

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name: Georgia Lawson House

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 13/32/3 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 6
 Ten Mile Creek Road H.D. I-12

4. Address: 20610 Ten Mile Creek Road, Boyds

5. Classification Summary

Category building Previous Survey Recording M-NCPPC
 Ownership private Title and Date: 1976 Inventory of
 Public Acquisition being considered Historical Sites
 Status occupied
 Accessible no Federal State x County x Local
 Present use agriculture, private residence

6. Date: c. 1940

7. Original Owner: Wilfred and Georgia Lawson

8. Apparent Condition

a. fair b. unaltered c. original site

9. Description: This two story three bay by two bay cement block house sits high on a hill overlooking Ten Mile Creek and Valley, and faces north. The cement block is parged with cement, and sits on foundations of brick, cement block, and fieldstone. It was built on the site of another building, and uses some of the original fieldstone foundation. Some of the old foundation stones were used to make the interior fireplace and mantel in the living room. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Windows are six-over-one double-hung. The north entrance is covered with vines and is no longer used. The eaves are boxed. There are two brick exterior chimneys, both on the south elevation. There is one-story, one bay by three bay attachment to the west side with a shed roof, asphalt shingles and a fieldstone foundation. There are eight outbuildings. Two predate this house: the Perry Dimes Log Cabin and one barn. This barn is two-and-a-half stories with weathered, vertical chestnut siding and seamed metal gable roof.

10. Significance: This house is significant for its relationship with black history. Georgia Lawson and her husband, Wilfred, built it on the foundation of a 14-room, turreted house which they bought in 1937 and lost due to fire in the 1940s. Lawson was one of the first blacks to purchase a large farm in Montgomery County, and his widow was possibly the owner of the largest county tract owned by a black woman.

Wilfred Lawson had been a professor at Tennessee State College, where he taught agriculture; a dormitory there is named for him. Wanting to practice agriculture instead of teaching it, he and his wife Georgia moved to Boyds. They bought this 162 acre farm from Herbert R. Price in 1937.

When fire destroyed their home, they chose a Better Homes and Gardens design for their new house. It was built with tile walls, concrete block partitions, concrete over steel I-beams between floors, and a metal roof. The fireplace was built with stones from the foundation of the original house. The window frames and central staircase are the only wooden structures in the house. In 1943 Mr. Lawson died as the result of an accident on his farm, and the house was never completed.

Mrs. Lawson rented out her land after her husband's death, but continues to live in the house. She has been extremely active in civic affairs.

1. Researcher and date researched: Margaret Coleman-10/79

12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock

13. Date Compiled: 10/79

14. Designation Approval

15. Acreage: 162 acres

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 13/32/3

Ten Mile Creek Road
Historic District

MAGI#

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Georgia Lawson House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 20610 Ten Mile Creek Road

CITY, TOWN Boyds CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8

STATE Maryland VICINITY OF COUNTY Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Georgia Lawson Telephone #: 972-0483

STREET & NUMBER 20610 Ten Mile Creek Road

CITY, TOWN Boyds STATE, zip code Maryland 20720

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 557
Folio #: 376

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland 20850

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE 1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

M. 13-32-3

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two story three bay by two bay cement block house sits high on a hill overlooking Tenmile Creek and Valley, and faces north. The cement block is parged with cement, and sits on foundations of brick, cement block, and fieldstone. It was built on the site of another building, and uses some of the original fieldstone foundation. Some of the old foundation stones were used to make the interior fireplace and mantel in the living room.

The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Windows are six-over-one double-hung. The north entrance is covered with vines and is no longer used. It is flanked by two **three-light** casement windows.

The eaves are boxed. There are two brick exterior chimneys, both on the south elevation. There is one-story, one bay by three bay attachment to the west side with a shed roof, asphalt shingles and a fieldstone foundation.

The entrance is on the west side, and opens into the kitchen. A shed-roofed porch protects this doorway. The bulkhead to the cellar is also on this elevation.

The stone foundation of an old log cabin remains and is clearly visible behind the house, on the south.

