

## ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name Uncle Tom's Cabin

2. Planning Area/ Site Number <sup>Riley House</sup> 30/6

3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference 15:k-20

4. Address 11420 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville

## 5. Classification Summary

Category buildingOwnership privatePublic Acquisition NAStatus occupiedAccessible noPresent use private residencePrevious Survey Recording M-NCPPC Federal      State      County X Local       
Historical Sites Inventory 1976

6. Date late 18th century

7. Original Owner Isaac Riley

## 8. Apparent Condition

a. excellentc. original siteb. altered

9. **Description:** This farm house was built in several stages & includes a small log cabin said to have been lived in by the man after whom Harriet Beecher Stowe modeled her novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin. The frame section of the house is four bays by two bays, one and a half stories, facing southeast. It has beige clapboarded exterior walls. Adjoining the house to the northeast is an onebay, one and a half story log house. There is a northwest addition of recent construction. There are six over six double hung windows flanked by brown wooden louvered shutters. There are three gable roofs covered by wooden shingles. There is a massive exterior fieldstone chimney at the north-east end of the log cabin.

10. **Significance:** The significance of this property is that Josiah Henson, the "Uncle Tom" whose memoirs gave Harriet Beecher Stowe the ideas for her characters in Uncle Tom's Cabin, lived here for 30 years as a slave.

Henson, in his autobiographies, stated that he was born in 1789, and came to Montgomery County about 1795. His master was Isaac Riley, who owned about 500 acres in what is now Bethesda. Riley farmed in the era when Montgomery County was in an agricultural decline, before the 1844 discovery of the proper fertilizer for the tobacco-worn soil. By 1825 he was in financial trouble and was losing his slaves, and sent Henson to Daviess County, Kentucky, for safe-keeping with his brother, Amos Riley. After a brief return to Montgomery County in 1828, where he was tricked by Isaac about his manumission papers, Henson escaped from Kentucky. He made his way to Canada, where he established a colony for fugitive slaves and where he made his home until he died.

Harriet Beecher Stowe became acquainted with Henson after the publication of his first memoirs, in Boston.

11. Date researched and researcher Mayvis Fitzsimons &amp; Mark Walston

Candy Reed - Architectural Description

12. Compiler Eileen McGuckian 13. Date Compiled 12/78

14. Designation  
Approval     

15. Acreage: 1 acre

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 30/6

MAGI#

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC The Riley House

AND/OR COMMON Uncle Tom's Cabin

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 11420 Old Georgetown Road

CITY, TOWN Rockville VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 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 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	<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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. & Mrs. Marcel Mallet-Prevost

Telephone #: 881-7570

STREET & NUMBER 11420 Old Georgetown Road

CITY, TOWN Rockville VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE, zip code Maryland 20852

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 3096  
Folio #: 135

STREET & NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE 1976  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland 20855

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This farmhouse was built in several stages and includes a small log cabin which is said to be that lived in by the man after whom Marriet Beecher Stowe modeled her novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin.

The main section of the farmhouse is frame, four bays across and two bays deep and faces southeast. Built on stone foundations, it has clapboarded exterior walls which have been painted beige. There are two brick interior end chimneys with corbelled tops. On the southeast (front) elevation there are flagstone steps leading to the front door. The door has an exterior wooden louvered shutter door in addition to the six paneled door. This is surmounted by a four light transom and flanked by applied plasters. There are six over six double hung windows flanked by brown louvered shutters.

Adjoining the farmhouse to the northeast is a one and a half story log cabin. This building is considerably smaller than the main farmhouse. It is constructed of exposed squared and V-notched logs with poured concrete chinking. There is an enormous fieldstone exterior end chimney at the northeast elevation of the cabin. The cabin has a board and batten door on the southeast elevation. The chimney stack is flanked by four light casement windows.

At the northwest of the farmhouse is a recent addition. This contains the kitchen. The house has three gable roofs: one over the main house, one over the log cabin, and a gable roof over the kitchen addition, which is perpendicular to the gable roof of the original frame house. The roofs are covered by wooden shingles.

The interior of the house is simple and in keeping with the farming function of the house. Entering the house on the southeast one comes into a living room which extends the full width of the house centered on the southwest wall is a fireplace. A single run open string staircase with square balusters rises from southeast to northwest.

