

S' M -292
ALLY T. HEBB HOUSE
Clements
Private

circa 1900

According to John Hebb, the present occupant, this 1 1/2-story frame house was built in circa 1900 by his father, Ally T. Hebb, a waterman and farmer. The main block consists of a side passage with one room downstairs and two upstairs. A small kitchen extends from the northern gable end. As is customary among black landowning families today, more than one descendant family occupies the ancestors' land, each family in a separate house. In this case, Ally Hebb's daughter, Margaret Dyson, lives nearby in a contemporary form of "folk house," a mobile home.

The size and exterior design of this house is similar to the houses of other black watermen and landowning families in St. Mary's County.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC **ALLY THOMAS HEBB HOUSE**

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N. side of unmarked dirt road, 0.5 mile east of its jct. with Big Chesnut Rd., 0.6 mile south of Jct of Big Chesnut Rd. and Rt. 234.

CITY, TOWN

Clements VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

St. Mary's County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME **Margaret Dyson and John Hebb**

Telephone #: Not Listed

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2, Box 115

CITY, TOWN

Clements VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md. 20624

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **St. Mary's County Courthouse**

Liber #: No Deed Reference
Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtown

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This turn of the 20th century farm house, which consists of an unpainted^N main block of one and a half stories and a gable end kitchen of 1 story, was once a substantial structure that was owned and inhabited by a black landowning family. Today it is deteriorating due to improper maintenance, though it is salvageable.

The house faces west towards a dirt road that is seldom used, and is located about a mile from other dwellings. In earlier years, the house was surrounded by farmlands, but they have since been abandoned and grown up in timber. All that remains of the farm is a garden strip of about a half acre on the northern side of the house. Behind the house are a woodshed, an old plow, and other abandoned farm equipment, a dog pen, a junk car, and an outhouse. To the south of the house is a blue mobile home, the residence of Margaret Dyson, the daughter of the builder of the house Ally Thomas Hebb. His son John lives in the old house.

The house is frame, sheathed in overlapping weatherboards, and sheltered by an A roof. The floor plan of the main block consists of a side hall passage with one room downstairs and two upstairs. One flight of stairs ascends the southern gable wall in the side passage. Unlike many stairs in black folk houses, it is not boxed, but instead has a 3" x 4" hand rail with flat, plain sides and rounded edges ~~and~~ with a 1" x 1" balustrade. Underneath the stairs is a closet. Neither room in the upstairs is heated.

The cinder block stove flue replaces the original brick chimney which served a wood stove in the kitchen and the fireplace in the sitting room of the downstairs of the main block.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

SM-292

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 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)	
* 1890-1910				Black History	
				Social History	
SPECIFIC DATES		BUILDER/ARCHITECT		Cultural History	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Hebb, who lives in the house today, provided much of the information about the history of this house. According to him, it was built by his father, Ally Hebb, in about 1900. Ally Hebb was a farmer and a waterman, and presumably the combined cash income from the two occupations enabled him to buy the land and build the house. John Hebb did not know why his father had selected this particular house design. At the time of construction, when many black families were tenant farmers and living in small two-room (one up, one down) houses, this house reflected the prosperity of its owner relative to other black families in the area. But in the years after his death, his descendants have not sustained a comparable level of income and have not maintained and repaired the house, nor added modern improvements.

A comparison may be drawn between this house of a waterman/farmer and the waterman/farmers of the Beachville community in St. Mary's County. The houses were built approximately the same time (late 19th or early 20th century) and share the same basic design: a one and a half story central block with a one story kitchen on one gable end. In both communities, descendants of the builders have remained on or near the site. Some of them live in the house built by their ancestors, while others are living in the folk house of the 1970's: the mobile home.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Md. Commission on Afro-American History & Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

Md.

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

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1

SM 292

Ally DEBB House
STMA 292
CLEMENTS, Md.
WEST facade
GWM  3/77



Amy Hebb House
STMA 292
Clements, Md.
Northeast View
GWM - 3/77



SM-292
Amy Hebb House
STMA 292

Clements, Md.

Southeast View