	Contributing	
206 Winters Lane	1920	Contributing	
207 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
208 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
210 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
210-1/2 Winters Lane	1920	Contributing	
221 Winters Lane	1921	Contributing	
223 Winters Lane	1925	Contributing	
300 Winters Lane	1930	Contributing	
302 Winters Lane	1955	Non-Contributing	
304 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
306 Winters Lane	1910	Contributing	
307 Winters Lane	1932	Contributing	
308-310 Winters Lane	1919	Contributing	
309 Winters Lane	1932	Contributing	
311 Winters Lane	1931	Contributing	
313 Winters Lane	1932	Contributing	
600 Winters Lane	1919	Contributing	

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Winters Lane Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of the African-American community in the Catonsville area of Baltimore County, Maryland. It exemplifies a cohesive African American neighborhood that began to be developed immediately following the Civil War, with the settlement of former slaves along the road's northern end and the establishment of a "colored" school on property purchased by the Freedmen's Bureau at the southern end after the Civil War. By 1877, Winters Lane was the most subdivided north-south road in Catonsville, although a number of the lots were not yet developed. Despite its relationship to the growing Baltimore suburb of Catonsville, the African American neighborhood along Winters Lane developed in relative isolation. The linear neighborhood achieved a high level of community involvement with locally owned and operated African American businesses, churches, and social institutions established in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Winters Lane Historic District, the largest and most intact mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century African American neighborhood in Baltimore County, has continued to maintain a sense of place with descendants of its original settlers residing there today.

The neighborhood consists of 155 properties including 141 dwellings, five churches/church-related buildings, three commercial buildings, two former schools, and three social buildings. Of the 155 properties in the Winters Lane Historic District, 135 resources are contributing and twenty resources are non-contributing.

Benjamin Winter settled in Catonsville shortly after the War of 1812 and established Winters Lane as the primary road connecting his property to the Frederick Turnpike, then a major thoroughfare connecting Baltimore to the outlying farming regions. Until the 1880s, the community of Catonsville was made up of large estates and summer retreats owned by upper-class residents of Baltimore City. Many of these large estates were bought in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by local developers, who began to subdivide the land into smaller lots. The newly subdivided lots were then improved by smaller dwellings occupied year-round by middle-class residents.

Following the conclusion of the Civil War in 1865, the Harris family, formerly enslaved at the Crosby estate, settled an area directly north of Winters Lane, past the Old Frederick Turnpike. This settlement, known as Harristown, along with the establishment of an African American school at the corner of Winters Lane and Edmondson Avenue in 1867 by the Freedmen's Bureau, prompted the growth of an African American community in this part of Catonsville. Subdivision of Winters Lane began at its northern and southern ends and moved inwards as large estates were slowly redeveloped. By 1910, seventy-five percent of African Americans residing in Catonsville lived along Winters Lane, making it one of the largest and most intact mid-19<sup>th</sup>- century African American neighborhoods in Baltimore County.<sup>1</sup>

The African American community on Winters Lane soon supported a large number of businesses, churches, and fraternal organizations that served to solidify and strengthen the identity of the neighborhood. The oldest

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remaining African American church in Catonsville, now known as Grace African Methodist Episcopal, was established in 1868. Local groceries and the Masonic Lodge served as community meeting spaces, reinforcing the cohesiveness of the neighborhood.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### Baltimore County

Baltimore County encompasses 612 square miles of land and 28 square miles of water and is centrally located on the Maryland/Pennsylvania border. The county is bounded by Pennsylvania to the north, Harford County and the Chesapeake Bay to the west, Anne Arundel County to the south, and Howard and Carroll Counties to the west. Settlement in Maryland began in the southern half of the state in its tidewater regions, but by the 1650s, colonists had begun to move into the area that is now Baltimore County. These colonists migrated from both the coastal regions of the South and the more fully developed colonies of Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York to the north. Within Baltimore County, settlement began near the Chesapeake Bay, but by the 1680s, had begun to move inland towards the county's more northern and western regions.

The colonial economy of Baltimore County was agriculturally driven, with an emphasis on large tobacco plantations. During the 1690s, there was a decline in the number of indentured servants immigrating to Maryland, and the enslaved began to constitute an increasingly significant share of the colony's labor force. A slump in the international price of tobacco in the 18<sup>th</sup> century gave planters an economic incentive to turn away from indentured servants (short-term investments) and towards slave labor (long-term investments). In 1715, there were approximately 3,000 people living in the Baltimore County region, one-fifth to one-sixth of whom were enslaved. The enslaved population approximately doubled in each of the following generations until about 1800.<sup>2</sup> The decentralized tobacco economy did not encourage the development of towns, and few towns existed in Baltimore County during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The plantation system dispersed the population over a wide area, and the colony as a whole lacked a vibrant commercial middle class.

