

HO-938

## Frank & Mary Dorsey 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](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

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***Last Updated: 10-11-2011***

HO-938

Frank and Mary Dorsey House

14680 Dorsey Mill Road

Glenelg vicinity

Howard County, Maryland

Private

c. 1894-95

Description:

The Frank and Mary Dorsey House is located on the northeast side of the road, approximately two miles south of Glenwood and two miles west of Glenelg. The house is a two-story, three-bay by two-bay ell plan structure with a rubble stone foundation, aluminum siding over top of German siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northeast-southwest ridge on the front, and a northwest-southeast ridge on the rear part. There is an interior brick chimney in the center. On the southwest elevation, the west bay is the ell front and is one bay wide with an enclosed porch on the first story that has a CMU foundation. The porch wraps around the southeast side of the ell. The center and south bays of the southwest elevation are set back from the plane of the west bay. The center bay is at the end of the porch, and has an enclosed vestibule with a four-panel door on the first story. The first story floor plan has the entrance vestibule in the reentrant angle of the ell plan. There is a central enclosed stairway that ascends from the southwest to the northeast, with one room to the west, one room to the east, and one room to the north. The second story floor plan matches the first story, but the west chamber has been divided into two rooms, one of them a bathroom set to the southeast.

Significance:

In 1894 Edmund Dorsey sold a small parcel off of the 41-acre property to his son, Frank, who must have taken over operation of Edmund Dorsey's store. The 1896 tax assessment notes improvements worth \$525 for Frank Dorsey, suggesting that the existing house was built by Frank c. 1894-95. The house he chose to build has an ell front, a type that had national popularity from c. 1890-1910, rather than a traditional plan for Howard County. The plan was actually a subtle variation on a traditional I-house with a kitchen ell on the rear, with a central entrance and stairway, but with the front room, probably a dining room, pushed forward so that the kitchen behind it was in line with the parlor on the other side of the stairway. Thus, the arrangement and function of the rooms did not really change, only the appearance from the street. Frank and Mary Dorsey sold their house in 1907 and purchased another from Edmund Dorsey. Their old house, on 2 1/2 acres, was bought by Edwin and Bessie Iglehart for \$725. After Edwin died, Bessie sold the house to Charles Grimes of Pasadena, California, in 1916. Grimes was a native of Maryland and a merchant in Pasadena. He died that year, but the house remained in his estate and became the home of James and Louise Grimes for the remainder of their life. The property was sold out of the Grimes estate in 1937. A new house is to be constructed on the lot, and this house will be demolished, probably in 2008.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-938

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Frank & Mary Dorsey House

other \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street and number 14680 Dorsey Mill Road  not for publication

city, town Glenwood  vicinity

county Howard

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

name Richard and Helen Judd

street and number 14680 Dorsey Mill Road telephone 410-489-2632

city, town Glenwood state MD zip code 21738

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 21-30

city, town Ellicott City liber 10161 folio 274

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District  
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Recorded by HABS/HAER  
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>0</u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>1</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>
				<u>0</u>

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. HO-938

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Frank and Mary Dorsey House is located at 14680 Dorsey Mill Road, on the northeast side of the road, approximately two miles south of Glenwood and two miles west of Glenelg in southwestern Howard County, Maryland.

The house is a two-story, three-bay by two-bay ell plan structure with a rubble stone foundation, aluminum siding over top of German siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northeast-southwest ridge on the front, and a northwest-southeast ridge on the rear part. There is an interior brick chimney in the center. On the southwest elevation, the west bay is the ell front and is one bay wide with an enclosed porch on the first story that has a CMU foundation. There is a pair of new three-light sash on the first story. The second story has a two-over-two sash and the gable end has a decorative bracket. The porch wraps around the southeast side of the ell, with two square wood posts that have chamfered corners. The center and south bays of the southwest elevation are set back from the plane of the west bay. The center bay is at the end of the porch, and has an enclosed vestibule with a four-panel door on the first story. There is a no opening on the second story, above the porch roof. The south bay has a two-over-two sash on both the first and second stories. The southeast elevation has a modern door on the enclosed porch. The south bay is recessed behind the plane of the east bay. The east half of the first story is enclosed with the vestibule and has a two-over-two sash. The second story has a two-over-two sash in the center. The east bay has a two-over-two sash on both the first and second stories.

