

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #71A-32 Building Date: ca. 1895

Building Name: Richard Brown House

Location: 14208 Old Stage Road, Bowie, Maryland

Private/Residence/Unoccupied/Deteriorated/Inaccessible

Description

The Richard Brown House is a two-story gable-roof frame house which stands in a rural area near the Popes Creek Line of the Conrail Railroad at Collington. It consists of a side-gabled main block, three-bays by two-bays, with a rear kitchen wing at right angles, giving it an L shape. The house faces south, and entrance is in the central bay of the three bay main south facade, through a modern door with plain board surround. The plain horizontal board siding is covered with white asbestos shingle. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash with plain board surrounds, and no shutters. The gable roof is covered with red asphalt shingle. The cornice is boxed with crown molding, and returned at the gable ends. Extending to the north (rear) and flush with the west gable end of the main block is a two-story gable-roof one-bay-by-one-bay kitchen wing. Siding, roof, and fenestration are the same as the main block.

Significance

The Richard Brown House is an example of a modest but sturdy frame dwelling built by a family of blacks who had become landowners after the Civil War. It stands in a wooded rural area, west of the Popes Creek line of the railroad at Collington. It has been vacant for nearly a quarter century, and is in seriously deteriorating condition, but is probably restorable. In March of 1883 Richard Brown, a black farm laborer from the Collington area, purchased 63 acres of land which had belonged to the Mitchell family. Most of Brown's family had been part of the slave labor force at Charles Hill's "Collington Meadows" plantation three miles to the south, and had been emancipated in 1864. Richard Brown purchased the 63-acre farm in 1883, moved his family into a small log building on the property and farmed the land. Circa 1895, he built the subject house, a modest I-house with kitchen ell, resting on a hand-built foundation of local sandstone. Richard Brown died in 1910, leaving a widow Maria Jane, and sons George, Richard and Robert. The land was divided amicably between the three brothers, with each taking title to 19 1/2 acres, and George receiving the parcel on which his father's house stood. The house is typical of the modest balloon frame dwellings which were constructed at the end of the nineteenth century. It is significant as a dwelling typical of those which could be constructed by an emerging middle class of black landowners. It has remained in the family of the builder to the third generation.

Acreage: 8 acres

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Richard Brown House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 14208 Old Stage Road  not for publication

city, town Bowie  vicinity of  congressional district 5

state Md.  county Prince George's

## 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"/> 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	<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 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 Dorothy M. Brown

street & number 6315 Carrington Court telephone no.:

city, town Capitol Heights state and zip code Md. 20743

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. Co. Courthouse liber #5693

street & number Main Street folio 390

city, town Capitol Heights state Md. 20743

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

state  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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 of move _____
<input 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 Richard Brown House is a two-story gable-roof frame house which stands in a rural area near the Popes Creek Line of the Conrail Railroad at Collington. It consists of a side-gabled main block, three-bays by two-bays, with a rear kitchen wing at right angles, giving it an L shape. It is set back circa one-half mile north of Old Stage Road, has been vacant for circa 25 years, and is in seriously deteriorating condition.

The house faces south, and entrance is in the central bay of the three bay main south facade, through a modern door with plain board surround. The steps which must have originally led to this door are now gone, and there are no visible indications of a porch. The plain horizontal board siding is covered with white asbestos shingle. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash with plain board surrounds, and no shutters. The gable roof is covered with red asphalt shingle. The cornice is boxed with crown molding, and returned at the gable ends. There are two interior corbelled brick chimneys, at the ridge of the main block, are at each of the gable ends. The house rests on a foundation of local iron-bearing sandstone; there is no basement.

Interior plan of the main block consists of a central stair flanked by a parlor on each side. The stair is boxed and leads straight up from the central south entrance. Surrounds of doors and windows are of plain board, and there are no mantels.

Extending to the north (rear) and flush with the west gable end of the main block is a two-story gable-roof one-bay-by-one-bay kitchen wing. Siding, roof, and fenestration are the same as the main block. Filling part of the interior (northeast) corner formed by the main block and kitchen ell is a one-story shed-roof porch; it shelters entrances into both the main block and the kitchen wing.

Two old outbuildings stand on the grounds west of the house: a small square gable-roof shed, and a long stable/shed with gable-roof and shed extension. Near them is a new (circa 1960) dwelling.





Notes:

- 1 Prince George's County Deed JWB #8:698.
- 2 Prince George's County Slave Statistics, 1867-68; Md. Hall of Records.
- 3 Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1888-1915.
- 4 Prince George's County Estate file #3563; Deed of Partition #61:245.
- 5 Prince George's County Will WEC #2:202; estate file #8530.
- 6 cf. MHT forms #62-18 and #62-19.

R-R

R-80

R-R

CHAS. R. SCHNEIDER  
1129 / 338  
71.99 A  
P. 25

SPRIGGS  
33  
A.

MARY C. TURNER  
5693/381  
6.18A.  
P. 7

DOROTHY  
M BROWN  
5693/390  
8.00A.  
P. 19

RICHARD S.  
BROWN  
2232 / 336  
14.50A.  
P. 21

F.B.D. SCHNEIDER  
5922/549  
19.50A.  
P. 20

1A.  
P.65

LOT 1  
8547

2.35A. 2.35A.  
P. 47 P. 38

6040/  
039  
2.00A.  
P. 14

PG: 71A-32

5281/622  
2.31A  
P. 130

2.00 A.  
P. 93

4232/593  
2.84 A.  
P. 23

4181/476  
5.01A.  
P. 122

LOUIS COHEN, ETAL  
5034 / 408  
92.194.  
P. 22

LOUIS COHEN ETAL  
5034 / 408  
6.61A  
P. 102

LOUIS COHEN ETAL  
5034 / 408  
25.94A  
P. 79

AL C.  
GILKESSON  
2709-190  
3.26A.  
P. 63

WM.  
WELLS  
3086-76  
4.18A.  
P. 60

THE ART  
ORGANIZA  
INC.  
5350  
9.  
N P



PG#71A-32

Richard Brown House  
Prince George's County, Md.  
Susan G. Pearl  
May 1986  
South elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#71A-32

Richard Brown House  
Prince George's County, Md.  
Susan G. Pearl  
May 1986  
West elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#71A-32

Richard Brown House  
Prince George's County, Md.  
Susan G. Pearl  
May 1986  
Northeast 3/4 elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.