

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

NR Eligible: yes X
no

Property Name: Smith Farm, Slave House Inventory Number: AA-119

Address: East side of Telegraph Road, 0.5 mi City: Severn Zip Code:

County: Anne Arundel USGS Topographic Map:

Owner:

Tax Parcel Number: Tax Map Number: Tax Account ID Number:

Project: Agency:

Site visit by MHT staff: X no yes Name: Date:

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Is the property located within a historic district? no yes Name of District:

Is district listed? no yes Determined eligible? no yes District Inventory Number:

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:
Inventory form AA-119

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

According to the present owner of the farm, John Smith, his grandfather Basil Smith owned nine slaves. The male slaves built this house from the stones that they quarried on the farm. The incisions from their picks and chisels are still evident on the stones. The primary significance of this house is that it is the only stone structure for slaves to be recorded during this survey of southern Maryland. Though of different materials, its original design of one room down and one up followed the floor plan of other log and frame slave houses.

It also indicates the skills of the slaves in stone cutting and masonry.

Prepared by: DOT/FHA, Emil Elinsky Date Prepared: 12/08/1987

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended

Criteria A B C D Considerations A B C D E F G None

MHT Comments:

Smith Farm was Federally nominated for the National Register of Historic Places.

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Alice Crompton

Reviewer, NR Program

Date

January 20, 1988

Date

A.A.-119
Smith Farm, Slave House
Severn Vicinity
Private

2nd quarter of
19th century

This one story building has since been drastically altered, but originally it was a small, two bay slave dwelling made from stones quarried, cut, and put into place by the slaves on the farm. It is the only stone slave dwelling to have been found in southern Maryland it indicates the basic skills of slaves in stonework.

Per Donna Ware 4/11/92
AA-49 Main house is

2 story frame
I house from
late 18th c +
rear wing is an
earlier c. 1830
house

EAH

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

Smith Farm, Slave House (Stone)

HISTORIC

~~Severn~~ ~~Severn~~ ~~Severn~~ ~~Severn~~ ~~Severn~~

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

East side of Telegraph Rd., 0.5 mile south of Jct. of Telegraph Rd. and Dorsey Rd.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Severn

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

Anne Arundel

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"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Abandoned

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

John Smith

Telephone #: 301-766-4593

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 4, Box 27 (901 Smith Rd)

CITY, TOWN

Severn

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md. 21144

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

A.A. County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

This one story stone building has been changed drastically since its construction as a slave house. At that time in the antebellum 19th century, it was a two bay dwelling with its facade oriented toward the south, and the roof line running east-west. That original block is today the easternmost section of the present building, its size having been doubled in the 20th century. During its occupancy by slaves, the walls were of massive stones, quarried and shaped and put into place by the slaves themselves, according to the present owner whose grandfather owned the farm during the antebellum era. The stones were laid in random rubble courses. The interior consisted presumably of one room downstairs, and another upstairs. A hearth and chimney stood on the western gable end, but that feature and the upstairs have been removed when the building was re-built into a storage house for sweet potatoes grown on this truck farm in the 20th century.

From an old photograph of the farm in the early 20th century, the present owner identified a log slave house that stood west and south of this building. Directly to the west was a small, hipped roof dairy. To the east stood the main farm house to which was attached a one and a half story servants' quarter.

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

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to the present owner of the farm, John Smith, his grandfather Basil Smith owned nine slaves. The male slaves built this house from the stones that they quarried on the farm. The incisions from their picks and chisels are still evident on the stones. The primary significance of this house is that it is only stone structure for slaves to have been recorded during this survey of southern Maryland. Though of different materials, its original design of one room down and one up followed the floor plan of other log and frame slave houses.

It also indicates the skills of slaves in stone cutting and masonry.

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 and Culture DATE

STREET & NUMBER 20 Dean St. TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis 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

E.O. 11593

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY NOTIFICATION National Register of Historic Places National Park Service

Name of property: Smith Farm

Location: 900 Smith Rd., Severn

State: MD

Request submitted by: DOT/FHA, Emil Elinsky

Date received: 12-08-87

Additional information received:

Opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer:

Eligible

Not Eligible

No Response

Comments:

The Secretary of the Interior has determined that this property is:

Eligible

Applicable criteria:

Not Eligible

Comments:

Documentation insufficient

(Please see accompanying sheet explaining additional materials required)

gn Alice Cronk
Keeper of the National Register
Determined Eligible
Date: *January 20, 1988*



Basil Smith Farm Slave
House

AA - 119

Facade; South-East View

Severn, Md.

Gum

4/77



BASIL SMITH Farm SLAVE
HOUSE

A.A. - 119

Rear length; N. View

Severn, Md.

Gum

4/77