

HO-939

Alta Unglesbee House
18220 Penn Shop Road
Mount Airy vicinity
Howard County, Maryland
Private
c. 1886

Description:

The Alta Unglesbee House is located on the northeast side of the road, and consists of a frame house that faces southwest toward the road. It is a two-story, two-bay by one-bay frame structure with aluminum siding covering German siding. It has a gable roof with a northwest-southeast ridge and corrugated metal. The southwest elevation is mostly covered with modern additions. There is also a modern two-story addition on the southwest, set to the south, and a modern one-story addition on the southeast, with a one-story addition to the northeast of it. There is a modern one-story addition on the northeast. The first story of the main block has been opened up to create one room partially divided in the center by a sheetrock built-in that covers HVAC ducts. There is an open stairway in the north corner that ascends to the northwest landing, and then turns to the southwest. The second story is divided into three rooms, one on the northwest and two on the southeast.

Significance:

In 1886 Alta Unglesbee purchased a two-acre lot from local farmer Rezin Bennett for \$50, and the following year her husband, John F. (Frank) Unglesbee was assessed for a house and lot valued at \$150. According to the 1900 census, John Unglesbee was a day laborer. His house, then, demonstrates that at least some unskilled and inconsistently employed labor in late-nineteenth-century Howard County was able to acquire some property, and it illustrates how they lived. The house was originally a hall-parlor plan with a stove chimney in the center, similar to tenant houses found on other farms in the region. The Unglesbee house, unfortunately, had undergone considerable renovations and additions in recent years that had removed most of its historic fabric, limiting its potential to enlighten. It was scheduled to be demolished in February 2007.

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-939

Condition

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

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

The Alta Unglesbee House is located at 18220 Penn Shop Road, on the northeast side of the road, approximately two miles south of Mount Airy in northwestern Howard County, Maryland. The property consists of a frame house that faces southwest toward the road. It is a two-story, two-bay by one-bay frame structure with aluminum siding covering German siding. It has a gable roof with a northwest-southeast ridge and corrugated metal.

The southwest elevation is mostly covered with modern additions. There is a modern one-story addition on the southwest, set to the west. There is also a modern two-story addition on the southwest, set to the south, and a modern one-story addition on the southeast, with a one-story addition to the northeast of it. The southeast elevation has four-light sash in the gable end. The house has a box cornice with returns. There is a modern one-story addition on the northeast, set to the east, which has a CMU chimney. The northeast elevation has one opening on the second story east bay, with a two-over-two double-hung sash. The northwest elevation has new sash on both the first and second stories, and a small window opening in the gable end.

The first story of the main block has been opened up to create one room partially divided in the center by a sheetrock built-in that covers HVAC ducts. The flooring is wafer board laid over 2 by 4s laid over top of 2 3/4-inch pine flooring that runs northwest-southeast. The walls have circular-sawn vertical boards with wire nails over top of circular-sawn studs (one of which is visible) and no lath and plaster survives. There is textured plaster on the ceiling. The southwest door has four lights over three lying panels, has a mortise lock, and has butt hinges with pins. There is all new sash. There is an open stairway in the north corner that ascends to the northwest landing, and then turns to the southwest. On the stairway is knotty pine paneling. The stringer is circular-sawn and is nailed to the wall with cut nails. There are new sash and doors and new additions on the southwest, southeast, and northeast, all with paneling or drywall.

The second story has all new drywall, trim and windows. It is divided into three rooms, one on the northwest and two on the southeast. The northwest chamber has a knotty pine paneled built-in closet. The south chamber, southwest wall, has been removed to create a larger room, and has 20th century three-over-one sash.

The attic has dimensional circular-sawn 2 by 4 studs and 2 by 8 joists that run northeast-southwest. The plate is a 4 by 6, and the rafters are 2 by 4s. They are all constructed with cut nails. The rafters are mitered and butted at the ridge and support shingle lath and circular-sawn shingles. There was a small brick chimney in the center of the house that has been removed, and the hole in the roof has been patched. The rafter feet are mitered and sit on a board false plate.

To the southeast of the house is a modern shed built with old telephone poles and 2 by 4s, and it is not historic.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-939

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. 1886-87

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.)

