



Smithsonian

*National Museum of African American History and Culture*

## Historical Records of Jones-Hall-Sims House

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Museum of African American History and Culture
<b>Title:</b>	Historical Records of Jones-Hall-Sims House
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAAHC.A2013.110
<b>Date:</b>	1978-1979
<b>Creator:</b>	McDaniel, George W.
<b>Extent:</b>	0.5 Cubic feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The Jones-Hall-Sims House also known as "Freedom House" is featured prominently in the NMAAHC <i>Defending Freedom, Defining Freedom: The Era of Segregation</i> exhibition. This collection reflects the research completed by historian Dr. George McDaniel documenting the history of the Jones-Hall-Sims House, the communities of Jonesville and Jerusalem.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Acquired as a gift of Dr. George W. McDaniel.

### Processing Information

Collection processed, arranged, and described by Ja-Zette Marshburn and Alana Donocoff in 2019 and 2020.

### Preferred Citation

Historical Records of the Jones-Hall-Sims House, National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Access to collection materials requires an appointment.

### Conditions Governing Use

The NMAAHC Archives can provide reproductions of some materials for research and educational use. Copyright and right to publicity restrictions apply and limit reproduction for other purposes.

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## Biographical / Historical

The Jones-Hall-Sims House, also referred to as the "Freedom House," is featured prominently within the permanent exhibition, *Defending Freedom, Defining Freedom: The Era of Segregation* of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). NMAAHC acquired the House in 2009. After disassembling the house at its original site in Maryland, it was reconstructed in the museum

and became a focal aspect of the main History gallery. The House was named for three of the families that owned and occupied it for several generations starting in 1874. The home was originally located in Jonesville, Maryland, near what is now classified as Poolesville, Maryland. The Jones-Hall-Sims House was located at 6 Jonesville Terrace.

The city of Jonesville was named after brothers Richard (1810-1880) and Erasmus (1823-1880) Jones. Jonesville was one of the earliest free African American communities in Montgomery County, Maryland. Most of the inhabitants of Jonesville were descendants of the town's founders. With ratification of 13th amendment effectively banning the practice of American slavery, many former plantation owners were forced to sell their land to the formerly enslaved people who wanted to create and sustain their own communities. Research indicates that Richard and Erasmus were likely enslaved by the Bruner family on their Aix la Chapelle plantation. It is believed that the Bruner family enslaved up to 5,400 African American men, women, and children before the Civil War. This included Henrietta Jones, (1778-1870) that research suggests was the mother of Richard and Erasmus. In 1874, Richard Jones purchased 9 acres of land on the former Aix la Chapelle plantation from the Bruner family for \$135.00. The sale was not formalized until the death of the landowner and head of the Bruner family, Joseph in 1874.

It is believed that the Jones-Hall-Sims House was built in approximately 1875. Research suggests that Richard Jones likely built the home with the help of his sons and neighbors. The original house was a wooden structure with two stories, three bays, and a side gabled roof covered in tin. Although Richard owned the house, it is unclear if he ever lived there. He transferred ownership of the house and land to his sons, John Henry (1853-1920) and Dennis (b. 1855) in 1876. John Henry and his wife Maria Jones are the first recorded occupants of the Jones-Hall-Sims House. Maria was the daughter of John Peters (b. 1825) a free-born blacksmith and an unidentified enslaved woman. John Peters also hailed from a longtime Jonesville family. Marrying John Henry in 1878, Maria was the first of her family who lived with her husband and children in the same home. In 1896, John Henry Jones sold the land the Jones-Hall-Sims House was located on to his brother Frank Jones and a friend, Levin Hall. The house was on Hall's property; therefore, the ownership was transferred to him.

In 1915, Elmer Jones, Richard's grandson, built a house nearby Jones-Hall-Sims House and made a home with his wife, Elnora Hall, Levin Hall's daughter. Elmer, a carpenter, known during that time as a "house wright," was responsible for rebuilding Elijah Methodist Church after it was damaged in a fire. Elmer's grandfather Richard was responsible for building the church, an integral part of the Jonesville community. After Elnora's death, Elmer married Hannah Jones; she would subsequently remain in that home until after Elmer's death in 1969.

