

SM - 307
Statesman House
Valley Lee
St. Mary's County, Md.
C. 1900

Inventory Caption

This well built 2 story frame house with a prominent wood shingled cross pediment is representative of the house built by a successful black farmer in the last quarter of the 19th century and first quarter of the 20th. Like other farm houses of that popular design, its three bay facade is symmetrical, and its floor plan consists of a central passageway flanked by two rooms on each side. This house is but one of several houses built in this landowning black community in the vicinity of Valley Lee.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

SM -307
MAGI #1903075604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC THE STATESMAN HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side of Happy Land Rd., 0.5 miles
east of Jct. of Happy Land Rd. and Rt. 249

CITY, TOWN

Valley Lee

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

St. Mary'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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<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

Unoccupied

NAME

Ellis Statesman

Telephone #: 301 994-1168

STREET & NUMBER

Happy Land Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Valley Lee

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

20692

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Mary's County Courthouse

Liber #: Map. 57 P. 119

Folio #: Liber: 150

Folio: 359

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtown

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This handsome two story house stands at the end of a long drive facing Happy Land Rd. and is one of several built by black landowners (such as the Thompson House, S' M -308) in this predominantly black community. Some of the land is still farmed, though not nearly as much as in earlier days. Today the house stands alone on the property except for a few small sheds, most of the outbuildings of its farm days having collapsed.

The house was occupied until recently and has been fairly well maintained. In the coming years, however, it will probably decline unless it is re-occupied. The house is two stories in height, three bays in length, the door being centrally located and flanked by double hung sash windows containing 2 x 2 lights. Above each of the openings downstairs is a window of similar design, giving the house a symmetrical appearance. The house is two bays in depth. The exterior is highlighted by gable pediments that cross the front and rear lengths. These pediments and the gable ends are identical in design, each having boxed cornices and returns and a diamond shaped window. The shingle siding in each suggest a borrowing from the Queen Anne style. Two large brick chimneys pierce the ridge of the roof at the mid-point of the first and third bays and probably served back to back fireboxes or stoves for the front and back rooms in each bay. Today the weatherboards are painted a mustard color, in a not particularly understated contrast to the turquoise trim at the windows, doors, and corners.

Since the house was locked, an investigation of the interior was not possible. Its plan was most likely a central passageway with two rooms on either side.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

Black History

SPECIFIC DATES 1890-1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is representative of the finer farm houses built by successful black landowners in the last quarter of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th. Its original appearance was more handsome than it is today, for the family who built a house of this quality probably gave considerable attention to the grounds around it.

NOTE: ACCORDING TO ~~JAMES SCANS~~
LUTHER STUCKEY (CH-328),
this home was home to of Joseph
James Ellis STATESMAN, principal
of a school in the area.
He + Stuckey were both
educators of Black schools
in the 1930's.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Md. Commission on Afro-American History & Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Md.

STATE

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



STATESMAN HOUSE
STMA 307
Valley LEE, Md.
South facade
GWM - 11/77



STATESMAN HOUSE
STMA 307
Valley LEE, Md.
NORTHWEST VIEW
GWM - 11/7776



STATESMAN HOUSE
STMA 307
VALEY LEE, Md.
NORTHEAST VIEW
GWM - 11/76