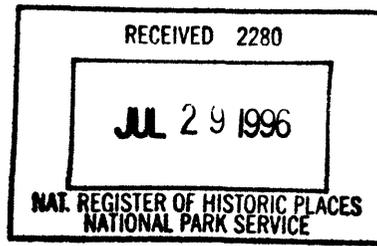


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name SIMPSON'S GROVE

other names/site number Hudson Farm

2. Location

street & number East side of Downs Road N/A not for publication

city or town Ironshire vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Worcester code 047 zip code 21841

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

8/30/96

Entered in the
National Register

Simpson's Grove
Name of Property

Worcester Co., MD WO-422
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s) TAM
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Asbestos

roof Asphalt

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 1

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1800-c. 1850

Significant Dates

c. 1800-1810

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 6
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 11

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Worcester Co. Library, Snow Hill

Simpson's Grove
Name of Property

Worcester Co., MD WO-422
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property approximately .87 acre
USGS quad: Berlin, MD

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	4 7 8 3 0 0	4 2 3 6 5 3 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 11
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 11
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 5 May 1994

street & number P.O. Box 5 telephone (410) 651-1094

city or town Westover state MD zip code 21871

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. Louis C. Hudson

street & number 8342 Downs Road telephone _____

city or town Newark state MD zip code 21841

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

SIMPSON'S GROVE
Worcester County
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Simpson's Grove is a two-story, five-bay, double-pile Federal-style frame house constructed c. 1800-1810 near Ironshire in southern Worcester County, Maryland. The building is supported on a raised brick foundation, and the steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Original beaded cypress weatherboards remain in place under a layer of asbestos shingles. The north (main) facade is symmetrical, with a center entrance flanked by nine-over-nine sash windows. The second floor is lighted by six-over-nine sash windows, and the base to the roof is finished with a bold modillion block cornice. Attached to the front of the house is a mid-nineteenth century gable-roofed portico. Organized in a four-room plan, the interior is finished with Federal-style woodwork including raised paneling and neoclassical mantels. Chair rail, cornice, and baseboard moldings are found in many rooms. A common bond brick dairy stands at the west side of the house.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

SIMPSON'S GROVE
Worcester County
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Simpson's Grove, currently known as the Hudson Farm, is located on the east side of Downs Road in the vicinity of Ironshire, Worcester County, Maryland. The house faces northeast, with the gable roof oriented on a northwest axis.

Erected c. 1800-1810, this two-story, four-room plan frame dwelling is supported on a raised, stuccoed brick foundation, and retains original beaded cypress weatherboards under a layer of asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. An early nineteenth century common bond brick dairy stands near the house.

The north (main) facade is symmetrical, five bays wide, with a center entrance flanked by nine-over-nine sash windows. The replacement five-panel front door is topped by a four-light transom. Sheltering the front door and the windows to each side is a pedimented portico supported by square posts. The gable-front pediment and cornice are trimmed with rows of plain modillion blocks. Lighting the second floor is a series of five evenly spaced six-over-nine sash windows. The base of the roof above the second floor windows is finished with a robust boxed cornice trimmed with a row of modillion blocks and an intricately carved bed molding. A bold crown molding enriches the top of the cornice.

The west gable elevation is two bays wide, with nine-over-nine sash windows lighting the first floor and six-over-six sash windows on either side of a stuccoed brick interior end chimney. The gable end of the roof is flush and finished with a molded bargeboard that also features an unusual dentil molding. Piercing the foundation wall are three-pane cellar windows.

The south side of the house is a symmetrical five-bay elevation with a center door and flanking nine-over-nine sash windows on the first floor and six-over-nine sash windows on the second floor. A modillion cornice identical to that on the north facade stretches across the base of the roof.

The east gable end is detailed in a manner similar to the west end with the addition of a gable roofed entrance to the cellar.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

SIMPSON'S GROVE
Worcester County
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 3

Exposed within the cellar entrance is a series of beaded cypress weatherboards and a painted date "1947", which was probably when the asbestos shingles were added. A stuccoed brick stack rises through the gable end, and the eave is trimmed with a molded bargeboard.