To the northeast of the front door there is a partition and doorway leading into a study. At the north corner is a diagonally placed fireplace. Northwest of the study is the dining room. A diagonal fireplace backs up to that in the study. A doorway on the northeast wall leads to the cabin. The cabin is four steps lower than the rest of the house. The loft has been removed and the room has vertical siding.

The floors are random width wood supported by rough hewn oak beams. There are narrow floorboards in the new addition. The floor is not visible in the cabin. Walls and ceilings are plaster over lath; in some cases the walls have been papered. There are simple paneled doors throughout the house. The fireplace surrounds are simple with denticulated moldings. In the cabin the fieldstone stack is exposed.

Lorenzo Winslow did the restoration of this house for Mrs. Bolton during the 1930s. A rear wing was added, and the porches removed. On the log portion, the logs forming the walls were cut to a section so that the upper wedged surface of one log roughly fits into the inverted V-groove of the overlying log. The upper section of the stone chimney has been replaced with brick.

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 checked="" 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)		Black History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES Late 18th century BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The local, state, and national significance of the property upon which Josiah Henson resided for 30 years as a slave is important in the annals of both black history and general ante-bellum history, for Josiah Henson was "Uncle Tom", the slave whose memoirs gave Harriet Beecher Stowe the ideas for her characters in Uncle Tom's Cabin.

In his first autobiography, published in 1849, Henson mentions Montgomery County residents he had known by their Christian names and surname initials. However, in his second and third set of memoirs, he gives their full surnames so that they are traceable through county records: marriage, census, wills, and land records.

Henson stated that he was born in 1789, and came to Montgomery County about 1795. Isaac Riley was his master, after purchasing him from a man named Robb, who was a tavern-keeper near the Montgomery Court House.<sup>1</sup> Land records<sup>2</sup> show a formal deed of conveyance to Isaac Riley in 1849 of "Dann" and "Colyer's Resurvey". Isaac Riley's will<sup>3</sup>, dated 1850, conveys the land and "the farm upon which I now reside, containing about 500 acres" to his wife Matilda. In 1864, the Riley land was divided<sup>4</sup>, and Matilda retained Lot #1 described as being parts of "Dann" and "Colyer's Resurvey". This portion bounds directly on the western edge of Old Georgetown Road, and the plat shows that the house is located in the same position as present day. The 1865 and 1879 cadastral maps show Matilda Riley as owner of the house. In 1890, Matilda Riley willed the house and land to her daughter, Frances Ruben Riley Mace.<sup>5</sup> In 1926, the land was sold out of the family.<sup>6</sup> After several transfers,<sup>7</sup> in 1936, Lot 10, Block A, containing 3.089 acres was sold to Levina and William Bolten.<sup>8</sup> The Boltens sold to Harriet and William Coburn in 1950,<sup>9</sup> who in turn conveyed the property to Marcel and Hildegarde Mallet-Prevost in 1963,<sup>10</sup> who own it today.

Henson lived in Montgomery County for about 30 years. His descriptions of slave life here are vivid and true to the era when the County was in an agricultural decline, before the 1844 discovery of the proper fertilizer for the tobacco-worn soil. Henson even describes the Riley kitchen, which is the extant log portion of the house:

After putting my horse in the stable I retired to the kitchen, where my master told me I was to sleep for the night...

(See Attachment Sheet A)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

that crowded room, with its earth floor, its filth and stench---The negroes present were **strangers** to me. Full of gloomy reflections at my loneliness, and the poverty-stricken aspect of the whole farm, I sat down---thinking how I could escape from the accursed spot.

The details of Henson leaving Montgomery County are also described in his autobiographies. They are important because, again, there was a connection with the Montgomery County area. Isaac Riley was in financial trouble and was losing his slaves. In 1825 he sent Henson to Daviess County, Kentucky, for safe-keeping with his brother, Amos Riley. Henson escaped from Kentucky, after making a return trip to Montgomery County in 1828, and being tricked by Isaac Riley about his manumission papers. Henson made his way to Canada, where he established a colony for fugitive slaves and where he made his home base until he died.

In 1948, because so many pilgrimages were made to Henson's grave and home, the Ontario Historic Sites Board converted Henson's "cabin" into a museum. In 1970 the Kentucky Historical Society erected a highway marker on the Amos Riley property where Henson had resided for three years.

Henson was also prominent in the Abolitionist movement. His name appears on a paper entitled "A Public Discussion of Insurrection, 1858", at a state convention of Massachusetts Negroes. Henson's first memoirs were published in Boston by the abolitionists, and it was there that Harriet Beecher Stowe first became interested in his life as a slave. Henson said that Mrs. Stowe's "Simon Legree", "Cassy", and other characters in Uncle Tom's Cabin were taken from his own descriptions of people he had known in Montgomery County.

#### FOOTNOTES:

1. Scharf, J. T., History of Western Maryland, p. 676, lists Adam Robb as a licensed tavern-keeper in Rockville, in 1800.
2. Montgomery County Land Records, JCH 6, 573.
3. Will Records of Montgomery County, HH #3, 182.
4. Montgomery County Land Records, Equity 50, 330.
5. Will Record of Montgomery County, RWC 15, 326.
6. Land Records, Deed 394, 471.
7. Land Records, Deed 412, 387 (1926; 448/206 (1927); 568/140 (1934).
8. Land Records, Deed 648, 37.
9. Land Records, Deed 1388, 9.
10. Land Records, Deed 3096, 135.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

(See Attachment Sheet B)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 1 acre

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bounded on the front by Old Georgetown Road. On the right of the property is a church and Tilden Lane. To the left is a modern home.

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

STATE

COUNTY

Candy Reed - Architectural Description

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Mayvis Fitzsimons and Mark Walston Candy Reed - Architectural Description

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

May 23, 1978

STREET &amp; 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, 2 State Circle~~  
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~  
~~(301) 271-1438~~

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

Attachment Sheet B

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.

Henson, Josiah, The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave, (Ed. by Samuel A. Elliot, Boston, A.D. Phelps, 1849).

---Truth Stranger than Fiction: Father Henson's Story of His Own Life, (Boston, J.P. Jewett & Co., 1858).

---Uncle Tom's Story of His Life, (ed. by John Lobb, London, Christian Age Office, 1877).

Potter, Hugh O., A History of Owensboro & Daviess County, Kentucky (Daviess County Historical Society, 1975).

Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Western Maryland, (Baltimore: Regional Publishing co., 1968, originally published in Phila., 1882).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: Uncle Tom's Cabin				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Riley House				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: Old Georgetown Rd.				
CITY OR TOWN: Bethesda				
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Montgomery	
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
<b>CATEGORY</b> <i>(Check One)</i>	<b>OWNERSHIP</b>		<b>STATUS</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: Marcel Mallet-Prevost				
STREET AND NUMBER: Old Georgetown Rd.				
CITY OR TOWN: Bethesda			STATE: Maryland	
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Montgomery County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville			STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is built in several parts, but there is a very neat appearance to it. The main house is a one-story with loft, clapboard structure typical of late eighteenth-century, Tidewater architecture. The east (main) facade has four bays, two of them south of the center doorway. The door has a transom-light, and the windows are 6 over 6, double-hung. The steep A-roof is covered with shingles, and large internal fireplace chimneys tower above both ends of the house. The brick chimneys are capped with several decorative drip courses. The house is two-bays deep and there are twin, half-sized windows in each gable end.

The log cabin portion adjoins the house on the north. It is also of one-story with loft, but is much smaller than the main house. It appears to have been used for several purposes at various times. The exposed logs are squared and V-notched, and a large, stone-based chimney sits on the exterior north wall. It is continued above the fireplace level by a brick stack similar in design to those on the main house.

(Note: Mr. Wall said log part was used years ago for a blacksmith's shop. Mr. Mallet-Prevost remembers a similar, one and a half story frame house just north of here years ago (Old Riley's Tavern?)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC

DATE: 5/14/75

STREET AND NUMBER:  
8787 Georgia Ave.

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring

STATE: Maryland

**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:

National  State  Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M-123  
M:30-6 ✓✓

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME** Josiah Henson Cabin - Josiah Henson, the slave who is believed to have furnished Mrs. Stowe with the characters for her famous book, resided on a plantation in Montgomery County for approximately 30 years. Cabin is AND/OR COMMON extant.