In 1886 Alta Unglesbee purchased a two-acre lot from local farmer Rezin Bennett for \$50, and the following year her husband, John F. (Frank) Unglesbee was assessed for a house and lot valued at \$150. He also was assessed for a horse (\$60) and furniture (\$40). In 1896 the lot was assessed for \$30 and the improvements for \$185. According to the 1900 census, John Unglesbee was a day laborer. His house, then, demonstrates that at least some unskilled and inconsistently employed labor in late-nineteenth-century Howard County was able to acquire some property, and it illustrates how they lived. The house was originally a hall-parlor plan with a stove chimney in the center, similar to tenant houses found on other farms in the region. The Burgess-Sullivan House (HO-646) had such a tenant house. The Unglesbee house, unfortunately, had undergone considerable renovations and additions in recent years that had removed most of its historic fabric, limiting its potential to enlighten. It was scheduled to be demolished in February 2007. (1)

Notes:

(1). Howard County Commissioners of the Tax, Assessment, District 4, 1876-96, 1896-1910, Maryland State Archives. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Census, District 4, Howard County, Maryland, 1900.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-939

See ~~continuation sheet~~ *footnotes*

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.5 acres

Acreage of historical setting 1.5 acres

Quadrangle name Damascus

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of all of the property on map 6, p. 22, which encompasses all of the historic structures.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ken Short

organization Howard County Dept. of Planning & Zoning

date 2/20/2008

street and number 3430 Courthouse Drive

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city or town Ellicott City

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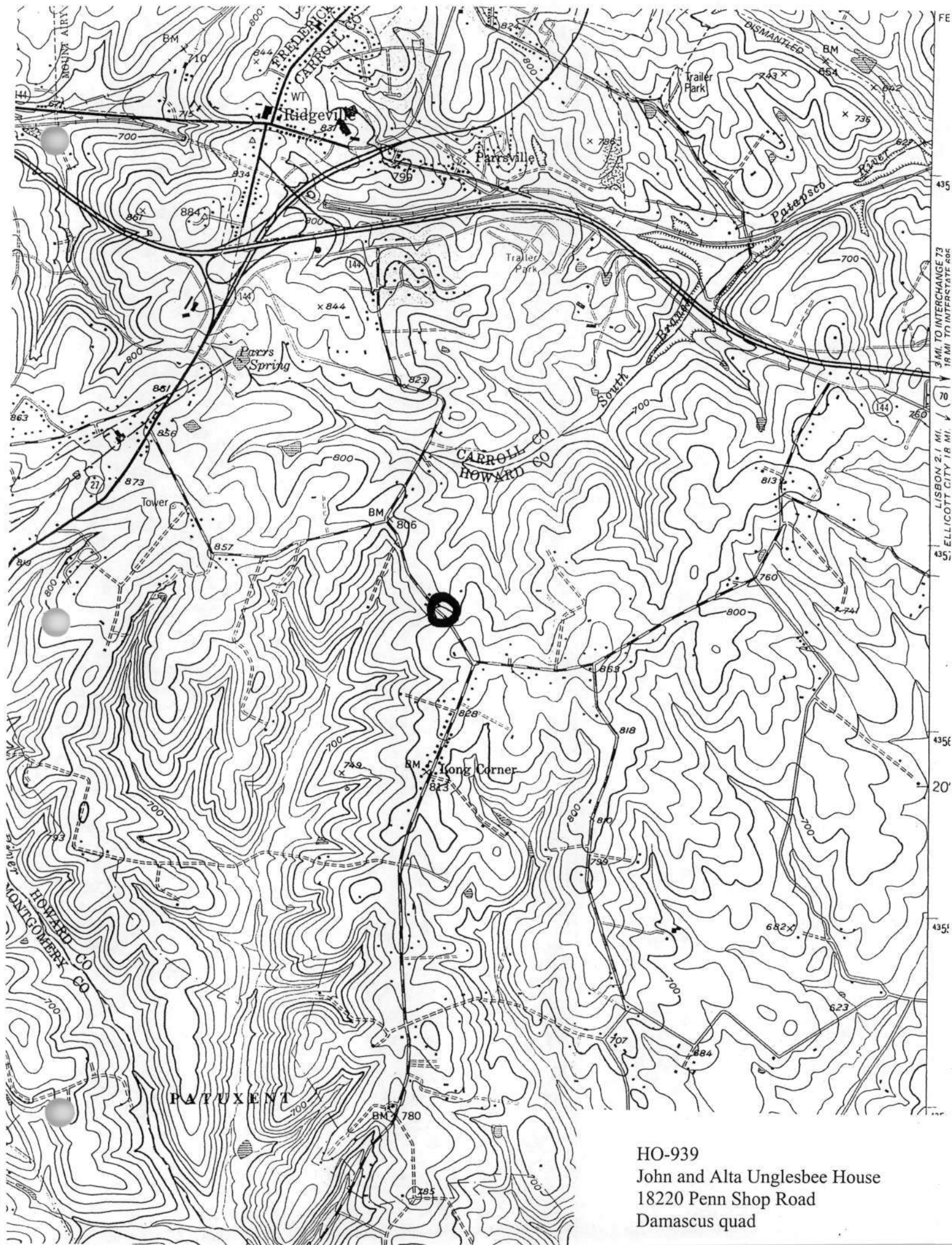
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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

