

William Hess House
CH-727
Tompkinsville
Private

Circa 1901

The William Hess House, likely constructed around 1901, is a typical vernacular I-house with an attached rear wing forming an overall T-plan. Three bays on the front elevation and two stories in height with a center hall, the house faces east and stands approximately 20 yards from Rock Point Road in the village of Tompkinsville. A shed roof porch extends the width of the façade and a decorative centered cross gable accentuates the front elevation. A one story kitchen wing with a shed roof extends from the south gable elevation.

The William H. Hess House is significant as a typical example of Charles County's domestic architecture at the turn of the 20th century and in its association with the crossroads village of Tompkinsville. The house stands on land which was originally part of the 400 acre tract known as Plainfield. Owned by the Frere family in the late 19th century, in 1901, William H. Hess acquired the entire parcel and likely constructed the earliest portions of the nearby storehouse known as Simms' Store (CH-728).

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-727

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic William Hess House
other

2. Location

street and number 11915 Frere Place not for publication
city, town Tompkinsville vicinity
county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Carol Ann Frere
street and number 14885 Rock Point Road telephone 301-259-2269
city, town Newburg state MD zip code 20664-3026

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 86 p. 8
city, town LaPlata liber 971 folio 179

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
				Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social		<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				0	

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-727

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The William Hess House, likely constructed around 1901, is a typical vernacular I-house with an attached rear wing forming an overall T-plan. Three bays on the front elevation and two stories in height with a center hall, the house faces east and stands approximately 20 yards from Rock Point Road in the village of Tompkinsville. A shed roof porch extends the width of the façade and a decorative centered cross gable accentuates the front elevation. A one story kitchen wing with a shed roof extends from the south gable elevation.

Extensively renovated in the last decade, earlier photographs reveal the dwelling's original 2/2 windows, and novelty siding. Originally, the porch held the dwellings only embellishment consisting of a cross gable with fishscale siding and scrollsawn brackets on the porch columns. Although replaced by concrete blocks, the frame originally rested on wood piers. Chimneys are no longer present and asphalt shingles now replace the pressed tin roof.

The east elevation includes three second story replacement windows above two first floor windows and a centered replacement door. An original lunette window adorns the decorative gable. The porch now has a brick floor and replacement posts. The shed addition on the south wall holds a replacement window. Moving clockwise, the north elevation includes the original shed addition as well as a one story enclosed shed now service as a utility room. The rear or west elevation includes single first and second story windows. The north elevation once held the original chimney, which has since been removed and replaced with windows on the first and second story.

During the recent renovation, the entire house was gutted and reconstructed. At this time several rooms were altered including the partition of an upstairs bedroom to accommodate bathroom and the widening of the doorway between the dining room and the kitchen wing.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-727

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philospohy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	1901-1935	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	circa 1901		

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The William H. Hess House is significant as a typical example of Charles County's domestic architecture at the turn of the 20th century and in it's association with the crossroads village of Tompkinsville. The house stands on land which was originally part of the 400 acre tract known as Plainfield. Owned by the Frere family in the late 19th century, in 1901, William H. Hess acquired the entire parcel and likely constructed the earliest portions of the nearby storehouse known as Simms' Store (CH-728) In 1914, William H. Hess died, leaving his property to his brother John J. Hess and his half sister Sarah L. Dean and their heirs. The estate, was not resolved for until 1935. Depositions taken in 1933 indicate that at the time his property "consisted of what is known as the store property on the east side of the road. This property, about one acre of land, is improved by a store building in good repair..worth about \$1000. On the opposite side of the State Road is the farm property, about 80 acres ... improved by two dwellings, a barn and other outbuildings. One of the dwellings, a 4-room house is in good repair and the other dwelling, also a 4-room house with kitchen attached is in a fair state of repair."(1) The latter description probably refers to the William Hess House.

The William Hess House is associated with the development of the crossroads village of Tompkinsville which first appears in Martinet's Map of 1865.(2) By 1880, the Maryland Directory identifies this hamlet, located 12 miles from Cox's Station and near Lancaster's Wharf, as having a meager population of 10. Despite it's small number of residents within the village, Tompkinsville nevertheless boasted two general stores, two mills, a blacksmith, wheelwright, carpenter and physician. (3)

(1) Charles County Equity Record, 1933 WMA 22/351

(2) Martinet, Simon J. Map of Maryland. Atlas edition. Baltimore. 1866.

(3) The Maryland Directory, 1880 Published by J. Frank Lewis and Company, Baltimore

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-727

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 52.28

Acreage of historical setting 400

Quadrangle name Colonial Beach North

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

William Hess House is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 86, Parcel 8.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 11/5/01

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town LaPlata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-727

Section 8 Page 1

William Hess House

name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

Chain of Title:

- March 1984 Francis Carroll Boarman to Carol Ann Boarman, now Carol Ann Frere. 1st - "Part of Plainfield" 76 acres. 2nd - land of Camilla Edelen, 15 acres. The two tracts being respectively the first and fifth tracts from Joseph A. Wilmer et al to Eugene Lloyd August 1935
971/179
- March 1980 John William Hess to Francis Carroll Boarman and Carroll Ann Boarman
707/287
- November 1935 Eugene K. Lloyd et ux to James Urchea William hess provided..shall not operate or permit to be operated on the property any store or business establishment for the sale of any type of merchandise during 4the period of three years.
WMA 62/36
- August 1935 H.T. Briscoe, Joseph A. Wilmer and F. deSales Mudd, trustee estate of William H. Hess to Eugene K. Lloyd.
61/334
- October 1901 To William H. Hess. Mary A. Green and George Washington Green, husband, Henry Robinson, William J. Frere and Josephine, wife, and Adrian Posey, all of Charles County to William H. Hess. Mary Green purchased a lot from Robinson but has not paid the full amount. Robinson purchased a lot from William Frere, but has not paid the full amount. Adrian Posey holds two mortgages. Frere's lot was given directly to him in 1894 JST 7/126 ; the other given to Mary Frances in 1894 JST 7/115. All concerned join in deed to William H. Hess.
BGS 12/277

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-727

Section 9 Page 1

William Hess 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.

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



CH-727 Charles County, MD
Name: WILLIAM HESS HOUSE
Location: TOMPKINSVILLE
Quad: COLONIAL BEACH, North



CH-727
WILLIAM HESS HOUSE
CHARLES CO, MD
8/2001
C. CURREY
MD SHPO
EAST
~~W~~ELEVATION
1004



CH-727

WILLIAM HESS HOUSE
CHARLES CO. MD

82001

C. CURREY
MD SHPO
LOOKING NE
2004



CH-727
WILLIAM PRESS HOUSE
CHARLES CO, MD
#2001
C. CURREY
MD SHPO
LOOKING SE
3004



CH 727
WILLIAM HESS HOUSE
CHARLES CO. MD
8/2001
C. CURLEY
MD SUPD
C 1980
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