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Dyson-Mahoney Tenant House

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: 11-21-2003

CHAS-[illegible]

c. 1900-1910

Dyson-Mahoney Tenant House
Waldorf Vicinity
Private

This small, one and a half story frame is similar in design to the "shotgun houses" of the Deep South. It was built as a tenant house for Negro and white farm laborers.

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MAGI # 0903205704

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Dyson-Mahoney Tenant House

AND/OR COMMON:

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: West side of Middletown Road, 75 yards south of junction of Middletown Road and Route 228.

CITY, TOWN: Waldorf x VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 6

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Charles

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
- __DISTRICT
- __BUILDING(S)
- X STRUCTURE
- __SITE
- __OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
- __PUBLIC
- X PRIVATE
- __BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- __IN PROCESS
- __BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
- X OCCUPIED
- __UNOCCUPIED
- __WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE
- X YES: RESTRICTED
- __YES: UNRESTRICTED
- __NO

PRESENT USE
- __AGRICULTURE
- __COMMERCIAL
- __EDUCATIONAL
- __ENTERTAINMENT
- __GOVERNMENT
- __INDUSTRIAL
- __MILITARY
- __MUSEUM
- __PARK
- X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- __RELIGIOUS
- __SCIENTIFIC
- __TRANSPORTATION
- __OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Roderick Dyson Telephone #: 645-7238

STREET & NUMBER: Middletown Road

CITY, TOWN: Waldorf x VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: Maryland 20601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: 149
Folio #: 142

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Charles County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: La Plata

STATE: Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: None

DATE:

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

CITY, TOWN:

STATE:

7 DESCRIPTION

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CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	_UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	_RUINS	X ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
_FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This small, one and a half-story frame house is designed in a style known as a "shotgun house." It is a design that is rarely used for farm houses in southern Maryland; though in the states further South, it is often the predominate plan for the rural houses of blacks and is often found as well in cities and mill towns. Like the other "shotgun houses," this one consists of multiple rooms (in this case, three) aligned back to back with the gable end oriented toward the road and serving as the principal facade. In this house, the facade consists of only one bay, which is typical of the "shotgun design." The front door is sheltered by a small shed porch, above which is let a double-hung sash window in the upper half story. The back length of the original two-room block was designed similarly, though it probably had a larger porch to shelter household and farm equipment.

The structure is balloon frame and is sheathed with weatherboards that are unpainted. The corners are covered with unpainted trim boards, the only bright colors to the facade being given by the white trim around the upper window and the white panel door with four lights in the upper half. There are no windows along either side of the width. To the back of the house, a small one-room addition with shed porch has been attached to the original two-room block.

The interior consists of two rooms downstairs, plus the kitchen addition, and two rooms upstairs. A boxed, straight flight of stairs leads to the upper chambers. The walls and ceilings are lathed and plastered. Originally, the interior was heated by wood stoves, which have now been removed, and oil is used. A wood stove was installed in the new kitchen and is still in use. The wood for this stove is neatly stacked on the back porch and in cords in front of the porch.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION	
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE	
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE	
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	X EDUCATION	__MILITARY	X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION	
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		__INVENTION	Black History; Cultural History		

SPECIFIC DATES R. 1910 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to the owner, Mr. Dyson, this house was built in the early 1900's as a tenant house for both white and black tenant families who worked on his family's farm. It, therefore, represents the type of house occupied by the rural working class of both races in the late 19th and 20th centuries.

Though the possessions of the occupant family were by no means abundant, everything in and around the house was kept clean and neatly organized. The pictures of the grounds around the house show this attention and care. Note, for example, the neatly stacked cords of wood on the back porch and in the back yard, along with the stacked tobacco sheds. This arrangement of objects and physical space reveals important personal values of the occupant family, the Mahoneys. Comparing the placement of objects and use of space at this site and at other tenant houses -- for example, the Taylor House near La Plata -- indicates basic similarities as well as crucial individual differences in the sense of self and of home environment among black tenant farmers as a class.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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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

DATE
8/77

ORGANIZATION
Md. Afro-American Commission

STREET & NUMBER
20 Dean St

TELEPHONE

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



al Survey

from aerial
etable surveys 1944

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Dyson-Mahoney
Tenant House
NORTH ELEVATION
CHAS 320
Waldorf, Md. 2/77 GWM



CH-320

Dyson- [illegible]
Tenant House
Southeast Elevation

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Waldorf, Md. 2/77 GWM