0202095535
AA-31-0-a
(209)
(map 26)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

AA-209

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
"Willow Lake Farm" house

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
West Side of Rte. 2

CITY OR TOWN:
mile South of Davidsonville

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Anne Arundel

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☒ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☒ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☒ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Alfred J. Suraci

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Davidsonville

STATE: Maryland

21035

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE

Map #58, ~~E.D.~~ A.D. #1, Parcel #26, Liber/Folio#2056/147

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

PS-709

AA-609

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered		☐ Moved	☒ Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (*If known*) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Willow Lake Farm" is a large tract of land with several houses on it. This house is the oldest and stands on the most prominent site at the top of a hill overlooking Hundley Pond. The 2 1/2 story brick house was built about 1870. It has a center hall plan, one room deep. The facade has three bays. A gable containing a small, circular attic window covers the center bay. The interior has been modernized; the chimneys closed and the floors covered with linoleum. The moldings and stair are original. The name J. Henry Sellman appears with this house on the 1878 map of the County. The house is now occupied by the farm manager.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- ☐ Pre-Columbian
- ☐ 15th Century
- ☐ 16th Century
- ☐ 17th Century
- ☐ 18th Century
- ☒ 19th Century
- ☐ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal
- ☐ Prehistoric
- ☐ Historic

- ☒ Agriculture
- ☒ Architecture
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Commerce
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Invention
- ☐ Landscape Architecture
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Political
- ☐ Religion/Philosophy
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Sculpture
- ☐ Social/Humanitarian
- ☐ Theater
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Urban Planning
- ☐ Other *(Specify)* _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY									OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE						LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds				Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"				°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"									
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"									
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"									

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF ~~NOMINATED~~ PROPERTY: 318 acres

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

ORGANIZATION | DATE

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: | STATE

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

AA-209

Form No 10-300a
(R 74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

Willow Lake Farm House
Anne Arundel County
Maryland

ADDENDUM
~~CONTINUATION~~ SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE

(DESCRIPTION CORRECTED)

The house on the photos was built in 1906 according to the landowners. It is currently being restored. It is a ballon frame house, pegged and corner supports with a brick covering.

The 1870 house is located west of the house on the map. It was dismantled in the 1940's. The staircase, shutters, and windows are stored in a barn on the land. The current owners have bought additional acreage, and now own 550 acres of land.

Hundley Pond is now Willow Lake Pond officially as of 1974.

Sellman lived in the early house, but not in the house in the photos. It is the oldest house on the farm. There is another house built around 1906-1912 on the farm also.

The 1906 house burned a few years ago. The central double fireplaces are gone, a new fireplace has been put in. Parts of the ballon framing are incorporated into the restoration by the landowners.

Leland Gilsen
Maryland Historical Trust
21 State Circle, Shaw House
Annapolis, MD 21401
(301) 269-2438
7/26/78

Survey 6/24/87 Birdsville Rd. - S. Wetherill

AA-209

"Little Clifton" (Willow Lake Farm)

(black history) Emory Davis built this house in 1915-17.
His daughter Ethel Davis Sharps (b.c. 1907) ~~photo color #1 (2)~~
lives there now. INTERVIEW: ~~bl/wh. #1-3 (4)~~
She received HUD (CDBG) money in
1982 to renovate the house: new vinyl
siding over the old weatherboard, indoor plumbing
and central heat.

3-bay I-house, full-width front porch, rear el.

This property was part of the old Sellman farm (which originally extended to both sides of ~~[illegible]~~ Birdsville Rd.) ~~(see 1860 and 1878 maps)~~ -
- known as "Clifton" while the Sellmans owned it.
Now called "Willow Lake Farm"
Ethel's gr. father Nathaniel Davis, plus his two brothers
Joe and Dave, and sisters all worked and lived at
Clifton, as farmhands and Chambermaids. Her
gr. father and grandmother, Sarah, lived in the summer
kitchen bldg where Sarah worked. Her father Emory
was born there, then he tenant-farmed on Nathan
Child's land opposite Davidsonville store and
on site of Homestead Nurseries.
Miss Lucy Sellman sold "Clifton" to Mr. Simmons, he
to Ben Hundley and Ben to present owner Dr. Suraci
from College Park (?) who spends weekends etc. there,
living in the brick house close to road. His caretaker
and farmer is Arthur Dove.

