

Mont. : 16-12-18

Thompson House  
Martinsburg, Maryland  
Private

c. 1870's

c. 1916

This house began its history as a one and a half story log house with two rooms down and two up. In c. 1916, a two story frame block with two rooms down and two up was added, along with a shed porch with bracketed posts. The logs on the original house were covered with weatherboards; the entirety resembled a large frame house of the style popular to the time.

Mont.: 16-12-18  
Magi #

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**  
 HISTORIC Thompson House  
 AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**  
 STREET & NUMBER N. SIDE OF WHITE'S FERRY RD.  
 CITY, TOWN Martinsburg 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"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
 NAME J.T. & M.C. Thompson Telephone #: (301) 349-2152  
 STREET & NUMBER 22601 White's Ferry Road  
 CITY, TOWN Dickerson VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 20753

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Court House Liber #: 2031  
 STREET & NUMBER Folio #: 135  
 CITY, TOWN STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE NONE  
 DATE  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
 CITY, TOWN STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M:16-12-18

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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**

This house consists of two sections in the shape of an L. The rear section, which is the original block, is a one and a half story log house. The logs are covered with weatherboards that have been painted white, so they are no longer visible. Unfortunately, the corner boards hide the notched corners from view, so the type of notching cannot be seen. The facade consists of two bays, a door and a window containing a double hung sash with six over six panes. Above these openings are two windows with double sashes containing four lights. These windows have been placed on their side so that the sashes slide horizontally. There was no space for vertically hung sashes in the low half story.

In plan this log section contains two rooms down and two up. The front door opened into the sitting room, according to John Thompson, the current owner. The other room was the kitchen and dining room. The upstairs rooms were bedrooms, the one above the kitchen being the parents' room (where John was born) and the other room was the children's.

The space underneath was completely underpinned with ferrous sandstone. This subtle feature indicates a more complete finish to the house than to the earlier log houses of sharecroppers of southern Maryland and further south, which were supported simply by upturned stones or log blocks at the corners.

According to John Thompson, who was born in 1906, his father improved the house drastically when he was about eight or ten years old (1914-1916). To the west gable end he added a handsome two story frame block. Like the other houses of Black landowners in Martinsburg, it had a facade of three bays symmetrically arranged. It contained two rooms down and two up. Its facade was sheltered by a shed porch supported by posts with decorative brackers. His father also covered the logs of the original house, which had been exposed. He also added a shed porch to the juncture of the log house and the rear length of the new portion. The log house, though of shorter than the new frame section, was more in room size. Its outside dimensions were 22'10" x 15'9", while the frame section measured 22'6" x 12'5".

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 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 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 History*

SPECIFIC DATES C. 1877; C. 1916 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This log house is the only one still standing in the Martinsburg communiyt, a community where in the 19th century the log house was the representative type for Black families. This house is also one of the comparatively few log houses that survive in Montgomery County. As it gives us visual evidence of the houses that oral informants today describe as having been the type that their ancestors built and occupied. This type is markedly larger than the ones frequently described in southern Maryland because it was a two room plan rather than a one room. It was heated by a wood stove instead of the open fireplace, and the interior was illuminated and ventilated by sash windows with glass panes, instead of wooden shutters. Features like these show how this house was in advance of the type built by Black sharecropping families in southern Maryland. According to Lemuel Graham and John Thompson both from Martinsburg, this house was similar to the John Peters' log house and others in Martinsburg. There was a kitchen and sitting room downstairs, which were warmed by stoves let into a brick stove flue. Unlike the flues of most houses of this design in southern Maryland, the flue did not emerge through the center of the peak of the roof, but instead it arose along the middle of the rear wall inside the house.

The investigation of this house reveals the importance of local oral informants. From outward appearances this house looks to be a frame structure, but local people brought me here to point to this as an example of the earlier log houses. They recalled (with reliability and accuracy) that the frame block was added in c. 1916, a date that is important in establishing the trends of house design and ways of life of Black families in the county.

According to the current owner, family tradition held that his grandfather, Albert Thompson, built this house. In the Hopkins' Atlas of Montgomery County (1879), "A. Thompson" is named on the map of Martinsburg as one of the landowners. Probably this is Albert Thompson since the locations of the property sites coincide. The deed for the house, L/F: 2031/135 shows that the John and Myrtle Thompson inherited the land from their father Otho. He had inherited this land from his sister, Alice V. Thompson in 1908 (L/F: 200/96). In deed L/F: E.B.P. 17/15 and 16, Alice V. Thompson, Vinson Thompson, and Mary J. Thompson bought two acres from William Schaeffer and his wife in 1877. Schaeffer was one of the large landowners of the time in the Martinsburg area.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(Continued on Page 1A)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Records of Montgomery County, County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.  
Deeds: 2031/135; 200/96; EBP 17/15 & 16.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.16 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

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

6/78

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, Stronghold  
Dickerson, Md. 20753  
(301) 926-4510

8. Statement of Significance (Continued) - Page 1A

Albert Thompson was not listed among the grantees or grantors. According to his grandson, (John Thompson), Alice, Vinson, and Mary Thompson were the children of Albert Thompson, so it is possible that Albert purchased the property in the name of his children. This may have been a device to protect the land against claims against himself and to insure that the land passed on to his children.

As part of this survey, the family photographs of Albert Thompson and his son, Otho, were copied. Shown holding the pictures and also appearing in the photographs of the old house is John Thompson, who built the ranch style brick house on the property. Thus the builders of the three generations of Thompson houses -- the log, frame, and brick ones -- have been photographed.



Thompson House  
Facade: West length  
M-16-12-18  
Martinsburg, MD.  
6/78 GWM

1-19533 #15



Thompson House

N.W. elevation

M-~~16~~ 16-12-18

Martinsburg, Md.

6/78 fwm

1-19588 #24



Thompson house  
North elevation  
M- 16-12-18  
Martinsburg, Md.  
6/78 GWM

911 # 25961-1



Otho Thompson, son of Albert  
Thompson

M-16-12-18

Martinsburg, Md.

6/78 GWM

1-19533 # 18