

M-12-42-14

c.1868

Robert Vinton Hutchinson House (Site)  
Big Woods Community  
Private

This log house with one room down and one room up was the smallest type found in Montgomery County in the post-Civil War Black communities. Its size and floor plan resembled the log houses of slaves, more than those of landowners. In fact, this may have been an earlier slave house, in which the postbellum residents continued to live.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC      The Robert Vinton Hutchinson Family House (Site)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER      West side of Route 109

CITY, TOWN      Dickerson       VICINITY OF      Big Woods      CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT      8

STATE      Maryland      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 type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE       | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS           | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No      | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                         | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER                           |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME      Fred and Jane Stearns      Telephone #: 301-972-8481

STREET & NUMBER      P.O. Box 247

CITY, TOWN      Poolesville      VICINITY OF      STATE, zip code  
Maryland 20837

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC      Registry of Deeds

Liber #: 4006  
Folio #: 585

STREET & NUMBER      County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN      Rockville      STATE      Maryland 20850

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE      None

DATE       FEDERAL       STATE       COUNTY       LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN      STATE

**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

Mrs. Florence Hallman of the Big Woods community recalls that this was a smaller log house with only one room down and one up. It was among the smallest homes in the Big Woods community, the usual plan being two up and two down whether the house was log or frame. See the descriptions of the Fred Hamilton and Louis Brown houses for further details, since this house resembled these two, according to Mrs. Hallman.

The outbuildings were a meat house and a hen house, according to Mrs. Hallman. There was no cellar in the house.

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                       |  |
| <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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION                     |   | Black History<br>Local History                          |  |

SPECIFIC DATES 1868

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This log house may have been one of the first built in the post-Civil War Black communities of Montgomery County, perhaps as early as 1868 when the tract of six acres was purchased by Isaac Carr from James O. Trundle (deed EBP 4/452). Perhaps the Carr family built this house at that time, and perhaps they were Black, though their identity is unknown at this time. Later the Carrs sold the land to Sarah and James D. Jones, who then conveyed it to Robert Vinton Hutchinson in 1910 (deed 222/15). It is doubtful that Hutchinson built this house since small log houses of this type were not built as new dwellings by Black landowners by this point in the 20th century. According to Florence Hallman, the house was "an old house" when she was young in the early 1900's, so it is probable that it was constructed at approximately the same time as the other log houses in Big Woods -- that is, in the 1870's, or perhaps earlier in c. 1868.

The property is now owned by Fred and Jane Stearns, a couple who as a team are active in a full range of community activities. They have built a new house on the site in a comfortable, modern design. The care that they give to the house and the grounds around it indicates the time and thought that they give to the many enterprises in which they are engaged.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Records of Montgomery County, County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.  
Deeds: 4006/585; 2605/232; 950/398; 222/15; EBP 4/452.

Oral interviews with Florence Hallman, August-September, 1978 (not taped) by George McDaniel and Ida Hallman, Big Woods Community.

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 W. McDaniel, Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

7/79

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

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