

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic William James Dobson House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Fairbank Road ___ not for publication

city, town Fairbank ___ vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state MD county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name James W. and Norma J. Chaires

street & number 507 Ponderosa Drive telephone no.:

city, town Bel Air state and zip code MD

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 531

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 748

city, town Easton state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-822

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" 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 William James Dobson house is the third house from the water on the west side of the Fairbank Road on Tilghman Island, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, frame house faces west with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Built for William James Dobson and Annie B. Harrison following their marriage in 1886, this central hall, three bay house has changed little except for the asphalt shingled roof. The exterior is clad in white weatherboards with green pilaster cornerboards. The Dobson house is supported by a brick pier foundation.

The east (main) facade of the Dobson house has a central door with sidelights and a transom, which is flanked on either side by a six-over-six sash window with very narrow moulding. An entry porch shelters the central door consisting of a small gable end roof with turned supports. The four panel door is unusually ornate. There are three six-over-six sash windows on the second floor of the east facade. The green cornice wraps around the house onto the north and south elevations.

Both the north and south elevations have two six-over-six sash windows on the first and second floors.

The second story of the rear elevation has three six-over-six sash windows. The central bay of the first floor, formerly a doorway, has been filled in and has a small six-over-six sash window inserted in its place. There is one six-over-six sash window on the first floor, northern bay. A one room summer kitchen is connected to the rear of the house with an enclosed breezeway at the southwest corner. This kitchen is covered in asbestos shingle siding.

Although there are no chimneys extant, two interior chimneys were original to the house. The house has one built-in closet, and all the original mantles. The interior walls of the summer kitchen are covered in the original wainscoating.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

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 William James Dobson house was one of the first houses built on the Edward Fairbanks farm because of Annie Harrison's girlhood friendship with Fairbanks' daughter. Interestingly, although Mr. Dobson was a waterman, he chose a lot which was oriented towards the street rather than one which had more immediate access to the water of Black Walnut Cove.

According to Mr. Dobson's grandson, the lumber for this house was brought to Fairbank on Mr. Dobson's skipjack at the same time that he was transporting lumber for Swan Song and St. John's Methodist Church. The house was built by Edward Harrison, Annie Harrison's brother.

The William James Dobson house is striking in its dignified simplicity. It has been altered little over the years.

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T-822
William James Dobson House
Tilghman Island Quadrangle





Wm James Dobson House

T-824

Tilghman Island, Talbot County, Md

NE elevation.

E. Hughes, photo.

8/10



William James Dobson 11/15/21

T-822

Tilghman Island, Talbot County, MD.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

ELIZABETH HUGHES, PHOTO

8/10