

S M :- 308
The Thompson House
Valley Lee
Private

C. 1913-14

This handsome, two story frame house with
hipped roof was built by William Bunton Thompson,
a black landowner. In addition, he built the out-
buildings associated with the farm, the best
example being the finely crafted log corn crib.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

SM -308
MAGI # 1903085704

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC THE THOMPSON HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

(Piney Point Road)
East side of Rt. 249, 0.25 mile south of Jct. of

STREET & NUMBER
Rt. 249 and Happyland Rd.

CITY, TOWN Valley Lee VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2

STATE Maryland COUNTY St. Mary's

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 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Bernard Thompson Telephone #: 994-1235

STREET & NUMBER Rt. 249

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

Map 57 P. 77
Liber #: 222
Folio #: 205

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

- 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 handsome, two story house faces west towards Rt. 249. It is well kept in appearance, and is still the center of the working farm that the Thompson family operates.

According to the family, a smaller frame house stood here when William Bunton Thompson and his wife Ella purchased the property. ^{AFTER} That dwelling burned in c. 1913-14, William Thompson built this house as its replacement. The house stands a full two stories and is capped by a prominent hipped roof through the peak of which ascend two brick stove chimneys. The facade consists of a door centrally located flanked by two windows and is sheltered by a shed screen porch that has been added. Along the northern width, the windows are irregularly placed, whereas on the southern side the arrangement is balanced. On the back length, the arrangement approaches symmetry, but is somewhat off, (see photographs). A likely explanation is that along the lengths ^{which were} (north and east) ^{openings} were arranged according to the needs of ^{private} the rooms that they served. But the facade (west length), and the south length (by which the drive ^{way} passed) were more public, and the openings were symmetrically placed, in keeping with the aesthetic values in regards to house design of the time.

The frame of the house is balloon frame, and is sheathed by asbestos siding. The frame is supported by cement blocks, and there is no basement. The doors and windows are trimmed with plain boards painted green. Contrasting with the white siding, they give the house a pleasant appearance. The eaves are boxed with beaded boards.

In plan the interior consists of four rooms downstairs and four up, all heated by wood stoves, and nicely appointed with family furniture, photographs, and other memorabilia dating from the first quarter of the 20th century ^{into the present.}

In front of the house is well-kept though small grape arbor, and beside the house are several fruit trees, probably the remnants of a larger orchard. Behind the house are a number of outbuildings, all in fairly good repair. One of them is a log corn crib that was made by William Thompson soon after construction of this house, according to his son. Its proportions and its construction show very fine workmanship. Fortunately it is still in use by the family.

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 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		

Black History

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1913-14 BUILDER/ARCHITECT William B. Thompson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

more

While there may have been many houses of black families that were built by black carpenters, there are few sources of evidence to identify them. The value of this house and its outbuildings is that the sources are there that precisely identify William Thompson as the builder. The size of the house and its design, in comparison to the small, original dwelling, reflect the upward mobility of the Thompsons, and the craftsmanship evidenced in the construction of the house and of the outbuildings reveals his skills. In addition to farming, both of the Thompsons were school teachers.

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, Maryland

STATE

21401

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



Thompson House

STMA-308

S.W. View

Callaway Vicinity

Gunn

12/76



Thompson House
STMA - 308

Callaway Vicinity

12/76
~~76~~ ~~76~~

Gurn

N. View