The interior retains a large percentage of its period woodwork intact. Following a four-room plan, the stair hall is located in the northeast corner. A fluted baluster stair with a decorated stringer rises in the southeast corner of the hall. Square newel posts topped with carved post heads support a molded handrail. The area below the stringer is finished with flat paneling, and a four-panel door opens into the stair closet. Raised paneling finishes the stair soffit. The windows and doors are framed by a bold cavetto backband surround, and chair rail, molded baseboard and cornice trim the perimeter of the room. Fixed in the east end of the hall is a built-in bookshelf that fills a former door opening, which may have led to the former service wing. A small closet is located on the east side of the staircase, and a boarded-up window opening is contained within the closet.

The two rooms west of the hall are squarish spaces with corner fireplaces. The northwest room is relatively plain. Molded baseboard and chair rail distinguish the wall surfaces. The mantel has been removed from this room, but two small chimney breast closets remain.

The southwest room features a highly intricate gougework cornice with vertical gouges alternating with five-pointed stars. The chair rail has been removed from this room, and a mid-nineteenth century mantel has been substituted for the original.

The room behind the hall is the largest space on the first floor, and it boasts a Federal-style mantel and adjacent raised four-panel door. The walls are fitted with vertical tongue-and-groove board wainscotting, installed when the room was converted into a kitchen during the early twentieth century.

The second floor also is largely intact, and it is divided into five rooms including the upstairs hall. An enclosed attic stair features a raised panel sidewall and raised-panel soffit. A

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

SIMPSON'S GROVE
Worcester County
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 4

raised six-panel door opens into the staircase, and a four-panel door provides access to a stair closet.

The northeast bedroom is relatively plain. The walls are trimmed with beaded edge baseboard and chair rail moldings. A patch in the east wall indicates the location of a former window opening. The entrance to this room is fitted with an early twentieth century six-panel door.

The northwest bedroom is entered through a Federal raised six-panel door, and this room features chair rail and baseboard moldings, but there is no fireplace.

The southwest bedroom is fitted with chair rail, baseboard, and a corner fireplace framed by a mid-nineteenth century replacement mantel.

The largest space on the second floor is the southeast bedroom, which is lighted by three six-over-nine sash windows. The end wall boasts a Federal mantel consisting of fluted pilasters that rise to a five-part frieze with plain frieze tablets. The mantel shelf is enriched by a rope bed molding as well as a dentil row under a cavetto molded shelf that follows a broken profile. A raised four-panel door opens into a small closet to the right of the fireplace, and a low-relief four-panel door marks the wall to the left.

The attic is unfinished, and a series of common rafters, stabilized by lapped collar beams, demonstrate wrought nail construction.

A mid-nineteenth century common bond brick dairy covered with a corrugated tin roof stands near the house. A board door pierces the east side. Also on the property is a modern mobile home which does not contribute to the significance of the resource.

