

M: 13-35

The Davis Family House  
Thompson's Corner  
Private

Late 19th century

The construction and plan of this Black landowner's home is similar to those of many homes of landowners of modest means, both Black and white, of the turn of the 20th century. It stands two stories in height, has a three bay facade, and a depth of one bay. In plan it originally contained two rooms down and two up, all heated by wood stoves. Around it stood the small outbuildings essential to a small farm striving towards self sufficiency.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC The Davis House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER North side of Comus Road

CITY, TOWN Clarksburg CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Maryland  VICINITY OF Thompsons' Corner 2

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 Florence M. Davis

Telephone #: 972-3965

STREET & NUMBER Comus Road

CITY, TOWN Clarksburg STATE, zip code Maryland

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registry of Deeds

Liber #: 1222 DW 62  
Folio #: 108 P. 600

STREET & NUMBER Montgomery County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland

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

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

The plan and construction of this Black landowner's home is similar to those of many homes of landowners of modest means, both black and white, of the turn of the 20th century. The house stands two stories in height and is located on the north side of Comus Road. The facade is oriented towards the road. The front length consists of three bays, arranged in the typical pattern of bilateral symmetry. The house is one bay in depth. A small kitchen, one story in height, has been added to the back length. The house was originally covered with weatherboards, which have now been covered with asbestos shingle siding. The entire facade is sheltered by a shed porch supported by plain, rectangular posts. The roof is covered with galvanized tin, and the eaves of the gable roof are boxed with planks.

In plan, the original house consisted of only two rooms down and two up. According to Florence Davis whose husband was born in this house in 1905, the front door opened directly into the kitchen. The room on the opposite side of a thin partition was the sitting room and dining room, for more formal occasions. A stairway was built between the two rooms, and beneath it was a closet. A stove flue of brick ascended between the two rooms, and both rooms downstairs were heated by wood burning stoves. The windows were double hung sashes with two over two lights. The two rooms upstairs were bedrooms, according to Mrs. Davis.

Some of the outbuildings have survived. They were used during the early occupancy of the Davis family in the first half of the 20th century when this homestead was in full operation to support a family. The small building directly behind the house was the meathouse, where hog meat and beef were stored. The Davis family raised steers and butchered them, as well as the hogs, to supply their family with food. To the northwest of the house was the corn house, and behind it was a shed where the Davis family kept their plows, tractors, and other farm machinery and equipment. Close to this was the hen house. Further behind the house was the hog pen. These outbuildings on the farm are similar to those of the other landowning families of modest means in the area.

According to Mrs. Davis, the family did not have a milk cow, only steers, and bought their milk and butter from the general store in Clarksburg and *Temporary Store*

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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 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*

SPECIFIC DATES 1890's - c. 1880's BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is representative of the homes of Black landowners of moderate means of the turn of the 20th century. The outbuildings represent the extensions of household life beyond the four walls of the house itself.

As part of this survey, the family photograph of Laura Davis was copied. She was the wife of William Davis, the owner of this homestead, and the mother of Windsor Davis, the husband of the current occupant and owner, Florence Davis. According to Mrs. Davis, all of the children of her husband's family were born in this house, the oldest being born in c. 1896. Florence and Windsor Davis were married about 1934 and moved here shortly thereafter.

Also copied was the photograph of Michael Jackson, father of Florence Jackson Davis.

According to the deed, EBP 22/7, William Davis and his wife Annie L. (Washington) Davis purchased this tract of one acre in 1880 from James E. Williams. The house was probably constructed soon thereafter, since it is of the style of that period and because of family tradition.

In 1948, the land was conveyed to the heirs of the Davis family, William and Florence Davis, 1222/108.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- 1) Land Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Md. Deeds: EP 27/7.
- 2) Oral interview, not taped, with Florence Davis, Clarksburg, Md. Nov. 78, by George McDaniel

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 12.54 acres

## 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, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

Jan. 79

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland

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~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
Box 87, State Circle  
Dickerson, MD 21023  
(301) 926-4510



William & Laura Davis House

Facade: South Length

13-35

~~M-13-10-2~~

Sum

Clarksburg, Md.

11/28 Sumner Daniel

1-21134#5



William & Laura Davis

13-35  
~~M-13-70-2~~

Clarksburg, Md.

12/78

Sumner

1-21134#6



Florence Jackson Davis with photo,  
Michael Jackson, her father

13-35  
~~m-13-10-2~~

Clarksburg, Md.

12/78

Glenn Daniel

1-21134 # 10