

Mont. : 17-41-10

Curtis House  
Poolesville Vicinity  
Private

C. 1870's

This small, one story log house contained two rooms downstairs, and was one of the first houses built in the Sugarland community, a community of Black landowners. It was constructed by Joe Curtis, one of the "slavery - time people", according to oral tradition. Unlike many log houses of that time in more isolated regions of Maryland and the South, this one had plank floors, glass windows, wood stoves--some of the mass-produced conveniences of the industrial age in the 19th century.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Joe Curtis Log House (Site)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West side of Sugarland Lane

CITY, TOWN

Poolesville  VICINITY OF (Sugarland)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

STATE

Md.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED     | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE       | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS          | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE     | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT          | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT    |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED          | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT       |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                        | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL       |
|  |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY         |
|  |   |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

Forest

NAME

Ned. B. and C.L. Curtis

Telephone #: 949-4816

STREET & NUMBER

11206 Newport Mill Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Wensington

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courthouse, Land Records

Liber #: 2965

Folio #: 4816

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**

M:7-41-10

**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**

This house is no longer standing, but Tilghman Lee whose property is adjacent, remembers it well:

It was a one story log house, rectangular in form, and resembled the Dorsey house on the tract of land to the north. Its facade was oriented toward the east, toward Sugarland Lane. It contained a door near the center and a window to the west. The northern gable end held a door too. The log walls were supported by stones set into a footing trench. Lee recalls that if footings were not used for these houses, then they were simply set up on upright stones at the four corners and midpoint. The log walls themselves were bare, as they were on all the log houses originally, but were whitewashed outside and inside.

There was no frame shed added on to the back of this house, as on the Dorsey's house. There was no fireplace; a wood stove was used. Lee remembers that there was no stove flue or chimney, instead a clay stove pipe ascended through the middle of the roof. Probably only one wood stove was used to heat both rooms. There were plank floors in each room. Lee knew of no houses that had earthen floors in this community. Lee had heard of houses with dirt floors, but had never seen one. There was a wood shingled roof. Lee remembers that tin was first used on barns and outbuildings and later they began putting tin roofs on houses. Lee remembers the days of wood shingle barns, being about 17 when they began putting tin on barns (c. 1910) He was about two or three years older when they began applying the tin to houses (c. 1912-1913).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

M: 17-41-10

| 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)                |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |   |

SPECIFIC DATES

*C. 1870's*

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

*JOE CURTIS AND NEIGHBORS*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There is no deed for this property to show when the Curtis purchased it, nor from whom. Presumably it was purchased from the Webb family, like most other Sugarland landowners. According to Lee, this house was the home of Joe Curtis, one of the oldest of the "slave-time people", and his house was reputed to have been among the first built. At one-time, Lee recalls, Sugarland was known as "Curtisville" after the Curtis family since they were among the first, if not the first, to settle this community.

The smaller design of this house is more in keeping with the smaller log houses of slaves, and this house therefore stands as one of the beginning points for the history of housing in Sugarland.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Oral Interviews: Tilghman Lee, Sugarland community, June-July, 1978  
Land Records, Montgomery County Courthouse

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      Wesley Stubbs, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

July 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Box 87

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Dickerson

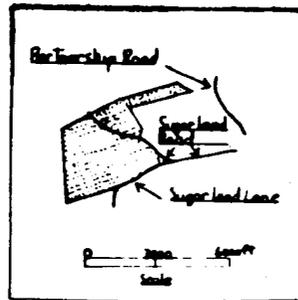
Maryland

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.