On the northeast elevation, the east bay has no openings on the first or second stories. The north and center bays on the first story are covered by a shed-roofed one-story addition with a door that has three lights over two lying panels set to the east and a two-light aluminum casement sash to the north. The second story has no opening in the center and has a two-over-two sash in the north bay. On the northwest elevation, the first story has two two-over-two sash, and the addition has a small two-light sash. The second story also has two two-over-two sash. The gable end on the north bay has brackets like those on the southwest elevation. The end of the front enclosed addition has a modern two-over-two sash.

The first story floor plan has the entrance vestibule in the reentrant angle of the ell plan. There is a central enclosed stairway that ascends from the southwest to the northeast, with one room to the west, one room to the east, and one room to the north. The vestibule has tile on the floor and has plain baseboard. The architrave has a pulvinated frieze in the center with a cavetto to each side and a bead on the inner and outer edges. There are bull's-eye corner blocks. The doors have four panels with sunken fields, ogee panel moulds, and through-tenons with small pins. They are hung on foliate cast-iron butt hinges with acorn finials and have cast-iron rim locks with mineral knobs. The front door has a replacement 20th-century mortise lock. The sash are not mortised and tenoned and pinned, and have no parting beads. There are ceiling tiles in this space.

The east room has carpeting, typical architrave and sash, and the baseboard has a quirked ogee and bevel on top. There is a fireplace on the northwest elevation that sounds hollow like it is actually a stove chimney with a wood mantel attached to it. The mantel has pilasters with two pair of triple beads that are vertical on the pilasters, with the center bead being larger than those flanking it. There are paired sawn brackets over the pilasters. The frieze has a bead and reel moulding applied at the bottom, a boss center, and applied panel with a moulded edge that has a serpentine profile to the edge. The walls and ceiling are plaster on lath.

The west room has carpeting, baseboard with a beveled edge, typical architrave and sash, plaster on the walls, and ceiling tiles. There is a wood mantel on the northeast wall, and this was never a fireplace. The mantel has paneled pilasters with applied raised panels, and has chamfered corners. There is an applied raised panel on the frieze with a boss in the center, and an ogee and bevel bed mould. A door was added on the south elevation, with plain head-cut trim and a flush door in the opening. The southwest addition has paneling, carpet, ceiling tiles, and modern sash, with no old features.

The north room is a modern kitchen with linoleum on the floor and bead-board half wainscot. It has typical architrave and sash,

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-938

Name Frank & Mary Dorsey House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

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and a typical door on the southeast, set to the east. The door on the northeast elevation has four lights over three lying panels, and is not original to this opening. The previous door here had a rim lock. The southeast door leads to a closet beneath the stairway. The southwest elevation has a chimney for a stove. The northeast door leads to a modern porch that has a concrete floor, paneling, ceiling tiles, and modern sash.

The second story floor plan matches the first story, but the west chamber has been divided into two rooms, one of them a bathroom set to the southeast. The passage runs northeast-southwest, and has 2 1/2-inch wide flooring that is painted and runs southeast-northwest. There is plain baseboard and typical architrave and doors, but the hinges are plain and have three knuckles. The plaster walls and ceiling are textured. There is a large turned newel post with turned balusters and an ovoid handrail. The balustrade runs northeast-southwest, and separates the passage from the stairs, and it is painted. The east chamber flooring, baseboard, and architrave match the passage. The sash in this chamber are typical. The northwest wall has a chimney breast in the center with an original closet to the west of it that has a typical door and hinges with three knuckles. These doors were originally varnished wood. The west chamber has typical architrave, plain baseboard, typical sash, and ceiling tiles, with drywall and hollow core doors in the partitions. The north chamber has carpeting, plain baseboard, typical architrave and sash, and ceiling tiles. There is a brick chimney on the southwest.

The attic is only accessible with a modern pull-down stair. The sawn rafters are mitered and butted at the ridge, and there is a sheathing board that is stenciled with “? ERNER BROS LUMBER DEALERS ELLICOTT CITY, MD.”

