

D-825

Robert L. Simmons Canning House Complex

Andrews

Mid twentieth century

The former Robert L. Simmons canning factory is a small fruit packing facility located in the community of Andrews in the Lake Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland. Robert L. Simmons was a principal merchant and landowner in the immediate vicinity of this crossroads as well as in the city of Cambridge. He is recorded as operating a cannery in Andrews as early as 1915, and the company lasted until 1942. Sons, Roy L. Simmons continued the operation until 1946, and another son, Sewell L. Simmons ran the cannery from 1945 to 1962. The canning company complex is one of the few to survive in Dorchester County.

Memo to file

November 12, 2015

From: Casey Pecoraro
Inventory Registrar

Re: D-825

Location information for the Robert L. Simmons Canning Company was updated on 10/23/2015 when MHT staff digitized the property and verified its location. The resource is located at 2251 Andrews Road, Crapo, Maryland, 21226, which corresponds with Map 0095, Grid 0002, Tax Parcel 0043, and Tax ID number 05-072352.

Section 2. Location and Section 4. Location of Legal Description of the MIHP form prepared on 7/4/2013 were updated accordingly on 11/12/2015, at which time the location information was also updated in Medusa.

7. Description

Inventory No. D-825

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Robert L. Simmons canning factory stands at 2248 Andrews Road in the crossroads village of Andrews in the Lake Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland. A single-story concrete block and frame canning factory, now closed and standing idle, dates to the mid twentieth century. A center gable roofed main block is extended to each side by long shed roofed sections. The concrete block walls rise one story and above the concrete block walls is frame construction covered with corrugated metal. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with corrugated metal. Standing to the side and back of the canning house are metal pole, gable roofed shelters covered with a low pitched corrugated metal roofs. The canning house faces northeast with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Robert L. Simmons canning factory is a small complex of concrete block and metal pole buildings located in the crossroads village of Andrews in the Lake Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland. Dating to the mid twentieth century, the single-story, concrete block and frame canning factory is covered with a medium pitched gable-front roof sheathed with corrugated metal. The side, shed-roofed sections, built of concrete block and stud frame construction, extend the building laterally.

The northeast (main) elevation is a utilitarian façade with a series of single-pane metal sash windows lighting the first floor spaces. There is a freight type door that is hung on sliding rollers that opens into the western shed roofed section. Attached to the front of the western side shed is a bracketed arm of angle iron. The gable front wall of the main block has a boarded over opening. Piercing the roof of the eastern section is a metal stove stack.

The side elevations are a combination of concrete block and frame construction with boarded over openings.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-825

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 checked="" 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 history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The former Robert L. Simmons canning factory is a small fruit packing facility located in the community of Andrews in the Lake Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland. Robert L. Simmons was a principal merchant in the immediate vicinity of this crossroads as well as in the city of Cambridge. He is recorded as operating a cannery in Andrews as early as 1915, and the company under his name lasted until 1942.¹ Sons, Roy L. Simmons continued the operation until 1946 and another son, Sewell L. Simmons ran the cannery from 1945 to 1962. The canning company complex is one of the few to survive in Dorchester County.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Robert L. Simmons (c. 1872-1953) established a long-lasting vegetable and canning company in the community of Andrews in southern Dorchester County in 1915. He operated also the crossroads general store and resided in a late nineteenth century house formerly owned by William T. Andrews.

