

ADDENDUM

CH-311
Sinkfield Log House
Charles County, MD
Mt. Victoria vic.
Cathy Hardy, January 2002

8. Statement of Significance

The Sinkfield Log House is the last remaining vestige of an antebellum African-American hamlet in Charles County. Now demolished except for traces of the building’s exterior log walls, the site lies on property once associated with “The Glebe” owned by the William and Mary Parish in Wayside throughout much of the 19th century. Rev. John Todd purchased “part of the Glebe” during his lifetime. After his death, existing lots containing structures were parceled off in 1910. The first contained six acres, while the second contained two acres. In the following year William M. Sinkfield acquired the lots.

The 1910 survey reveals that this was part of a larger community of small 1-6 acre lots formally laid out in 1910 as “Part of the Glebe”. This survey references an earlier plat made by Capt. H.C. Page in 1858, suggesting that the village had been established since that time. The 1910 survey identifies eight lots and nine buildings in the village which bounded the lands of Mt. Tirzah to the south and the Glebe to the west.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The site is designated as Parcel 12 , Map 83 on the Charles County Property Tax Map.

12. Property Owner

name John E. and Mary C. Ford street & number 13135 Guy
Washington Drive telephone _____
city or town Newburg state MD zip code 20664-0011

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-311

Section 8 Page 1

Sinkfield Log House

name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

Chain of Title:

- 1965 Margaret S. Hawkins, nee Sinkfield
1st 6 acres
2nd 2 acres
Said two tracts being a part of "The Glebe" Surveyed in 1910,
204/643
- 1914 Will of William M. Sinkfield. To wife Mary Sinkfield, children Mable E. Chisley,
nee Sinkfield, Margaret C. Sinkfield and William M. Sinkfield, Jr.
183/20
- 1911 Jennie A. Todd et al to William M. Sinkfield
HCC 24/8
- 1911 L. Allison Wilmer and Adrian Posey, trustees to Jemmie A. Todd and Caroline
Todd, their heirs, etc. 105 acres. Same land that Rev. John M. Todd purchased in
his lifetime from the vestry of William and Mary Parish
23/237

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-311

Section 9 Page 1

Sinkfield Log House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Klaphor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland.
LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.



CH-311
Sunk Field hog House
Charles Co, MD
C. Hardy
112002
MD SHPO
SW CORNER

10F1

CH-311
SINKFIELD LOG HOUSE (ruin)
Mount Victoria
Private

3rd quarter 19th century

Built on land purchased by the Sinkfield family soon after the Civil War is this 1 1/2-story, two-bay house, now in ruins. Its log construction attests to the survival of traditional building methods in Charles County. Later alterations to the house include the addition of a small kitchen on the gable end and a partition which bisected the single ground floor room. John Ford, a descendant of the black family which first purchased the land, still owns the site and lives nearby.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC SINKFIELD LOG HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER East side of Guy Washington, 0.5 mile north of Jct. of Guy Washington Rd. and Mill Run Rd.

CITY, TOWN Mt. Victoria VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5

STATE Md. COUNTY Charles

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

Abandoned

NAME John Ford Telephone #: 301-259-4297

STREET & NUMBER Box 11

CITY, TOWN Newberg, Md. STATE, zip code 20664

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charles County Courthouse

MAP 25 P. 35
Liber #: 204
Folio #: 5643

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN La Plata 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 type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house is now completely overgrown by vines and briars and is hardly visible from the old road that it once faced. The roof has completely collapsed, exposing the interior to the weather and hastening deterioration. The log walls themselves are rotting, and will soon give way.

The house consists of two sections: an original and principal log block, and an added, smaller frame kitchen attached to the northern gable. The principal block was ^{three} bays across the facade, and one in depth. The window ^{openings} in the front and rear length ^{had} held double hung sashes, according to John Ford, the present owner. The log ^{walls} were probably exposed on the outside; it is definite that they ~~were~~ not sheathed on the inside. The logs were saddle-notched at the corners, reinforced by ^{cut} nails. The log walls had no foundation blocks, being supported ^o by large log sills which were laid directly on the ground and turned on their broadest sides. There was no evidence in the log walls of posts or pegs to reinforce the walls, not even of pegs from the plates down into the log members below, a feature that is commonly found in log houses in the region. The window frames ^{were} ~~was~~ notched up into the plate along the front length, but ^{were} ~~was~~ laid directly in line with the plate along the rear length, and in both cases ^{were} ~~was~~ held in place by wire nails. This method ^h of window framing shows the curious ~~was~~ blending of the old and the new, that is so striking throughout 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 c. 1880's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT The Sinkfield family

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to the present owner John Ford, this log house was probably built by his maternal grandparents soon after the Civil war. The presence of wire nails in the window frames which appear to be original date the house to post-1878 at least. So it was probably built in the 1880's, and the builders -- the Sinkfields, a family of black landowners -- blended the older methods of construction with some of the new.

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 and Culture

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE
20 Dean St.

CITY OR TOWN STATE
Annapolis, 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.