Ethel's property is called "Little Clifton".
She has an old photo of her gr. father and Mr. Simmons
standing behind the orig. Sellman mainhouse (which is
gone now): it was white clapboard with porch galleries
across first and 2nd floors at rear brick foundation.

see attached copy-photo of this old photo, here in file.

AA-209 "Clifton"

Chain of Title notes (July 1987):
obtained by interviews with ① Ethel Davis Sharps (b. 1907) (occupant of "Little Clifton" across Bridgeville Rd.) and ② Arthur Dove, farm mgr. for Dr. Suraci, current owner of "Clifton" (now known as "Willow Lake Farm").

1860 Martenet map - "Mrs. Sellman", owner.

1878 Hopkins Map - "Res. - J. Henry Sellman, 232 a."

c. 1900 - occupied by sisters Miss Lucy Sellman, Miss Sophie Sellman (who died in a horse accident), and their brother Stockett Sellman. The main house at the Sellman farm was 2-story frame, side-hall Federal-style, 3-bay with door in left bay. 2-story wing/left side. Classical-columned entry-porch. Double-gallery full-width screened porches on rear elevation/main block. 1-story kitchen wing left end of 2-story wing. (See accompanying copies of 1934 photos of the house; originals in possession of Ethel Sharps.)

1906 - ~~Sellman~~ Stockett Sellman built a house east of the above-described main house. Today it is a 5-bay brick I-house, but Mrs. Sharps thinks it was frame with weatherboard-siding when first built. It has apparently been veneered with brick. Shallow roof pitch. 6/9 windows. Cross-gable at attic level with circular window.

1934 - Mr. Oliver Simmons from Cleveland, Ohio, came as a prospective buyer to see the farm. He took (pictures) and sent copies to Emory Davis, Ethel Sharps' father.

See attached copy-photos of these 1934 photos, in file

1935 - Mr. Simmons bought the farm from Miss Lucy who was at least 60 yrs. old by then.
Under Mr. Simmons' ownership the farm fields were left untended and allowed to grow up.

c. 1940 - The farm was sold to Ben Hundley who enlisted the help of

the Soil Conservation Office to put the fields back into production: corn, hay, and oat crops. He built a new brick barn c. 1942-4.

He built a neo-Georgian-style 2-story brick house with wings for himself, close to Birdsville Rd., to the north of the farm entrance. He may have demolished the old main house about this time, because Mrs. Sharps believes he re-used the porch columns off the old house for the front portico on his new house (see accompanying of new house.) There is also a rumor that the staircase from the old house is stored in one of the barns on the property.

Mr. Hundley built two small brick tenant houses (2-story 2-bay), one near the new brick barn, the other to the right of the entrance road opposite the lake.

Perhaps he's the one who veneered the Stockett Sellman House since he seemed to like brick quite well.

Mr. Hundley hired Arthur Dove to farm for him.

c. 1960's – Property sold to Dr. Suraci, current owner, a plastic surgeon from Washington who uses the farm for weekend and summer retreats. He occupies the neo-Georgian house, his daughter the tenant hse near the lake, and Arthur Dove the tenant house near the brick barn. The Stockett Sellman Hse. is rented.

Dr. Suraci's name for the property is "Willow Lake Farm". He has acquired parts of two other farms which adjoin his land on the west side and extend to Wayson Rd. One of them is the Asher farm which contains an old pegged tobacco barn (abandoned) and a hip-roofed 2-bay tenant hse (rough shape) on Elmer Hagner Rd. which he rents. The main Asher hse he burned down 10 yrs ago.

Notes by S. Weatherill 7/87

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aa-31-0-a (map 26)

"Willow Lake Farm"
House
North Elevation

amb 12-74

AA-209
CLIFTON.
Davidsonville, A.A. Co. MD
S. Wetherill, 6/87
SE corner of Stockett Sellman's house, built 1906, east of orig. ~~Sellm~~ Clifton hse.

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CLIFTON
Davidsonville
A.A. Co. MD.
Copy-photo by S. Wetherill 8/87
1934 facade, N. elev. of orig.
Clifton farmhse. (demol. c. 1940's).

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CLIFTON
Davidsonville, A.A.Co. MD.
Copy-photo by S. Wetherill, 8/87.
SE corner (1934) of original
Clifton farmhse. (demol. 1940's)

AA-209 (1934)
CLIFTON
Davidsonville, A.A.Co. MD.
copy-photo by S. Wetherill, 8/87.
detail, S. elev. of orig. Clifton
farmhouse.
Right to left: Oliver Simmons; Nathaniel
Davis; friend of Simmons.