Facing a slide in tobacco prices, wealthy landowners began to look towards alternative investment opportunities such as the production of iron. In 1725, the Principio Company developed the first commercial ironworks to be located in the state of Maryland. Their success attracted competitive firms, and in 1733, the Baltimore Company was developed as the first locally owned and operated ironworks in Maryland. The Baltimore Company became one of the most successful businesses in 18<sup>th</sup>-century America and one of the largest landholders in southern Baltimore County. Amongst its properties were "Gorsuch," "Phillipsburg," and "Orange" on the east side of Gwynns Falls, "Bear Hills," on the north, and "Georgia" and "Fredrickstadt" (the present Catonsville-Arbutus area) on the west.<sup>3</sup> In 1764, the company owned 150 enslaved persons and 30,000 acres.<sup>4</sup>

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### Catonsville, 1745-1940

Extensive road development benefited the growth of the entire county from its earliest days. In 1695, the Old Philadelphia Road provided the first public post route running from Annapolis to Philadelphia, crossing Gunpowder Creek at Long Calin Ferry. This major transportation route was contemporary with other roads considered among the oldest in the county, including the Old Indian Road, Frederick Road, Liberty Road, Reisterstown Road, and York Road. Re-laid in 1784, these turnpike roads were completed by 1809, connecting most of Baltimore County to the developing City of Baltimore.<sup>5</sup> The presence of the Frederick Turnpike, in particular, attracted settlers to the Catonsville area as the steady wagon traffic that ran to and from the outlying farming areas brought a steady stream of business to the region.

The Carroll family was one of the wealthiest and most prominent landholding families in 18<sup>th</sup>-century Baltimore County with members holding three out of five of the Baltimore Company's partnership positions. Charles Carroll of Doughoregan, father of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, was one of these partners. In 1810, the aggregate landholdings of the Baltimore Company were divided up amongst its members. Charles Carroll of Carrollton received the ground on the north side of the Frederick Turnpike from the present Wyndcrest Avenue to Winters Lane and on the south side of the Turnpike between Locust Drive and Smith Lane.<sup>6</sup> Charles Carroll had already granted his daughter Mary and her husband Richard Caton (the namesake of Catonsville) an estate on the northwest corner of Beaumont Avenue and the Frederick Turnpike. The property was commonly called Castle Thunder. In 1810, Caton received additional landholdings of the Baltimore Company as a gift from Carroll. The official transfer of title for this property took place in 1822, with Charles Carroll and Richard Caton holding joint title by 1810.<sup>7</sup> Caton was commissioned by his father-in-law to develop the land and proceeded to divide his property into twenty lots conveyed as leasehold estates.<sup>8</sup>

By the 1850s, Catonsville was a well-established village with tremendous development potential. Ingleside Avenue had been established to connect Catonsville with Franklinton to the north. Benjamin Winter, who had settled in Catonsville shortly after the War of 1812 (1812-1815), had opened Winters Lane to connect his property with Frederick Turnpike. In 1854, Joseph Fusting, the namesake of Fusting Avenue, purchased the land between Winters Lane and Ingleside Avenue, subdividing it into smaller building lots than those created originally by Caton.<sup>9</sup>

The arrival of the horse-drawn railway in 1862 and the steam powered lines in 1884 triggered growth in both the residential and business sectors of Catonsville, much like the completion of the Frederick Turnpike had at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The development opportunities and amenities propelled the cost of land in Catonsville to \$1,000 per acre, precluding settlement by anyone but the upper class and their servants.<sup>10</sup> Catonsville, located just six miles outside Baltimore City on an elevated plateau 550 feet above the tidewater, was considered one of the "most beautiful and healthful villages in the states."<sup>11</sup> As a result, immediately following the Civil War (1861-1865), there were two types of residents living and working in Catonsville:



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businessmen and craftsmen, who had developed a small commercial strip along the Frederick Turnpike, and wealthy Baltimoreans, who surrounded the village with large country estates primarily used during the summer months.

During the 1880s, Catonsville experienced a number of significant changes to the traditional social fabric as the large mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century estates were subdivided and developed with modest suburban housing. Development efforts of the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century sought to capitalize upon the village's image as an elite suburb and led to a period of intense suburban growth that was furthered by the introduction of electric streetcar lines in the 1890s along both Frederick Road and Edmondson Avenue.

Smaller independent and speculative builders who catered to working and middle class undertook construction of the modest single-family dwellings at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Catonsville. Prosperity throughout Baltimore County increased from 1900 to 1917 as a greater number of families could afford the suburban housing available in Catonsville. Although the events of World War I (1914-1918) brought new construction to a halt, the building boom continued again in the 1920s. By 1940, Catonsville was home to a significant number of middle-income residents and its heritage as an upper-class summer village was no longer clearly evident.

### African Americans in Catonsville

The preponderance of large plantations in the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> and first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries brought a number of African Americans to Baltimore County. The largest of the slave-holding estates in the Catonsville area recorded by the 1860 census included the John Glenn Estate (25 slaves), the Lurman Estate (6 slaves), the John Hewlett Estate (6 slaves), the Riley Estate (12 slaves), the Freeman Estate (3 slaves), the John Thomas Estate (8 slaves), and the George Rimeken Estate (6 slaves).<sup>12</sup> Other estates in the area included the Burger Estate on Rolling Road and the D.C. Howell Estate located on Frederick Road at what is now Belle Grove Avenue.

