

CAR-66  
Douglas House  
Preston  
Private

Circa 1875 and earlier

Between the Chapel of the Ephiphany and the Old Preston Savings Bank is a handsome Victorian frame dwelling with an earlier rear wing. It was constructed by Col. James Douglas, successful farmer and businessman who was associated with the Blooming Iron Works near Smithville, a short-lived enterprise similar to Nassawang<sup>o</sup> in Worcester County.

The dwelling has an early vernacular rear section, part of which was heightened, and a superior Victorian facade with Eastlake overtones. There is also an early 19th Century outbuilding which has been converted to a garage.

060665604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Douglas House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

South side of Route 331

CITY, TOWN

Preston

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

First

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Caroline

**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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

S. Elbert Douglas

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 189

CITY, TOWN

Preston

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

Maryland 21655

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Caroline County Courthouse

Liber #: 151

Folio #: 135

STREET & NUMBER

Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Denton

Maryland 21629

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Douglas House is located on the south side of Maryland Route 331 in the town of Preston. A late nineteenth century Victorian style house, it is a good example of this domestic architecture found in the Caroline County towns.

The house is a two and one-half story frame structure on a brick foundation. An earlier one and one-half story frame wing is on the rear of the house. The main section of the house has a two and one-half story gable projection on the east side of the main facade (north elevation). This projection is one bay deep, and its north elevation has a two story, three sided bay window with molded under panels, half and three quarter columns, heavy bracket cornices, pierced-work balustrades, and a flat roof. The one story screened porch along the other three bays of this facade has a similar bracket cornice and balustrade. The bays of this section have a door on the first story in the bay closest to the gable projection, and 2/2 pane sash windows with segmental arch wood trim and arched louvered shutters in the other bays. There is a bracket cornice and two dormers on the roof, each with two windows and segmental arch trim.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 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 Douglas house represents a domestic style of late nineteenth century architecture that flourished in the towns of Caroline County, but was not predominant on the farms. This Victorian influence style is characterized by irregular facades and floor plans (often through gable extensions) and various types of ornamental embellishments.

Douglas House is the product of a successful farmer and businessman and was built in 1875 by very talented craftsmen. The details of the porches especially is noteworthy. The rear of the house is reputedly earlier, however, it cannot be determined without a look at the interior.

East of the dwelling is a garage which was once an early 19th century outbuilding. It retains beaded siding and steep "A" roof.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

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

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant &amp; Joe Getty

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

May, 1977

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

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





Douglas House

J. Getty

5/77