

HARRISON AND JANIE DENT HOUSE
CH 318
Nanjemoy, Md.
Private

c 1890

This balloon frame house began its history in the late 1800's as a small, two story, two bay dwelling with one room downstairs and another upstairs. According to Mrs. Harrison Dent, the present occupant and owner, she and her husband bought the property in 1907 and soon thereafter tripled the size of the house. This enlargement reflected the growing need felt by rural folk for private space and for rooms for specialized uses in the 20th century, in contrast to the earlier houses in which numerous and varied activities took place in shared spaces.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAG# 0103185604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC HARRISON AND JANIE DENT HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER East side of Bowie Rd., 0.25 mile south of Jct. of Bowie Rd. and Rt. 6

CITY, TOWN Nanjemoy X VICINITY OF Ironsides CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3
STATE Maryland COUNTY Charles

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE
-DISTRICT -PUBLIC -OCCUPIED -AGRICULTURE -MUSEUM
-BUILDING(S) -PRIVATE -UNOCCUPIED -COMMERCIAL -PARK
-STRUCTURE -BOTH -WORK IN PROGRESS -EDUCATIONAL -PRIVATE RESIDENCE
-SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE -ENTERTAINMENT -RELIGIOUS
-OBJECT -IN PROCESS -YES RESTRICTED -GOVERNMENT -SCIENTIFIC
-BEING CONSIDERED -YES UNRESTRICTED -INDUSTRIAL -TRANSPORTATION
-NO -MILITARY -OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Janie Dent Telephone #: 301-246-4932

STREET & NUMBER Box 47

CITY, TOWN Nanjemoy VICINITY OF Md. STATE, zip code 20662

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charles County Courthouse Liber #: No Deed Reference; Map 52; Block 2
Folio #: in the Tax Assessor's Lists.

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

- 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

This two story, balloon frame house stands atop a knoll, facing south. It is surrounded by farm lands that are no longer cultivated. Remains of the working farm include the fields now in fallow and abandoned barn and farm equipment near the house. To the east side of the dwelling are several outbuildings, now used for storage and in need of maintenance. Directly in front of the house stands a massive oak tree, which the present occupant, Mrs. Janie Dent, remembers as a moderate sized tree when she and her husband purchased the house in 1907.

According to Mrs. Dent, who is 92 years old, the house originally consisted of a small, two story, two bay block with a small gable end kitchen. The gable roof was covered with wood shingles, and the frame by weatherboards painted white. The room downstairs was heated by a wood stove, a factor that suggests construction in the late 1800's (among black folk houses) as does the presence of wire nails in the framing members. Along the facade of the original block extended a shed porch.

In the 1920's a two story, two bay block of similar dimensions as the original section, replaced the small kitchen. The latter was removed and placed near the east end of the house, and served as a meathouse. A cross gable pediment without windows was also added. Later a two story two bay L was attached to the rear length, thereby completing the transformation of this originally simple dwelling into ~~that~~ of a substantial farmer.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 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 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 Late 1800's, c. 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The changes made in this house by the landowning family in the 20th century illustrate the modern values toward household space and design that rural black families were able to express as they acquired the money to do so.

Since Mrs. Dent is rather infirm (though with a clear mind and ready wit), the grounds around the house do not reflect today the attention given to the place when it was a working farm. The interior, however, is colorful and well ordered and contains many of the family mementoes, reflecting her attachment to her family, and that of her children and grandchildren to her.

Mrs. Dent is the **brother of Preston Janifer, whose house was also surveyed. The photograph of their father, an ex-slave, was copied as part of this survey and may be seen in the records of the Preston Janifer house, CH-**

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

Md. Commission on Afro-American History & Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

