

T-58

Wye Oak Tree

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 04-05-2004

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

2100583034
T-58

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Wye Oak

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Md. Rt. 622

CITY, TOWN

Wye Mills

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Talbot

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

—DISTRICT

—BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

☒ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC

—PRIVATE

—BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

—OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

—YES: RESTRICTED

☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED

—NO

PRESENT USE

—AGRICULTURE

—COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

☒ MUSEUM

☒ PARK

—PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

—OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of Maryland

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Courthouse

Liber #: 401 - 413 - 414

Folio #: 404 - 329 - 693

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

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

Wye Oak State Park presently consists of 21 acres. The original two 3/4-acre lots were purchased in 1939. A portion of the money was raised through public subscription and the balance was appropriated by the State Department of Forests and Parks.

The tree measures 50 feet in circumference at its widest point, which is one foot above ground level. Branch spread is 165 feet, and its total height is 95 feet.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 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. 1540

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wye Oak was first brought to public attention in 1909, when a State Forester who photographed and measured the tree found it to be the largest specimen on record in the Eastern United States.

The remarkably good health of the tree is attributed to the foresight of such individuals as DeCourcsey W. Thom, of Blakeford, Queen Anne's County, H. Stevenson Clopper, a tree expert, and J. Russell Smith, of Columbia University.

In 1914, Mr. Thom engaged a tree expert for general repair work and the removal of dead branches.

Additional repairs were needed in 1930, and Mr. Clopper, who had performed the initial task, undertook to trim out the dead wood and brace several of the larger limbs.

The Maryland Forestry Association paid for the materials and Mr. Clopper donated his services.

In 1947, Mr. Smith donated and applied 800 pounds of fertilizer to the tree.

On October 6, 1953, a large limb of the Wye Oak was torn off during a severe storm. Theodore McKeldin, then Governor of Maryland, had the wood made into gavels which were distributed to a number of State Judges.

Annual fertilization, trimming, necessary spraying and other maintenance on the Wye Oak is performed by the Department of Forests and Parks.

This huge white oak which stands alongside State Highway 622 in Wye Mills, Talbot County, is estimated to be approximately 400 years old.

The late Dr. Charles S. Sargent, one of America's noted tree botanists, rated it as the largest and finest specimen of white oak in the United States. The white oak is Maryland's State tree.

Pictures, descriptions and measurements of the Wye Oak are recorded in the "Hall of Fame" of the American Forestry Association, and in the publication, "Forest Trees in Maryland."

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Preston, Dickson, Wye Oak, Tidewater Publishers, Cambridge, 1972.

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

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

Dec., 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 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

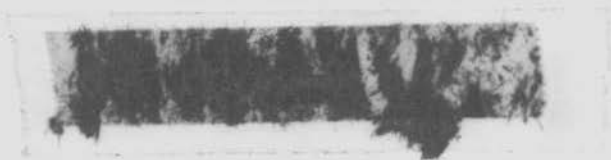


14 x 2.09

50% 58

Wye Oak & School

T-58



603-36

C-4-1

MOB 68