

LVT- 1088  
BENJAMIN FOOTE HOUSE  
Lusby  
Private

early 19th century and 1920's

When Benjamin Foote and his family moved into this house in the late 1870's, it was a small, two-room ("one up, one down") log house with a shed kitchen that had been one of several slave cabins on Thomas R. Tongue's plantation. Similar to other log houses in the county, its front entrance was located in the gable end. In 1890 the Tongue family sold this tract to Benjamin Foote who remodeled it in the 1920's. His descendants continue to live in the house and on the land he acquired from the Tongues.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Mag # 05 0108 5604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC THE BENJAMIN AND SOPHIE FOOTE HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

On Clifton Drive,  
North side of Helen's Creek Rd. (unmarked) at its  
Jct. with Coster Rd. This Jct. is .3 mile north of  
Jct. of Coster Rd. and Hilltop Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Lusby

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

Calvert

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mrs. Grace Foote Gross

Telephone #: 301-326-3494

STREET & NUMBER

Box 54, Coster Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Lusby

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md.

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Calvert County Courthouse, Land Records

Liber #: TBT 1

Folio #: 196

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

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 house has been extensively altered in the 20th century. According to Mrs. Grace Foote Gross, her parents Benjamin and Sophie Foote moved into this house between 1877-1880. At that time it was a small unpainted log house with one room downstairs, another upstairs. The southern gable end was the front of the house, as it is today, causing the structure at that time to resemble a 1 room deep shotgun house. To the rear was a shed kitchen. Exterior to the west side of the original block ascended a brick chimney. The facade had only one bay, the front door; and the ground floor, one window, on the east side opposite the fireplace. The upstairs had one a small window on each gable end. According to Mrs. Gross, in the 1920's the house was doubled in size by additons to the western length, and the log kitchen was demolished and replaced by a porch.

Since the house was locked, investigation of its interior was not possible.

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" 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 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

The following information was provided by Mrs. Charles Tongue Reichart, whose ancestors, the Tongue family, owned the antebellum plantation on which this site was located, and by Mrs. Grace Foote Gross whose ancestors had been slaves there. According to them, the original log block of the house had been a slave house on the Tongue plantation. Between 1877-1880 Mrs. Gross's parents who had been born as slaves on the Tongue plantation and ~~now~~ freed after emancipation, moved into this as tenant farmers. They gradually saved enough money to buy the house and 11 acres of land around it. The deed for the property shows that the purchase was made in 1890. Near this site, other descendants of ex-slaves of the Tongue plantation purchased small tracts of land from the Tongue descendants and in this way formed a community of landowning black farmers.

The significance of this particular house is that it is a physical remnant of that black community whose original ties were probably formed during slavery. The house is also significant because it served as a slave house, tenant house, and landowner's house. The fact that changes were not made to the original house from slavery to tenancy and not until thirty years after its purchase by the Footes show that transitions in living conditions for many blacks were slow. The fact that the ex-slaves and their descendants selected to stay here first as tenants and then as landowners shows their attachment to the land and the locale, and the sale of lands to them reveals their desire to become landowners themselves. The sale also suggests that an accord had been reached between the blacks and whites on this particular plantation community.

No structural, written, or oral evidence could be found to date this house, <sup>except</sup> other than the oral testimony that it was built as a slave house, presumably in the antebellum 19th century, though possibly earlier since the Tongue plantation was in existence in the 18th century and the original materials have been masked.

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 DATE  
Md. Commission on Afro-American History & Culture

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE  
20 Dean Street 269-2893

CITY OR TOWN STATE  
Annapolis, Maryland

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



Benj. Foote House  
CLVT-10P

N. S. E. lev.

Lusby, Md.

Gunn

GEORGE W. McLANE  
CREDIT TO



Benjamin Foote

CLVT-108

E. ~~#~~ Education

Lucky, Md.

CREDIT TO  
GEORGE W. MCDANIEL



CT-108

BENJAMIN FOOTE HOUSE

G. McDANIEL 1976