As the Civil War approached, "negro" recruiting stations were established throughout Maryland. Bounties were granted to encourage the enlistment of Maryland slaves whose masters were presumed loyal to the Union. Under this system, the slave would be freed and receive \$50 upon entering the army and an additional \$50 after his discharge. As recounted in *Baltimore: The Building of an American City* by Sherry H. Olson, slave owners were "compensated \$300 to \$400 from the federal and state governments for the loss."<sup>13</sup> The endorsement of this system led to the collapse of the slave market in Maryland and was the impetus for the movement towards a new statewide emancipation constitution. This constitution was adopted on November 1, 1864 and most freedmen were then immediately drafted into the army.<sup>14</sup> After the war, some freed slaves returned to the Catonsville area to establish homes of their own and seek employment.

### African American Settlement Along Winters Lane

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The African American population of Catonsville settled predominantly along Winters Lane, which was not extensively developed and was detached from the neighboring white communities. Secondary smaller concentrations of African Americans lived along Asylum Lane (now Wade Avenue) and Taylor Avenue.

### *Harristown*

African American settlement at the northern end of Winters Lane was the result of the subdivision of the slave-holding Crosby estate. Following the Civil War, the Harris family, formerly enslaved on the Crosby estate, settled an area north of the present Baltimore National Pike. It is not definitively known how the family originally acquired that property, which locally became known as Harristown, as descendants tell alternative stories. John Brown wrote in "A Paper on Harristown" that "the ground was given to the Harris family by the Crosby family, and as each one of the Harris family married, they were given a plot of ground to build a home on."<sup>15</sup> Joseph E. Gross, a Harris descendant, wrote in "A Partial History of Harristown," that Thomas Harris, a Civil War veteran, was granted land by the federal government on the northern end of Winters Lane, which he then distributed to his sons.<sup>16</sup> Although it is geographically separated from the Winters Lane Historic District, the African American settlement in Harristown played a significant role in the establishment and continued stability of the neighborhood that began to develop south of the Baltimore National Pike.

### Freedmen's Bureau School

Settlement at the southern end of Winters Lane was aided in 1867 when the Freedmen's Bureau purchased property along the northeast corner of Winters Lane and Edmondson Avenue "to be deeded to the colored people of Catonsville and their successors forever, for a school and educational purposes."<sup>17</sup> A body of trustees was appointed to ensure that the newly acquired property at 100 Edmondson Avenue would be used for its intended purposes. The trustees, a mix of black and white residents, were John J. Herbert, Charles Thomas, Reverend Libertus VanBokkelen, Lemuel Govans, and Remus Adams. The original school as described in *It All Started on Winters Lane*, "was very small. It had a wood burning stove, but no electricity or bathroom facilities. Because of its size, several grades had to be moved across the street on Edmondson Avenue to Mount Olivet United Methodist Church and to the grocery store on the southwest corner of Winters Lane and Edmondson Avenue."<sup>18</sup> The original school housed the first and second grades, while the church served the third and fourth grades, and the second floor of the grocery was for the fifth and sixth grades.

### Late 19<sup>th</sup> - and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Development

By the third quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Winters Lane had become a "main route" with both white and black families and businesses residing along the street.<sup>19</sup> Examination of Hopkin's *1877 Plan of Catonsville* reveals that a small number of narrow buildings lots had begun to be developed at the northern and southern ends of

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Winters Lane with larger estates remaining along its central length, especially on the western side. In fact, Winters Lane was the most subdivided north-south road in Catonsville, although a number of the lots were not yet developed. Between Frederick Turnpike and Old Frederick Road, Winters Lane was improved with approximately thirty-four dwellings and two schoolhouses. North of Old Frederick Road in Harristown, the property remained largely rural with no subdivided lots. The streets extending from Winters Lane, which were generally located at the southern end of the road closer to Frederick Road, were partially subdivided and improved by the construction of single-family dwellings.

The majority of these dwellings in the Winters Lane Historic District in 1877 were set on long narrow rectangular lots fronting directly on the street. One of the few exceptions was more imposing 19<sup>th</sup>-century residence of Ann Winters, which was located at the center of a large lot to the immediate west of the intersection of Winters Lane and Fusting Avenue. Names noted on the 1877 *Plan* along Winters Lane include J. Seager, Mrs. Fusting, William Gerwig, Anderson, Griffin, and A. Gould, in addition to Mrs. Winters. Edmondson Avenue, which extended eastward halfway between Frederick Turnpike and Old Frederick Road, retained several large-scale mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century properties historically used as summer homes. Those noted on the *Plan* are General J.W. Horne, Mrs. Fusting, and A. Gould. The two schoolhouses on Winters Lane included the colored schoolhouse at the northeast corner of Winters Lane and Edmondson Avenue and Catonsville's school for white children at the northeast corner of Winters Lane and Melrose Avenue.<sup>20</sup> North of Old Frederick Road in Harristown, the property owners included Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. W. Prue, and Mrs. Johnson.

