

S-57
Cook House
Upper Fairmount
Private

c. 1800-1815

The Cook House is one of several turn-of-the 19th century houses that stand on the Fairmount peninsula. In general house form and date, the Cook House is similar to the brick farmhouse on Schoolridge Farm (S-60). The mixed use of a Flemish bond gable end wall in a frame house is a construction technique shared by nearby Tudor Hall (S-55). These construction parallels suggest an important link between houses built within the span of two decades. Additional features worthy of note include large portions of beaded weatherboarding and well-executed Federal period woodwork.

The Cook House stands on a tract of land known as "End of Strife" which was transferred from Levin Tull to Littleton Dorsey in October of 1810 (T/572.) From all indications this house was erected in the early years of the 19th century by Levin Tull or most probably, Littleton Dorsey. A description in the 1798 Federal Tax Assessment suggests^a a different structure; "one dwelling house built of wood 25 feet by 20 feet, 1 window 3½ feet by 2 feet." This does not describe the extant house. In all likelihood, materials from the old house were reused in the construction of this house.

Littleton Dorsey occupied the farm and is listed on the 1850 U.S. Census as a farmer with an estate valuation of \$1500. Shortly after, Littleton Dorsey died intestate, and his property entered Circuit Court (WP 2/323.) Under the auspices of the court, the property was sold to Wesley Tull in 1853. Eight months later Wesley S. Tull of Baltimore sold the farm to William J. H. Tull of Somerset County. (LW 3/77) The Tulls held onto the property until

1880 when Robert H. Jones bought the farm (B.F.L 3/210.) For the next eighty-three years the Jones owned the "Tull Farm," as it is referred to in the early 20th century land records. The present owners bought the property in 1963.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Cook House

2. Location

street & number N side of Maryland 361 (Fairmount Rumble Rd) not for publicationcity, town Upper Fairmount vicinity of congressional district Firststate Maryland county Somerset

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	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Jackson Lee Cook

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Upper Fairmount state and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust Inventory

date 1967 federal state county local

repository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

7. Description

Survey No. S-57

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Cook House stands near the small village of Upper Fairmount, Maryland, on the north side of MD 361 and east of Miles Road. The c. 1800-1815 side hall/double pile frame house faces south with the main gable running east/west. Accompanying the house is a metal wagon shed and a small storage building.

The two-story, 26'5" x 28'8" frame rests on a raised common bond brick foundation and is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt tile roof. Sections of beaded weatherboards are mixed with some replacement siding. Extending to the east is a c. 1850 two-story, two-bay by one-room kitchen wing. A modern single story office has been added to the east gable end of the kitchen.

The south (main) facade is divided into two bays with an entrance in the east bay. An ovolo molded surround frames a six-panel front door. A 9/6 sash window is located to the left, while two 6/6 sash windows light the second floor. One cellar window opening retains its diamond cross-sectioned window frame. The front shed porch formerly stretched across the entire facade, but it has been reduced to a single bay. Surviving under the rebuilt eave is the original boxed cornice and bed molding.

The west gable end consists of a single story Flemish bond wall while the second floor is frame and sheathed with weatherboards. A molded surround frames the brick wall. Windows are arranged symmetrically with 9/6 sash on the first floor, and 6/6 sash windows on the second floor as well as at the attic level. The extended eave is embellished with modillions. Piercing the roof is a brick chimney stack with a banded cap.

The rear (north) facade is similarly detailed.

Attached to the east gable end is a shorter two-story, two-bay kitchen wing dating from the second quarter of the 19th century. Both first and second floors are lighted by 6/6 sash windows, and a brick chimney protrudes through the east gable end. A simple boxed cornice stretches across the front and back, while the gable end is flush.

A single-story modern office wing with a bay window is attached to the east end of the kitchen.

The first floor plan of the main house consists of a side stair hall and two nearly equal-sized rooms to the left. A small room at the back of the passage appears to have been part of the original plan. The main rooms are heated by corner hearths.

The staircase rises two flights to the attic. A square newel post has chamfered corners with ogee stops. The newel post, along with three rectangular balusters for most treads, support a circular-profile handrail. The stringer is plain, and the triangular area below is sheathed with flush beaded board.

Flush six-panel doors open into the adjacent rooms. The front room retains its Federal-period five-part mantel. The pilasters and end frieze blocks are fluted, while the center block is plain. The mantel shelf is broken at each end. The baseboard has a simple beaded edge and the room is without chair rail.

The rear room is similarly finished. The five-part Federal period mantel was brought in to replace one that had been removed.

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
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Cook House is one of several turn-of-the-19th century structures that stand on Potato Neck. Similar to the others in the group is its location on the higher, better-drained land. In general form and date, the Cook House is similar to the brick farmhouse on Schoolridge Farm (S-60). The mixed use of a Flemish bond gable end wall in a frame house is also found nearby at Tudor Hall (S-55). These construction parallels suggest an important link between houses built within the span of two decades.

History and Support

The Cook House stands on a tract of land known as "End of Strife" which was transferred from Levin Tull to Littleton Dorsey in October of 1810. (T/572) From all indications this house was erected in the early years of the 19th century by either Levin Tull, or most probably, Littleton Dorsey. A tract known as "End of Strife" is listed on the 1798 Federal Tax Assessment under the name of George Tull. However, the description of the house, "one dwelling house built of wood 25 feet by 20 feet, 1 window 3½ feet by 2 feet," does not describe the present structure. In all likelihood, materials from the old house were reused in the construction of this house.

