

CHAS-312

The George Barbour House Site

Rison Vicinity

Private

1880's or 90's

This small one story, one room frame house was built as the residence for George Barber and family. Though built with the methods of the time (balloon frame) and with the mass-produced materials, it retains the traditional design of the small houses for the rural poor.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CH-312  
MAG I #0903127627

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC THE GEORGE BARBER<sup>OUR</sup> HOUSE (SITE)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

North side of Rt. 224, 6 miles west of Jct Rts. 224 and 225

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rison

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

10

STATE

Maryland

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Abandoned

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mrs. Rodella Swan

Telephone #: None

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rison

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md.

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Charles County Courthouse

Liber #: MAP #30  
Folio #: PARCEL # 230  
No DEED REFERENCE

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

CH 312

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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**

According to William <sup>177</sup>, the black oral informant who led me to this site and who was raised in this vicinity of Charles County, this small, abandoned, unpainted house was built in the 1890's as the residence of George Barb<sup>our</sup> and his family

The house faces south toward Rt. 224 and was originally a farmhouse, though today the land is no longer cultivated. Like the eralier houses of nonlandowning black farmers, the house is very simple in design, consisting of one room downstairs and another upstairs. The front and rear lengths both have two bays: a door and a window opposite one another on each side. The gable ends have no windows. A brick stove flue ascends the interior of the western gable end and is original to construction. The A roof has given way on the southern side, and the entire house will soon collapse or be torn down.

The house is balloon frame, and like other 19th century balloon frame houses of blacks in southern Maryland, the framing members and weatherboards are fastened by wire nails., instaed of cut nails, thereby indicating the adoption of this method of building houses to have taken place late in the century. In many other parts of the nation, it had become widespread by the middle of the century.

Site bulldozed Jan - Feb, 1978.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

CH-312

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 1880's or 90's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is the first balloon frame house built in Charles County for a black family, according to William Diggs. All other houses, he said, were log. This one was also heated by a wood stove, and was ventilated with glass windows, instead of the more traditional wooden shutters. Despite its advances in terms of construction, this house remained approximately the same size as the earlier houses and contained only one room down and one up, the traditional plan.

Note: This house was bulldozed after the first visit to site, and no pictures were taken at that time. So there are no photographs of this site.

Note: For further information about this house, contact William Diggs.

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