The development of the Freedmen's Bureau school combined with the settlement of the Harris family property helped create an environment in which the African American community of Catonsville flourished. By 1880, Catonsville was home to 498 African American residents, the majority of whom worked as laborers or farmhands.<sup>21</sup> The 1880 census noted that twenty-five percent of Catonsville's 309 heads of households were black.<sup>22</sup> By 1898, Winters Lane had been almost completely subdivided into smaller lots with the exception of the properties owned and improved by M. Robb and Ann Winters on the western side of the street, just north of Frederick Turnpike. At the northern end of the road, south of Old Frederick Road, Charles Shipley, H. Clay Suter, and C.C. Speed maintained several acres of undivided property fronting Winters Lane. Institutional improvements established by this time included the Grace African Methodist Episcopal Church at 67-1/2 Winters Lane south of Edmondson Avenue, and Morning Star Baptist Church (later the Landmark Lodge No. 40, Free and Accepted Masons) at 48-1/2 Winters Lane.<sup>23</sup>

The 1904 *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map*, which shows only the southern portion of Winters Lane, documents the form and size of many of the buildings constructed in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Typically, the single-family dwellings were freestanding or twin structures, supported by rear ells and full-width front porches. A group of four tenements were noted just north of Fusting Avenue. The buildings on Winters Lane and the flanking side roads are equally set back from the street with deep rear yards, some improved by one-story sheds. The wood-frame houses stood two to two-and-a-half stories in height with side- or front-gable roofs and

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minimal architectural detailing. Little new constructed occurred by 1910 at the southern end of Winters Lane, although property on the western side of the street (formerly owned by M. Robb) was subdivided into four unequal lots and a single improvement constructed.

By 1910, over seventy-five per cent of Catonsville's African American residents were living along Winters Lane and its cross streets. According to the 1910 census, African Americans made up one-fifth of Catonsville's overall population. The majority of the residents of Winters Lane were laborers, household workers, craftsmen, and manufacturing operators. One-third of black residents owned their own houses, while just one-half of white residents were property owners.<sup>24</sup> Census records from 1910 and 1920 indicate the residents on Winters Lane, north from 12 Winters Lane to Old Frederick Road, were African American. Similarly, Leewood Avenue, Wesley Avenue, Main Avenue, Shipley Avenue, and Roberts Avenue were home to African Americans.

The 1910 *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map* shows wood-frame dwellings along the length of Winters Lane, the Grace African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Catonsville School for Negroes, two groceries on the corners of Edmondson Avenue and Winters Lane, the Morning Star Baptist Church, the Negro Chapter of the International Order of Odd Fellows, and St. Martin's Parochial School.<sup>25</sup>

By 1919, the Winters property has been subdivided and redeveloped by the construction of St. Marks Hall.<sup>26</sup> The two-story wood-frame Winters house, however, remained intact on the property until the late 1950s.

As noted on the *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps*, Winters Lane was largely developed by single-family dwellings, a few commercial establishments, social and religious institutions, and educational buildings in the mid-1920s. Overwhelmingly, these properties were owned and occupied by African Americans, a significant number of who were descendant of former enslaved persons and freemen who had settled along Winters Lane in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The single-family dwellings were generally two stories in height, covered by front- or side-gable roofs and augmented by rear ells. The number of outbuildings was reduced in comparison to the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when most properties maintained a shed, garage or stable. The churches and social buildings, typically one to two stories high, were generally masonry in construction with large rectangular footprints. These structures were interspersed within the neighborhood, standing alongside single-family dwellings.

### African American Schools, Churches, Businesses, and Social Organizations

#### *Schools*

The small wood-frame schoolhouse on the northeast corner of Winters Lane and Edmondson Avenue at 100 Edmondson Avenue was completed in 1867 and spurred the initial development of Winters Lane. The school, located on property purchased by the Freedmen's Bureau, was started through the efforts of private citizens.

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This school was originally called Colored School #1, but was later referred to as Colored School #21 by Winters Lane residents.<sup>27</sup>

In February 1870, the Baltimore County Board of School Commissioners voted to provide funding for black education, and the General Assembly did not mandate local support for black schools until 1872.<sup>28</sup> At this time, a publicly supported teacher was supplied. In *History of Baltimore City and County*, Sharf reports that Josephine Jones was the teacher at the Catonsville Colored School in 1881. Eventually, Baltimore County obtained title to the Catonsville School and, in 1943, sold it to the Full Gospel Tabernacle Church.

The old Catonsville High School at the corner of Melrose Avenue and Winters Lane was built in 1899. Designed by Baltimore architect Frank E. Davis, the high school served the white population of Catonsville. A proposal to replace it with a new building in 1907 led to the suggestion that it be reused as a new school for African American children, but after considerable controversy regarding the property's proximity to the town center, the building was sold to St. Mark's Parish. In 1910, a new white school was completed on Frederick Road just east of Bloomsbury Avenue.<sup>29</sup> The old Catonsville High School was listed individually in the National Register on September 10, 1987.

The Banneker School located at the corner of Main and Wesley Avenues was completed in 1923 as the new school for African American children. The Women's Civic Club of Catonsville campaigned for the construction of this facility, citing the original schoolhouse's lack of heating, plumbing facilities, and deteriorated condition.<sup>30</sup> The Banneker School is an eight-room building named in honor of Benjamin Banneker (1731-1806), who is known as America's First Black Man of Science whose family had lived approximately two miles west of Catonsville in rural Baltimore County. The school served the children of many neighboring African American communities including Oella, Halethorpe, Cowdensville, and Winters Lane. In the early 1960s, the public schools of Baltimore County were integrated and Banneker School was converted into a community center.

