

ADDENDUM

**Trueman Cabin
PG: 82B-034
Patuxent River Park, Croom Airport Road
Croom, Prince George's County
Stacy Patterson
The Ottery Group, Inc.
March 12, 2009**

Section 7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIPTION

The cabin retains low integrity for association, design, location, feeling setting, workmanship and materials, as the cabin was moved from its original location, many of the original materials have been replaced, and its context has been lost.

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Section 8. SIGNIFICANCE

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SUMMARY

The origins of the Trueman Cabin, also known as the Duckett Cabin, remain unclear; however, research has provided some theories on its construction and possible residents.¹ It appears that the cabin may have been built between 1840 and 1910 and was occupied until the 1920s.² Two possible residents include Charles Duckett and Lewis Gross. The current interpretation used in the Patuxent Village, is that the cabin was built in the 1880s by Charles Duckett, a former slave on the Trueman Farm.³ Before building the cabin, Duckett enlisted in the Union Army with the 19th Regiment of the United States Colored Troops and transferred to the Navy in 1864. He was discharged from service in 1866 and returned to the Trueman Farm as a farm hand in 1870. Duckett likely married another former slave, Juliet Blake Gross.⁴ Juliet's son Lewis Gross and his wife Georgianna, lived on the Trueman farm until the 1920s and may have been the final residents of the Trueman cabin, along with Charles Duckett's widow, Juliet Blake Gross.⁵ The cabin was abandoned by the end of the 1920s and was transferred to Patuxent River Park in 1974 by descendants of the Trueman family.

The Trueman Cabin was once a part of the H.B.B. Trueman Farm (87A-022). The cabin was owned by the Trueman family. According to the Trueman family, the cabin was occupied until the 1920s and then sat empty on their property. It was donated to Prince George's County by descendants and H.B.B. Trueman in the 1970's. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission moved the cabin to the Patuxent River Park in 1974 so it could be restored and interpreted. It is now a park of the living history park called "Patuxent Village."

1 Haley-Amen, Mary. *The Trueman Log Cabin at Patuxent River Park: Methodology for its Relocation, Restoration and Interpretation*. Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 1997.

2 Ibid.

3 "The Duckett Cabin." Interpretive Sign, Patuxent River Park, July 15, 2008.

4 Haley-Amen, Mary. *The Trueman Log Cabin at Patuxent River Park: Methodology for its Relocation, Restoration and Interpretation*. Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 1997.

5 Ibid.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Trueman Cabin is significant for its character, interest, and value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the County, State, and Nation. It is identified with the Trueman, Duckett and Gross families. The cabin exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, and historic heritage of the County and its communities. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a log cabin of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries with its dovetail notching and log construction.