¹ R. Lee Burton, Jr. *Canneries of the Eastern Shore*, Centreville, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, p. 93.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-825

Name Robert L. Simmons Canning Company
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Robert L. Simmons Canning Company
Andrews, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 87, Parcel 75

1078/502 Charles F. White and Thomas F. Votta

to

3.27.2012 Black Timber LLC

1078/27 Charles F. White, Vincent Piccinini, and Thomas F. Votta

to

1.3.2012 Charles F. White and Thomas F. Votta

The land above described is partially shown and laid down as "Elmer P. Messersmith on that certain plat thereof entitled "The Planner A. Tyler Woodland Survey, dated 2.12.1977, PLC 19/42

All that piece or parcel of land situate lying and being in the Lakes Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland on the road leading from Shorter's Wharf to Andrews and being all of the land with the exception of three acres

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Robert L. Simmons Canning Company
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Dorchester County
Will Book

APM 1/515

Last Will and Testament of Robert L. Simmons
(residing at Andrew)

Written
6.25.1946
Proved
4.13.1953

to son, Sewell L. Simmons

...all that canning house property located at Andrews, including al the land heretofore and at present used for it, and all the buildings, machinery, and all things used as part of it, with it and in the operation of it.

Land Record
WLR 2/656

William F. Applegarth and Nettie Applegarth

to

10.28.1910

Robert L. Simmons

\$2,735 all those pieces or parcels of land situate and being in Dorchester County aforesaid...on the northeast side of the county road leading from Lakesville, Md. to Wesley M. E. Church, and on the east side of the county road leading from the store house formerly owned and occupied as a store house by William T. Andrews to Shorter's Wharf, lying and being in the angle formed by the intersection of the aforesaid roads, containing 45 acres of land more or less, Lot No. 2, all that fee simple tract of land, save the store site consisting of about one-hundred feet square of land, which is hereby granted to W. F. Applegarth and R. L. Simmons, as tenants in common and upon which are located the store buildings no used by the said Robert L. Simmons and William F. Applegarth, conducting mercantile business under the firm name of R. L. Simmons Company, situated in the Lake's Election District of Dorchester County aforesaid, on the southwest side of the county road leading from Lakesville to Wesley M. E. Church, containing 18 acres of land, more or less. The said two lots being the same tracts of land conveyed to the said William F. Applegarth

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

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Name Robert L. Simmons Canning Company
Continuation Sheet

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by T. Sangston Insley and John R. Pattison, receivers, by deed dated
January 8, 1910, WLR 1/604.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-825

Burton, R. Lee, Jr. *Canneries of the Eastern Shore*. Centreville, Maryland. Tidewater Publishers, 1986.

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge.

John L. Graham, ed. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 5.48 acres

Acreage of historical setting _____

Quadrangle name Honga, Maryland Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	7.4.2013
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Robert L. Simmons Canning Company Complex
Continuation Sheet

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D-825, Robert L. Simmons Canning Company Complex, north elevation, Andrews, Paul Baker Touart, 7.2013

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Name Robert L. Simmons Canning Company Complex
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D-825, Robert L. Simmons Canning Company Complex, northeast elevation, Andrews, Paul Baker
Touart, 7.2013

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Robert L. Simmons Canning Company Complex
Continuation Sheet