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-938

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Construction dates

c. 1894-95

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Edmund Dorsey, postmaster of Gary (aka. Dorseyville) purchased a 41-acre tract in 1874, perhaps as an investment and perhaps for his children. In 1870 Dorsey was a storekeeper, probably in Dorseyville, and in the 1878 Atlas he was located next to, and possibly the owner of, the grist and saw mill in the area (on Dorsey Mill Road). In 1880 he was listed as a machinist, perhaps referring to his work with the mill. At that time one of his sons was a machinist, another was a miller, and the youngest, Frank, at age 15 was still in school. In 1894 Edmund sold a small parcel off of the 41-acre property to his son, Frank, who must have taken over operation of the store; in 1893 Frank was assessed for a horse, furniture, and merchandise. The tax record for 1895 is missing, but the 1896 assessment notes improvements worth \$525 for Frank, suggesting that the existing house was built by Frank Dorsey c. 1894-95. The house he chose to build has an ell front, a type that had national popularity from c. 1890-1910, rather than a traditional plan for Howard County. The plan was actually a subtle variation on a traditional I-house with a kitchen ell on the rear, with a central entrance and stairway, but with the front room, probably a dining room, pushed forward so that the kitchen behind it was in line with the parlor on the other side of the stairway. Thus, the arrangement and function of the rooms did not really change, only the appearance from the street. This house type was common in suburbs, perhaps because they were burgeoning at this time, but was built throughout rural areas, too. At least some of the lumber for the building came from Werner Brothers, lumber dealers in Ellicott City who advertised their business in 1903. (1)

Frank and Mary Dorsey sold their house in 1907 and purchased another from Edmund Dorsey. Their old house, on 2 1/2 acres, was bought by Edwin and Bessie Iglehart for \$725. After Edwin died, Bessie sold the house to Charles Grimes of Pasadena, California, in 1916. Grimes was a native of Maryland and a merchant in Pasadena. He died that year, but the house remained in his estate and became the home of James and Louise Grimes for the remainder of their life. James was probably an older brother of Charles. He could not be located in the 1910 census, and in 1920, at age 63, had no occupation. The property was sold out of the Grimes estate in 1937. (2)

The house has undergone one notable change, the enclosure of the front part of the porch, which was probably done in the last quarter of the twentieth century. Otherwise, it retains most of its historic character. A new house is to be constructed on the lot, and this house will be demolished, probably in 2008.

Notes:

(1). J. D. Warfield, *Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland* (Baltimore: Kohn & Pollock, 1905), p. 481. U. S. Bureau of the Census, *District 4, Howard County, Maryland, 1870, 1880*. Howard County Commissioners of the Tax, *Assessment, District 4, 1876-96, 1896-1910*, Maryland State Archives. G. M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Howard County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, 1878). "Maryland Counties, 1903," <http://www.hskcmd.com/genealogical/counties7.html>.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No HO-938

Name Frank & Mary Dorsey House

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

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(2). U. S. Bureau of the Census, District 4, Howard County, Maryland, 1910, 1920.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. HO-938

See ~~continuation sheet~~ *footnotes*

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 2.5 acres

Acreage of historical setting 2.5 acres

Quadrangle name Woodbine

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of all of the property on map 21, p. 30, which encompasses all of the historic structures.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Ken Short

organization Howard County Dept. of Planning & Zoning

date 2/20/2008

street and number 3430 Courthouse Drive

telephone 410-313-4335

city or town Ellicott City

state MD zip code 21043

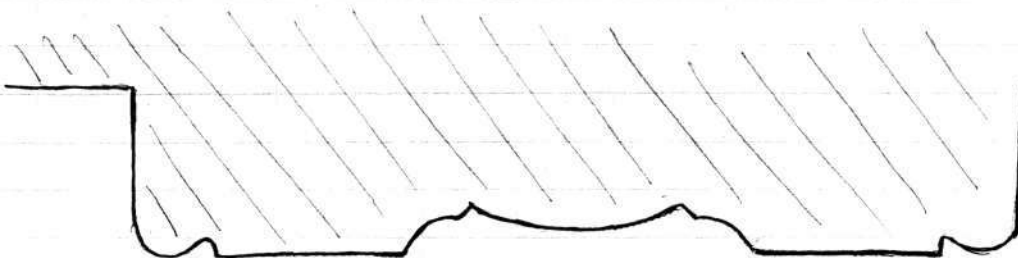
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