There are seven outbuildings, excluding the Perry Dimes Log Cabin (described elsewhere) which is this farm's tenant house. Three of these farm buildings are large barns. The one which predates the house is two-and-a-half stories with weathered vertical chestnut siding and a seamed metal gable roof. A second barn is frame with a seamed metal gable roof, fieldstone and brick foundation, with a shed-roofed, vertical siding attached wing. Another was built by the owner in the late 1930s, as a dairy barn. It has a gambrel roof with seamed metal covering cement, **the** first level is of cement block, the second level has vertical wood siding, and two silos. There is also an old outhouse, halfway between the house and barn.

The interior has cement floors; the cement walls are mostly faced with mirrors. Painted steel I-beams cross the ceilings between floors. A dark wooden dog-leg stairs has balusters of various design which the owner obtained as giveaways.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M: 13-32-3

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local & Black History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1940 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is significant for its relationship with black history. Georgia Lawson and her husband, Wilfred, built it on the foundation of a 14-room, turreted house which they bought in 1937 and lost due to fire in the 1940s. Lawson was one of the first blacks to purchase a large farm in Montgomery County, and his widow was possibly the owner of the largest county tract owned by a black woman.

Wilfred Lawson was a professor at Tennessee State College; a dormitory there is named for him. He was a captain in World War I. His father was a prominent physician in Washington, and a member of the first class to graduate from Howard University. (Information on the Lawson family has been compiled by the Frederick Douglass Museum in Anacostia, Wash., D.C.) Professor Lawson taught agriculture, but wanted to practice the profession more than teach it, and moved to Boyds. They bought this 162 acre farm from Herbert R. Price.¹

When fire destroyed their home, they chose a Better Homes and Gardens design for their new house. It was built with tile walls, concrete block partitions, concrete over steel I-beams between floors, and a metal roof. The fireplace was built with stones from the foundation of the original house. The window frames and central staircase are the only wooden structures in the house. In 1943 Mr. Lawson died as the result of an accident on his farm, and the house was never completed.

Mrs. Georgia Lawson is of mixed ancestry, including French, American Indian and Haitian strains.² She was educated at the Chicago Art Institute. She met and married Wilfred Lawson when he was an officer in World War I. There is one son, James.

Mrs. Lawson rented out her land after her husband's death, but continued to live in the house. She became very active in civic affairs, and raised a granddaughter, Marcia, and an adopted great granddaughter, Theresa Wheeler. She was a teacher at Poolesville, Boyds, & Germantown elementary schools. She was a member of the County Human Relation Committee, for six years, two of which she served as chairman; she was also on the County's Youth Commission for four years, the Community Action Committee, Health and Welfare Board, Mental Health Board, volunteered at the County Thrift Shop for seven years, served as president of the Boyds Federal Credit Union, and numerous other activities, including the YWCA. She was senior hostess at the U.S.O. for many years.

Mrs. Lawson owns an unusual collection of family memoirs, including letters written by blacks during the Civil War, and the manumission papers of Miss Lucy Price of Southern Maryland. In 1844 Miss Price, an ancestor of Wilfred Lawson, bought her own freedom, and was issued her papers

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Montgomery County.
Interview with Mrs. Georgia Lawson.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 162 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Margaret M. Coleman

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

10/79

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

complete with thumbprint and detailed description of color shade and marks on her hand.

At the present time Mary Kay Hershberger rents the Lawson farm for her jersey dairy cattle. She lives in a house trailer on the property. Theresa Wheeler, now 16, assists Ms. Hershberger, and has won national recognition for her fitting and showing of the cattle. She has received a \$1,000 bond from the County YWCA in honor of her grandmother's efforts there.

The Lawson house is now in the way of the proposed lake at Boyds. Negotiations are presently underway by M-WCPPC to purchase this farm.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., 557/376
2. Mrs. Georgia Lawson, interviews on numerous occasions, 1978-1980.

Mrs. Lawson is a descendant of Taylor Bruington of Port au Prince, Haiti, and Dennis and Susan Osby of Atlanta, Georgia. Bruington brought his family to this country in 1860, saw that slavery was practiced, and returned to Haiti for a few years until after the Civil War. His daughter, Minnie Venicia Bruington, married James Ballard "Bal" Osby, and Georgia was their first child.

