

M: 12-42-26
The John T. Onley Family House
Big Woods Community
Private

c. 1899

This large two story frame house is representative of the type of houses built by the more successful landowners in Black communities in rural Maryland in the late 1800s. Its facade consists of the usual three bays and the dwelling is one bay in depth, with a two story T. The owners were the first generation descendants of the founders of this Black community after the Civil War.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC The John T. Onley Family House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER North side of Big Woods Road

CITY, TOWN Dickerson CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8
VICINITY OF (Big Woods)

STATE Maryland COUNTY Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME F. Onley Telephone #: 202-635-1390

STREET & NUMBER c/o Mabel Onley
1827 North Capital Street

CITY, TOWN Washington, DC VICINITY OF STATE, zip code
20002

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registry of Deeds

Liber #: 942
Folio #: 294

STREET & NUMBER County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland 20850

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M: 12-42-26

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

This large, handsome two story frame house faces south, in the direction of Big Woods Road, which passes close by in front of it. It is one of the largest houses of the historical community of Big Woods to have survived.

Like the home of Henry T. Onley and James Lee in the Big Woods community, this one has a length of three bays and a depth of one bay. The facade is arranged in the usual symmetrical form, with a door located in the center, flanked on either side by a window. The windows contain large 2 x 2 panes that were popular to the turn of the 20th century. The frame is sheathed with weatherboards, painted white. Along the facade is a long shed porch. Inside each gable end is a brick stove flue. The roof is covered with tin, and the roof line is accented by a cross gable pediment. The cornices are boxed with plain boards, and have short returns at each gable end. To the back length of the house is attached a two story T. On the east side of the house is the opening into the cellar.

Behind the house, some of the old outbuildings remain.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M: 12-42-26

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		
<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 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 Local History

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1899

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1899, John T. Onley and his wife Florence Onley, purchased this property of 6 2/5 acres from Elias and Mary F. Price (deed, TD 12/224). The house was probably built soon thereafter since its construction and design are of that period. It resembles the other homes built by the second generation of the descendants of the post-Civil War founders of Big Woods community, though it is somewhat larger and more imposing, especially since it has been well maintained.

According to Florence Hallman of the Big Woods community, John T. Onley was the son of William Onley and Mary Hills Onley. Since William Onley was the half-brother of Henry T. Onley, Florence's father, William Thomas Onley and John T. Onley were half first cousins. Such relationships represent the existence of extended family networks in the community.

Permission to photograph this house in black and white was not available. (See slides)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland;
Deeds: 942/294; 942/294; TD 12/224.

Oral Interviews with Florence Hallman, July-August 1978 (not taped)
by George W. McDaniel, Big Woods Community.

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, Surveyor	Karen Sewell	DATE
Sugarloaf Regional Trails		8/78
Box 87		926-4510
Dickerson	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 Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438