

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC TENANT HOUSE #2 (ON THE SITE OF THE SLAVE QUARTERS AT IVY NECK FARM).

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER Ivy Neck Farm, Cumberstone Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Cumberstone

 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Smithsonian Institution

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D. C.

 VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

20560

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

44-3356

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

### IVY NECK SLAVE QUARTER SITE

This abandoned two story structure stands on the site identified as the "Slave Quarter" on the 1792 plat of Watkins Neck Farm (a copy of which is attached). Though the farming timbers are still sound, large portions of the clapboard siding have been removed exposing the interior to the weather and hastening deterioration.

The structure, measuring approximately 46' x 15' is considerably larger than other slave or tenant dwellings located in southern Maryland. Its facade which faces south, is six bays in length (two doors, each flanked by two windows) in contrast to the typical length of one or two. Also unusual are the two adjacent shed dormer windows that jut from the center of the slope of the roof. The brick stove chimneys built inside each gable end are original.

The obvious difference in the sills, flooring and rafters indicate that the house was constructed in two sections. These rooms are divided by a frame partition, with a doorway connecting them. Though these divisions in the house as well as the size suggest a duplex, this possibility is dimished by the fact that the only stairway is not located through the center of the house, but in the southwest corner of the east room. The stairway is enclosed and is wider and more "finished" than the ladder stairs of undressed planks found in most slave or tenant houses. The stairs ascend to a hall landing on the second floor. To the east (right) a door gives entrance to a good-sized room. To the west another door leads into a small room. Beyond this room is another of similar dimensions. These three rooms upstairs show a more extensive division of space than was common in 19th century houses of black people and provided the occupants of this house with more privacy.

All of the timbers and boards used in this house were mill sawn into dimensions one commonly finds today at the lumber yard. The timbers were butted into place and nailed with cut nails to form the "Balloon frame", a method of framing that came into use by black tenants in southern Maryland in the last quarter of the 19th century. None of the timbers were mortised and tenoned, the traditional method of joinings the frame. In fact there were no indications of the old methods of "working wood" in this house.

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 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 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	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
----------------	-------------------

---

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There is no evidence in the construction that would establish this house to be antebellum. In fact, the design, materials and the use of the ballon frame show quite clearly that this was a late 19th century structure.

A brief conversation with one of the black workers at Ivy Neck established that the house was standing over sixty years ago, when he was young. It was known at that time as "old house". This indicates that the house was probably constructed in the 1880s or 90s, perhaps as a replacement for one or more of the slave cabins. The probability of this date is strenghtened by an interview with an elderly black tenant farmer in St. Mary's County who said that black people began changing over to wood stoves and to this kind of frame house (because "they could build more rooms") at the time of his birth (1895) or a little earlier.

This period marks several transitions in black housing in rural southern Maryland:

1. from the small single pen houses to larger structures (at least for some blacks).
2. from the use of construction materials gathered from nearby resources (the forest) and hand crafted by builders to manufactured store-bought materials.
3. from the use of the open hearth for cooking and heating to the wood stove.
4. from one or two open rooms to four or more rooms, which permitted more privacy and may have heightened the sense of individual territory.

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 McDaniel

1/76

ORGANIZATION

Md. Commission on Afro-American and Indian History and Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

12 W. Madison St.

TELEPHONE

301-383-3648

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore,

STATE

Md.