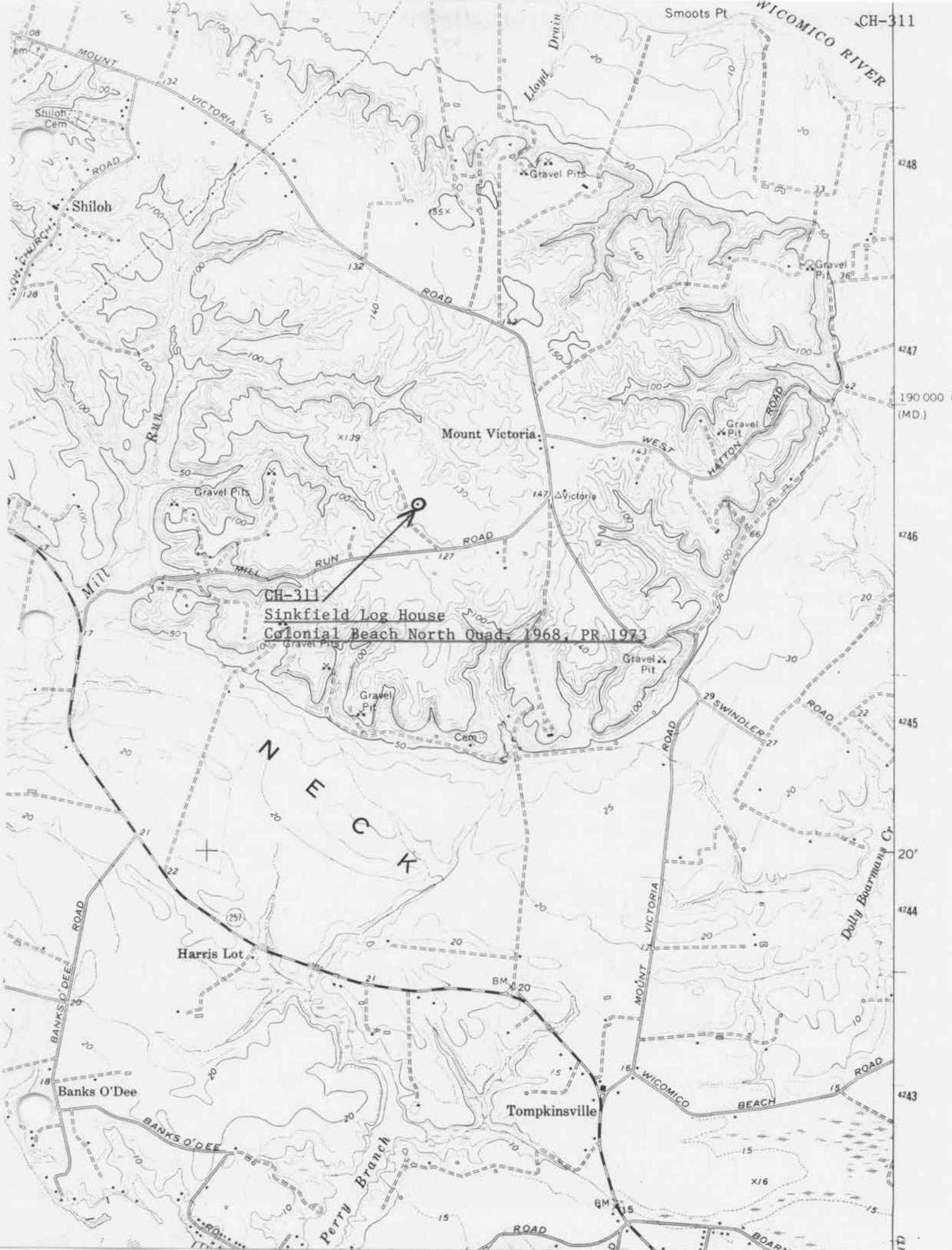
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

CONTINUATION OF THE PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE
SINKFIELD LOG HOUSE:

The interior consisted probably of a hall and chamber design in the downstairs. Upstairs there were two rooms also. The interior continues with the mixture of the old and new. For example, the walls were not covered with boards or plaster, but were whitewashed. The rough joists were left exposed, as in the earlier houses. The house did have a plank floor, ^{an opening for} a wood stove that was original to construction, there being no fireplace; and large openings for windows (unlike the smaller ones for traditional log houses) similar to the ones in the Hawkins House (Ch-306). These windows, by their size and placement opposite one another, possibly show the greater ability to warm the house due to the presence of ^{the} wood stove, and possibly suggest the change in domestic values towards bringing the outdoors into the house (sunshine and outdoor views). They also indicate that more time may have been spent inside the house than in the antebellum era.

WICOMICO RIVER



CH-311
 Sinkfield Log House
 Colonial Beach North Quad, 1968, PR 1973

N
E
C
K

4248

4247

190 000 FE
(MD.)

4246

4245

20'

4244

4243

VT7



Sinkfield Log House
Mt. Victoria, Md.

Interior, East wall
and partition

CH 311 ^{3/77} GWM



Sinkfield Log House
Interior - East Wall
Mt. Victoria, Md.

CH 311 3/77 GWM



SINKFIELD Log House
Mt. Victoria, Md.

John Ford and
children

CH 311 3/77 GWM



Sinkfield Log House
Mt. Victoria, Md.

WEST ELEVATION

CH 311 3/77 GWM



Sinkfield Log House
Mt. Victoria, Md.

North wall of
log structure

CH 311 3/77 GWM



Sinkfield Log House
Mt. Victoria, Md.

Interior, WEST WALL

3/77

CH 311

GWM