

WO-441
Mary J. Darnes House
Snow Hill
Private

c. 1850

Historically known as the Mary J. Darnes house, this two-story, two-bay frame dwelling is one of the oldest dwellings to remain standing in Snow Hill's black community formerly known as "Freetown." Located at the western end of Market Street, the community consists of a few dozen houses facing West Market Street, Dighton Avenue, and a number of side streets. Estimated to date to the middle years of the nineteenth century, the Darnes house, commonly referred to as the Adaline Brown house, displays nine-over-six sash windows on the first floor, and a medium pitched roof finished with boxed cornices and flush gable ends.

A chain of title for this property takes the land back to Mary J. Darnes, who owned this piece of land "next to the Colored School House Lot" between 1898 and 1909. Earlier deeds to the property have not been located.

HISTORIC CONTENT INFORMATION

Resource Name: MARY J. DARNES HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: ~~WO-442~~ WO-441

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
AGRICULTURAL-INDUSTRIAL
TRANSITION 1815-1870
- 4) Resource Type(s):
House/Single-family dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WO-441

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic MARY J. DARNES HOUSE

and/or common ADALINE BROWN HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 407 Dighton Avenue not for publication

city, town Snow Hill vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Adaline Brown

street & number 407 Dighton Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Snow Hill state and zip code MD 21863

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber FWH 596

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 490

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WO-441

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<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 checked="" 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.

Currently known as the Adaline Brown house, located at 407 Dighton Avenue, the two-story, two-bay by two-bay frame house faces northwest with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Estimated to date to around 1850-60, this two-story, two-room plan frame house is supported by a low brick foundation, and the house is sheathed with asbestos shingles. Covering the medium pitched roof is a layer of asphalt shingles. Attached the the front of the house is a two-story shed roofed section enclosed on the second floor and open on the first. To the rear is a shed roofed kitchen.

The two-bay by two-bay rectangular frame dwelling, following a room-behind-room plan, features nine-over-six sash windows that light the first floor and six-over-six sash windows that illuminate the second floor. The roof is finished with flush gable ends, and the eaves are trimmed with boxed cornices and plain bargeboards.

The interior of the house has been partially remodeled with sheet paneling in the front room. The back room retains a late nineteenth century mantel, and a turned newel post is fixed to the corner stair. Chair rail is buried under the wall paper.

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-441

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: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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WO-441
ADALINE BROWN HOUSE
Snow Hill
Chain of title

FWH 596/490 Adaline A. Brown

to

9/22/1977 Stanley Barnhill

CWN 52/408 Harry P. Rowley

to

8/23/1952 Adaline A. Brown
Doris B. Harmon (who died 10/24/1974)

JEB 9/477 Laura I. Purnell

to

8/1/1941 Harry P. Rowley

BB 17/4-6 Burnod Bishop, et al.

to

11/2/1932 Laura I. Purnell

ODC 31/520 Frank Fassett, Mary Fassett

to

11/5/1918 Harvey J. Wise
Lola J. Wise
it being part of the lot conveyed to the said
Charlotte Stevenson

WO-441
ADALINE BROWN HOUSE
Snow Hill
Chain of title continued

Page 2

ODC 28/150

Horace Payne

to

10/8/1917

Charlotte Stevenson

ODC 4/332

T. Spence Smith, Collector of State & County
Taxes

to

6/15/1909

Horace Payne

former property of Mary J. Darnes, colored
\$32.50

FHP 11/3

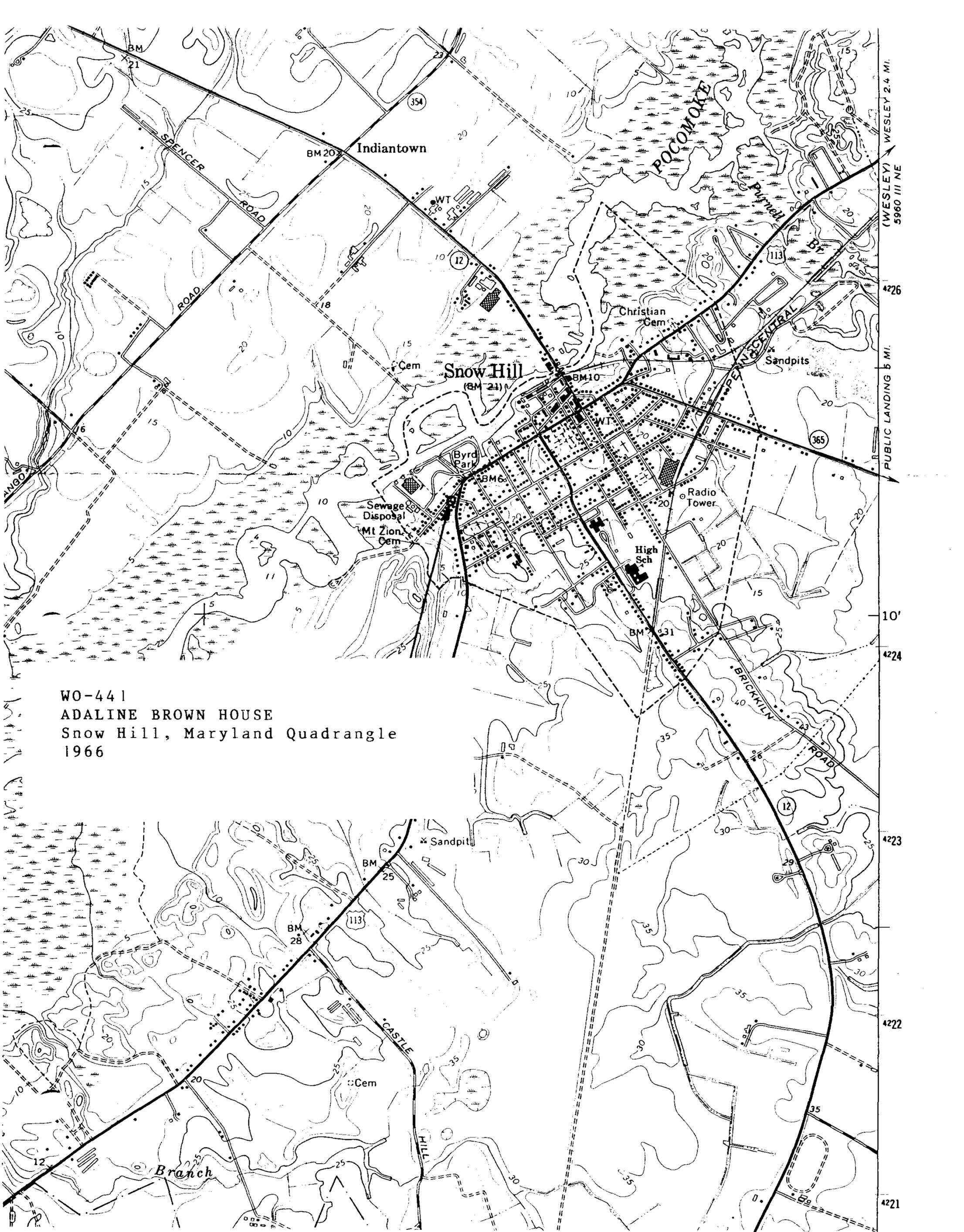
Oliver D. Collins and Sue M. Collins

to

5/27/1898

Mary J. Darnes

\$60.00 property adjoining to the "Colored
School House Lot"



(WESLEY) WESLEY 2.4 MI.
PUBLIC LANDING 5 MI.
4226
10'
4224
4223
4222
4221

WO-441
ADALINE BROWN HOUSE
Snow Hill, Maryland Quadrangle
1966