

M: 12-42-10  
Fred Hamilton House  
Big Woods Community  
Private

1870s, 1880s

This one and a half story log house is in the midst of collapse. Its walls were of massive hardwood timbers, some measuring as much as 17" x 6". Like most log houses in Montgomery County, the logs were V-notched at the corners. The plan was hall and chamber, with the hall, or multi-purpose room, being the only one heated. The interior was illuminated by small windows with 2 x 4 lights.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC The Fred Hamilton Family House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER South side of Big Woods Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Dickerson

VICINITY OF (Big Woods)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**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 type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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
	No	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

Abandoned

NAME Alice L. Tibbs

Telephone #: 301-972-8241

STREET & NUMBER

Big Woods Road.

CITY, TOWN

Dickerson

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md.

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Registry of Deeds

Liber #: 466/48

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Md.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M.12-42-10

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"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

This house is located in the woods on the west side of Big Woods Road, facing north towards a farm lane, no longer in use, that leads from Big Woods Road. The site is now overgrown with vines and brambles, and the house has collapsed. However, enough remains to provide evidence for a physical description.

Like many other log dwellings of Blacks in communities in Montgomery County, this house was one and a half stories in height and consisted of a simply designed, rectangular block containing two rooms down and two up. The hewn logs were massive, measuring 12" to 17" x 6". They were V-notched at the corners. There was no evidence of posts or pegging; instead, the logs were secured into the jambs of the windows and doors with machine cut nails of the post-1830 type. One older method of log construction was evident: the top frame of the doors was let up into a long notch in the log crossing the door opening. The rafters were pine saplings, which were V-notched over the false plate and fastened with cut nails. Wood shingles covered the roof. The logs were exposed and whitewashed.

As the enclosed measured drawing shows, the house measured 20'5" x 15'1". These dimensions were similar to those of other log houses in Black and White communities of the 19th century.

In plan, the house contained two rooms down and two up, arranged in a hall and chamber design, with two rooms downstairs of unequal size. The only stove flue for the house was in the northeast corner of the larger room, so it was probably the kitchen and multi-purpose room, while the other was the chamber, or bedroom. Stairs ascended the eastern gable wall. The partition between the rooms was of tongue and groove siding with beaded edges.

The facade of the house (north) consisted of two bays: a door centrally located and a window containing a small, 2 x 4 double-hung sash with its members fastened by dowels. The windows were accented with plain trim, painted green. Directly opposite the front door was another one in the back length, and next to it outside was an opening that led down to the cellar. The house has now collapsed into the cellar. On the west gable end was a small storage shed, with another entrance to the cellar.

Around the house are jonquils and running roses which tell of the family's efforts to decorate the yard. According to Florence Hallman of Big Woods, the house had the usual complex of outbuildings.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:12-42-10

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
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	
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Black History Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1870s-1880s BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although this house is in ruinous condition, it had provided some details about the types of housing of the 19th century Black landowners of the Big Woods community and of others founded after the Civil War. According to oral informant, Florence Hallman from Big Woods, this house was occupied by Fred Hamilton. According to the deed TD 22/135, Hamilton purchased this tract of 4 acres in 1902 from Elias and Mary Francis Price. It is possible that Hamilton built his house at that time. However, it is more likely that the house was constructed earlier due to the use of machine cut nails throughout and the absence of wire nails. The latter typically used in the construction of log houses in the late 1890s and afterwards in this area (see the log houses of the Turnertown and White Grounds communities). According to Mrs. Hallman, who was born near the turn of the 20th century, the house was considered an "old house" when she was young. Thus it was probably contemporary to the houses of Lewis Brown, Isaac Owens, and the other founders of Big Woods -- that is, of the 1870s or 1880s.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Records of Montgomery County, County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.  
Deeds: 466/48; TD 22/135.  
Oral interview with Florence Hallman.

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 McDaniel, Surveyor

Wesley Stubbs, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

7/79

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

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 State House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
Box 87, Stronghold  
Dickerson, Md. 20753  
(301) 926-4510



Fred Hamilton House

West gable end

M-12-42-10

Big Woods Community

Photograph by Anne Lewis

5/79

AD- 790502-1 #10



Fred Hamilton House

Detail of Door Frame  
notched into Log Linetel

M-12-42-10

Big Woods Community

Photographed by Anne Lewis

5/79

ADL 190502-1 # 12



Fred Hamilton House

Detail of window with  
2 x 4 pines in front  
length

M-12-42-10

photograph by Anne Lewis

Big Woods Community, Md.

APR 190802.1 # 13



Fred Hamilton House

South length : Rear

M-12-42-10

Big Woods Community

Photography by Anne Lewis

5/79

AD-790502-1 #11