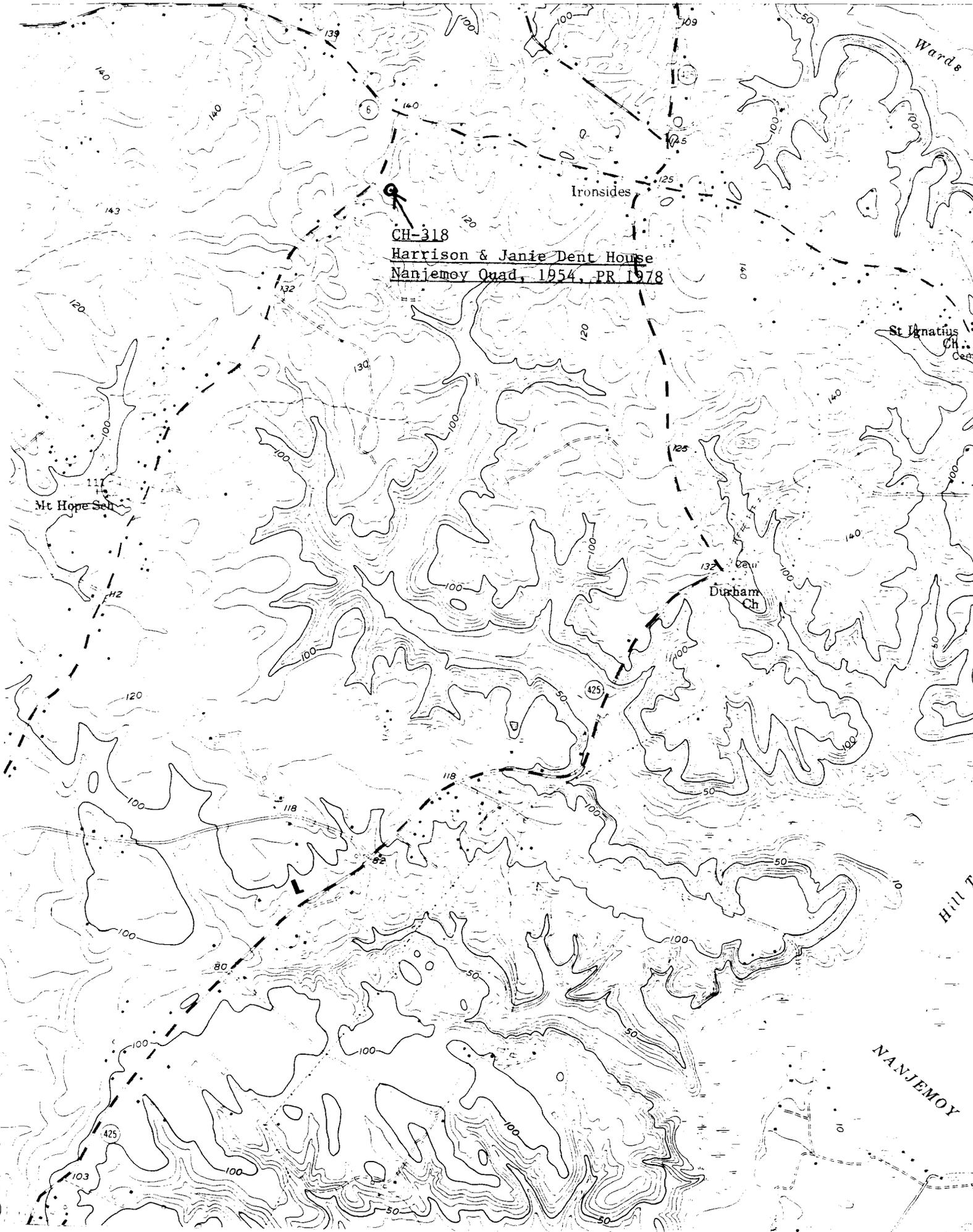
STATE

21401

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



CH-318
Harrison & Janie Dent House
Nanjemo Quad, 1954, PR 1978

Ironsides

Wards

St Ignatius
Ch
Cem

Mt Hope Sch

Durham
Ch

Hill Tr

NANJEMOY



CREDIT TO
GEORGE W. McDANIEL

CH 318
Harrison & Janie Dent House
Nanjemoy, Md.
Facade, south elev.
GWM
2-77



WRENT TO
GEORGE W. McDANIEL

CH 318
Harrison & Janie Dent House
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GWM
2-77