John and Alta Unglesbee House (HO-939)
18220 Penn Shop Road
CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER- -ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
James G. Henderson/?	Marion R. Compton/?	9.21.2000	MDR 5380-148	Deed - fee simple	\$124,000	1.532 a.	
James G. Henderson Rosemary Corbey/?	James G. Henderson/?	3.23.1993	MDR 2823-188	Deed - fee simple	\$0	2 a.+	
Foster L. Gambrell, Jr./?	James G. Henderson Rosemary Corbey/?	2.17.1987	CMP 1617-624	Deed - fee simple	\$76,000	2 a+ - 1/2 a.	
Foster L. & Ellen G. Gambrell, Jr. (H/W)/MD	Foster L. Gambrell, Jr./?	6.6.1980	CMP 1021-229	Deed - fee simple	Assumption of existing mortgage	2 a+ - 1/2 a.	
Julian A. & Gladys E. Nichols (H/W)/?	Foster L. & Ellen G. Gambrell, Jr. (H/W)/?	6.8.1973	DMP 640-023	Deed - fee simple	\$10.00	2 a+ - 1/2 a.	
Maurice F. & Myrtle H. Stup (H/W)/Howard	Julian A. & Gladys E. Nichols/?	5.7.1952	MWB 232-242	Deed - fee simple	\$10.00	1-1/2 a.	
Charles E. & Daphne M. Stanley (H/W)/Montgomery	Maurice F. & Myrtle H. Stup (H/W)/?	3.6.1951	MWB 223-155	Deed - fee simple	\$10.00	2 a+ - 1/2 a.	
J. Edwin & A. Louise Murray (H/W)/Howard	Charles E. & Daphne M. Stanley (H/W)	1.23.1950	MWB 214-538	Deed - fee simple	\$10.00	2 a+ - 1/2 a.	
Mabel H. Brown, widow/Howard	J. Edwin & A. Louis Murray (H/W)/?	2.26.1948	MWB 202-515	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	1-1/2 a.	ICB d. 1.17.1948
Clara Baile Beck/Carroll	Ira C. & Mabel V. Brown (H/W)/?	12.1.1947	MWB 201-376	Deed - fee simple	\$10.00	?	CRB d. ICB m. Mabel
Ira C. & Mabel V. Brown (H/W)/Howard	Clara Baile Beck/?	12.1.1947	MWB 201-375	Deed - fee simple	\$10.00	2 a+ - 1/2 a.	
John F. Unglesbee/Howard et al, heirs of Alta Zerah Unglesbee	Ira C. & Clara R. Brown (H/W)/Howard	9.7.1929	HSK 137-187	Deed - fee simple	\$200	2 a+ - 1/2 a.	
Rezin Bennett & wf. Eleanor/Howard	Alta Zerah Unglesbee/Howard	9.10.1886	LJW 51-352	Deed - fee simple	\$50	2 a+	(no previous reference)



HO-939
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18220 Penn Shop Road
Damascus quad

FE
435
3 MI. TO INTERCHANGE 73
18 MI. TO INTERSTATE 495

435E
20'

435E

HO-939
John and Alta Unglesbee House
18220 Penn Shop Road
Howard County, Maryland
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

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

HO-0939_20070209_01
House, southwest elevation

HO-0939_20070209_02
House, southeast elevation

HO-0939_20070209_03
House, northeast elevation

HO-0939_20070209_04
House, northwest elevation



HO-939

John and Alta Unglesbee House

18220 Penn Shep Rd.

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Feb. 2007

MD SHPO

House, Southwest Elevation

1/4



HU - 939

John and Alta Unglesbee House

18220 Penn Shop Rd.

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Feb. 2007

MD SHPO

House, Southeast Elevation

2/4



HO-939

John and Alta Unglesbee House
18220 Penn Shop Rd.

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Feb. 2007

MD SH PO

House, north east elevation

3/4



HO-939

John and Alta Unglesbee House

18220 Penn Shop Rd

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Feb. 2007

MD SHPO

House, Northwest Elevation

4/4