In 1946, Annie E. Hall, Elnora's sister and Levin's daughter, transferred the land surrounding the Jones-Hall-Sims House to her daughter, Marion Hall. Marion married John Sims and they raised their son, Paul, in the historic home. In 1964, returning home from his service in Air Force, Paul married Barbara (b. 1944) and returned home where they lived with his father, John. In 1989, John passed away and transferred the property to his son. Like his father, Paul raised his children and grandchildren in the home. The families in the home were always self-sufficient, hunting and farming for their food, growing orchards and gardens, and making their own wine. Featured frequently in the collection are images of hog butchering, a main source of income throughout the home's history. Hog butchering was a joyous occasion, celebrated with food and drink by the whole community.

From 1978-9, Dr. George McDaniel conducted a historical survey of African American communities in upper western Montgomery County, Maryland. McDaniel worked with the preservation organization, Sugarloaf Regional Trails and the Maryland Historical Trust to conduct the survey. The purpose was to document important African American historical communities and homes in the area as they were rapidly disappearing. The survey was also used to obtain historical designation from the Maryland Historical Trust for the home in applications date for 1979 and 1985. Unfortunately, the house did not successfully receive the designation. At the time of the survey, McDaniel was a Ph.D. student at Duke University studying traditional African American home and customs. The study included research on the homes, churches, and schools through artifacts, photographs, and oral histories. At the time of the survey, Paul Sims owned and lived in the home. From his findings, McDaniel published *Black Historical Resources in Upper Western Montgomery County* and *A Living Black Heritage* focused on 11 African American communities including Jonesville and Sugarland.

In 2000, the family lost ownership of the home and it was purchased by Maryland resident, Brad Rhoderick with the intent to demolish the property to build a new home for his family. The Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission was not able to designate the Jones-Hall-Sims House for historical preservation because of the many changes done by later generations who lived in the home, so they turned to NMAAHC for help. They worked together to acquire the house as quickly as possible to ensure the rich history presented by the home was preserved.

### **Historical Timeline**

1778	Henrietta Jones was born. Research suggests she was the mother of Richard and Erasmus Jones.
c. 1810	Richard Jones was born.
c. 1820s	Richard Jones married Evelyn (b. 1820).
1825	John Peters was born.
1850	Levin Hall was born. Frank Jones is born to Richard and Evelyn Jones (b. 1820).
1853	John Henry Jones was born to Richard and Evelyn Jones.
1855	Dennis Jones was born to Richard and Evelyn Jones.
1858	Maria E. Peters was born to John Peters and unidentified enslaved woman.
1864	Maryland ratified the Emancipation Proclamation.
1870	Henrietta Jones passed away.
1874	Richard Jones purchased 9 acres of land from the Aix la Chapelle plantation. Richard purchased the land that became Jonesville, named after founders Richard and Erasmus Jones.
1875	Jones-Hall-Sims House was built.
1878	John Henry married Maria E. Peters.
1876	Richard Jones bequeathed the House and land to his sons, John Henry (m. Marie E.) and Dennis Jones (m. Mary V.)
1879	Frank Jones, son of Richard and Rachael Jones, married Ruth (1858-1931).
1880	Dennis Jones married Mary (b. 1862). Richard Jones passed away.
1888	Elmer Jones was born to John Henry Jones and an unknown woman.
1891	Elnora Hall was born to Levin and Ruth Hall.
1896	John Henry Jones sold the House to his brother Frank Jones and friend Levin Hall splitting the property in half. The Jones-Hall-Sims House was located on Hall's land.
1898	John Sims was born.
1902	Marian Hall was born to Annie E. Hall and unknown man.
1915	Elmer Jones built his own home in Jonesville near the Jones-Hall-Sims House and lived with his wife Elnora Hall Jones (daughter of Levin Hall).
1920	Marian Hall married John Sims. Elnora Hall Jones and John Henry Jones passed away.