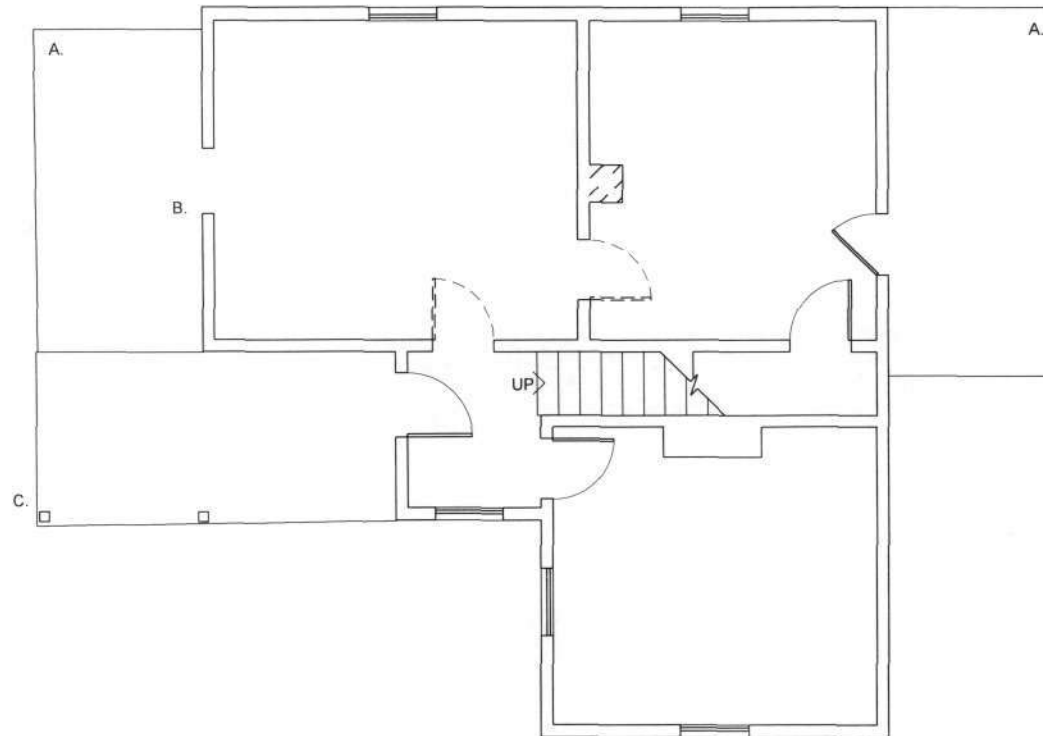
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

14680 Dorsey Mill Rd HO-938  
Vestibule Architrave

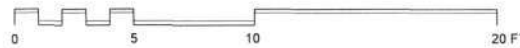
KMS  
5 Mar '07





NOTES:

