

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #68-37 Building Date: ca. 1896

Building Name: Randall-Dimes House

Location: 4508 Rhode Island Avenue, North Brentwood

Private/Residence/Occupied/Fair/Inaccessible

Description:

The Randall-Dimes house is a two-story gable roof frame structure covered with stucco. It has an ell-shaped plan with a centerfront cross gable and a two-story semi-octagonal projecting bay on the southeast corner. It is situated on a small town lot fronting on the west side of Rhode Island Avenue. The three bay main facade has a central entrance. The first story is sheltered by a hipped-roof screened porch with turned and chamfered posts and jig-sawn brackets. Windows are 2/2 double-hung-sash with wide board surrounds. Centered above the main facade is a cross gable with a centered diamond-shaped window. The Dimes house has a boxed cornice with overhanging eaves and returns in the gable ends. It is set high on a rock-faced cement block foundation which has full size windows. The south gable end is dominated by a two-story hipped roof semi-octagonal projecting bay. The west facade has a two-story, one-by-one bay gable roofed ell projecting from the southwest corner. An entrance to the basement is at ground level on the west gable end of the ell. Filling in the ell and covering the first two bays of the west (rear) facade is a shed roof, two-story addition, also stucco covered. A shed roof rear porch encloses the north bay on the first story.

Significance:

The Randall-Dimes house is significant as one of the earliest dwellings constructed in North Brentwood. It is an early 20th century suburban dwelling with late Victorian stylistic elements; such as its two-story semi-octagonal south bay, cross gable with diamond window and porch with turned posts and brackets. It is also significant for association with the Randall family, one of the first families residing in North Brentwood, and who served in the town's early government. In 1896 Peter Randall, a black man listed as a day laborer in the 1900 U.S. Census, acquired Lot 4 in Block 20

he house was constructed soon after. The block in which the house is situated contained the residences of brothers Henry, Arthur and Thomas Randall, as well as Peter Randall, and for a short time North Brentwood was known as Randallstown. The first school was constructed in 1910, with Peter and Henry Randall serving as trustees. The town was incorporated in 1924, with Peter Randall serving as Councilman in Ward 1.

Acreage: 3,087 square feet

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Randall-Dimes House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 4508 Rhode Island Avenue (U.S. Route 1) not for publicationcity, town North Brentwood vicinity of congressional district 5state Maryland county Prince George's County

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Clement W. and Mamie A. Dimesstreet & number 4508 Rhode Island Avenue telephone no.:city, town North Brentwood state and zip code Maryland 20722

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 897street & number Main Street folio 186city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N. A.date federal state county localdepository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission, Room 4010, County Administration Buildingcity, town Upper Marlboro state MD

7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#68-37

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Randall-Dimes house in North Brentwood is a two-story gable roof frame structure covered with stucco. It has an ell-shaped plan with a center-front cross gable and a two-story semi-octagonal projecting bay on the south-east corner. It is situated on a small town lot fronting on the west side of Rhode Island Avenue.

The three bay east (main) facade has a central entrance surmounted by a rectangular transom. The first story is sheltered by a hipped-roof screened porch with turned and chamfered posts and jig-sawn brackets. A half-wall of vertical boarded wainscotting encloses the porch, and it is set on rock-faced cement block piers infilled with wood lattice. Windows are 2/2 double-hung-sash with wide board surrounds. Centered above the main facade is a cross gable with a centered diamond-shaped window.

The Dimes house has a boxed cornice with overhanging eaves and returns in the gable ends. The roof is covered with deteriorated diamond-shaped asphalt shingles. It is set high on a rock-faced cement block foundation which has full size 2/2 sash windows covered with metal grill work.

The one-bay north gable end has a 6/6 sash window on the second story. The south gable end is dominated by a two-story hipped roof semi-octagonal projecting bay.

The west facade has a two-story, one-by-one bay gable roofed ell projecting from the southwest corner of the main block. The ell is set on the same foundation and has the same cornice, wall and window treatment as the main block. An entrance to the basement is at ground level on the west gable end of the ell. Filling in the ell and covering the first two bays of the west (rear) facade is a shed roof, two-story addition, also stucco covered. A shed roof rear porch encloses the north bay on the first story.

8. Significance

Period	Area 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1896 Builder/Architect local history

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Randall-Dimes house is significant as one of the earliest dwellings constructed in the incorporated town of North Brentwood. It is a modest, but representative example of an early 20th century suburban dwelling with late Victorian stylistic elements; such as its two-story semi-octagonal south bay, cross gable with diamond window and porch with turned posts and brackets. The house is also significant for its association with the Randall family, its builders, who were one of the first families residing in North Brentwood, and who served in the town's early government.