Her paternal grandmother, Susan Morris Osby, was born to a slave mother in a wealthy family named Morris, of Atlanta, Georgia. The owner sold Susan's mother shortly after the child's birth, and raised Susan in "the mansion". She was very pretty and fair skinned, and was given everything she wanted, according to her account to her granddaughter. At age 15 she met Dennis Osby and obtained permission to marry him and leave the plantation, as she wanted to "go north".

Osby was born in the penal colony of Madagascar of a French father and an American Indian mother. Because of his mother's heritage, Dennis was able to get a free education in the state of Massachusetts, and took advantage of this opportunity, then came to Georgia. He and Susan married, and left her southern home. Twins were born to the couple in a log cabin in Kentucky. They continued north, bought land in Shipman, Illinois, and raised ten children. Dennis was a blacksmith and a shoemaker as well as a farmer. He and Susan wanted all the children to go to college, but this was not financially possible. However, all ten of them did graduate from high school, and the older ones went to work, and helped the younger ones so that they did graduate from college.

After the Civil War, "Bal" Osby advertised for his mother's mother, describing her by a distinguishing mark on her side, perhaps a wart. She came to them for what must have been a very emotional homecoming. Osby built a home on his farm for his mother and grandmother; his father had died. The grandmother died soon thereafter. Years later Susan Osby died of "blood poisoning"; she had a corn on a toe, and cut it out herself with a knife, developing "blood poisoning" shortly thereafter.

Georgia was the first grandchild, and named for this grandmother's Georgia birthplace.

13-32-3
M: ~~18-11-9~~
Lawson house
Boyds vicinity, Maryland
Private

Late 1930s

This large two story house, built of stuccoed cement blocks, is the replacement of an impressive three story frame dwelling with a turret that was used as a meeting house for Chatauqua lectures. The new house was designed according to plans from Better Homes and Gardens selected by the owners and followed by a local carpenter. The owner, Georgia Lawson, is a descendant of free blacks from Charles County, Maryland and Illinois, who trace their ancestry to Virginia, Haiti, and Madagascar. The house contains a remarkable collection of objects and curios in the art deco style.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Lawson House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Ten Mile Creek Road

CITY, TOWN

Boysds

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

No

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES RESTRICTED
- YES UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

G.R. & J.J. Lawson

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Ten Mile Creek Road

CITY, TOWN

Boysds

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20720

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 4057

Folio #: 632

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M.13-32-5

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This large two story concrete house stands on a hill overlooking farmlands and pasture in the bottomlands along Ten Mile Creek (east). Around the house are a number of outbuildings, and the dwelling house itself is surrounded by trees, shrubs, and climbing vines. The house is four bays in length and three in depth with a small, flat roofed kitchen on the back length. The house has a hipped roof. The windows contain double hung sashes with six-over-six panes. A brick chimney ascends the back length near the southern corner.

In addition to the kitchen, the downstairs contains a dining room and living room on either side of the large foyer/hallway, in which stairs ascend to the rooms above. On the rear side of the foyer is a smaller study with a fascinating assortment of objects and photographs hung on walls. Among them are a leopard skin, family photographs, art curios, a mounted buck's head. Photographs are also of Mrs. Lawson and her sister with Washington politicians, such as John Denny, and visiting notables, such as Emperor Haile Selassie. The living room has an excellent collection of furniture in the art deco style, all of which are original to the house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Local History	
				Black History	

SPECIFIC DATES early 1900s BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to Georgia Lawson, this house was built in the late 1930s. She and her husband, Wilfrid Whitehead Lawson, purchased the farm c. 1937 with a large house already on it. Just as they were moving in, the house burned, with the loss of "8,000 books that we had in boxes", Mrs. Lawson remembers. They then built their new house of concrete so that never again would they suffer such a loss by fire. A few year later, he husband died, and Mrs. Lawson has lived here ever since with her children, grandchildren, and/or great grandchildren. For many years, she taught school in the Montgomery County school system.

