

Mont. : /6-12-6

Graham Log House Site
Martinsburg, Maryland
Private

c.1880

The one and a half story log house that stood on this site was representative of many of the houses of Black families in the area in the 1870's and 1880's; two rooms down and two up, with a facade of three bays, and heated by wood stoves.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Graham Log House Site

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South Side of Club Hockow Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Martinsburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

X VICINITY OF

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER <i>Use of</i>

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Virginia Casey Visnich

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Court House

Liber #: 1961

Folio #: 30

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Md.

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

The one and a half story log house that once stood on this site has been demolished, but from the recollections of by Lemuel Graham, who was born in it in 1894, the house can be described. The house faced north, towards Club Hollow Road. To the south stood the Albert Green house, (which has been surveyed)

The house contained two rooms downstairs and two upstairs. The windows contained double hung sashes with four over four lights in the front and back ngths on either side of the front door, which was centrally located. The roof was covered with wood shingles. The logs inside the house were plastered, Graham recalled. A stove flue ascended along the partition between the two rooms in the back section of the house. This arrangement was similar to that of the log house of the Thompson family in Martinsburg, which remains standing. See the photograph of that for a picture of how this house appeared. The logs on the exterior of this house were not sheathed with weatherboards, like the Thompson house before improvement.

Behind the house was a frame meathouse and chicken house. Milk and butter were stored in the "spring house" where they kept in a crock, set down into a trench through which cool spring water flowed, Graham recalled.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:16-12-6

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 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. 1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This one and a half story log house represented the form of housing occupied by many Black families in the last half of the 19th century. It was larger than the one room up, one room down log houses of Black families in southern Maryland, and was a precursor to the two story frame houses built near the turn of the century by many of the Black landowners in Martinsburg. These houses, though modest, stood in sharp contrast to the homes of landless Black families in southern Maryland and in rural regions of the Deep South.

Graham did not know when this log house was built, the presence of the brick stove flue and the four over four windows suggest a date of 1880's, possibly 1870's. When Graham was growing up in the late 1890's, it was considered to be an "old house" so it is likely that it was built in c.1880.

Graham does not remember who owned this land on which this house stood. He does not know that his parents did not own it and that they moved while he was still a young child. The land records show that it was part of the tract of the Green-Hebron site, already surveyed, and that its owner in the 1890's was John Adams, the Black landowner and farmer whose house in Sugarland has been recorded. (Deed, L/F: 178/434 and JA 36/395). Significantly, this property was sold to Adams in 1884 by A. Pleasants Webb and AA Webb and the Sitlers, the white landowners who sold their land in Sugarland to the Black families. In Hopkins' Atlas of Montgomery County (1879), this site is not shown as possibly as the home of "Green" (no first name given), but the Webbs are not named anywhere in the vicinity. Possibly this "Green" is the family that Graham referred to as the former owner/occupant of the Green-Hebron site nearby.

The sequence of Black ownership of this site proceeded as follows:

- A. Pleasants Webb, A.A. Webb, and Sitlers sell to John Adams, 1884, L/F: JA 36 395
- John Adams sells to Basil Castelee, 1904, L/F: 178/434
- Basil Castelee sells to V.C. Visnich, 1954, L/F: 1961/30

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCESHopkins' 1879, Atlas of Montgomery County.Land Records of Montgomery County, County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.
Deeds: 1961/130; 178/434; JA 36/395.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4

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



Lemuel Graham at site?
his birthplace

M-16-12-6

Martinsburg, Md.

6/78 GWM

2-19583 # 19a