The Town of North Brentwood was developed on a part of a 100-acre tract acquired in the early 1890's by a land syndicate called the Holladay Company. The syndicate platted the areas which eventually became Brentwood, North Brentwood, Mt. Rainier and a southern section of Hyattsville.¹ Captain Wallace A. Bartlett, a company partner, had served in the Civil War commanding the 19th Infantry of U.S. Colored Troops, composed of Black men from Southern Maryland and the eastern shore. In subdividing the North Brentwood area, it was Captain Bartlett's desire that black families occupy the tract, in tribute to the soldiers who had served in his regiment.²

In 1896 Peter Randall, a black man listed as a day laborer in the 1900 U.S. Census, acquired Lot 4 in Block 20 from Captain Bartlett.³ The Randall-Dimes house was constructed soon after.⁴ The block in which the house is situated, fronting on the electric trolley line, later became an extension of Rhode Island Avenue. It contained the residences of brothers Henry, Arthur and Thomas Randall, as well as Peter Randall, and for a short time North Brentwood was known as Randallstown. In 1905 there were 15 houses in the community, sheltering 65 people.⁵

The first school in North Brentwood was constructed in 1910, with Peter and Henry Randall serving as trustees. The town was incorporated in 1924, with Peter Randall serving as Councilman in Ward 1.⁶

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. P.G.#68-37
Section 8 Page 2

Randall and his wife sold the Randall-Dimes house to their daughters, Ethel Johnson, Bertha Lee and Bessie Randall, in 1940. In 1947 the Randall daughters sold the house and property to Clement W. and Mamie Dimes, who presently reside there.⁷

Notes

- 1 "Vicinity of Washington, D.C.," Published by Griffith M. Hopkins, 302 Walnut Street, Philadelphia. A ca. 1894 map available at Martin Luther King Public Library, Washingtoniana Room, Washington, D.C.
- 2 "Bible, Book and Voting Booth: Early Black Institutions and Political History, 1870-1920," Final Report for Fiscal Year 1984-85, Bianca P. Floyd, History Division, M-NCPPC.
- 3 Land Records of Prince George's County, JWB 35:815.
- 4 Tax Assessments, Prince George's County, 1898, District 2. Available at Maryland State Archives, Volume 12230.
- 5 Floyd, op. cit., Section Four, page 2.
- 6 Ibid., page 10.
- 7 Land Records, 579:303, 897:186.

CHAIN OF TITLE
Randall-Dimes House
P.G. #68-37

- 897:186
29 Jan. 1947
Deed
Ethel Johnson and James Johnson, Bertha Lee, and Bessie Randall to Clement W. and Mamie A. Dimes. For \$10 grantors convey Lot 4 and parts of Lots 5, 9 and 10 in Block 20 in Holladay Co's Addition to Highlands, Plat JWB 5:646.
- 879:292
29 Jan. 1947
Mortgage
Clement W. Dimes and Mamie A. Dimes to Ethel Johnson, Bertha Lee and Bessie Randall. Dimes indebted to parties of second part for \$2,500. To better secure debt they deed property, with house.
- 579:302
4 Sept. 1940
Deed
Peter and Mattie M. Randall of D.C. to Bertha Lee, Ethel Johnson and Bessie Randall of D.C. For \$10 grantors convey that parcel, a part of Lot 5 in Block 20 in Holladay's Addition to Highlands. Lot a triangle with base of 5 feet 9 inches.
- 579:303
8 May 1940
Deed
Peter and Mattie Randall of D.C. to Ethel Johnson, Bertha Lee and Bessie Randall of D.C. For \$10 grantors convey Lot 10 in Block 20 together with adjacent strip 5 feet in width by depth of 100 feet from Lot 9 making lot a rectangle of 55 x 100 feet.
- 579:304
1 Feb. 1941
Mortgage
Ethel Johnson, Bertha Lee and Bessie Randall, shareholders of Perpetual Building Assoc. of D.C. have received \$2,000 to pay mortgage - this deed assumes full repayment. Grantors convey to Trustees of Association Lots 4, 5, 9, and 10 in Block 20.
- .244:314
25 Aug. 1925
Deed
Maryland Guarantee Title, Investment Company to Peter and Barbara Randall. Grantor purchased at tax sale, deed dated 31st March 1924, 217:233. Randall's desire to redeem said property. For \$150 grantor conveys Lot 4 in Block 20.
- 217:233
31 Mar. 1924
Deed
Herman E. Burgess, Treasurer of P.G. County, to Maryland Guarantee Title and Investment Company. On second Monday in January 1921, due to arrears for State and County Taxes for 1920 - assessed in name of Peter Randall, Lot 4, Block 20, see 35:817. Taxes owed \$13.54.

- 2 -

13:399
7 May 1903
Deed
Peter and Barbara Randall to Henry Randall. For \$10 grantors conveys part of Lot 10 in Block 20, a strip 4-1/2 feet wide by 100 feet extending alongside Lot 11. Together with improvements.

18:197
24 Feb. 1903
Deed
Bartlett, Adams and Mills to Peter Randall. For \$125 grantors convey Lot 10, in Block 20 together with strip 5 feet x 100 feet from Lot 9.

JWB:35:817
4 June 1896
Deed
Wallace A. Bartlett, J. Lees Adams and Samuel J. Mills to Peter Randall. For \$125 grantors convey Lot 4 in Block 20 in Holladay Co's. Addition to Highland - measures 50 x 100 feet, fronting on Holladay Avenue.

WASHINGTON EAST



PG# 68-37



Randall - Dimes

56

P.G. #68-37

Randall-Dimes House
Prince George's County, Maryland
Marina King
February 1987
Southeast Elevation
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



112

P.G. #68-37

Randall-Dimes House
Prince George's County, Maryland
Marina King
February 1987
Northeast elevation
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



porch

P.G. #68-37

Randall-Dimes House
Prince George's County, Maryland
Marina King
February 1987
Entrance porch
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD