



# Smithsonian

*Anacostia Community Museum*

## Fractious Family House Photographs

ACMA.06-115

Jennifer Morris

Anacostia Community Museum Archives  
1901 Fort Place, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20020  
ACMArchives@si.edu  
<http://www.anacostia.si.edu/Collections/ArchiveCollection>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Content Description.....	2
Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	3

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Anacostia Community Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Fractious Family House Photographs
<b>Identifier:</b>	ACMA.06-115
<b>Date:</b>	2009
<b>Extent:</b>	4.07 Megabytes (Digital Images)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

---

## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

Fractious family house photographs, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution, gift of Patricia Brown Savage.

### Restrictions

Use of the materials requires an appointment. Please contact the archivist to make an appointment: [ACMarchives@si.edu](mailto:ACMarchives@si.edu).

### Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

---

## Historical

In 1867, the Freedmen's Bureau created a settlement to accommodate some of the African Americans coming to Washington, DC during the Civil War. The Bureau acquired 375 acres from the Barry family across the Eastern Branch (later Anacostia River) in what was then called Washington County. The land from Barry Farm was divided into 356 one acre lots to be sold to the newly freed people.

William Fractious, born in Virginia around 1827 and his wife Lucy, were likely among those who acquired lots in the new development. A carpenter by trade, Fractious acquired lot 7 of section 3, which came with the materials needed to build an A-frame style two room house. In the 1940s, when sewage and water came to Elvans Road, the family built an addition which included a bathroom and another bedroom.

The Fractious family house on the 2100 block of Elvans Road served as the family abode for several generations over more than 140 years. By 2009 however it was abandoned, and shortly thereafter, it was razed. It is believed that this was the last example of the A-frame houses originally built in Barry Farm.

## Content Description

This collection includes three photographs of the A-frame house built by Barry Farm early settler William Fractious in 1867-68 on the 2100 block of Elvans Road in Southeast, Washington, DC. The images were taken in 2009 by Patricia Brown Savage while conducting research on the history of Elvans Road.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

A-frame houses

Places:

Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)  
Barry Farms (Washington, D.C.)

## Container Listing

acma\_06-115-1: [Fractious family house front view, 2009](#)

1 Megabyte (digital image)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)  
Barry Farms (Washington, D.C.)

Topic: A-frame houses

acma\_06-115-2: [Fractious family house close view of front door, 2009](#)

2 Megabytes (digital image)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)  
Barry Farms (Washington, D.C.)

acma\_06-115-3: [Fractious family house side view, 2009](#)

2 Megabytes (Digital image)

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)  
Barry Farms (Washington, D.C.)

Topic: A-frame houses