"Uncle Tom's Cabin"

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

11420 Old Georgetown Road

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Montgomery 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	<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

Mr. & Mrs. Marcel Mallet-Prevost

Telephone #: 881-7570

STREET & NUMBER

11420 Old Georgetown Road

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code

21778

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 3096

Folio #: 135

STREET & NUMBER

Washington & Jefferson Streets

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission Survey; not yet completed. Contact Mike Dwyer, Historian, Director of Survey.

DATE

On-going

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust 21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

**CHECK ONE**

**CHECK ONE**

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Original log cabin appears to have been attached to a clapboard structure which was renovated in 1950. The Riley family owned the property when Josiah Henson resided there as Isaac Riley's slave circa 1795-1825. The cabin is believed to have been utilized as a kitchen.

The date of construction is unknown, but the house has Colonial features such as a rough stone fireplace and small stairway.

The cabin was built of oak logs chinked with stone and mortar and has a wide fireplace.

The property is entered by a driveway from Old Georgetown Road.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

M:30-6

**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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE           | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input checked="" 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 local, state, and indeed, national significance of the property upon which Josiah Henson resided for 30 years as a slave is important in the annals of both black history and general ante-bellum history.

Although it is not known if the cabin that is referred to as "Uncle Ton's Cabin" was the abode of Henson, the cabin was located on the property upon which Henson and his slave master resided.

Henson's memoirs (See 9) described the years he spent on this property and it was his published memoirs that Harriet Beecher Stowe allegedly based many of the characters described in her book, Uncle Tom's Cabin. In her Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin, Mrs. Stowe states that Henson was her religious model. In addition to his owner, Isaac Riley, other names of local people and locales cited in Henson's memoirs have been verified by county registries.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

- M:30-6
- Farquhar, Roger Brooke. Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland. (Washington, D.C.: Judd & Detweiler, Inc., 1952, 1962).

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Gysin, Brion. To Master - A Long Goodnight. The Story of Uncle Tom, A Historical Novel. (New York: Creative Age Press, Inc.) 1948
- Henson, Josiah Uncle Tom's Story of His Life. (London: "Christian Age" Office, 1877) (Also two earlier memoirs, 1848 and 1853)
- Winks, Robin The Blacks In Canada. (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1971).

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

Mrs. Neal Fitzsimons, Editor

April 4, 1975

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Montgomery County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

103 W. Montgomery Ave.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Rockville

Maryland

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

1. STATE *Maryland*  
 COUNTY *Montgomery*  
 TOWN *Bethesda* VICINITY  
 STREET NO. *11420 Georgetown Rd.*  
 ORIGINAL OWNER *Riley Family*  
 ORIGINAL USE *Dwelling - 5 level house*  
 PRESENT OWNER  
 PRESENT USE  
 WALL CONSTRUCTION *Log*  
 NO. OF STORIES *1 1/2*

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
 INVENTORY *M-123*  
 2. NAME *Uncle Tom's Cabin* *M:30-6*  
 DATE OR PERIOD *c. 1850*  
 STYLE *Log.*  
 ARCHITECT  
 BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC *No*  
 This is Uncle Tom's Cabin, a 1 1/2 story log building c. 1850, 2 bays wide, and one deep with a steeply pitched A-roof. There is a vertical bayless door + a 9 pane casement window on the front. On the right end of the house is an exterior stone chimney which becomes a free-standing chimney of brick above the 1st story level. There are 2 tiny windows on the gable end at the attic level. This cabin is attached on the left to a 5 bay wide 2 deep 1 1/2 story A-roofed house which may be 18th century - All its exterior siding + windows are new however.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)  
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  
*Paul A. Brinkman*  
*Barry R. Wentz - photos*  
 DATE OF RECORD *Aug 5 1968*

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

Josiah Henson Cabin M.



M:30-6

Riley House

"Uncle Tom's Cabin"



NAME UNCLE TOM'S CABIN / RILEY HOUSE

M: #30-6

LOCATION OLD GEORGETOWN Rd ROCKVILLE, Md

FACADE E

PHOTO TAKEN 5/14/75 MDWYER



NAME UNCLE TOM'S CABIN / RILEY HOUSE

LOCATION: OLD GEORGETOWN RD., ROCKVILLE,  
MD

FACADE N

PHOTO TAKEN 5/14/75

M. DWYER

IN# 30-6



Josiah Henson Cabin m:30-6