

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

AA-247A

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME					
COMMON:					
Slave Quarter at "Batchelor's Choice"					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
East side of Route 2, one mile south of jct. with Rtes. 408 & 422					
CITY OR TOWN:					
near Lothian					
STATE:			COUNTY:		
Maryland			Anne Arundel		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____	
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME:					
Mr. & Mrs. Edward William Digges, Jr.				Phone: 867-4550	
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
Lothian			Maryland		20820
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
Map #68, E.D. #1, Parcel #215, Liber/Folio #2080/332					
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY:					
DATE OF SURVEY:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>A simple, frame structure with an A-roof, a center entrance and a large exterior chimney, stands near the main house at "Batchelor's Choice" (AA-38-A-a). It was built, probably in the second quarter of the 19th century, to house the household servants. It was renovated by the present owners and they lived there while the major work was being done on the main house.</p> <p>This building is one of the few examples of its kind remaining in the area.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Empty box for Major Bibliographical References.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF ~~UNIMPROVED~~ PROPERTY: 10 acres

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National State Local

Signature

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

A.A. - 240 A
 1001#(024.15).4

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC BATCHELLOR'S (sic) CHOICE: HOUSE SERVANTS DWELLING
 AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER SOLOMAN'S ISLAND RD.

CITY, TOWN LOTHIAN, MD. VICINITY OF ANNE ARUNDEL
 STATE COUNTY

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 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 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 EDWARD DIGGES, JR. Telephone #: 301-867-4550
 STREET & NUMBER Same as above
 CITY, TOWN STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, LIBER #: Registry of Deeds, etc. Folio #:
 STREET & NUMBER
 CITY, TOWN STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Maryland Historical Society Inventory
 DATE
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust
 CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE Md.

44 2074

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This one and one half story, frame house is located 63 yards northwest on a diagonal from the northwest corner (rear) of the main house. Behind and below it a road, which used to be one of the main plantation roads, runs back into the fields, where another slave cabin was once located. A slave cemetery is supposedly located about 100 yards in front of the house, but the area is so overgrown with ivy that it has not yet been found. No gravestones mark its location.

The house was substantially altered a few years ago, when the present owners renovated it for occupancy while the main house was being repaired. However, the features that one sees now, while of modern construction, are more or less similar to the original, according to the present owners, who themselves dismantled and re-constructed the dwelling.

The original frame consisted of 2"x4" or 2"x6" studs and was sheated by horizontal overlapping clapboards of about the same width and thickness as the replacements. It stood on brick pilings, the underpinning there today being absent then. The locations of the door and windows were not changed, though the front windows were shortened 8", because the owners could not find glass to fit the old panes, and due to pressing circumstances did not have the free time necessary to find old glass.

The ground floor measures about 24'x16' and stands 8'6" from the top of the top of the brick pilings to the bottom of the box cornice. Since the present renters of the house were absent, I could not go inside for more measurements. The loft measured the same in width and length and is c. 8' from the floor to the peak of the roof.

The house was originally covered with wood shingles and the brick chimney, though repaired in spots, is similar enough to the original to give a good indication of what the original was like. The older bricks measure roughly 8"x2"x4" and appear to be hand-made. The mortar is mixed with stone, and oyster shell fragments.

According to the owner, a swinging crane is in the hearth and is still serviceable.

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		
0-1499	<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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Source: William Hall, 301- 867-0672. Oral interview.

Batchellor's Choice had been in the Hall family for generations. His grandmother, Mrs. Elma Sellman Hall, was an invalid. According to family tradition, this dwelling was built near the main house so that a black family servant, Perdills Easton, could be nearby to care for Mrs. Hall during her illness. Mrs. Hall died in the early 1880's. Mr. Hall said that this house was built therefore in the 1870's -- not in the 60's or earlier. He is quite certain about this. So this house was not a slave cabin.

However, being built immediately after emancipation, its dimensions, construction, and architecture could have been modelled after slave cabins. On the other hand, perhaps after freedom, the freedmen and women may have asked, demanded, or built for themselves more substantial and comfortable houses. This house might then represent that change. In this particular case, comparison with other slave cabins reveals that this house is too similar in construction and design to slave cabins (examples -- Grasslands and Essex in Anne Arundel County) to constitute a considerable improvement from slavery to freedom in the housing of plantation blacks.

Addendum:

According to the present owners, the original interior of the house was divided into two rooms downstairs by a partition. The joists were exposed underneath the floorboards of the loft.

A small enclosed stairway led to the upper chamber that was one open room. There was no hearths, thus no heat except that which rose from the downstairs fireplace, a situation common to the houses of the folk, whether they be slaves or postbellum tenants, black or white.

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

DATE
1/18/76

ORGANIZATION
Maryland Commission on Afro-American and Indian History and Culture

STREET & NUMBER
12 W. Madison Street

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



AA-
240A

AA-38-Q-b
(map 29)
at. "Batchelor's Choice"
Slave Quarter

amb 11-74



House servants
dwelling at
Batchellor's
choise

AA-240A

Swm

2/76

MAT, Annapolis

North Elevation



Home Servants' Dwelling at
Patchellon's (sic) Choice

AA - 240A

Swm

2/96

MH7, Annapolis

East Elevation