- A. MODERN PORCH ENCLOSURES NOT SHOWN.
- B. MODERN DOOR OPENING.
- C. CONCRETE DECK

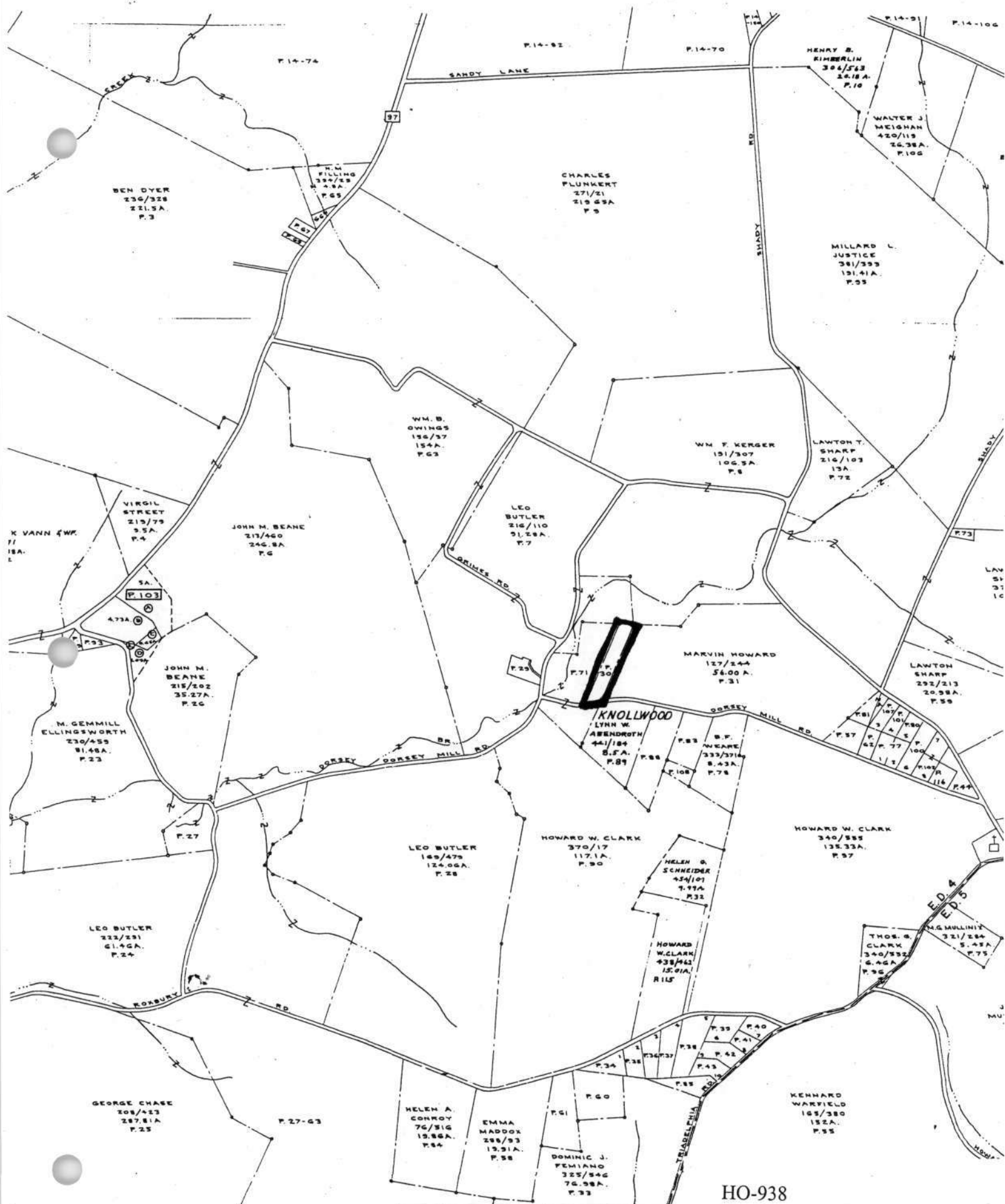


**HO-938 FRANK & MARY DORSEY HOUSE 14680 DORSEY MILL ROAD**

FIRST FLOOR PLAN - MEASURED AND DRAWN BY KEN SHORT - MARCH 2007

Frank and Mary Dorsey House (HO-938)  
14680 Dorsey Mill Road  
CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER- -ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
Griff Jones Betty Jones/?	Richard E. & Helen S. Judd (H/W)/?	7.7.2006	MDR 10161-274	Deed - fee simple	\$400,000	2-1/2 A	
Joyce J. Wessell/?	Griff Jones Betty Jones/?	4.11.2002	MDR 6132-669	Deed - fee simple	\$150,000	?	
Joyce J. Wessell, pers. Admin. of Minnie Elizabeth Woodward/?	Joyce J. Wessell	4.19.1996	MDR 3713-45	Deed - fee simple	\$83,000	2-1/2 A	JEW deceased
Walter B/ & Norma M. Kramer (H/W)/Howard	Joseph E. & Minnie B. Woodward (H/W)	11.2.1950	MWB 220-544	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	2-1/2 A	In the village of Knollwood
Helen E. & William W. Melnick (H/W)/Howard	Walter B. Kramer/?	8.5.1948	MWB 205-187	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	2-1/2 A	Helen formerly Appleby LVA d. 7.18.1944
John L. Clark/Howard	Leonard V. & Helen E. Appleby/?	12.6.1941	BM, Jr. 172-479	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	?	
Leonard V. & Helen E. Appleby/Howard	John L. Clark/?	12.6.1941	BM, Jr. 172-478	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	2-1/2 A	
Security-First Natl. Bank of Los Angeles, trustee	Leonard V. Appleby/?	3.7.1937	BM, Jr. 157-230	Deed - fee simple	\$800	2-1/2 A	Charles Grimes, LA Co., Cal. d 5.22.1916, Will MFB 7-184. Left property to James & Louise Grimes for life, then reverts to Charles Grimes estate
Bessie C. Iglehart, widow/Howard	Charles Grimes, Pasadena, Cal.	7.16.1916	WWLC 95-267	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	2-1/2 A	EAI deceased House & lot in 62-146 on rd. from Dorseyville to the Balto. Rd.
Frank Dorsey of E. & wf. Mary M. Edmund Dorsey & wf. Isabella E./Howard	Edwin A. & Bessie C. Iglehart (H/W)/Howard	3.23.1907	WWLC 83-480	Deed - fee simple	\$725	2-1/2 A	and an additional lot to the north Lot & house in 62-146
Edmund Dorsey & wf. Isabella E./Howard	Frank Dorsey of E.	9.6.1894	JHO 62-146	Deed - ?	\$1.00	158 sq. p.	