Aa part of this survey, some of the photographs of the Georgia Lawson family were copied. One is of her father, James Ballard Osby, born in Greenville, Tennessee, c. 1875. Mrs. Lawson says that his ancestors came from Madagascar to Tennessee, and later moved to McCoupon County, Illinois. Mrs. Lawson's mother, Minnie Venecie Brewington was born near Litchfield, Illinois, c. 1877. Her father was Taylor Brewington, and her mother was named "Rose" and was Jewish. Brewington was born c. 1845-50 in Haiti, she remembers.

Mrs. Lawson's husband's family was from Charles County, Maryland near Nanjemoy. His mother was from Virginia and named Rosetta Coakley and is shown as a young girl with a lace collar in the photograph. The elderly lad in one photograph is her husband's father's mother, Susan Morris, from Georgia. These photographs give us important glimpses into the character of the Lawson family, and show the presence and influence of America as a "melting pot" for this family, and by implication for many other Montgomery County families.

Mrs. Lawson's great granddaughter, Teresa Wheeler, lives with her and skillfully raises calves that she shows in fairs and 4-H contests. One of the photographs shows Teresa holding a tropy and blue ribbon that she has won for her efforts.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview (not taped) with Georgia Lawson, by George McDaniel and
 Ida Hallman, Boyds, Md., June 1978.
 Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Md. Deed 4057/632.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George McDaniel, historian

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

DATE

August 1979

TELEPHONE

926-4510

STATE

Maryland 20753

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 (301) 267-1438

he Lawson Home, 20610 Tenmile Creek Road

Georgia Lawson's home is an unusual fireproof structure on the site of an earlier, fourteen-room house which was destroyed by fire in the 1940s. Mrs. Lawson's husband, Wilfred, was a professor at Tennessee State College, and an officer in World War I. He taught agriculture, and wanted to practice the profession more than to teach. He and Georgia bought the house and 162 acres in 1937 from Herbert R. Price.³ He built barns, and developed a dairy business.

When fire destroyed their home, Wilfred and Georgia searched for plans for a fireproof house. They chose a Better Homes & Gardens design. The house was built with tile walls, concrete block partitions and a metal roof. The fireplace was built with stones from the original foundation. The window frames and central staircase are the only examples of wood in the house.

In 1943 Lawson died as the result of an accident on his farm. The house has never been completed.

Mrs. Lawson is wellknown throughout the county. She worked as a volunteer at the USO in Washington for several years, and adopted a young soldier as her son. She has taught in county schools and at the Boyds Day Care Center. She has served on various committees in the county. Mrs. Lawson owns an unusual collection of family memoirs, including letters written by blacks during the Civil War, and the manumission papers of Miss Lucy Price of Southern Maryland. In 1844 Miss Price, an ancestor of Wilfred Lawson, bought her own freedom, and was issued her papers complete with thumbprint and detailed description of color shade and marks on her hand.