1924	Annie E. Hall inherits the land from her father, Levin Hall.
1936	Paul Sims was born and raised by Elmer Jones, husband to Elnora Hall.
1946	Marion Hall Sims (daughter of Annie E. Hall) inherited the land and passed it on to her husband John Sims.
1969	Elmer Jones passed away, leaving his own house to his widow Hannah Jones (1902-1984).
1978-1979	Dr. George McDaniel conducted a historical survey of the black communities in Montgomery County, Maryland.
1989	John Sims passed away. Paul Sims inherits the home from his father, John Sims.
1984-c. 1995	Paul and Barbara Sims lived with their children and grandchildren. John Sims lived with his family until he passed away in 1989.
2000	The family sold the land.
2008	Jones-Hall-Sims House was purchased by Brad Rhoderick with the intention to demolish the house and rebuild a new one.
2009	Jones-Hall-Sims House was acquired by the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

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## Scope and Contents

The Historical Records of Jones-Hall-Sims House consists of the research that historian Dr. George McDaniel and his team completed in order to document African American communities in western Montgomery County, Maryland. The collection consists of photographs and oral history transcripts collected about the families and community members that occupied the historic home and the surrounding Jonesville community. The bulk of the materials were created and collected during 1978-1979.

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## Arrangement

The materials in this collection have been kept at the folder level and separated into three series. The materials have been ordered and organized based on the content. Within each series and subseries, the folders are organized as close to the collection's original order as when it was acquired.

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## Bibliography

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

- American South
- Communities
- Domestic life
- Emancipation
- Families
- Free communities of color
- Housing
- Local and Regional
- Photographs
- Religions

### Types of Materials:

- Oral histories (document genres)

### Places:

- Poolesville (Md.)
- United States of America -- Maryland -- Montgomery County -- Potomac

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Photographs

Scope and Contents: Materials in this series include photographs of the Jones-Hall-Sims House, the Jonesville community and its members, many of whom are Richard Jones' descendants. Jonesville was later renamed Poolesville. Also included are photographs from the Jerusalem Community that was integrally connected to Poolesville, Maryland.

#### 1.1: Photographs of the Jones-Hall-Sims House

Box 1, Folder 1	Jones-Hall-Sims House, undated
Box 1, Folder 1	Jones-Hall-Sims House, undated
Box 1, Folder 1	Jones-Sims House, Jonesville, MD, West Gable End, undated
Box 1, Folder 1	Jones-Sims House, Jonesville, MD, West Gable End, undated
Box 1, Folder 1	Jones-Hall House, East Side, Jonesville, 1978
Box 1, Folder 1	Jones-Hall House, East Side, Jonesville, 1978
Box 1, Folder 1	Jones-Hall House, Detail in front of house, Jonesville, 1978
Box 1, Folder 1	Jones-Hall-House, Rear length: North and West side, Jonesville, 1978

#### 1.2: Photographs of Descendants

Box 1, Folder 2	Elmer Jones and first wife Nora E. (Hall) Jones / Jonesville, undated
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#### 1.3: Photographs of Jonesville

Box 1, Folder 3	Elmer Jones House, N-E Elevation, Montgomery County, Jonesville, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Elmer Jones House, N-E Elevation Montgomery County, Jonesville, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Solomon Owens House, N.W. Elevation, Jonesville, 1978
Box 1, Folder 5	Interior: Mary Davis (Jones) House Jonesville, Md, 1978
Box 1, Folder 5	Interior: Mary Davis (Jones) House Jonesville, Md, 1978
Box 1, Folder 5	Interior: Mary Davis (Jones) House Jonesville, Md, 1978