The Old Catonsville High School figures prominently in a legal case which changed the course of public education for African American students in Baltimore County. In the 1930s, Baltimore County provided only seven years of public education for African American students. Students seeking to continue their education beyond the seventh grade were sent to high school in Baltimore City following successful completion of an entrance exam. A student named Margaret Williams twice failed the entrance exam, and was therefore unable to enter high school in Baltimore City. Her father, Joshua Williams, initiated a lawsuit to require Baltimore County to allow Margaret to progress to high school in Catonsville, and hired young attorney Thurgood Marshall to argue the case. The suit, *Margaret Williams v. Dr. David Zimmerman et al.*, failed. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People filed an appeal with the State, but that also failed. Nevertheless, in 1939 the high school curriculum was introduced in three African American schools in Baltimore County: Banneker School in the Winters Lane community, Bragg in Sparrows Point, and Carver in

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East Towson. From then on, African American students in Baltimore County were able to complete their high school education without leaving the county.<sup>31</sup>

### *Churches*

The growing population of African Americans in Catonsville and similar neighboring communities prompted the construction of several churches representing various denominations. The continued existence of these religious institutions, which also provided space for neighborhood social activities, speaks to the stability of the Winters Lane community. In contrast, many of the contemporaneous African American communities in Baltimore County and City had a single church within their neighborhood. Grace African Methodist Episcopal Church was one of the first such churches constructed on Winters Lane, followed by the Morning Star Baptist Church, Mount Olivet Methodist Church, and the Full Gospel Tabernacle Baptist Church. Other African American churches in the community include the Back to the Bible Temple for All People, the Temple of Faith Church of God in Christ, the Bethlehem Christian Community Church of God, the St. Paul Christian Church and the Bread of Life Christian Center.

Mount Gilboa African Methodist Episcopal Church was the first African American church to be established within the Catonsville region. Located in Oella, the church has been in existence since the 1700s. The Grace African Methodist Episcopal Church, established in 1868, is the oldest African American church still in existence within the boundaries of Catonsville. At the time of its establishment, the church was known as the St. Johns African Methodist Episcopal Church. The congregation initially met at the schoolhouse on corner of Winters Lane and Edmondson Avenue. In 1879, services were held in a new building that had been moved from Baltimore City to the present site at 67 Winters Lane. At that time, the church was renamed Grace African Methodist Episcopal Church.<sup>32</sup> In 1910, fire destroyed the church. Two years later, in 1912, the current sanctuary was completed in the fashionable Tudor Revival style of architecture.<sup>33</sup>

In 1896, the Morning Star Baptist Church bought the property located at 48-1/2 Winters Lane and built a church at a cost of \$150. A new building was purchased at the corner of Roberts Avenue and Winters Lane about 1930 and the original church was sold to Landmark Lodge No. 40, Free and Accepted Masons. In 1979, the congregation of the Morning Star Baptist Church moved to their current location at 154 Winters Lane.<sup>34</sup>

The Mount Olivet Methodist Church was established about 1912 in a building at the southeastern end of Winters Lane. The congregation was named the Little Catonsville Mission Church. On July 27, 1924, the church was moved to its present location at 823 Edmondson Avenue and was renamed Mount Olivet Methodist Church.<sup>35</sup>

The Full Gospel Tabernacle Baptist Church was established in 1922. On April 24, 1933, the church leased the former Morning Star Baptist Church building at 48-1/2 Winters Lane. In 1943, the Church purchased the

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original "colored" school at 100 Edmondson Avenue at Winters Lane. The Full Gospel Tabernacle Baptist Church was founded by Reverend William Adams, the son of Remus Adams, was an original trustee of the original school.<sup>36</sup>

### *Businesses*

A number of African Americans in Catonsville owned their own businesses, which were established for the most part to serve the immediate community. The June 2, 1934 edition of the *Clarion*, Catonsville's African American newspaper, contained advertisements for:

The Lincoln Grocery – 1 Old Frederick Road - Harry and Mrs. Jones owners  
M.T. Ralins Fresh Meats and Vegetables –Edmondson and Winters Lane  
Mrs. Susie Page Grocery and Confections – 185 Winters Lane  
Ridgely W. Coats, Feeds, Seeds, and Poultry Supplies – 16 Winters Lane  
Page C. Elliot Ice, Wood and Coal – 61 Winters Lane.  
George W. Williams Confectionery and Grocery – 89 Winters Lane  
Mrs. Catherine Williams Groceries and Meats/Tea Room – 151 Winters Lane  
Charlie Hayes Taxi Service – 81 Winters Lane  
Peoples Barber Shop with L.B. Owens Proprietor – 89 Winters Lane  
County Club Casino – 74 Winters Lane

Other black-owned businesses noted in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century included Fannie and Charles Hayes' Confectionery at the corner of Winters Lane and Main Avenue, Clara King's Tavern on Winters Lane (opened in the 1930s), William Adams' taxi service, and Mr. Davidge's Grocery Store across the street from 151 Winters Avenue.<sup>37</sup>

Katherine Williams' store at 151 Winters Lane was among the most prominent of the African American-owned businesses. This store, offering groceries, fresh meats and produce, and a tearoom, was located in the same building as Bob Mathew's tailor shop. The building was later converted into a barbershop with a poolroom operated by John Boston on the second floor. Today, the building is home to the American Legion.

