

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic GEORGE DOWNS HOUSE

and/or common Ivy Neck Tenant House #4

2. Location

street & number Cumberstone Road, south side not for publication

city, town Cumberstone vicinity of congressional district

state MD county A.A.

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 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 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"/> 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 Smithsonian Institution /Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) Tax Parcel #214 (330.07 acres)

street & number Contees Wharf Road telephone no.: 798-4424

city, town Edgewater state and zip code MD

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber 1985

street & number folio 149

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. A4-825D

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date of move _____

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

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

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 George Downs House (Tenant Hse.#4) is the youngest of the surviving Ivy Neck Tenant Houses. Built about 1920*, it is much more commodious than the older tenant houses on the farm. One-and-a-half stories tall, it has about 900 square feet of living space including, on the first floor, two parlors, an entry stairhall, and^apantry, and two bedrooms and a hall on the second floor. Large windows and relatively high ceilings make for well-lighted rooms. The partitioned entry hall separates strangers at the front door from the private living space within, instead of having the door open directly upon that private space as happens in the other Ivy Neck tenant houses. The stairway is broad and straight instead of narrow and wrap-around. The first-floor doors are 6'5" tall, compared with 6'3" at Tenant Hse.#1 and 5'7½" at Tenant Hse.#3. There are even some decorative embellishments in Tenant House #4 such as horizontal-board wainscoting capped by a chair rail, and a built-in corner cupboard in one of the parlors. The house had a partial width front porch, now collapsed. It has two small stove chimneys, one in the west end of each parlor, a raised-seam tin roof, cedar shingle siding, 6-over-6 windows with 7½"x9½"panes, and hardwood floors.

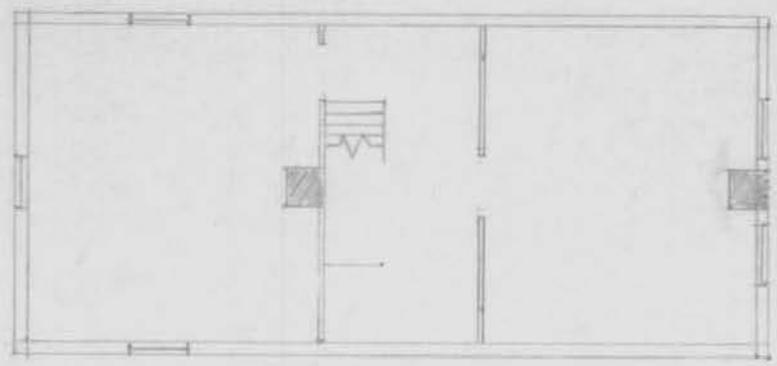
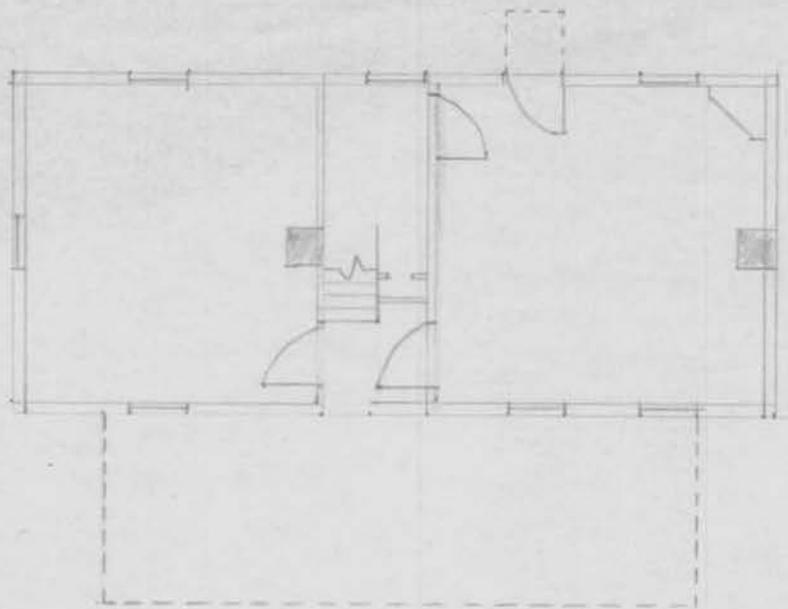
According to oral testimony by Sam Neal Jr., Sam Neal Sr. with his wife and four youngest children occupied this house from 1930 until 1943. Sam Neal Jr. and his wife were living next door in Tenant Hse.#1 during the same period. Both men had begun tenant-farming at Ivy Neck in 1918, walking there daily from Owensville until 1930 when they moved their families to Ivy Neck.

Between 1943 and 1952, several other families moved in and out of Ivy Neck Tenant Hse.#4, including Al Sims for one year, and John Johnson in about 1950.

About 1952, George Downs and his sister Becky moved from Ivy Neck Tenant Hse.#2 into Tenant Hse.#4, and stayed there until 1966 when the Smithsonian acquired 330 acres of Ivy Neck farmland including this tenant house. The house has been vacant and deteriorating ever since.

* It is visible in a 1921 aerial photo.

AA-225D



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

EXTERIOR WALL LENGTH TO SCALE
DIVISIONS AND DETAIL NOT TO SCALE

IVY NECK FARM
TENANT HOUSE # 4
WEST RIVER, MARYLAND

FEBRUARY 22, 1985



USGS Map, South River, MD. Quad.
 1957, Revised 1978
 Scale 1: 24,000

AA-225 D
 Ivey Neck Tenant Hse. #4
 Cumberland



AA. 225D

George Downs House
(Ivy Neck Tenant Hse. #4)

A. A. Co., MD
S. Wetmore 2/85
facade, N. elev.



AA-225D

Ivy Neck #4 / George Downs Hse.

A. A. Co. MD

S. Wetherill 1/85

facade, N. elev.



AA. 225 D

GEORGE DOWNS HOUSE

(Iny Neck Tenant Hse. #4)

A.A.Co. MD.

S. Weddell, 2/85

SE corner



AA. 225D

GEORGE DOWNS HOUSE

(Ivy Neck Tenant Hse. #4)

A.A. Co. MD

S. Wetherill, 1/85

NW corner



AA-225 D

GEORGE DOWNS HOUSE

(Iny Neck Tenant Hse. #4)

G. A. Co. MD.

S. Wetherill, 1/85

detail, south elev.