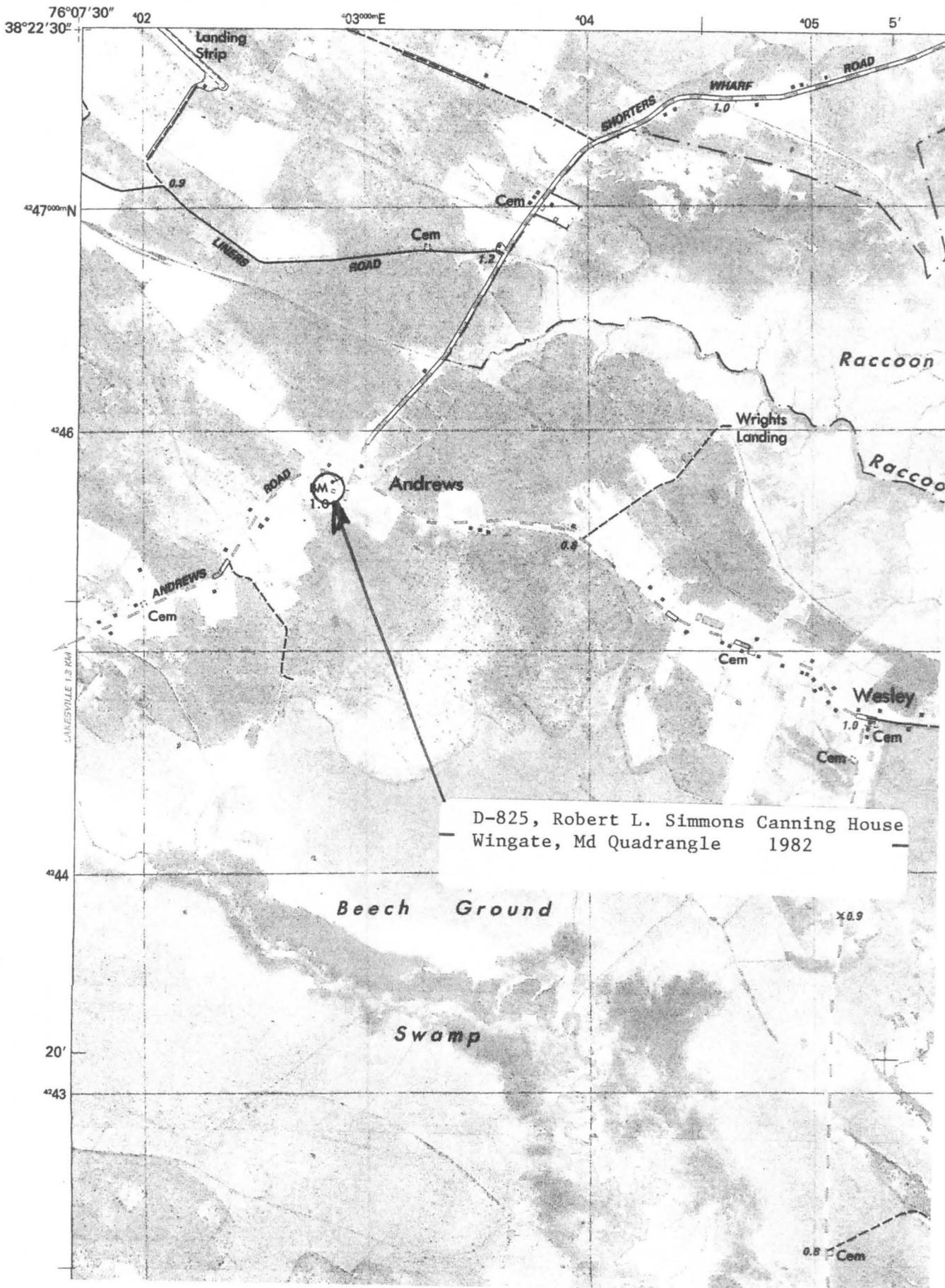
Number 9 Page 4



D-825, Robert L. Simmons Canning Company Complex, north elevation, Andrews, Paul Baker Touart, 7.2013

5780 1 NW
(GOLDEN HILL)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



D-825, Robert L. Simmons Canning House
Wingate, Md Quadrangle 1982



D-925

ROBERT L. SIMMONS CANNING CO.
ANDREWS, DORCHESTER CO. MD.
NORTH ELEVATION
7.2013, PAUL TONANT, PHOTO.
NEE. JMD HISTORICAL TRUST

#1 OF 3



D-825

ROBERT L. SIMMONS CANNING CO.
ANDREWS, DORCHESTER CO., MA.
NORTH ELEVATION
7.2013, PAUL B. TOWNS, PHOTO.
NEG. / MA HISTORICAL TRUST

2 OF 3



D-825

ROBERT L. SIMMONS CANNING CO.
ANDREWS, DONCHESTER CO., MD

NONNET ELEVATION

7.2013, PAUL B. TOWANT, PHOTO.

MEMO (MD. HISTORICAL TRUSS)

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