Samuel Torsell started the *Clarion* on September 7, 1919 as a weekly publication for the Grace African Methodist Episcopal Church. Although originally focusing on church news, the paper soon began to report issues relating to the entire African American community. This new focus is reflected in its policy statement of June 2, 1934:

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This paper advocates 1. Good School; 2. A high school for colored children in Baltimore County; 3. Equal salaries for county school teachers regardless of color or sex; 4. Adequate police protection; 5. Adequate sanitary health provisions.<sup>38</sup>

The Catonsville Cooperative Corporation, which was incorporated on September 1, 1890, was important to the development of African American businesses in Catonsville, prompting Winters Lane residents to operate and eventually own local commercial establishments. This organization was started by a group of black men who pooled their resources to open various businesses, including the recreational Greenwood Electric Park in the 1920s. Members, all of whom resided in the Winters Lane area, included William Washington, Frank Duckett, W. Ashley Hawkins, John Thomas, John Scott, Rufus Washington, George H. Johnson, Ethel Martin, and Charles Woodland. The active group held their meetings, the last of which was in the 1960s, in the rear of the Washington Grocery Store on Winters Lane and Edmondson Avenue.<sup>39</sup> At the time of its demise, there were about 523 shareholders.

The Casino Gardens, a well-known nightclub, was located at the corner of Winters Lane and Main Avenue. Owned by Charles Woodland and operated by Ike Dixon, the Casino Gardens was extremely popular in the 1930s and 1940s, hosting a variety of famous black bands and entertainers. Similar social and commercial enterprises included the Greenwood Electric Park; the Negro Chapter of the International Order of Odd Fellows, which hosted dances on Winters Lane throughout the 1920s; and the Elks Club, which was popular for family-oriented entertainment.

### *Social Organizations*

Social organizations, like the churches, helped to advance the sense of community for which Winters Lane was known and also isolated it from the segregated activities of Catonsville and Baltimore County. These organizations included a number of Elks and Freemason lodges that utilized meeting space in private homes, groceries, and churches until they could purchase property or have purpose-built structures constructed along Winters Lane.

The Crescent Lodge #355, established on April 5, 1923, is one of the oldest African American organizations in Catonsville. Originally, the elks lodge held meetings in the Odd Fellows Hall. In 1932, the organization purchased their present building at 169 Winters Lane, also the home of the Emma Williams Temple No. 358.<sup>40</sup>

Winters Lane was also home to Landmark Lodge No. 40, Free and Accepted Masons Masonic Temple, which was established on June 7, 1905. In 1929, the organization moved from their former location on the corner of Roberts Avenue and Winters Lane to 48-1/2 Winters Lane, the original site of the Morning Star Baptist Church.<sup>41</sup>



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Other African American organizations include the Emma Williams Temple No. 358 I.B.P.O.E of W (1925); the Martha Chapter #25 O.E.S.P.H.A. (1922); the American Legion Post #263 (1952); the American Legion Auxiliary #263 (1953); Leathia Lee Nursery School (1965); the Holly Manor Improvement Association (1968); the Douglas Park Improvement Association (1968) the Banneker Optimist Club (1970); the Baltimore County NAACP Chapter (1978); and Concerned Citizens of Catonsville (1983).

### Winters Lane and Catonsville Today

Catonsville experienced rapid expansion in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The *1900 Census Report for Baltimore District 1* records the community was home to 9,408 residents. By 1940, Catonsville had been transformed from a rural village to a modern suburb of Baltimore City with a population of 21,221 and 5,000 households.<sup>42</sup> The end of World War II (1941-1945) triggered an unprecedented population explosion throughout the Baltimore region. Undeveloped land in Catonsville was improved by the construction of shopping centers, housing projects, businesses, and educational institutions.<sup>43</sup> Winters Lane, which was largely developed by the mid-1920s, was impacted by development with the construction of West Baltimore National Pike (Route 40), which was laid in 1942 as part of a World War II defense effort. As a result, the Harristown area was physically separated from the core of the community along Winters Lane. Today, Harristown is confined to the east side of Winters Lane and comprises three turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup>-century dwellings and a family cemetery.

In 1964, as a result of the declining patronage of most town centers, urban renewal plans were developed for both Towson and Catonsville. The Catonsville plan aimed to rejuvenate the business along Frederick Road, place three large parking lots in the center of town, and push back many retail stores on the north side of Frederick Road to allow for a wider street through the business core. For the African American community along Winters Lane, the project hoped to initiate the rehabilitation of housing, provide garden apartments and improve streets and sanitary facilities.<sup>44</sup> The citizens rejected the plans and Winters Lane remained much as it had appeared in the second quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The former Jones Town community, centered on Jones Avenue east of Winters Lane, was strongly impacted in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by the growth of Catonsville as a commercial center and residential suburb. A number of the dwellings were razed and Jones Avenue was lost to later subdivisions that included large-scale apartment housing and parking for the commercial properties fronting Frederick Road. As a result, only three buildings representing the African American population congregating in Jones Town remain. These include the family homes of the Hall, Lumpkins, and Boardley families along Melrose Avenue. These dwellings are separated from the Winters Lane Historic District by infill development not related to the theme of African American community.

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In the 1960s and 1970s, the number of African American communities in Baltimore County increased, but the African American population decreased as a percentage of the total. Historic African American communities such as those found in Turner's Station and East Towson declined in population and were said to be "little known, forgotten, ignored and generally left to go their own ways."<sup>45</sup> Twenty of these small African American communities still survived into the 1970s, yet they lacked adequate housing or land for expansion and their young people were moving out of the area. Only the north Catonsville community of Winters Lane maintained its residents, both young and old, making it one of the largest and most intact 19<sup>th</sup>-century African American neighborhoods in Baltimore County.

