

Mont. 116-12-3  
Fairfax House  
Martinsburg, Maryland  
Private

c. 1926

This two story frame house stands as the replacement for an earlier one story and a half story log house on the property. The facade of three bays, the cross gable pediment, and plan of two rooms down and two up are in keeping with the other houses of Black landowners in the area. Its late date of construction shows the continuation of a popular design. Comparison of this design with that the earlier smaller log house shows the changing ways of life from the 19th into the 20th century.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Fairfax House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

S. SIDE of WHITE'S FERRY RD.

CITY, TOWN

Martinsburg

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Stone Bros., Inc.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Quince Orchard Shopping Center

CITY, TOWN

Gaithersburg

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20760

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Court House

Liber #: 3845

Folio #: 805

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

What first catches the attention of the viewer is the side yard of this house. The occupant, who rents the house, has decorated it with a score of commercially made curios that he has neatly arranged to create a form of folk art, commonly known among folklorists as "yard sculpture". All of the pieces in his yard are inexpensive and for the most part, mass-produced. They include, for example, a half dozen or more brightly colored plastic propellers on sticks, which have been set into the ground to form a large rectangle. They whirl as the wind blows through them. Into the tops of iron pipes set in the ground in front of the house as fence posts, the occupant inserted soda pop bottles turned up side down, and painted in different colors. While, these efforts are not high forms of art, they do represent the attempts of the occupant to give order, color, movement, and character to the space around him. See the photographs of his side yard. The interior of his house also reflects his creativity, as does his back yard where he repairs lawn mowers, bicycles, radios, and other things for people in his community.

The house itself is a two story, frame "I" house. It is three bays in length, and one in depth. Its facade, which is oriented toward White Ferry Rd. (north), contains a door centrally located, flanked by two windows. It is sheltered by a shed porch which has been screened in. The gable roof is covered with tin, and is crossed by a central gable pediment containing a single hung sash window with four lights. A brick stove flues ascends the interior of each gable end.

The interior consists of two rooms down and two up. The east room downstairs is the kitchen, while the west room is the sitting room and contains scores of things collected, made, and arranged by the occupant. A stairway ascends between the two rooms. This is the typical plan of houses built in the turn of the century for the Black landowners in Martinsburg.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 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 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. 1926*

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

*CHARLIE STONE*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to Lemuel Graham, and Henry and Emma Fairfax, this house was the home of Robert Fairfax, a Black landowner. The deed L/T 3845/805 shows that Robert Fairfax began the purchase of the eventual 11 acre tract in 1900. According to oral informants, Graham and Fairfax, the house was not standing at that time. Instead, the Fairfax family lived in a small log house, similar to the others in the community (2 rooms down, and 2 up) that was located about fifty feet behind the present house. According to Graham, this two story, frame house was built in about 1924 or 1926. It was built, he recalled, by a White carpenter named Charlie Stone, from Poolesville. This information is significant since it establishes that houses of this type which are so often associated with the turn of the century continued to have been built into the 20th century. It also shows that Black families were hiring carpenters to build their houses, rather than building them themselves as was traditional. This indicates the improved economic standing of Black families at that time.

For students interested in folk art or in the attempts of a person (who has little money and training) to "make do" and create from cheap materials at hand, this house would be an interesting study. Perhaps this place could be photographed or videotaped as one example in a much broader study of folk art and artists in the county.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Montgomery County Land Records, County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.  
Deed: 3845/805.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.356 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



Facade of Fairfax house  
North length

M-16-12-3

Martinsburg, Md.

6/78 GWM

1-19558#7



Albert Thompson House

Rear length

M-16-12-7

Martinsburg, Md.

Rear length of Fairfax House

M-16-12-3

Martinsburg, Md.

6/78

GWM

1-19533 #9



Fairfax House

East gable end

M-16-12-3

Martinsburg, Md.

6/78 GWM

Its current <sup>occupant</sup> owner is shown  
with the things he added to  
decorate his yard.

Mr. Sims

1-19523 #6