

M: 18-11-17

Williams-Diggins House

c.1880's

Boyds

Private

This two story house began as a simply designed tenant house, containing one room down and one room up, with a two bay facade. In 1922 it was purchased by a Black family, who improved it over the years, enlarging it considerably.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Williams-Diggins House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

East side of White Grounds Road

CITY, TOWN

Boyd's

\_\_\_ 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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	No	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

T.C. Diggins

Telephone #: Not Listed

STREET & NUMBER

White Grounds Road

CITY, TOWN

Boyd's

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds

Liber #: 508 5091

Folio #: 591

STREET & NUMBER

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

M:18-11-17

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This interesting site stands on the east side of White Ground Road. It consists of a two story frame house with yard, garden, and numerous outbuildings and storage places. In front of the house along the road, is a white post fence. Together the fence and a line of shrubbery delineate the front yard. In the yard is a rose arbor, numerous shade trees and shrubs and empty flower pots which indicate the care that was given by the resident family to the appearance of the house and its grounds when they lived here. Behind the house, is a half dozen or more outbuildings and storage sheds. They are filled with a host of artifacts that Courtney Diggins has saved over the years. Some of them include old farm equipment such as long handled scythes, saws, whetstones, hoes, and other farm and work tools. This would be an interesting place to photograph for any students interested in the older things that Black families used years ago.

The house itself has been added to considerably over the years. Its general appearance reveals those additions quite clearly. According to Mrs. Edna Duffin Johnson who lives on the parcel of land to the south of this house, it originally consisted of the front block which contained one room down and one up. The house today is no longer occupied so the interior was not investigated.

The front block stood a full two stories in height. It is frame in construction, and today its frame has been covered with white asbestos shingling. Presumably, they cover weatherboards. The facade of the principal block consists of two bays, a door almost centrally located, with a window containing double hung sashes with two over two lights to the north of it. There are two windows in the upstairs above each of these openings below. The front block is one bay in depth, and each bay contains a window, similar to those in the front. The windows today are accented by plain trim board which have been painted green. The facade is sheltered by a shed porch supported by turned posts.

The gable roof is covered by galvanized tin, the cornices are boxed with plain boards. There are small windows in each of the gable ends in the attic.

Behind the house is a two story ell through which the brick stove flue ascends. Since there is no stove flue for the front block of the house, it is probable that there was originally a room attached to the back of the house and has since been enlarged to two rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs. Behind that addition is still another addition probably containing one room down and one room up. On the back porch are stored scores of artifacts. Refer to the color slide of the back porch for a good picture of the types of things that Diggins has preserved over the years.

Directly behind the house is a large frame outbuilding which was presumably the meathouse. It was not investigated closely because no one was at home. There is also a privy behind the house and other smaller outbuildings, one of them may have been a hen house or corn house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

M: 18-11-17

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES *c. 1880's*

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to Miss Edna Duffin Johnson, this small house was originally a tenant house on property owned by Mr. Jim Williams. In 1917 her father, Addison Duffin purchased it from this white landowner and later according to deed PBR 322/133, it was sold to Courtney Diggins, who was born and raised in Big Woods in Upper Western Montgomery County. After purchasing the property, Diggins added on to the house and improved the general appearance of it in the front yard and by building the outbuildings behind it. His improvements to the property revealed the influence that land ownership has upon houses.

Since the interior of the house cannot be investigated for structural details, the house cannot be precisely dated. Also, since it was built as a tenant house and not as a landowner's dwelling, the deeds do not give us a indication of the date of construction. However, by the general appearance of the house, by the presence of the stove flues, the absence of fireplaces, the presence of two over two windows, the general design of the house together these features indicate that the house was probably built in the late 19th century probably 1880s or 1890s. Miss Johnson was born in 1891 and recalls that the house was built before she was born, so it was probably built in the 1880s.

She recalls that there was no front porch to the house when she was young. It consisted of the front block with one room down and one room up, and the weatherboards were what she called, "straight up and down boards," that is, board and batten. The house was whitewashed like other houses in the community. Being a frame house -- and not a log cabin -- this house was in advance of its time, if it was built as a tenant dwelling. The changes in it over time reflect the transition in housing from tenancy to land ownership and the ability of landowners to improve their conditions.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

M-18-11-17

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.

Interviews (not taped) with Edna Duffin Johnson and Lorraine Duffin, Boyds, Md. Feb. - March 1979

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

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel

Tamar Hoewing, Research Assistant  
Karen Sewell, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

3/79

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

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.