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County from the Earliest Period to the Present Day* (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881), p. 71.
- <sup>2</sup> Sherry H. Olson, *Baltimore the Building of an American City* (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), p. 4.
- <sup>3</sup> Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County* (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, 1979), p. 36.
- <sup>4</sup> Brooks and Rockel, p. 36.
- <sup>5</sup> Olson, p. 9, 18, 47.
- <sup>6</sup> Brooks and Rockel, p. 298.
- <sup>7</sup> Brooks and Rockel, p. 298.
- <sup>8</sup> Edward Orser and Joseph Arnold, *Catonsville 1880 to 1940 From Village to Suburb* (Norfolk, VA: The Donning Company, 1989), p. 11.
- <sup>9</sup> Brooks and Rockel, p. 299.
- <sup>10</sup> Brooks and Rockel, p. 302.
- <sup>11</sup> Scharf, p. 821.
- <sup>12</sup> Louis S. Diggs, *It All Started on Winters Lane: A History of the Black Community in Catonsville, Maryland*, (Catonsville, MD, Louis S. Diggs, 1995), p. 6. [hereinafter cited as Diggs]
- <sup>13</sup> Olson, p. 146.
- <sup>14</sup> Olson, p. 147.
- <sup>15</sup> Diggs, p. 13.
- <sup>16</sup> Diggs, p. 14.
- <sup>17</sup> Diggs, p. 18.
- <sup>18</sup> Diggs, p. 19.
- <sup>19</sup> Diggs, p. 136.
- <sup>20</sup> G.M. Hopkins, *Plan of Catonsville*, 1877.
- <sup>21</sup> Brooks and Rockel, p. 302.
- <sup>22</sup> Orser and Arnold, p. 26.
- <sup>23</sup> *Bromley Atlas*, "Plan of Catonsville First District," 1898.
- <sup>24</sup> Orser and Arnold, p. 71, 92.
- <sup>25</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Atlas of Catonsville*, 1910.
- <sup>26</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Atlas of Catonsville*, July 1919.

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- <sup>27</sup> Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, BA 2139.  
<sup>28</sup> Orser and Arnold, p. 77.  
<sup>29</sup> Diggs, p. 19.  
<sup>30</sup> Diggs, p. 19.  
<sup>31</sup> Louis S. Diggs, personal communication to Jessie Johnson, April 3, 2007.  
<sup>32</sup> Diggs, pp. 57-58.  
<sup>33</sup> Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, BA-2912, "Grace African Methodist Church, 67 ½ Winters Lane," BA-2912.  
<sup>34</sup> Diggs, p.64.  
<sup>35</sup> Diggs, pp. 72-73.  
<sup>36</sup> Diggs, pp. 76-78.  
<sup>37</sup> Diggs, pp. 88-129.  
<sup>38</sup> Diggs, p. 95.  
<sup>39</sup> Diggs, p. 95.  
<sup>40</sup> Diggs, p. 88.  
<sup>41</sup> Diggs, p. 114.  
<sup>42</sup> Orser and Arnold, p. 64.  
<sup>43</sup> Orser and Arnold, p. 167.  
<sup>44</sup> Brooks and Rockel, p. 381.  
<sup>45</sup> Brooks and Rockel, p. 460.

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- G.M. Hopkins, *Plan of Catonsville*, 1877.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Atlas of Catonsville*, 1910.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Atlas of Catonsville*, July 1919.

### Survey Documentation

- Baltimore County Historic Buildings Survey List*, District 1, BA 2139. Baltimore County Office of Planning, Towson, Maryland.
- Baltimore County Historic Buildings Survey List*, District 1, BA 2306. Baltimore County Office of Planning, Towson, Maryland.
- E.H.T. Tracerics, Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form BA-2912, "Grace African Methodist Church, 67 ½ Winters Lane." Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

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## UTM References

Baltimore West, MD quad

- A: 18-349721-4349581
- B: 18-350356-4348144
- C: 18-350026-4348261
- D: 18-349477-4349226
- E: 18-349558-4349526

## Verbal Boundary Description

The Winters Lane Historic District in Catonsville is a linear neighborhood located to the north of Frederick Road extending to the Baltimore National Pike. The historic district includes all those properties fronting Winters Lane between 21 Winters Lane to 313 Winters Lane. The district includes properties fronting Edmondson Avenue at its intersection with Winters Lane, and portions of Main Avenue, Roberts Avenue, Shipley Avenue, Leewood Avenue, Wesley Avenue, and Eastwood Avenue. Boundaries are depicted on the map which accompanies this documentation, and a comprehensive list of properties included within the district is enumerated in Section 7.

## Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Winters Lane Historic District are dictated by the heritage of the street as an African American neighborhood. Although the street was subdivided for and occupied by both whites and African Americans in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, by the second quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Winters Lane was a self-sufficient African American neighborhood including residential, commercial, social, educational, and religious properties. The United States Census Records and the *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps* support the boundaries of this historic district as a cohesive African American community within Catonsville. Properties excluded from the historic district were constructed outside the period of significance and/or have no direct African American association, including ownership, occupation, and/or patronage.