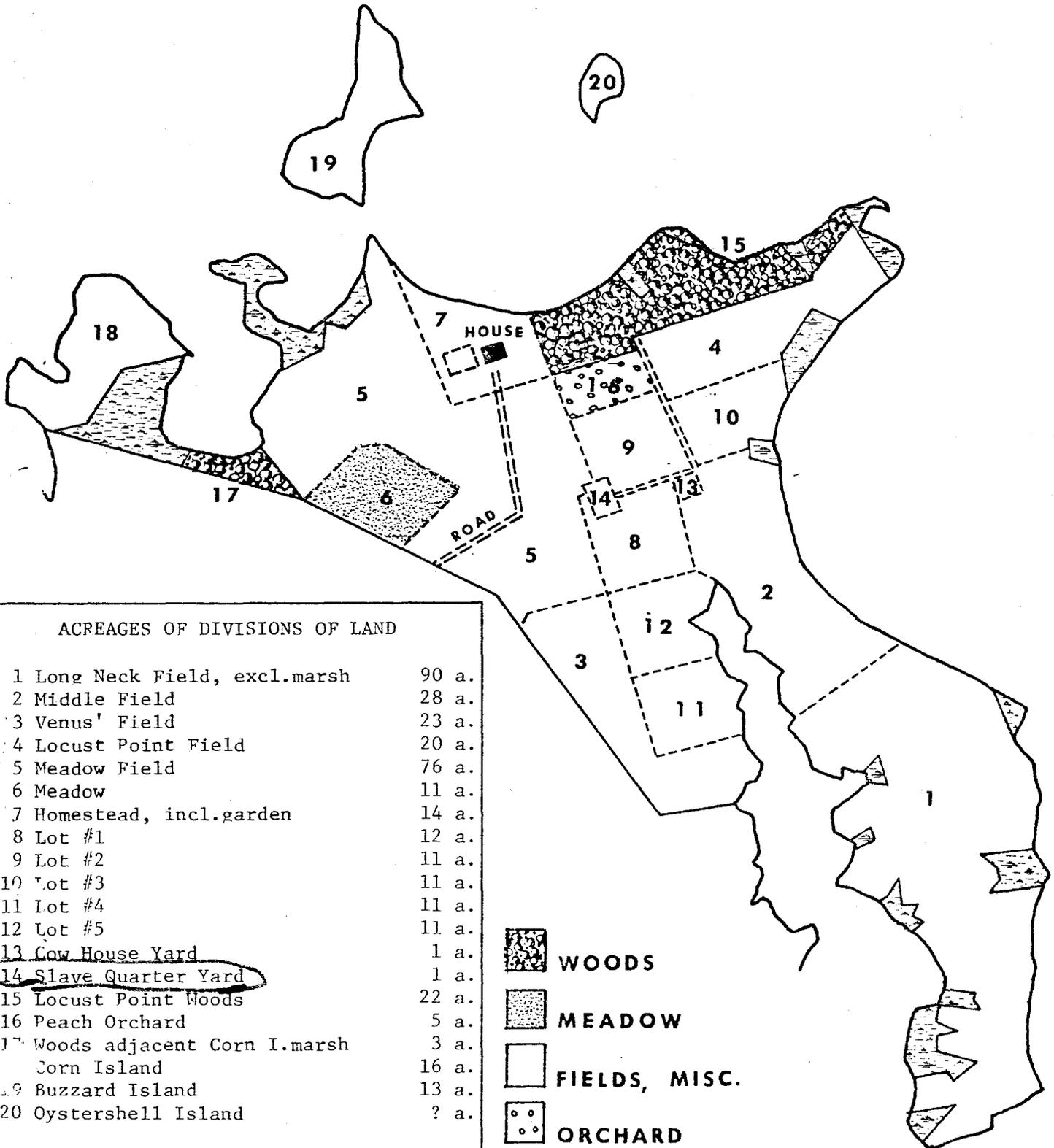
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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

# PATTERN OF LAND USE AT WATKINS NECK IN 1791

4A-225B



ACREAGES OF DIVISIONS OF LAND

1 Long Neck Field, excl.marsh	90 a.
2 Middle Field	28 a.
3 Venus' Field	23 a.
4 Locust Point Field	20 a.
5 Meadow Field	76 a.
6 Meadow	11 a.
7 Homestead, incl.garden	14 a.
8 Lot #1	12 a.
9 Lot #2	11 a.
10 Lot #3	11 a.
11 Lot #4	11 a.
12 Lot #5	11 a.
13 Cow House Yard	1 a.
14 Slave Quarter Yard	1 a.
15 Locust Point Woods	22 a.
16 Peach Orchard	5 a.
17 Woods adjacent Corn I.marsh	3 a.
Corn Island	16 a.
19 Buzzard Island	13 a.
20 Oystershell Island	? a.
--- Salt Marshes (total area) ---	32 a.

