M: 13-49

Benjamin Wims Log House — Late 19th century
Clarksburg Vicinity
Private

Standing a full two stories in height, this log house is larger than most. It is plain in appearance and has a facade with the typical three bays, arranged in bilateral symmetry. In plan, there are two rooms down and two up. This is one of the few old log houses of a Black family that is still well maintained, and its residents continue to use some of the traditional things -- kerosene lamps, wood burning stoves, and the water pump -- in their daily life.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 13-49
Magi#

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Benjamin Wims House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
South side of Brink Road

CITY, TOWN
Clarksburg ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
8

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
X STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
	No	__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Dela W. Chase

Telephone #: 972-0498

STREET & NUMBER
11700 Brink Road

CITY, TOWN
Germantown ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 20767

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Registry of Deeds

Liber #: 4888
Folio #: 490

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

M 13-49

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two story house stands on the top of a hill on the south side of Brink Road not far from Clarksburg. The house is oriented towards the road, and its roofline runs east to west. Around the house are several important old outbuildings. There is a frame meat house, woodpile, and two privies, and there is even a water pump which is still in use since the occupants do not have running water. Lumber is piled by the meat house and used to fuel the wood burning stove. According to Miss Ethel Foreman, the residents of this house do not have electricity and continue to use kerosene lamps. Wood burning stoves still heat the house. According to Miss Foreman, there were "beautiful vegetable gardens", a grape arbor, and even orchards behind the house in the first half of the 20th century. None of these remain. The area behind the house is simply a lawn.

According to Miss Foreman, this is a log house. Composition material now covers the outside of the house, and the logs cannot be seen. It is hoped that the interior will be investigated when the residents are at home. A description of it will be added at that time. The facade contains three bays with a door centrally located, flanked on either side by two windows, a common arrangement of these modest two story houses in upper western Montgomery County. The windows contain double hung sashes with 2x2 lights. The stove flue descends through the middle of the house. In plan there were probably two rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs. The western gable ends has no windows nor does the eastern. The eaves are boxed and the roof is covered with galvanized tin. It is not remembered by informants associated with this house how the logs were notched at the corners.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M 13-49

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	X COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

Black F[illegible]

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1886 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to Miss Ethel Foreman, this is the only log house of a Black family that still stands in the Clarksburg vicinity. She spent many days of her childhood playing with the grandchildren of the owners, and recalls those days:

> "Benjamin Wims was a life-long resident of Montgomery County. He walked with a cane and would walk to the school to visit the classes. The black school was where the Clarksburg recreation center now stands. He was a shoe cobbler. You could take a pair of shoes to him and have them half soled. He had a cobbler's bench in the kitchen.
>
> He also liked to plant a vegetable garden. A grape arbor was at the end of the garden: delicious grapes.
>
> As we see the house and grounds today is just about the way it has always looked. It has been kept very very well.
>
> The family is gone, but the grandchildren survive.
>
> I remember when I was a child, I played with Della and Edith. We would play up and down Brink Road and in the yard of the Wims house. Brink Road was a dirt road in those days. Automobiles were rare in those days, and we would watch the cars going along the road every time we saw a pretty car we would call it our car, and we would count the cars. That would be impossible today."

According to the deed JA 3/163 this tract was purchased by Benjamin Wims in 1886 from William T. Doarden. Since the house resembles other log houses built in the late 1800's, it was probably built at that time.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

M:13-49

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land records, Montgomery County Court House, Rockville, Md. Deeds: JA 3/163, 4888/490.
Oral interviews (not taped) with Ethel Foreman by George McDaniel, Feb. - April 1979, Clarksburg, Maryland.
Written recollections of Ethel Foreman, Feb. 1979, Clarksburg, Md.

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: Jan. 79

STREET & NUMBER: Box 87, Stronghold
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, Stronghold
Dickerson, Maryland 20842
(301) [illegible]

PS-1108

Benjamin Wims House

West Elevation (Rear) and Outbuildings

M- ~~13-10-16~~ 13-49

Clarksburg, Md.

SWM 11/78

Benjamin Wims Log House

North EAST Elevation

M- ~~13 to 16~~ 13-49

Clarksburg

11/78 GWM

Benjamin Wims Log house

South Elevation

Clarksburg, Md.

Sum 11/78

M- ~~13-10-16~~ 13-49