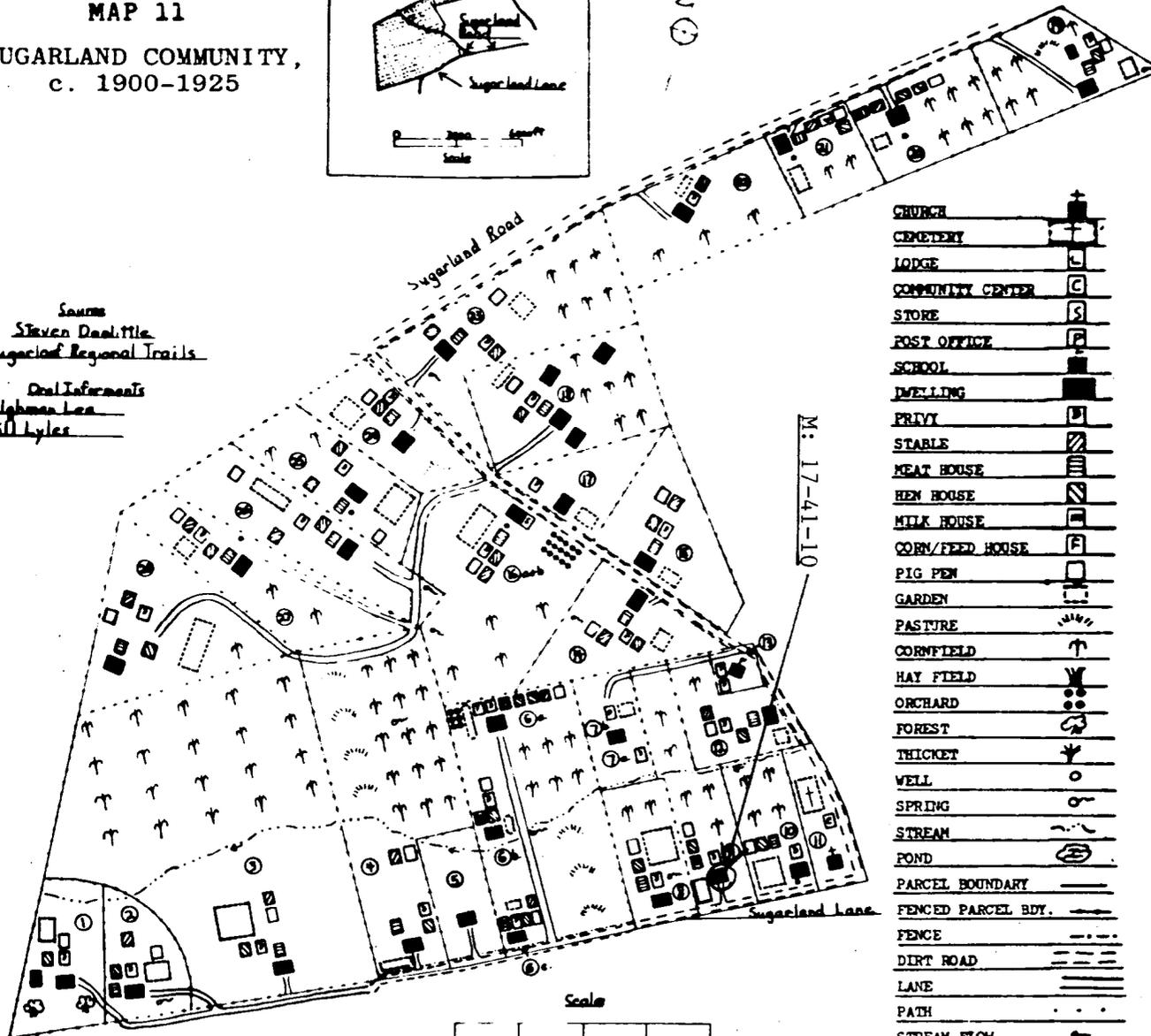
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

