

M: 12-42-5
Dan Diggins House (Site)
Big Woods Community
Private

c. 1870s

This two story log house was one of the few homes of Black families in the postbellum era in rural Maryland known to have been occupied by two families, like a duplex today. In one half lived the owners, and in the other, renters. In plan, the house consisted of four rooms down and four up, equally divided down the middle.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Dan Diggins Family House (Site)
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER East side of Big Woods Road
CITY, TOWN Dickerson CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8
STATE Maryland VICINITY OF COUNTY Montgomery

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 type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" 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
	No	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME B.F. Sr. and B.R. Randolph et. al. Telephone #:
STREET & NUMBER Big Woods Road
CITY, TOWN Dickerson STATE, zip code Maryland 20753
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, LIBER #: 4810
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Folio #: 384
STREET & NUMBER Montgomery County Courthouse
CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

_FEDERAL _STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

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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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This log house is no longer standing, but it is remembered by Florence Hallman from the Big Woods community. She says that it was a large house with a total of six or eight rooms. According to her, there were four rooms downstairs and three or four rooms upstairs. It was divided into two sections and housed two families at times. For example, she was born in this house and at that time two families were living there. Her grandparents, James and Mary Hamilton, rented one half of the house and the Diggins family lived in the other. Mrs. Hallman recalls, that like the other houses, it was heated by wood stoves and had windows with double-hung sashes with 6 x 6 panes. She thinks that there were the outbuildings common to such homesteads.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1870s

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This dwelling was the home of one of the founding families of the post-bellum black community in Big Woods. According to the deed EBP 18/289 Daniel Degan (Diggins) purchased property here in 1878. That deed shows that the property he purchased at that time was adjacent to land that he already owned. However, the grantee/grantor index does not list him for those earlier purchases. It is likely that he settled in the community at the same time as Lewis Brown, Henry Onley, and others -- that is, in the 1870s. Since Florence Hallman was born in the house, in the late 1800s, it is obvious that it was built before then, and probably was constructed in the 1870s, contemporary to Lewis Brown's dwelling.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Montgomery County Land Records, Rockville, Md. Deeds: EBP 18/289;
4810/384; 784/297; 200/423.

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

George McDaniel, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

7/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Box 87

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Dickerson

Maryland 20753

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