

M-12-42-17

e-Simms House (Site)

Big Woods Community

Private

c. 1874

This small log house was the home of a Black landowning family. It was smaller than most houses of this group, having only one room down and one up.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
 The Lee - Simms House (Site)
 AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
 West side of Big Woods Road
 CITY, TOWN
 Dickerson X VICINITY OF (Big Woods) 8
 STATE
 Maryland COUNTY
 Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input 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	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
 Thomas and Rhoda Mercer Telephone #: not listed
 STREET & NUMBER
 20800 Big Woods Road
 CITY, TOWN
 Dickerson X VICINITY OF STATE, zip code
 Maryland 20753

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, LIBER #: 304
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Folio #: 58
 Montgomery County Courthouse
 STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
 Rockville STATE
 Maryland

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

Florence Hallman recalls that this house was a log dwelling like the others in Big Woods, except that it was smaller, having only one room down and one up. There was the ordinary set of outbuildings associated with the farm house.

For further details, see the descriptions of the Louis Brown and Fred Hamilton houses.

Interviews with Florence Hallman
 21045 Big Woods Road
 Dickerson, MD
 August-September, 1978
 Interviews by George McDaniel, Ida Hallman

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:12-42-17

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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; Mont. County

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1875 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry Lee and Community

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This log house, though no longer standing, serves as a important reminder of the type of house that was once home to many rural Black farm families in Montgomery County and elsewhere in Maryland. The vast majority are gone, and little evidence remains of their existence, but with the oral recollection of informants such as Florence Hallman and others in the community, their former presence can be established. For discussion of the significance of the construction and significance of this house, see the inventory forms of the log houses of Fred Hamilton and Louis Brown since they are still standing and since this house closely resembled them, according to Mrs. Hallman.

This tract (parcel CU 33, p.23) was purchased in 1874 by Henry Lee, as recorded in deed, EBP 14/109. He acquired it from Edward Chiswell, Ovalina Chiswell, Lawrence Darby, James Trundle, Samuel White, et. al. It consisted of 1 acre, 3 rds.

In 1900, Henry M. and Clagett C. Hilton acquired this tract from James F. Lee, who was probably related to Henry Lee, perhaps his son.

In 1901, the Hiltons conveyed the land to Mary Eliza Simms, wife of Hilary Sims, as recorded in TD 17/256.

The log house that stood on this site was most likely built as the residence for the Henry Lee family after his purchase of the land in 1874. This was the log house remembered by Florence Hallman of Big Woods as the residence of the Simms family. She did not know if the Simms had built the house, but she had heard that the log house was an "old" dwelling house. Since there was no comparable dwelling on the tract of Henry Lee ~~adjoining the south line of this tract~~ (CU 33, p. 78) ^{there} a tract of 1 acre, 3 rds, purchased also in 1874 from the same grantors -- it is most likely that this log house was built as Henry Lee's home in the 1870s and continued to be used as a home by the Simms family.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.
Oral interviews with Florence Hallman, 21045 Big Woods Road., Dickerson,
August-September, 1978

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; Ida Hallman, Volunteer Coordinator; Wesley Stubbs

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE Research Assistant

Jan. 1979

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~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS
Box 87, S. 1700
Dickerson, Md. 20753
(301) 926-4510