MAP 11  
SUGARLAND COMMUNITY,  
c. 1900-1925



Sources  
Steven Dealittle  
Sugarland Regional Trails

Oral Informants  
Tilghman Lee  
Bill Lyles



M: 17-41-10

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| CHURCH             | [Symbol] |
| CEMETERY           | [Symbol] |
| LODGE              | [Symbol] |
| COMMUNITY CENTER   | [Symbol] |
| STORE              | [Symbol] |
| POST OFFICE        | [Symbol] |
| SCHOOL             | [Symbol] |
| DWELLING           | [Symbol] |
| PRIVY              | [Symbol] |
| STABLE             | [Symbol] |
| MEAT HOUSE         | [Symbol] |
| HEN HOUSE          | [Symbol] |
| MILK HOUSE         | [Symbol] |
| CORN/FEED HOUSE    | [Symbol] |
| PIG PEN            | [Symbol] |
| GARDEN             | [Symbol] |
| PASTURE            | [Symbol] |
| CORNFIELD          | [Symbol] |
| HAY FIELD          | [Symbol] |
| ORCHARD            | [Symbol] |
| FOREST             | [Symbol] |
| THICKET            | [Symbol] |
| WELL               | [Symbol] |
| SPRING             | [Symbol] |
| STREAM             | [Symbol] |
| POND               | [Symbol] |
| PARCEL BOUNDARY    | [Symbol] |
| FENCED PARCEL BDY. | [Symbol] |
| FENCE              | [Symbol] |
| DIRT ROAD          | [Symbol] |
| LANE               | [Symbol] |
| PATH               | [Symbol] |
| STREAM FLOW        | [Symbol] |

Key

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. JAMES BECKWITH HSTD.       | 3.00 AC.  |
| 2. TILGHMAN BECKWITH HSTD.    | 4.00 AC.  |
| 3. JOHN ADAMS HSTD.           | 18.00 AC. |
| 4. LEWIS GARRETT HSTD.        | 14.00 AC. |
| 5. PETER JACKSON HSTD.        | 3.00 AC.  |
| 6a. PATRICK HEBRON HSTD.      | 17.00 AC. |
| b. LUKE HEBRON HSTD.          |           |
| c. ROBERT HEBRON HSTD.        |           |
| 7a. NATHAN JOHNSON HSTD.      | 3.00 AC.  |
| b. POST OFFICE                |           |
| 8. JOHN RIGGINS HSTD.         | 4.00 AC.  |
| 9. JOE CURTIS HSTD.           | 6.00 AC.  |
| 10. EASIL DORSEY HSTD.        | 4.00 AC.  |
| 11. ST. PAUL'S M.E. CHURCH    | 1.00 AC.  |
| 12. HORACE JACKSON HSTD.      | 2.00 AC.  |
| 13. SUGARLAND SCHOOL          | 1.00 AC.  |
| 14. SAM BEANDER HSTD.         | 6.00 AC.  |
| 15. THOMAS NICHOLS HSTD.      | 10.00 AC. |
| 16a. BENJAMIN SPARROUGH HSTD. | 14.75 AC. |
| b. SUGARLAND STORE            |           |
| 17. CHARLES JACKSON HSTD.     | 4.50 AC.  |
| 18. LUKE LYNCH & FAMILY HSTD. | 10.00 AC. |
| 19. WILLIAM TAYLOR HSTD.      | 3.00 AC.  |
| 20. LLOYD COATES HSTD.        | 4.00 AC.  |
| 21. SAMUEL JOHNSON HSTD.      | 4.00 AC.  |
| 22. JOHN DIGGS HSTD.          | 4.00 AC.  |
| 23. JOHN BRANISON HSTD.       | 11.00 AC. |
| 24. RAF BRANISON HSTD.        | 6.00 AC.  |
| 25. PHILLIP JOHNSON HSTD.     | 6.00 AC.  |
| 26. ISAAC BELL HSTD.          | 10.00 AC. |
| 27. SAMUEL LEE HSTD.          | 5.00 AC.  |
| 28. LEVI HALL HSTD.           | 10.00 AC. |

DWELLINGS AND OUTBUILDINGS NOT DRAWN TO SCALE  
HSTD. = HOMESTEAD PROP. = PROPERTY

Joe Curtis Log House, site 163 M: 17-41-10

STERLING QUADRANGLE  
VIRGINIA-MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
SW/4 SENECA 15' QUADRANGLE

M: 17-41-10  
5562 III NE  
(GERMANTOWN)

291 25' 2 310 000 FEET (VA.) 292 293 POOLESVILLE 3 MI 77° 22' 30" 39° 07' 30"

