

SM-310

c. 1940

William Marshall House
Clements
St. Mary's County, Md.

This small one story house was built in recent times by the owner, but its design resembles that of earlier two unit houses, or duplexes: that is, two separate doors in the facade leading into separate rooms on either side of a brick chimney. However, the owner said that he had built it thusly for purely personal reasons and that only one family had lived here. This reflects the impact of individuality upon house designs.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

SM-310

MAGI # 1903105804

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC WILLIAM MARSHALL HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Route 27

CITY, TOWN

Clements

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

St. Mary's

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	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 WILLIAM MARSHALL

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER ROUTE 2 BOX 114

CITY, TOWN

CLEMENTS

VICINITY OF

MD.

STATE, zip code
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

Leonardtwn

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

William Marshall, the builder, owner, present occupant, and oral informant said that he constructed this house about 35 years ago to fit the foundations of a earlier house that had burned. At that time, this house was the only dwelling on the site, though today the land is shared with two dwellings recently built by descendants of Marshall. This sharing of land by generations of one family has been frequently found among land-owning black families in southern Maryland so that it appears to be a folk custom (e.g, L. Alex Rice, CT-111 , Thomas Rice CT-101, Ally Hebb SM-292 and Charles A. Medley SM-287).

Marshall's one story house is small and narrow. It faces west. The line of its A roof is oriented on a north - south axis and is pierced in the center by a brick stove flue. Its exterior design resembles the design of the slave two unit house, or duplex, at Brome Farm SM-33A : two doors in the facade lead into separate rooms, on either side of a central chimney. However, Marshall said that the house was never used as a duplex, and had always been inhabited by one family. He explained that he designed the house with two front doors for household comfort ("so you wouldn't let cold air into one room if you didn't want to") and to enhance privacy ("so you wouldn't have to walk through the other room to get out").

The exterior is sheathed in overlapping weatherboards and painted white. The gable ends and cornices are unboxed, and the former lack windows. This absence of windows on gable ends is a feature frequently found in the design of black farm houses. Marshall did not know why other builders omitted them, but he did explain that he chose to do so primarily because he thought that additional windows were not needed, the two on the front and the two opposite in the back being well sufficient for the small house, and secondarily because of the added expense, which was important on his limited budget. He did not mention weather as affecting his placement of windows.

The floor plan consists of two rooms connected by a doorway on the western side of the central chimney. The upstairs was not used as living quarters, and unusual use of household space among the houses surveyed, for in most of them the upstairs is used as sleeping quarters for the children. The rear length has a kitchen appendage extending from the northeast corner. The tin roof is original.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 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 checked="" 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 C. 1940 BUILDER/ARCHITECT -

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Though built in comparatively recent times, this small frame house retains the features of older style folk houses: a north-south axis of its roof; unboxed cornices and gable ends; no shutters; and no windows on the gable ends. Nonetheless, its facade does reveal the influence of its individual builder upon its design. Marshall does not remember how long it took him to build the house, because he worked on it, he said, during evening hours after work and on the weekends.

The significance of this site is that the design of the house--a blend of traditional and the individual characteristics--did not result from a deliberate and rigid adherence to ideas, as Henry Glassie in Folk Houses in Middle Virginia, has theorized. Instead, William Marshall--a waterman and farmer by trade, not a carpenter--built his house in keeping with his personal abilities, financial means, and desires for household comfort.

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

Geogge 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

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



SM-310 65%

P.1161

SM-110

MARSHALL House
STMA - ~~310~~ 310
Clements, Md.

W. VIEW: Facade
Gwm

8/77



5/1-3/10

Marshall House

STMA-~~000000~~ 310

Clements, md,

#. E. Q View: Rear

Cwm

4/97



SM-510

MARSHALL House

STMA-308

Clements, Md.

N. Gable End

GWM

8/77