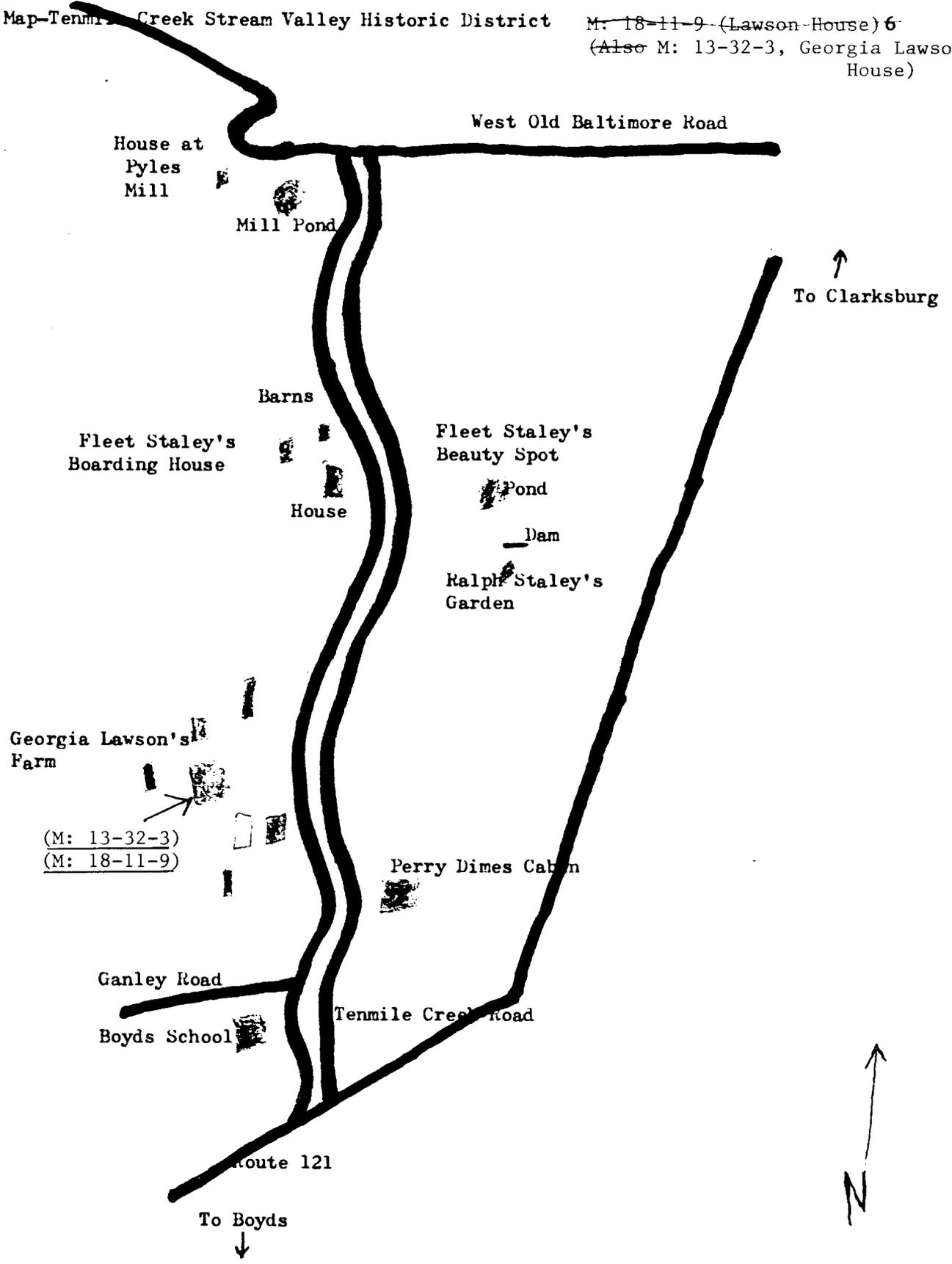
The Lawson farm is still used for a dairy business. Mary Kay Hershberger, 20610 Tenmile Creek Road, rents the property, lives in a house trailer, and milks the guernseys. Mrs. Lawson's great-granddaughter, Teresa Wheeler, helps Miss Hershberger. Teresa was raised from infancy by Mrs. Lawson, but inherited her great-grandfather's love of farming. She has helped Miss Hershberger for several years, and been rewarded by the registration of some of the guernsey calves in her own name. This past August, Miss Teresa won the Supreme Championship at the Montgomery County Fair, an honor signifying the best animal of all the breed