Box 1, Folder 5	Interior: Mary Davis (Genus) House Jonesville, Md, 1978
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Box 1, Folder 5	Interior: Mary Davis (Genus) House Jonesville, Md, 1978
Box 1, Folder 5	Interior: Mary Davis (Genus) House Jonesville, Md, 1978
Box 1, Folder 5	Interior: Mary Davis (Genus) House Jonesville, Md, 1978
Box 1, Folder 6	Montgomery Chapel [illegible], undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Cemetery in the woods, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	Unknown house, undated

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#### 1.4: Hog Butchering at Jones-Hall-Sims House

Box 1, Folder 8	Butchered hog, 1978
Box 1, Folder 8	Butchered hog, 1978
Box 1, Folder 8	Unidentified man and boy, 1978
Box 1, Folder 8	Outdoor structures, 1978
Box 1, Folder 8	Unidentified man and boys butchering hog, 1978
Box 1, Folder 8	Unidentified man and boys butchering hog, 1978
Box 1, Folder 8	Unidentified man and boys butchering hog, 1978
Box 1, Folder 9	Butchered hog, 1978
Box 1, Folder 9	Unidentified man butchering hog, 1978
Box 1, Folder 9	Unidentified man, 1978
Box 1, Folder 9	Unidentified man butchering hog, 1978
Box 1, Folder 9	Unidentified man butchering hog, 1978
Box 1, Folder 9	Unidentified man butchering hog, 1978
Box 1, Folder 9	Unidentified man butchering hog, 1978
Box 1, Folder 9	Unidentified man and boy butchering hog, 1978

Box 1, Folder 9      Unidentified man standing in doorway, 1978

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### 1.5: Photographs of Jerusalem

Box 1, Folder 10	Betty Genus holding a painting in Jerusalem, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Betty Genus wife of Horace Genus, Jonesville Community, 1978
Box 1, Folder 11	Children of William Moore, Montgomery County, Jerusalem, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Foster son of William Moore (grandson) and William Moore, Montgomery County, Jerusalem, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	William Moore House, South length: façade, Jerusalem [photocopy], undated
Box 1, Folder 11	William Moore at Hamilton House, Jerusalem Community, Poolesville vicinity, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Mary Lyles, Montgomery County, Jerusalem, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Mary Robinson Lyles, Montgomery County, Jerusalem, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Mary Robinson Lyles, Montgomery County, Jerusalem, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	William Lyles House, Jerusalem, South gable end, 1978
Box 1, Folder 13	Beulah Lee Clark, Montgomery County, Jerusalem, undated
Box 1, Folder 13	Millard Clark, Montgomery County, Jerusalem, undated
Box 1, Folder 14	Frank Dorsey, Montgomery County, Jerusalem, 1978
Box 1, Folder 14	Frank Dorsey House, South Gable End, Jerusalem, 1978
Box 1, Folder 14	Frank Dorsey House, Montgomery County, Jerusalem, undated
Box 1, Folder 14	Frank Dorsey House, undated
Box 1, Folder 14	Frank Dorsey House, undated
Box 1, Folder 15	Poolesville School, Jerusalem, 1978
Box 1, Folder 15	Poolesville School, Jerusalem, 1978
Box 1, Folder 15	Poolesville School, Jerusalem, 1978
Box 1, Folder 15	Poolesville School, Jerusalem, 1978

Box 1, Folder 16	Large group of unidentified men, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Unidentified man holding frame, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Unidentified man and woman, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Unidentified girl wearing "Montgomery Country Recreation" shirt, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Unidentified girl, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Unidentified girl, undated
Box 1, Folder 17	Dennis and Henrietta Hamilton House, Jerusalem Community, Poolesville vicinity, undated
Box 1, Folder 17	Dennis and Henrietta Hamilton House, North length (rear), Jerusalem community, Poolesville vicinity, undated
Box 1, Folder 18	Elijah's Rest M.E. Church Cemetery, West View, Jerusalem Community, Poolesville vicinity, undated
Box 1, Folder 18	Elijah's Rest M.E. Church, East Elevation (façade), Jerusalem Community, Poolesville vicinity, undated
Box 1, Folder 18	Elijah's Rest M.E. Church, N. E. Elevation, Jerusalem Community, Poolesville vicinity, undated
Box 1, Folder 18	Elijah's Rest M.E. Church, undated
Box 1, Folder 19	Jerusalem Church cemetery, Jerusalem, GWM, 1978
Box 1, Folder 19	Jerusalem Baptist Church, East Elevation Façade, Jerusalem, 1978