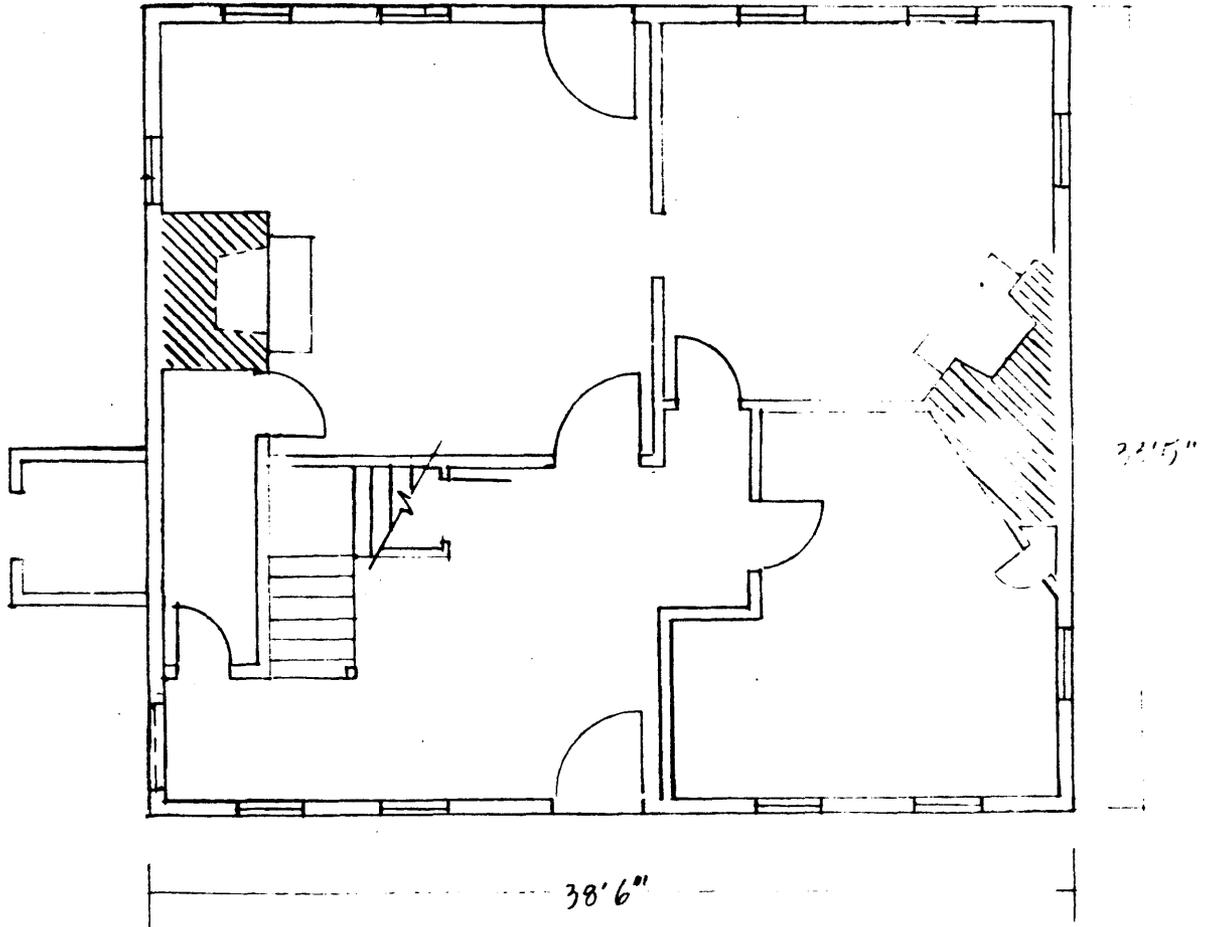
See Continuation Sheet No. 5

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

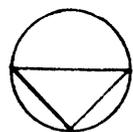
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SIMPSON'S GROVE
Worcester County
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 5



SIMPSON'S GROVE WO-422
IRONSHIRE VICINITY, WORCESTER COUNTY



1/8" = 1'0"
P. TOUART

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

SIMPSON'S GROVE
Worcester County
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 6

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Simpson's Grove is significant under Criterion C as a distinctive example of an early nineteenth century (c. 1800-1810) Federal-style frame plantation dwelling. The wrought-nail construction and raised-panel woodwork date the house to the first decade of the nineteenth century. The exterior siding is cypress, indigenous to Worcester County; this material was prized for its durability, and cypress building elements were widely used in the county in the historic period, and were also exported to distant markets. The four-room plan and well-executed interior finishes of Simpson's Grove characterize a type of dwelling erected by wealthy planters in Worcester County during the late eighteenth century and early years of the nineteenth century. The house retains its original nine-over-nine and six-over-nine sash windows as well as nearly all of its original Federal-style woodwork, including the scroll decorated stair with fluted balusters, mantels with fluted frieze blocks and rope bed molding, and the parlor cornice with vertical gouges alternated with five-point stars, all indicating a high level of craftsmanship. Particularly fine in design and execution are the exterior front and rear modillion block cornices and the gable end bargeboard moldings with their unusual dentil row. This attention to fine exterior craftsmanship is rare among surviving plantation dwellings in Worcester County. The period of significance, c. 1800-c. 1850, encompasses the construction dates of the house and outbuilding.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

SIMPSON'S GROVE
Worcester County
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 7

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: House

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Domestic/single dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

