

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC IRVINE HOUSE (Plank Bridge Farm)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER East side of Bumpy Oak Road, approximately one-quarter mile north of Rassmussen's Siding.

CITY, TOWN Bryan's Road VICINITY OF Pomonkey CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1st

STATE Maryland COUNTY Charles

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Norman Irvine

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Bryan's Road VICINITY OF Maryland STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charles County Courthouse

Liber #: 143
Folio #: 289

STREET & NUMBER Charles Street

CITY, TOWN La Plata, Maryland STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

DESCRIPTION

CH-117

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

See Attached

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

#7: Description:

The Irvine House is located on the east side of Bumpy Oak Road, less than one-quarter mile north of the intersection of Bumpy Oak Road and the U. S. Government railroad crossing at Rassmussen's Sidinc.

A simple, two-story, two-part farmhouse with a two-story chimney with stepped shoulders at the west end, the Irvine House faces south and is four bays in length at the first floor, the entrance door occupying the second bay from the west end. Above are three windows. All of the windows of the south elevation frame sash of six-over-six panes. Centered on the front roof slope of the two-bay west end section of the house is a low shed dormer with three narrow windows. Centered on the roof ridge of the east end section, only slightly lower than the adjacent part of the house, is a narrow brick chimney. The east end section of the house is not quite as deep as the west end and has a one story, shed-roofed porch across its north wall.

Since access to the interior of the house was not gained, a meaningful assessment of the age and physical development of the house cannot be made at this time; however, several features suggest that the house is somewhat more interesting than the exterior details would indicate. Of particular interest is the fact that most if not all of the house is of log construction. Based on physical evidence observed it appears that the west end section of the house dates from the early nineteenth century and had a one story, one room log wing at the east end. The east wing probably functioned as a kitchen and had an exterior chimney at its east end. The kitchen wing was probably raised to two stories and extended at the chimney end at a later date, possibly in about 1900.

The Irvine House, neglected for many years, is now being renovated. The house occupies a situation in what from the road appears to be a "hollow," an effect created when Bumpy Oak Road was recently rebuilt and elevated. Standing about 50 yards east of the house is a dilapidated, nineteenth century barn. Several other buildings believed to have been associated with the Irvine House, a tobacco barn and a corn crib, both of which have false plate eaves construction and appear to date at least from the early nineteenth century, are now part of another property on the west side of Bumpy Oak Road.

81 SIGNIFICANCE

CH-117

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 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

See Attached

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

#8: Statement of Significance:

A plain, two-story farmhouse with a single exterior chimney at one end, the most interesting aspect of the Irvine House is the fact that a major portion of it is of hewn log construction. Although a great number of log buildings were erected in the southern Maryland region from its initial settlement up to the mid-nineteenth century, few survive. Those few log structures that do exist are therefore significant to any study of regional vernacular architecture, whatever their form or function.

It is likely that the Irvine House was built as a tenant house on the Forrest Green property owned by Richard Tubman in 1763 and patented earlier by Zephaniah Wade.¹ By 1798 Forrest Green, together with several other contiguous tracts, was part of the estate of George Tubman who, on his death that year, bequeathed it to his son, Richard.² Richard Tubman, who later moved to Augusta, Georgia, died in 1833, providing for the disposal of his Charles County lands in the following manner:

"Having inherited from my Father a tract of land in Charles County, Maryland, and being desirous that it remain in possession of some person bearing the family name, and in the event of my dying without child or children I devise the lands aforesaid together with the negros that are now upon it to the youncest son of Thomas B. Tubman and heirs when he or they arrive at the full age of 25 years providing they retain the family name and if not then to the next of kin."³

In accordance with Richard Tubman's will the property eventually passed in ownership to Benjamin Tubman, youngest son of Thomas B. Tubman. Tubman, who also came into possession of additional adjacent lands previously owned by various members of the family, sold a portion of the Forrest Green property, then known as Plank Bridge Farm and containing 205 acres, to Jens Rassmussen in 1905.⁴ In 1929 Rassmussen's 205 acres of Plank Bridge Farm, together with an additional 68 acres acquired by Rassmussen in 1919, was sold at a sheriff's sale to the Maryland Tobacco Grower's Association.⁵ In 1936 the Association sold 48 acres of Plank Bridge Farm and the adjacent 68 acre tract to Nicholas Krauch, who in turn sold the same lands to Alfred Tippet in 1948.⁶ The 116 acres was sold by Tippet to the present owners in 1959.⁷

Footnotes:

1. Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland. Liber L#3, folio 246.
2. Register of Wills Office, Courthouse, La Plata. Liber AK#11, folio 460.
3. Wills Office Liber DJ#16, folio 128
4. Land Records. Liber FLX#16, folio 443
5. Ibid. Liber WMA#51, folio 40.
6. Ibid. Liber WMA#63, folio 522; Liber PCM#87, folio 533.
7. Ibid. Liber 143, folio 289.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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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 J. Richard Rivoire, Consultant

ORGANIZATION Charles County Planning Department DATE September, 1980

STREET & NUMBER Charles County Courthouse TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN La Plata STATE 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

