

Robinette Log Cabin  
AL-111-C-135  
Valley Road  
near Cumberland  
ca. 1860

This log cabin is representative of a popular form of housing for western Maryland residents in the 18th and 19th centuries. The "Little Valley Farm" was purchased by Solomon Rice in 1860, and this cabin was probably built shortly thereafter. The farm has been owned by the Robinette family for eighty years, since 1899. The original log cabin has "V" notching of the logs, and rests on stones in the corners. The cabin is abutted by two additions, one of them an Italianate-style, which is unusual for a rural area of Allegany County.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Rice Log Cabin

AND/OR COMMON

Robinette Log Cabin

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Valley Road

Sixth

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

 VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES- RESTRICTED  
 YES- UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Thornton W. Robinette

Telephone #: 724-4229

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Valley Road

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

 VICINITY OFSTATE zip code  
Maryland 21502**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 261  
Folio #: 97

STREET &amp; NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE  
Maryland 21502**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

AL-III-C-135

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

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Robinette Log Cabin stands on the eastern side of Valley Road near Cumberland.

This building originally consisted of a one and one-half story, two bays wide structure. Wall construction is of logs with "V" notching. The log walls are partially covered with vertical and horizontal planks nailed to the logs.

The original cabin rests on stones at the corners. The gable flank roof, covered with asphalt shingles, is extended to cover the porch on the southwest. Eaves consist of a simple overhanging cornice with a bed mould.

The offset entrance on the southwest is an old vertical board door with original hardware. Windows are pegged with six over six lights. One casement window is in the southeastern gable.

The first addition is a shed roofed board and batten kitchen that rests on wooden posts. An outside end corbeled brick chimney is on this addition.

A square Italianate addition, two stories tall and three bays wide, is on the northwest. Wall construction is a board and batten except for a covering of german siding on the northwest. This addition rests on a high random rubble stone foundation with a plain water table. Eaves consist of a bracketed box cornice and soffit on the northwest. An outside end cinderblock chimney is on the northeast. The entrance in the center of the northwest is a vertical board door with original hardware. Pedimented windows are pegged with six over six lights and wooden slipsills. One six over three light window is on the northeast side of this addition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Log Cabin was the most popular form of housing for western Maryland residents at the end of the eighteenth century, and the building of them continued well into the nineteenth century.<sup>(1)</sup> " Privacy was an unknown luxury; most families lived, cooked, worked, and slept within the confines of a single room." <sup>(2)</sup>

This farm property was bought by Solomon Rice in 1860, and the log cabin was probably built shortly thereafter.<sup>(3)</sup> The farm was known as " Little Valley Farm;" it was bought by Oliver and Alice Robinette in 1899, and has been owned by the Robinette family since then.<sup>(4)</sup>

The original log cabin has "V" notching of the logs, and it rests on stones at the corners. The cabin is abutted by a board and batten kitchen addition and a square Italianate addition- All the structures together present an unusual picture, and the Italianate-style addition is unique for a rural area of Allegany County.

(1) Harry Stegmaier, et al, Allegany County- A History (Parsons, W Va.; McClain Printing Co.) P. 59

(2) Ibid

(3) Allegany County Land Records, Liber 19, Folio 657

(4) Ibid Liber 84, Foilo 573

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Stegmaier, Harry et al, Allegheny County- A History (Parsons, W. Va: McClain Printing Co.,) P. 59

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 40.25 Acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

David A. Dorsey, Historic Sites Coordinator  
Shara Goodwin, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Allegheny County Historic Site Survey

DATE

April 19, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

3 Pershing Street

TELEPHONE

777-5944

CITY OR TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

TITLE SEARCH

Robinette Log Cabin  
A1-111-C-135

Allegany County Deed: Liber 261, Folio 97  
Grantee: Thornton W. and Grace V. Robinette  
Grantor: A. Marteene Manges, Trustee

Date: July 21, 1954

Allegany County Deed: Liber 261, Folio 95  
Grantee: A. Marteene Manges, Trustee  
Grantor: Thornton W. and Grace V. Robinette  
Notes: Robinette did this so his wife would be co-owner

Date: July 21, 1954

Allegany County Deed: Liber 208, Folio 146  
Grantee: Thornton W. Robinette  
Grantor: Wiley E. Robinette, et al

Date: March 25, 1946

Allegany County Deed: Liber 190, Folio 489  
Grantee: Nora and Wiley E. Robinette (Brother and sister)  
Grantor: Alice Robinette  
Notes: Called "Little Valley Farm"

Date: July 9, 1941

Allegany County Deed: Liber 84, Folio 573  
Grantee: Oliver and Alice Robinette  
Grantor: Andrew M and Sara E. Rice  
Notes: "Little Valley Farm"

Date: February 23, 1899  
Consideration: \$900

Allegany County Deed: Liber 56, Folio 563  
Grantee: Sara E. Rice  
Grantor: John B. Widener, Trustee

Date: June 25, 1881  
Consideration: \$710

Allegany County Deed: Liber 19, Folio 657  
Grantee: Solomon Rice (of John)  
Grantor: John Gephart and William Hoblitzell  
executors of John Valentine  
Notes: "Little Valley Farm"

Date: September 14, 1860  
Consideration \$400

INVENTORY NO: 52

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

AL-111-C  
9/8 = 135

NAME OF PROPERTY: Robinette Log CABIN

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: Valley Rd.

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: 270° SW

Tax Map #15  
NAME OF OWNER: Thornton W. Robinette - 201 F. 197 40.25 Acres p. 256

ADDRESS: reportedly pre civil war

ph. # 724-4229

STORIES: 1( / ) 2( ) 3( ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) BAYS: 1( ) 2( / ) 3( ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) 7( ) ( )

WINGS, ADDITIONS: Add Fram Board n Batten Flat roof 6/6 peg random stone

DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular) italianate Brackets

WALL CONSTRUCTION: Add Shed on SE of orig 6/35 4

- ( ) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?) V notching
- ( ) BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
- ( ) STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
- ( / ) LOG
- ( / ) OTHER: Coverings vertical planks on NE

WALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others

FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone stone on corners of log

WATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded Brick

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1( ) 2/2( ) 6/6( / ) 9/6( ) 9/9( ) other( )  
pegged( / ) nailed( ) wide( ) narrow( ) mitred( ) pediment( ) on Add.

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: SW - 2 panels, 1 light  
HARDWARE: original( ) replaced( / )  
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN  
Paneled, Vertical, Horizontal Boards

simple overhang  
none on add

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed) roof extends over porch  
original( ) replaced( ) rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architrave

ROOF: italianate Bar cornice  
Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers #  
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt; original( ) replaced( )

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed( ) hip( ) gable( ) one outside end concrete block

CHIMNEYS: Number: 2 \* on add Brick( / ) Stone( ) Corbeled( / ) original( ) replaced( / )  
Location: Flush end( ) Inside end( ) Outside end( / ) Central( ) Interior( )

ARCHES: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:  
USE: \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNIFICANCE: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE CONSTRUCTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
CONDITION: \_\_\_\_\_





AL-111-C-135

RICE LOG CABIN

VALLEY RD CUMBERLAND

DAVID A. DORSEY

9/18/78

Northwest



Al-M-e-135

RICE COG CABIN

VALLEY RD CUMBERLAND

David A. Dorsey

9/18/78

East



AL-111-C-135

RICE COG CABIN  
Valley Rd Cumberland

David A. Dorsey

9/18/78

Northwest