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## 1.6: Negatives and Contact Sheets from George McDaniel Survey

Box 1, Folder 20	Interior of Charlie Tanner's house, Jonesville by George McDaniel, undated
Box 1, Folder 20	Charles Tanner, Jonesville, photos by George McDaniel, undated
Box 1, Folder 20	Sims Family and students from Montgomery County Community College, Jonesville, pictures by George McDaniel, undated
Box 1, Folder 20	Negatives of hog butchering, 1978

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## Series 2: Oral Histories

Scope and Contents: Materials in this series are comprised of typed transcripts of oral histories conducted by George McDaniel with descendants of Richard Jones and members of the Jonesville and surrounding communities.

Box 1, Folder 21	Ethel Foreman History, Clarksburg Maryland by George McDaniel, 1979
Box 1, Folder 21	Ethel Foreman History, Clarksburg Maryland by George McDaniel [photocopy with handwritten notes] , 1979
Box 1, Folder 22	Interview with Arnold and Joe Hawkins, Clarksburg, Maryland by George McDaniel, 1979
Box 1, Folder 22	Interview with Arnold and Joe Hawkins, Clarksburg, Maryland by George McDaniel [photocopy with handwritten notes], 1979
Box 1, Folder 23	Interview with Tilghman Lee and his wife in the Sugarloaf community by George McDaniel, Phil Mudd, Ann Fitzgerald, Steve Doolittle, and Billy Kelly [photocopy], 1979
Box 1, Folder 24	Interview with Tilghman Lee and Paul Wilson. Sugarland community, Montgomery County, Maryland by George McDaniel, Mary Sue Nunn, Phil Mudd, Bill Kenny and Gail Rothrock, 1979
Box 1, Folder 25	Interview with Tilghman Lee, Ida Hallman at St. Paul's Community Church, Sugarland, undated
Box 1, Folder 26	Interview with Adella Cravens and Hester Hamilton for the NAACP Summer Freedom School by George McDaniel, 1979
Box 1, Folder 27	Interview with Evelyn Herbert and Lemuel Graham, Martinsburg, Maryland by George McDaniel and Judy Docca, 1979
Box 1, Folder 27	Interview with Evelyn Herbert and Lemuel Graham, Martinsburg, Maryland by George McDaniel and Judy Docca, 1979
Box 1, Folder 28	Interview with Howard Lyles, Jerusalem, Maryland [photocopy with handwritten notes], 1979
Box 1, Folder 29	Interview with Howard Lyles, Jerusalem community, Maryland by George McDaniel and Phil Mudd, 1979
Box 1, Folder 29	Interview with Howard Lyles, Jerusalem community, Maryland by George McDaniel and Phil Mudd [photocopy with handwritten notes] , 1979
Box 1, Folder 30	Interview with Joshua and Fanny Hamilton, and daughter in Jerusalem, Maryland by George McDaniel, Mary Sue Nunn, Phil Mudd, 1979

Box 1, Folder 31 Interview with Ora Lyles, Jerusalem community, Maryland by George McDaniel, Anne Fitzgerald, Phil Mudd and Bill Kelly, 1979

Box 1, Folder 31 Interview with Ora Lyles, Jerusalem community, Maryland by George McDaniel, Phil Mudd, Bill Kenny, Ann Fitzgerald, 1979

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## Series 3: Reference Material

Scope and Contents: Materials in this series include photocopies of photographs.

Box 1, Folder 32      Photograph of unidentified man holding framed portrait [photocopy], undated

Box 1, Folder 32      Photograph of unknown house [photocopy], undated

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