Pyles Mill, 15000 W. Old Baltimore Road

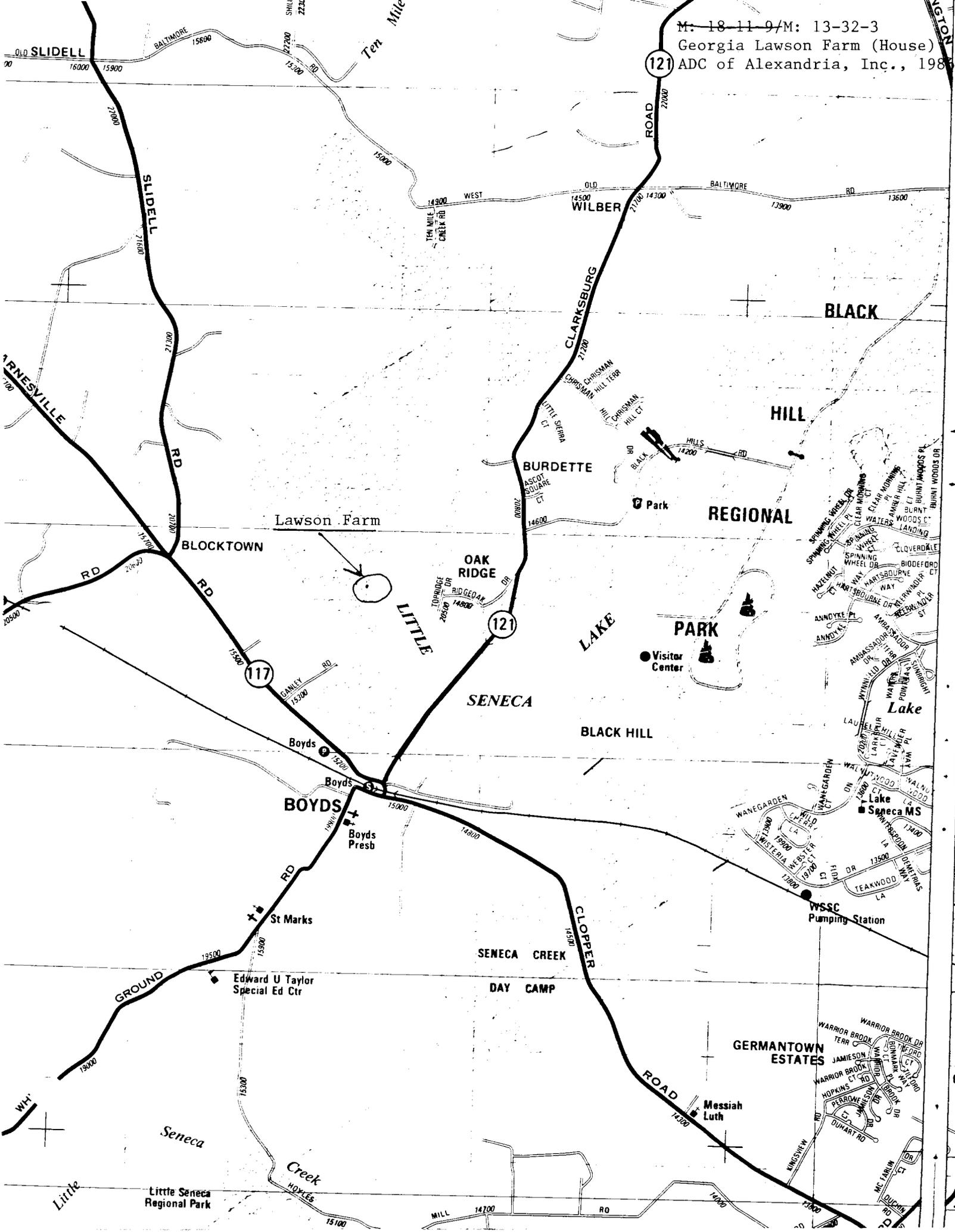
Pyles Mill operated as a mill from the 1820s to the turn of the century. An old house, the mill race and pond are now owned by Mr. and Mrs. David Ortman.⁵ Both Mr. and Mrs. Ortman are attorneys who live in the District of Columbia, and commute on weekends to Pyles Mill. They are in the process of restoring their home to the original condition. Besides the old house and pond, numerous horticultural specimens grace the property, planted by the previous owner, Philip and Marguerite Pratt.

Ortman's twenty acres were once a part of a 100-acre tract spreading on either side of Old Baltimore Road, and owned by George Peter. A road bordered the eastern property line, and led to Clarksburg. This particular road is mentioned in old land records, but only traces can be found today. The road is not drawn on the 1865 Martenet and Bond Map.

Baltimore Road, commissioned in 1793, divides the tract.⁶ The road curves around the ruins of a log house, which is believed to be the original miller's home, indicating the existence of a building at the time the road was plotted.