William G. Owings James Mackubin/Howard	Edmund Dorsey of Dorseyville/Howard Co.	12.22.1874	LJW 34-572	Deed - fee simple	\$770	41-1-30 ARP	p/o Owings Homestead called Swampoodle Mackubin holds mortgage on property



HO-938  
 Frank and Mary Dorsey House  
 14680 Dorsey Mill Road  
 Tax map 21, p. 30

COMPILED BY DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION TAX MAP DIVISION		PROPERTY LINE SUB-DIVISION BOUNDAR CONTINUING OWNERSHIP PARCEL NUMBER - P	
THE INFORMATION SHOWN HEREON HAS BEEN COMPILED FROM DEED DESCRIPTIONS AND IS NOT AN ACTUAL SURVEY. IT SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS UNLESS NOTING THEREON ARE USED TO NOTIFY DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION, 301 W. PRESTON ST., BALTO., MD.		SCALE: 1" = 600'	
REVISED TO:	DATE 6-23-66	LIBER 455	BY J.A.
			LAST P. NO P1



HO-938  
Frank and Mary Dorsey House  
14680 Dorsey Mill Road  
Howard County, Maryland  
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

Nikon D-70 camera  
HP Premium Plus paper  
HP Gray Photo print cartridge

HO-0938\_20070305\_01  
House, southwest and southeast elevations

HO-0938\_20070305\_02  
House, northeast and northwest elevations

HO-0938\_20070305\_03  
House, east room mantel

HO-0938\_20070305\_04  
House, west room mantel

HO-0938\_20070305\_05  
House, second story newel post



HO-938

Frank and Mary Dorsey House

14680 Dorsey Mill Rd

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

March 2007

MD SHPO

House, southwest and Southeast Elevations

1/5



HO-938

Frank and Mary Dorsey House

14680 Dorsey Mill Rd.

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

March 2007

MD SHPO

House, northeast and Northwest elevations  
2/5



H0-938

Frank and Mary Dorsey House

14680 Dorsey Mill Rd

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

March 2007

House, East room mantel

3/5



HO-938

Frank and Mary Dorsey House  
14680 Dorsey Mill Road  
Howard County, MD

Ken Short

March 2007

House, west room Mantel

4/5



HO-938

Frank and Mary Dorsey House

14680 Dorsey Mill Rd

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

March 2007

MDSHPO

House, Second Story Newel Post

5/5