

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name: Perry Dimes Log Cabin

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 13/32/2 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 6  
 Ten Mile Creek H.D. I-12

4. Address: 20601 Ten Mile Creek Road, Boyds

5. Classification Summary

Category <u>building</u>	Previous Survey Recording <u>M-NCPPC</u>
Ownership <u>private</u>	Title and Date: <u>1976 Inventory of</u>
Public Acquisition <u>N/A</u>	<u>Historical Sites</u>
Status <u>unoccupied</u>	
Accessible <u>no</u>	Federal <u>    </u> State <u>x</u> County <u>x</u> Local <u>    </u>
Present use <u>vacant</u>	

6. Date: Unknown

7. Original Owner: Camlden R. Nicholls

8. Apparent Condition

a. fair b. altered c. original site

9. Description: The T-shaped Perry Dimes Log Cabin faces south on Ten Mile Creek Road. The front (south) section is two-and-a-half stories and is three bays by one bay. Windows are varied, two-over-six, six-over-two, and two-over-two, double-hung. A porch runs the full width of the south facade. The corrugated metal gable roof runs west-east, with a center gable over the entrance. The one interior brick chimney covered with stucco is between the two sections and was probably an exterior chimney for the earlier section. The rear one bay by one bay, one-and-a-half story section forms the stem of the T and is of log construction. There is a small shed-like addition on the east. The cabin has 18 inch thick walls and had a dirt floor at one time. The entire cabin is covered with red asbestos siding.

10. Significance: This cabin was the home of Perry Dimes, an ex-slave formerly owned by Cambden R. Nicholls, a tobacco planter in the area around Ten Mile Creek. The property was acquired by Wilfred and Georgia Lawson in 1937 with an agreement that Dimes would always have a home on the farm. Dimes' father was born in another cabin which formerly stood on the hill behind the Lawson's house.

Since a lake planned by the M-NCPPC will flood the area, Mrs. Lawson has given the cabin to the Boyds-Clarksburg Historical Society which will move the cabin to property it is purchasing on White Grounds Road.

1. Researcher and date researched: Margaret M. Coleman 10/79	Candy Reed Arch. Description
12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock	13. Date Compiled: 10/79
	14. Designation Approval <u>    </u>
	15. Acreage: 1 acre

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 13/32/2  
 Ten Mile Creek H.D.  
 MAGI#

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Perry Dimes Log Cabin

AND/OR COMMON The Lawson Tenant House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 20601 Tenmile Creek Road

CITY, TOWN Boyds VICINITY OF 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input 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 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"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Vacant

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mrs. Georgia Lawson Telephone #: 972-0483

STREET & NUMBER 20610 Ten Mile Creek Road

CITY, TOWN Boyds VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland, 20720

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 557/376  
 Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE M-NCPPC (as Ten Mile Creek Road)

DATE 1976  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN STATE Derwood Maryland 20855

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The T-shaped Perry Dimes Log Cabin faces south on Ten Mile Creek Road (which runs north-south): the front entrance is perpendicular to the road. The front (south) section was added more than a hundred years ago, according to the present owner. This part has two-and-half stories and is three bays by one bay. Windows are varied, two-over-six, six-over-two and two-over-two, double-hung. The front door and lower level windows are covered with heavy plywood to prevent vandalism. There is a porch the full width of the south facade. The corrugated metal gable roof runs west-east, with a center gable over the entrance. Facing the road the west facade has a casement window in the gable end. There is one interior brick chimney which is covered with stucco. It is between the two sections, and was probably an exterior chimney for the earlier section.

The rear one bay by one bay, one-and-half story section forms the stem of the T and is of log construction. There is a small shed-like addition on the east. The cabin has very thick walls, about 18 inches. There is an entrance on the east side through the shed, requiring a 10" drop to enter. This entrance has a wooden panel door with six vertical lights. There appears to be no foundation on the east side, and the owner has said that the cabin had a dirt floor at one time. Asphalt shingles cover the roof.

The entire cabin is covered with red asbestos siding. On the north-west part of the front section the pattern is vertical; otherwise it is horizontal, imitation brick.

A spring in the front yard, which flows into Ten Mile Creek, was the sole source of water for the cabin.

There are two bedrooms upstairs in the front section. A closed string staircase rises south to north along the east wall of the front part. The rear, original part has a loft entered by a hole in the ceiling of what is now the cabin's kitchen. This room is entered by stepping down from the newer section, which on the lower level is used as a living room.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES      Unknown      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The land around Ten Mile Creek was cleared and settled by Cambden R. Nicholls, a slave holding tobacco planter, who was a large landowner.<sup>1</sup> One of his slaves was named Perry Dimes, according to the "Slave Census of 1867." When Wilfred and Georgia Lawson bought this property in 1937, the agreement included a verbal arrangement that Dimes would always have a home on the farm. He lived in the cabin and is remembered as "Uncle Perry." The Lawsons understood that the addition to the cabin was about 75 years old at the time of their purchase in 1937. The chimney bricks were made from clay from the banks of the creek between the present horse barn and the dairy barn. Dimes' father was born in another cabin which stood on the hill behind Lawson's house. This house was of log construction, with two stories and an attic. It had a central section and a wing on either side. A huge tobacco barn once stood on top of the hill.<sup>2</sup>

Ten Mile Creek below the cabin was used for swimming and also for the ceremony of Christian baptism by immersion. The Evening Star featured a front page photo of this recreational spot in 1962.<sup>3</sup> According to Mrs. Lawson, the swimming hole was wellknown "long before I came here in 1937." She gave permission to the boys of the community to have a ball diamond at the south end of the meadow. A score board was erected, and games scheduled with nearby communities.

At the present time the cabin is in the way of "progress." A lake is planned to inundate the area, covering this building. Mrs. Lawson, realizing the significance of this cabin, has given it to the Boyds/Clarksburg Historical Society; her attorney is preparing the deed. The society will move the cabin to property they are purchasing on White Grounds Road, in keeping with the wishes of Mrs. Lawson as well as county preservationists.

## FOOTNOTES:

1. Fifteen land deeds are recorded in the county records for Cambden R. Nicholls between 1822 and 1857, including this purchase, BS 12/487. Included in this purchase was "one negro man named Perry," who was probably the father of the Perry Dimes who lived in this cabin. The Census of 1867 lists Perry Dimes as a slave belonging to Nicholls.

Mrs. Georgia Lawson, Interview, 1978.

3. The Evening Star, July 8, 1962.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land and Census Records on Montgomery County  
 Mrs. Georgia Lawson, Interview, 1978.  
The Evening Star, Washington, D.C. July 8, 1932.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one acre

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

Margaret M. Coleman

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

October 1979

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