

BA 2066

MAYS TENANT HOUSE

1877-1898

HEREFORD

PRIVATE

The small, two-story, vernacular style, frame and clapboard house is completely rectangular, 26 by 16 feet, with only a platform for a front porch. The end walls are blank except for small square attic windows. The gable roof is covered with wood shingles. This dwelling sits on a flat place bordering cultivated fields (as of 1980) and is often suspected of being a tollgate keeper's dwelling shown in atlases of 1877 and after. However, tax records prove that this house existed in parallel with the tollgate dwelling, and the tollgate structure was only worth \$100 in the 1911 assessment and had been deleted from the records by the time of the 1918 ledgers. The tenant house is first found in the 1898 atlas and was probably built by G. Albert Mays, a prominent farmer of Verona or Sparks neighborhood. (District 7)

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC MAYS TENANT HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

16,129 York Road

CITY, TOWN

Hereford

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Joseph Buedel

Telephone #: 823-4284

STREET & NUMBER

1316 Stonebridge Court

CITY, TOWN

Towson

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: GLB 3176

Folio #: 262

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

BA-2066

7 DESCRIPTION

MAYS TENANT HOUSE

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mays Tenant House is a small, two-story frame structure of rectangular design, vernacular in style, without any wings or protuberances, measuring only 26 x 16 in old tax ledgers. The building brings to mind tollhouses, although it was never more than a residence. It is three bays wide, with its door in the middle bay, suggesting a center-hall plan, if plan there was in so plain a house. The door is of contemporary manufacture, with six small, square window lights in the upper half and two panels in the lower half. The door is set in a plain frame; it opens onto a square, unsheltered wooden porch or platform of recent installation, one step above grade.

The house is two bays deep but the end walls are blank except for two small, square windows of one light each installed at attic level in each end.

Roofing is wood shingles or shakes. The eaves overhang noticeably at the ends and also to some extent at the front of the house. There are two inside brick end-chimneys with corbelled caps. Wall covering is of cream-colored aluminum siding.

Foundation is stone, about a foot of it exposed on the highway facade. On the southside of the house is a rectangular opening or window in the foundation allowing access to crawl space under the house.

This dwelling sits on a flat place bordering cultivated fields to the west, screened by only a few trees. Until the recent construction of a subdivision on the eastside of York Road, it was completely isolated. Even at present, viewed from the east, it still looks like a desolate place for a residence.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1877-98?

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The main reason for identifying the Mays Tenant House is to dispose of the tempting theory that it is the surviving dwelling of a turnpike gatekeeper. The only structure shown on the westside of the York Road by the 1877 Hopkins county atlas is marked "Tollgate." Bromley's atlases of both 1898 and 1915 show a tollgate plus a structure identified as the "Mays" house. (1)

In 1911, when the private toll road company was going out of business, the President and Managers sold to G. Albert Mays the gatehouse lot that had been in their possession since 1812. (2) The 1911 tax ledger shows that when the book was set up, G. Albert Mays' account already included a tenant house (the site under discussion here), which was assessed at \$300. (3)

In 1916, the widow and heirs of G. Albert Mays conveyed tracts of 190 acres and of one acre to John P. Mays. (4) The one-acre tract was the former tollgate lot. A new account was established for John P. Mays in the still-current 1911 tax ledger, and the entries demonstrate that he owned a \$300 tenant house plus:

1 acre at Verona	\$50
Gate House B & Y T. Co.	250.

The entry "B. & Y. T. Co." indicates the former owner of the lot, the turnpike company, as was the custom of assessors. (5)

However, by 1918, when a new assessment book was prepared and the owner's name spelled John P. Meays, the tenant house still existed, now worth \$343, and measured at 26 x 16, but the "Gate House" had dropped off the list, unless it was the structure listed as "other building," an improvement assessed at \$100. (6)

In 1976, authors of two local histories interviewed Webster Bosley, then age 90-plus, and were told that the original turnpike gatekeeper's house had been torn down; it stood to

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued)

the south of the Mays tenant house. (7) This house survives and is an isolated structure surrounded by agricultural land to the west, although a subdivision has been developed on the eastside of the York Road. All available clues would suggest that the structure was put up between the atlases of 1877 and 1898. It remained in the Mays family until 1937. (8)

NOTES:

1. G. M. Hopkins, Atlas of Baltimore County Maryland (Philadelphia, 1877), Eighth District plate. G. W. Bromley, Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, 1898, 1915), Plates ___ and 39.
2. Baltimore County Deeds, WPC 378:577.
3. Tax Ledger, District 8, 1911, f. 314.
4. Baltimore County Deeds, WPC 456:572.
5. Tax Ledger, District 8, 1911, f. 335.
6. Tax Ledger, District 8, 1918, f. 384.
7. Personal communication from Shirley B. Clemens, Monkton, 1980.
8. Baltimore County Deeds, CWB JR. 1018:122. Also, Judicial Records, CWB Jr. 426:145, 149. Baltimore County Plats, GLB 24:30 (1957).

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

MAYS TENANT HOUSE

Baltimore County Deeds, Judicial Records, Plats, and Tax Ledgers.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 90.998

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

House stands on westside of York Road (Md. 45) in large parcel of agricultural land. Site is 430 feet south of Cold Bottom Road. (Map 22, Parcel P87).

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

STATE NONE COUNTY NONE

STATE NONE COUNTY NONE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John W. McGrain, Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore County Office of Planning and Zoning

DATE

June 25, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

TELEPHONE

494-3495

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

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



MAYS TENANT HOUSE BA 2066
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain, March 1980
Neg. located at MHT
Main (east) facade