

M: 13-46

Clifton Snowden House (site)  
Clarksburg Vicinity  
Private

Late 19th, early 20th

This handsome two story frame house burned in the 1930's. It was the home of a successful Black farmer. It resembled the other houses of landowners of moderate means in the upper county, having two rooms down and two up, with a two story ell attached to the rear length.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Clifton and Rachel Snowden House Site

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER West side of Clarksburg Road

CITY, TOWN

Clarksburg — 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 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 type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" 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 W.C. and B.L. Hammond

Telephone #: Not listed

STREET & NUMBER

Clarksburg Road

CITY, TOWN

Clarksburg — VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20734

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Registry of Deeds

Liber #: 3334

Folio #: 670

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**

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**

This handsome two story frame house burned in the 1930's, and no trace of it remains. However, based upon the recollections of Ethel Foreman, who was raised in the Clarksburg community, it can be briefly described.

In general, the house resembled the others belonging to landowners in the upper county of moderate means. Examples in the Clarksburg vicinity that have been surveyed in this Black history project are the Arthur Gibson house, the Warner and John Henry Wims houses, the Mason house, and the Moore home. The frame was covered with weatherboards, and the entire facade sheltered with a shed porch. The facade contained three bays, with the door centrally located. The principal block was one bay in depth and had a two story ell extending from the rear length. There were stove flues along each gable end, and along the back of the ell.

In plan, there were two rooms down and two up in the principal block and one room down (the kitchen) and one up (bedroom) in the ell. The front rooms were the living room and dining room. The exterior of the house was whitewashed, and the grounds around the house well maintained.

As part of this survey, an aerial photograph of the farmstead was copied. It was probably taken in the 1940's or early 50's judging from the automobile in the picture. The photograph shows the lay-out of the Snowden farm and the complex of outbuildings, gardens, and fields and their relationship.

In regard to the history of the Snowden family, Miss Foreman has written the following:

"The Snowdens had a farm, and they enjoyed it very much. Their farm covered over 90 acres. The Snowdens kept foster children. They also raised crops for canning factories. In later years the Snowdens sold portions of the farm for building lots until about all of the farm was sold. One of the foster sons, William Hammond built a home next door to the home. Mrs. Snowden died in 1973."

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

M:13-46

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 House*

SPECIFIC DATES *Late 1200, early 1700* BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to the deed, 272/374, Clifton and Rachel Snowden purchased 4 acres from James Day and 90.06 acres from Albert Bouic in 1918. Thus, the Snowdens owned over 94 acres, establishing as them as among the largest Black landowners in upper Montgomery County. It is not known if the two story frame house was already on the property, or whether the Snowdens had it constructed. In addition to the large holding of this family, the principal significance of the site is the aerial photograph which shows the lay-out of this well maintained farm.

As part of this survey, family photographs of the Snowdens were copied. They are to be found in the survey report on Clifton's father's home, Thomas Snowden, in Clarksburg. Probably Clifton Snowden learned the value of a well maintained farm from his father.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.

Oral Interviews with (not taped) and written recollections by Ethel Foreman, Clarksburg, Md., December, 1978.

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, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

January 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

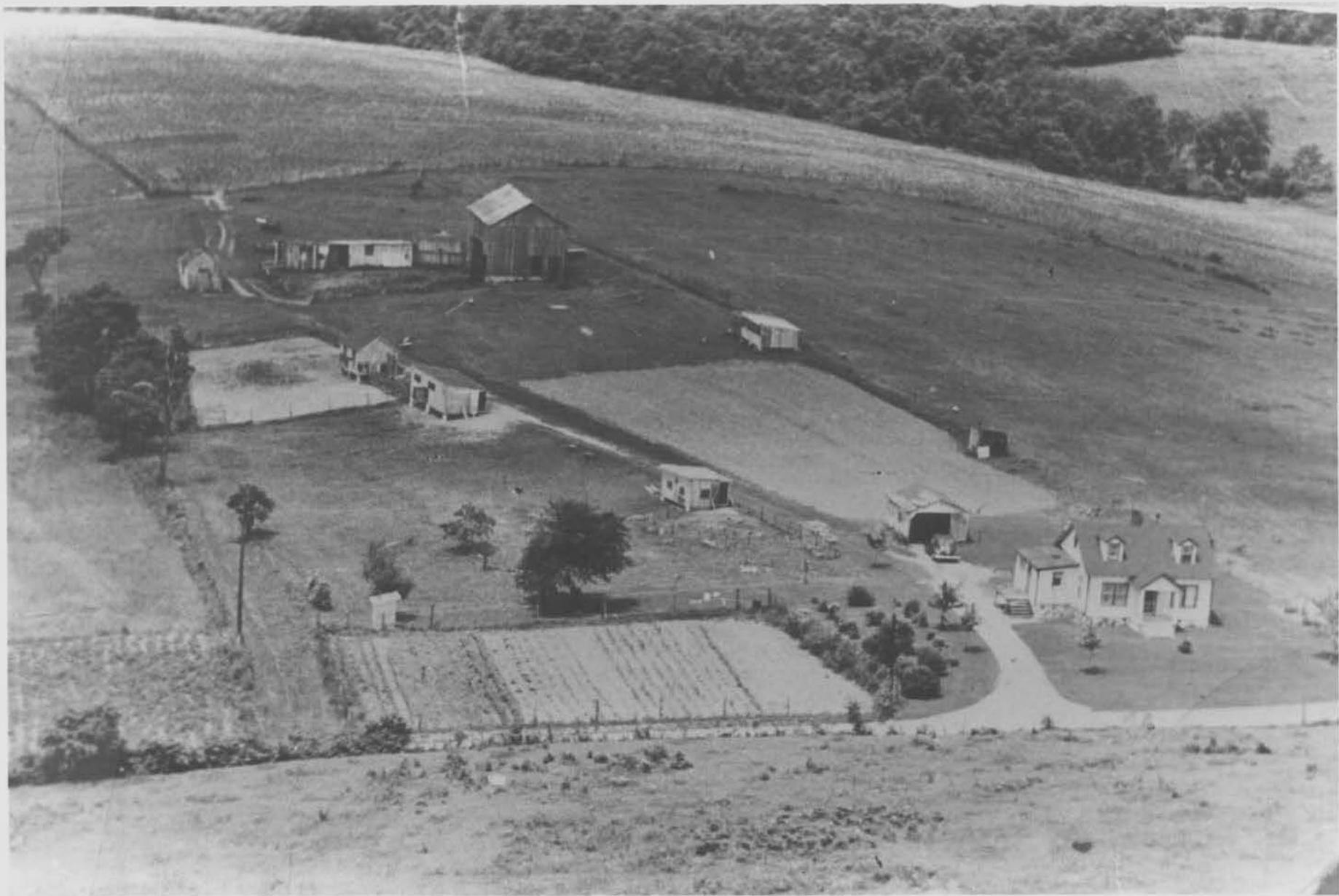
Maryland 20753

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~~

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



Clifton Snowden Farmstead

13-46

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Clarksburg Md.

copy of aerial photograph from

Sum 11/78 collection of  
Henrietta Snowden,  
Clarksburg.