

N-12-42-28

c. 1870-1890

Ned Onley House (Site)  
Big Woods Community  
Private

Though this house is no longer standing, oral informants recall that it was a two story log house similar to others built by the founders of this Black community after the Civil War. An unusual feature of this house was that it contained a spring in the cellar.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC The Ned Onley Family House (Site)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER West side of Rt. 109

CITY, TOWN Beallsville CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8  
 VICINITY OF (Owensville-Big Woods)  
 STATE Md. 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	<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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Allen H. and M.L. Thomas Telephone #: 972-7013

STREET & NUMBER Barnesville Rd.

CITY, TOWN Barnesville VICINITY OF STATE Md. zip code 20703

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registry of Deeds

Liber #: 3144  
 Folio #: 440

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**

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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 type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

According to Florence Hallman of the Big Woods community, this log house resembled the other two story log dwellings of the Big Woods community, such as those of Louis Brown or Isaac Owens. It contained two rooms down and two rooms up. The interior was warmed by wood stoves. Mrs. Hallman recalls that she lived in this house for several years after her marriage. The house was built over a spring and there was always a standing pool of water in the cellar. It was especially uncomfortable in the winter when the water froze. Behind the house were the typical outbuildings for such homesteads; a hen house, horse stable, meat house, and a shed for a dairy cow.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:12-42-28

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) Black History Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1870 - 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Florence Hallman remembers that this house was similar to the other "old houses" of the Big Woods community, but did not hear when it was built. According to her, it was the home of Ned Onley. Research of deeds has not been able to track back to the time of ownership of Ned Onley. Instead, the research ends in 1917 with the purchase of a tract of 21 acres for \$300 by James H. Onley from Julius and Maggie Hall (264/470). Presumably Ned Onley owned the land previous to the Halls but his name does not appear in the grantee/grantor indexes. Nor does the deed 264/470 contain references to earlier deeds. In 1963 Sarah Eleanor Onley sold the land on which this house stood to Alan Henry and Mary Thomas (3144/440).

Because of its log construction the house was probably contemporary to the other log dwellings in the Big Woods community -- that is the 1870s, or 1880s.

Ned Onley was the son of William Onley and brother of James H. Onley who lived nearby. He was a member of the second generation descendants of the postbellum founders of the Big Woods community. Unlike the other members of his generation of the Onley family, he continued to live in a traditional log house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland,  
Deeds: 264/470; 3144/440

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	
ORGANIZATION		DATE
Sugarloaf Regional Trails		8/78
STREET & NUMBER		TELEPHONE
Box 87		926-4510
CITY OR TOWN		STATE
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 National State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 837-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
Box 87, Stronghold  
Dickerson, Md. 20753  
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