The district does not include two small surviving groups of related properties in the Harristown (north of the district) and Jones Town (east of the district) areas, because they are physically separated from the major concentration of properties along the Winters Lane corridor. Harristown, currently comprising three houses and a family cemetery, was separated from Winters Lane by the construction of a four-lane highway, Baltimore

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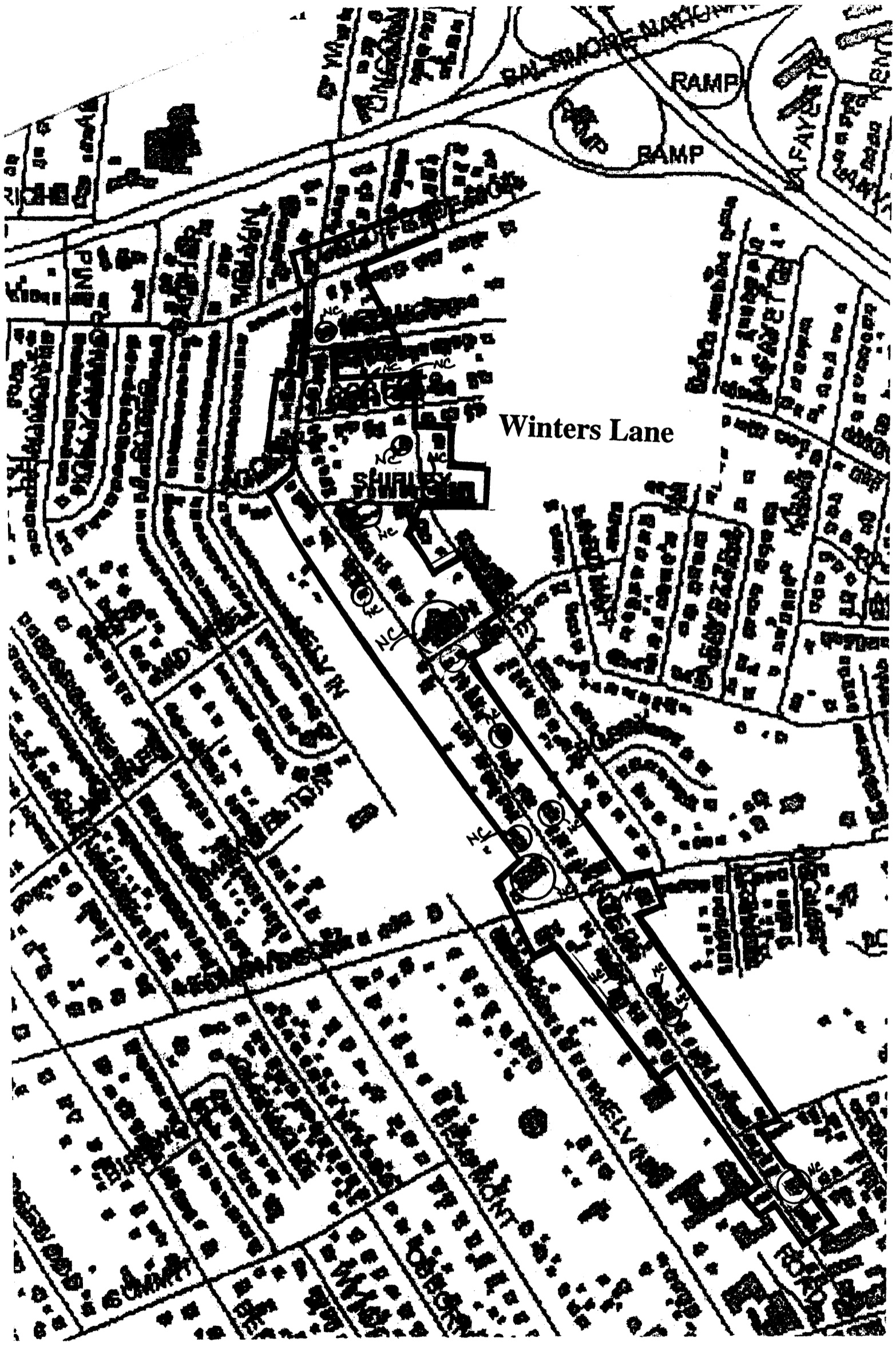
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National Pike (Route 40), which was laid in 1942 as part of a World War II defense effort. The Jones Town area was impacted by the commercial and residential growth of Catonsville during the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, which resulted in the razing of most of the dwellings and the loss of Jones Avenue. Only three houses with African American associations survive in the former Jones Town area, and they are surrounded by mid- to late-20<sup>th</sup>-century housing and late-20<sup>th</sup>-century commercial buildings. Because the outlying properties are so few in number, they do not meet National Register guidelines for consideration as discontinuous elements of the district, which require that discontinuous elements be substantial enough to convey the significance of the district on their own.

A commercial corridor is located to the south of the district on Frederick Avenue with late-20<sup>th</sup>-century rental housing to the northwest. Located to the immediate east of the neighborhood is the non-historic Banneker Community Center on Wesley Avenue and a park between Shipley Avenue and Old Frederick Road



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 Historic District Boundaries  
 nc—○ Non-Contributing Resources