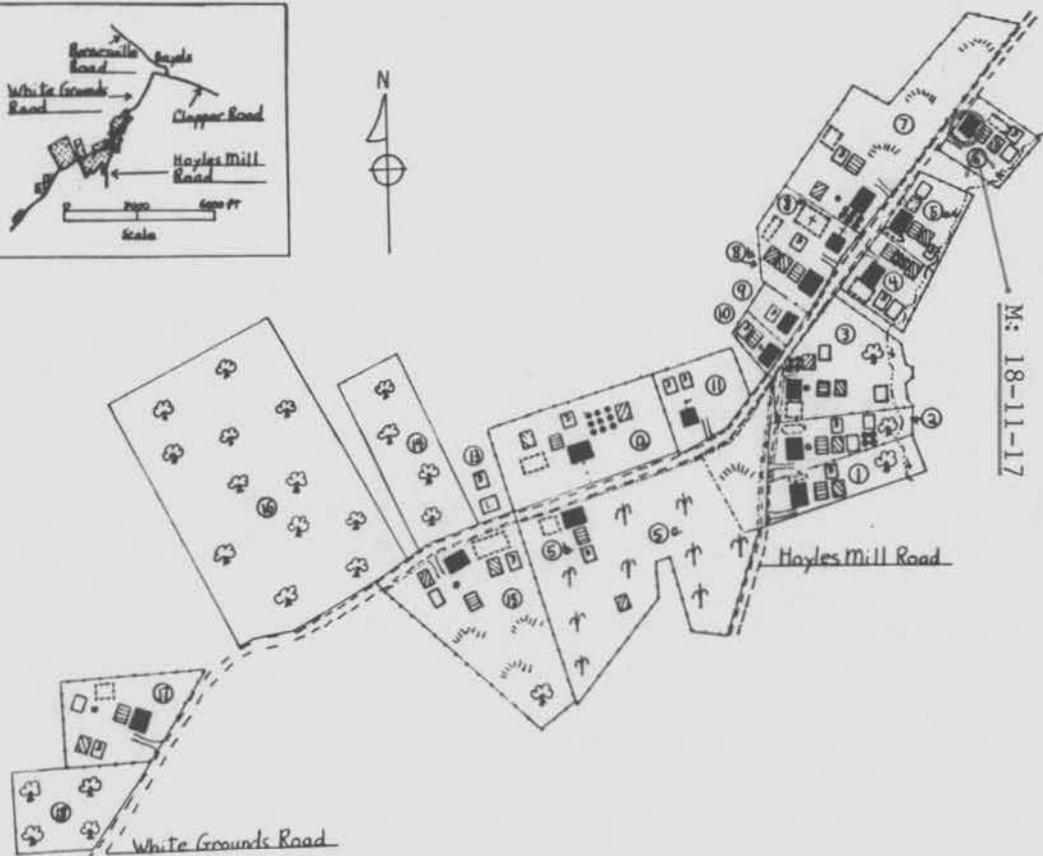
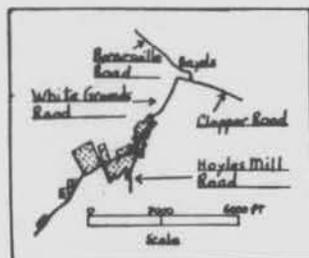
RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
Box 87, Stronghold  
Dickerson, Md. 20753  
(301) 926-4510

CURB	+
CEMETERY	+
LAKE	L
COMMUNITY CENTER	C
STORE	S
POST OFFICE	P
SCHOOL	S
MILLING	M
BRTN	B
STABLE	▨
WEEK HOUSE	▨
KEY HOUSE	▨
WIFE HOUSE	▨
CORN/STOCK HOUSE	F
BIG DEN	□
BARN	□
PASTURE	☀
CORN FIELD	↑
RAY FIELD	☀
ORCHARD	●●●
FOREST	☁
WETLAND	☀
WELL	o
SPRING	o
STREAM	~
POLE	⊕
PARCEL BOUNDARY	---
FENCED PARCEL BDY.	---
FENCE	---
DIRT ROAD	---
LANE	---
PATH	...
STREAM FLOW	↑

Key

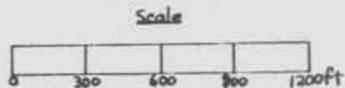
1. MARTHA CARTER HSTD. 1.00 AC.
2. WILLIAM LUCKETT HSTD. 2.00 AC.
3. WILLIAM GIBBS HSTD. 3.00 AC.
4. DUFFIN-HEBRON HSTD. 1.00 AC.
- 5a. ADDISON DUFFIN HSTD. 25.00 AC.
- c. RENTED HOUSE
1. FARM FIELD
2. DIGGINS HSTD. 2.50 AC.
7. JACOB RUBLE HSTD. (white) 5.00 AC.
- 8a. ST. MARK'S M.E. CHURCH 2.00 AC.
- b. ST. MARK'S PARSONAGE
9. JOHN DORSEY HSTD. 1.50 AC.
10. BLANCHIE WILLIAMS HSTD. 1.50 AC.
11. BOYDS NEGRO SCHOOL 1.50 AC.
12. JOHN BROWN HSTD. 5.00 AC.
13. ODD FELLOW'S LODGE
14. GEORGE DAVIS HSTD. 6.00 AC.
15. GEORGE HAWKINS HSTD. 7.00 AC.
16. JAMES WILLIAMS PROP. (white) 16.00 AC.
17. JOHN PARKER HSTD. 3.00 AC.
18. TIMOTHY CATON PROP. 5.00 AC.
19. JOSHUA DUFFIN HSTD. 2.00 AC.
20. NATHAN DUFFIN HSTD. 1.00 AC.



WHITEGROUNDS COMMUNITY, c. 1900-1925

Source  
Steven Doolittle  
Supervised Regional Trails

Oral Informants  
Aignes Coates  
Mae Coates  
Clara Talley



M: 18-11-17  
Williams-Diggins House  
(Diggins Homestead)

MILLING AND OUTBUILDINGS NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

DIRT ROAD      PROP.      CEMENT



M: 18-11-17  
Williams-Diggins House  
(Diggins Homestead)  
Germantown Quad, 1933, PR 1979



Dr. Williams-Piggins house

M-18-11-77

Facade: West length

White Grounds Community

photo by Geyer McPain

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8/79



W. Lyons - Diggins house

M-18-11-17

Rear length: East

photo by George McDonald

8/79

White Ground Community



M 18-11-17

Williams-Diggins House  
Beard, Md.

T. Courtney Diggins and  
Peg Coleman on the  
front porch of the  
Williams-Diggins House

Fall, 1978

photo by Anne Lewis