Areas of all divisions are rounded off to the nearest whole acre

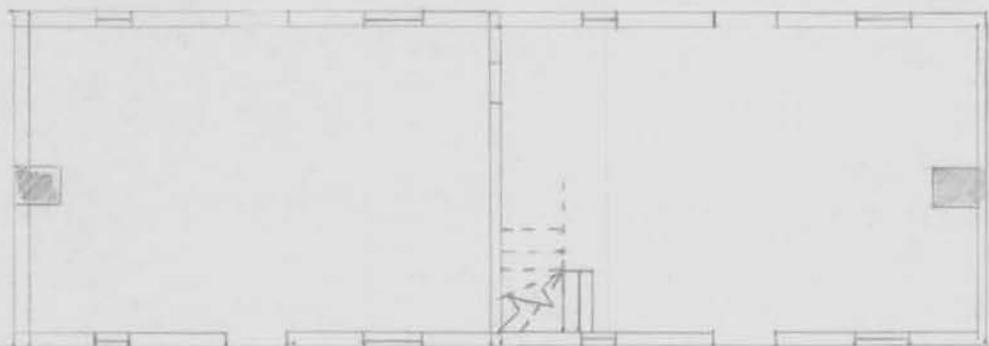
-  WOODS
-  MEADOW
-  FIELDS, MISC.
-  ORCHARD
-  MARSH

This additional information on Ivy Neck Tenant House #2 was assembled during the Galesville Black History Survey in 1985 by the Anne Arundel County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Ivy Neck Tenant House #2, constructed probably during the 1880's-90's, is clearly visible in a 1921 aerial photograph of Ivy Neck belonging to the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center at Rhode River.

George Downs, a farm employee at Ivy Neck, is a former occupant of Tenant House #2. He was born down the road at Parkhurst Farm in 1932, and he began working parttime at Ivy Neck at the age of 9 or 10. He moved into Tenant House #2 in 1942 with his mother Mary Brent Downs and his two sisters. His father who had worked at Parkhurst was dead. George continued living in Tenant House #2 after his mother's death in 1948. In 1952 he and his sister Becky moved to Ivy Neck Tenant House #4 where they stayed until the Smithsonian bought the land surrounding it in 1966. Now George Downs lives in Annapolis and commutes to work at Ivy Neck. Both tenant houses, #2 and #4, are vacant and in ruins. The roof on the older (east) section of #2 collapsed in the early 1980's. (See attached photos, before and after the collapse.)

Susan Wetherill 11/87



SCALE  $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'0''$

0 2 4 6 FEET

EXTERIOR WALL LENGTH TO SCALE  
DIVISIONS AND DETAILS NOT TO SCALE

IVY NECK FARM  
TENANT HOUSE #2  
WEST RIVER, MARYLAND

FEBRUARY 20, 1985

D. DOWLING

AA-225B





5A  
Roll

AA. 225 B

IVY NECK TENANT HSR #2 (glass/Highland  
and pictures)

A.A.Co. MD.

S. Weimer 2/85

facade, S. elev.



AA. 225 B

IVY NECK TENANT HSE. #2

G.G.Co. MD

S. Wetherill, 2/85

SE corner



A. 225B

IVY NECK TENANT HSE. # 2

A. G. Co. MD.

S. Wehrill 1/85

SW corner



AA-225B

IVY NECK TENANT HSE.#2

A.A.Co. MD

J. Wehrh, 2/85

detail, SE corner



AA-225B

Tenant House in old  
"Slave Quarter Yard"

Ivy Neck  
ca. 1940s

Courtesy of John Colhoun



AA-225B

Mary Downs in front  
of meathouse

Ivy Neck

ca. 1940

courtesy of John Colhoun



Terrace House # 2 <sup>on</sup> at  
Site of Slave Quarters at  
Ivy Hill Farm

AA-225B

2/76

MHT, Annapolis

GWM

See Ph Elevation (front).



Tenant House # 2 at  
Ivy Neck Farm  
AA-225 B  
G Wm  
1176  
MAY Annapolis

East Elevation



Tenant House # 2 on  
Site of Slave Quarters at  
Ivy Neck Farm

AA-225B

SLW

2/76

MHT, Annapolis

West Elevation