Littleton Dorsey occupied the Potato Neck Farm and is listed on the 1850 U.S. Census as a farmer with a valuation of \$1,500. Shortly after, Littleton Dorsey died intestate and his property entered Circuit Court (WP 2/323). Under the auspices of the court, the property was sold to Wesley Tull in 1853. Eight months later Wesley S. Tull of Baltimore sold the farm to William J. H. Tull of Somerset County (LW 3/77). The Tulls held onto the property until 1880 when Robert H. Jones bought the farm (B.F.L. 3/210). For the next eighty-three years the Jones' owned the "Tull Farm" as it is referred to in the early 20th-century land records.

The second floor is divided in the same manner and retains most of its period woodwork. The stair rises to an unfinished attic with a common rafter roof system. Half-dovetailed lapped collar beams are fastened with partially wrought nails as are the gable end studs.

The two-story kitchen wing is finished in a simple manner with second quarter of the 19th-century trim. The first floor has been modernized to serve as a kitchen.

CHAIN OF TITLE

Cook House
S-57

G.J.B. 215/566

Adele E. Jones

to

5/20/1963

Jackson Lee Cook
45 acres

B.L.B. 181/522

Elizabeth L. Jones

to

5/21/1957

Adele E. Jones
45 acres

B.L.B. 181/168

Adele E. Jones

to

3/9/1957

Elizabeth L. Jones
45 acres

B.L.B. 155/304

Somerset Packing Co.

to

9/22/1951

Adele E. Jones - (widow of Robert H. Jones)
45 acres

B.L.B. 117/284

Robert H. Jones

to

6/29/1940

Somerset Packing Company
Fourth item of Robert H. Jones Sr's will -
devised to Robert H. Jones Jr. "Tull Farm" -
Will book H.H.D 6/499 2/25/1899

Will Book
H.H.D
6/499

Robert H. Jones, Sr.
to

2/25/1899

Robert H. Jones, Jr.
"Tull Farm" 45 acres

B.F.L
3/210

William S. Tull, Mary W. Tull, and Albert L. Tull
to

11/2/1880

Robert H. Jones
\$3,100.00 - "All that farm and tract of land inherited from our Mother Sarah A. Tull deceased and which was conveyed by deed from Wesley S. Tull to the late William J. H. Tull and was left by the last will and testament of the said William J. H. Tull to the aforesaid Sarah A., being the same farm on which we now resideexcepting so much of the said land as lies on the easternmost side of the Public Road leading through Freetown and Freedom.

L W 3/77

Wesley S. Tull, Baltimore
to

4/13/1854

William J. H. Tull, Somerset
\$4,000.00 - "All that tract or parcel of land situated lying and being in Potato Neck which was sold and conveyed by Whittington Colbert to the said Wesley S. Tull

8/3/1853

Whittington Colbert
to
Wesley Tull
\$7,500.00 all that tract of land which Littleton Dorsey died siezed, it being the same land which was taken at the valuation by Commissioners- William S. Wates - 1/4/1853 - Circuit Court of Somerset - petition of Robert R. Ballard and William Dorsey for the division of the real estate of Littleton Dorsey

Judicial Records - WP 2/323
November Term 1851 - Littleton Dorsey died
on or about 8/1/1851 intestate.

T/572

Levin Tull

to

10/9/1810

Littleton Dorsey
89 acres - "formerly called Lazarus Lot and
by a late resurvey called the "End of Strife"
between the road leading to Maddox's Ware House
and the land of Daniel Maddox, John Waters, and
Richard Hall.

1798 Federal Tax Assessment - Particular List of Lands

George Tull - 1 tract of land called End of Strife 90 acres on which are
One Dwelling House built of wood 25 feet by 20 feet 1 kitchen 12 feet by
16 feet 1 smoke house 12 feet square 1 negro house 12 feet by 14 feet
2 barns 20 feet square, the above houses are very old and out of repair.

Value \$340.00

1798 Federal Tax Assessment - Great Annemessex Hundred - Lands

Littleton Dorsey -

1 tract of land called Halls Adventure on which are 1 Dwelling House
20 feet by 16 feet with a shade (sic) 8 feet - 1 kitchen 14 feet by
12 feet - 1 smoke house 10 feet square - 1 barn 20 feet by 30 feet

Valued

\$250.00

200579104

Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Somerset TOWN VICINITY STREET NO. Upper Fairmount ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE Dwelling PRESENT OWNER Mr. Jackson Lee Cook PRESENT USE Dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION Beaded Clapboard & NO. OF STORIES 2 1/2 /brick		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY 2. NAME Cook House S-57 DATE OR PERIOD c. 1750 STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		OPEN TO PUBLIC no	
<p>This is a house which gives an appearance of great age. It's proportions are massive and it has a steeply pitched A-roof. The house is two bays wide and two bays deep-almost a square. The 1st storey windows are 9/6 the 2nd storey are 6/6. The door occupies the right bay of the front of the house. The beaded clapboard siding is old and wide. The chimney is on the left end of the house built into the wall. On the left end the whole first story of the house is of Flemish bond brick. This wall is framed on the ends and top by a molded board. It almost appears as if someone meant just to expose the chimney by the omission of the clapboards and then decided to leave the whole end brick. It is a most unusual feature. The whole house sits on a high brick foundation with horizontally barred basement windows. It appears that the interior has much old panelling.</p> <p>At present this house is in the process of restoration. It appears to be a house of great age and worthy of further study.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE		Being restored 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 DATE OF RECORD August 4, 1967	

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



50'

428

5860 III NE
(MONIE) 429

430

47'30"

431

1150 00



S-57
Cook House
Marion Quadrangle, 1972

S-57

S-100

S-149

S-164

S-169

FAIRMOUNT NECK

STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



Cook House

S-57

Upper Fairmount, Somerset Co.,Md.

Southwest Elevation

11/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



51

Simser

Cook House

Leave 1 space before



2-57