SIMPSON'S GROVE
Worcester County
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 8

HISTORIC CONTEXT AND RESOURCE HISTORY:

The four-room plan and high level of craftsmanship of Simpson's Grove are indicative of a type of dwelling favored by some wealthy Worcester County planters during the late eighteenth century and early years of the nineteenth century. Although this four-room plan did not include an impressive center through passage common to large double-pile houses, this plan disposition provided a workable alternative. The corner location of the stairhall allowed for a larger back room that would have been distinctly smaller with the insertion of a through passage. The large room behind the stair, identified in a 19th century probate inventory as the dining room, is the dominant first floor space. Its relative size and prominence in contrast to the other rooms points to the importance the dining room had achieved in the lives of Chesapeake gentry by the Federal period.

The four-room plan which characterizes Simpson's Grove is seen in a few other Federal period houses in Worcester County. In 1792, John Fassitt (the brother of Thomas Simpson Fassitt, for whom Simpson's Grove was built) financed construction of a prominent three-bay brick house now known as Henry's Grove (WO-8), whose four-room plan closely parallels that of Simpson's Grove built a few years later. Another similar building is the Spencer House (WO-68), built around 1790 in the vicinity of Snow Hill. Like Simpson's Grove, it has a four-room plan and features expertly crafted Federal woodwork.

Dr. Thomas Simpson Fassitt is recognized as the builder of this impressive frame house on land historically known as "Simpson's Grove", the name he attached to the land he patented in 1801. The 1801 patent date and the c.1800-1810 construction date are not merely coincidental since major building programs in the lower Eastern Shore region often were associated with newly patented or repatented land. Thomas Simpson Fassitt married Mary S. Purnell on November 1, 1813, and the couple resided on the farm. Dr. Fassitt died in December 1846, and a room-by-room inventory enumerates the contents of the house. The southwest room with the corner fireplace is identified as the parlor, whereas the largest first floor space was labeled the dining room. The northwest front room was called the "family room". Also listed in the inventory

See Continuation Sheet No. 9

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

SIMPSON'S GROVE
Worcester County
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 9

are the "entry" and an adjacent "store room". Included in the Fassitt inventory were 18 slaves.

The first item in Dr. Fassitt's will bequeathed all his real and personal property to his son, Thomas S. R. Fassitt, who sold the farm to Robert J. Henry the following November for \$5,500. In 1858, Robert Jenkins Henry (1819-1893) had the property resurveyed and renamed "Simpson's Grove Enlarged". Robert J. Henry held the property one year longer when he transferred the title to John Bishop, who appears in the 1870 U. S. Census as a wealthy farmer with real estate and personal property valued at \$28,000. John Bishop, then 50 years old, is listed in the census with his wife, Sally, aged 30, and four children, Ella, Eva, Claude, and Herald. John Bishop retained ownership of Simpson's Grove until 1874 when Albert J. Brittingham acquired the farm. The farm remained in Brittingham family hands until 1906.

In 1915, 190 acres and the house were acquired by Orlando and George A. Harrison and incorporated into their tremendous agricultural holdings. Simpson's Grove was bought by Victor R. and Myrtle T. Strickland in January 1944, and they sold it nine years later to Clinton J. and Annie L. Hudson, in whose family the farm remains.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

SIMPSON'S GROVE
Worcester County
Maryland

Section number 9 Page 10

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Worcester County Wills, various volumes, Worcester County
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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

SIMPSON'S GROVE
Worcester County
Maryland

Section number 10 Page 11

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Beginning at a point at the northeast corner of a 6.4 acre parcel shown on a survey of the Hudson farm dated 6 April 1992 and entered among the land records of Worcester County, and heading by and with the northern boundary of said parcel for two hundred feet to a point, thence southerly for one hundred and ninety feet to a point, thence in an easterly direction parallel with the north line for two hundred feet to a point along the east line of the aforementioned surveyed parcel, thence by and with the east boundary line of said survey for one hundred and ninety feet to the place of beginning, containing .87 acre, more or less.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property, .87 acre, encompasses the house and outbuilding within their immediate historic setting, and excludes outlying acreage which does not contribute directly to the significance of the resource.