M: 18-11-9/M: 13-32-3
Georgia Lawson Farm (House)
ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1985



Lawson Farm

REGIONAL

PARK

Visitor Center

Lake

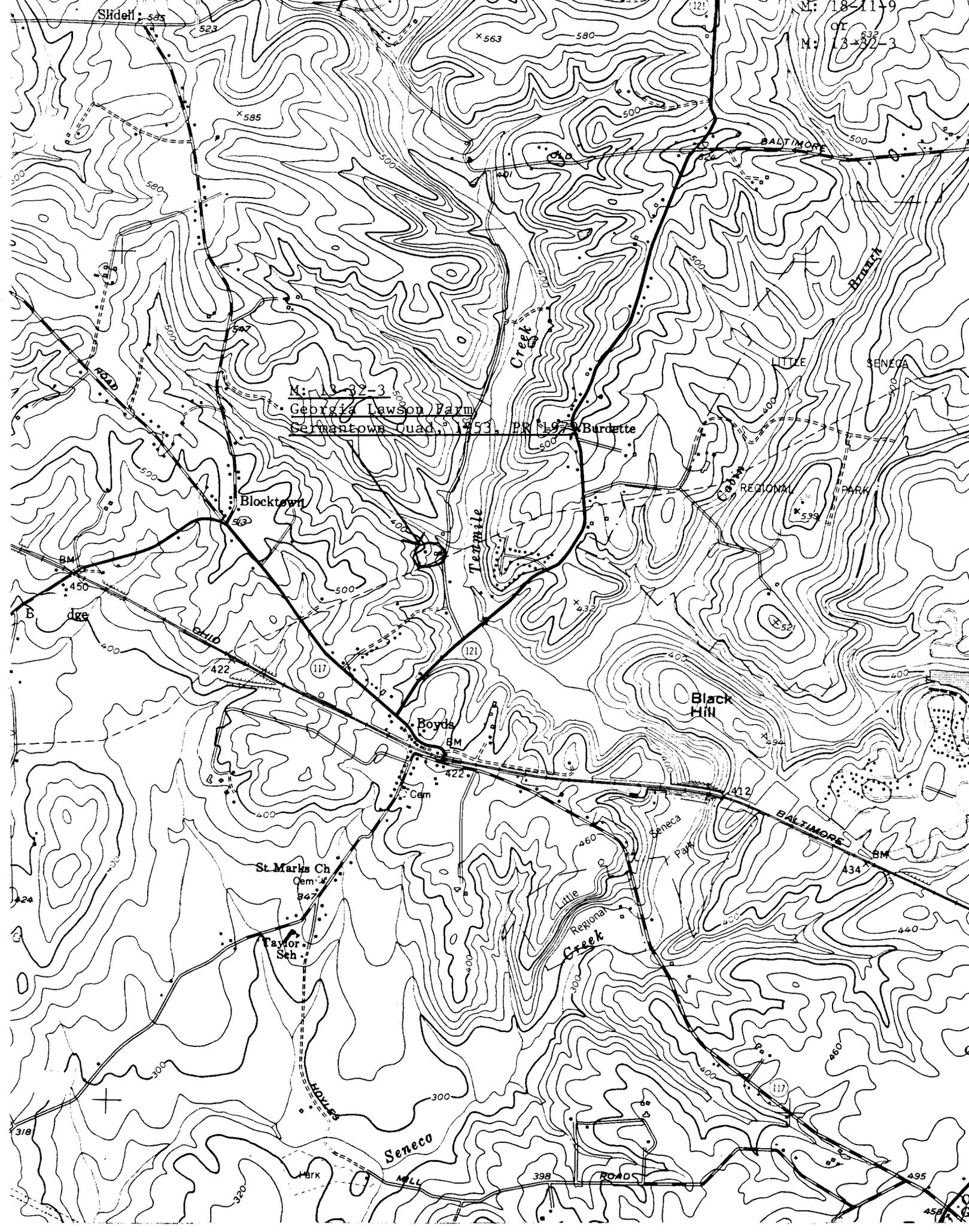
Lake

WSSC Pumping Station

GERMANTOWN ESTATES

Messiah Luth

Little Seneca Regional Park



Slide: 585

S: 18-11-9

M: 13-32-3

M: 13-32-3
Georgia Lawson Farm
Seneca Quad, 1953, PR 1977 Burdette

Blocktown

Boyd's

Black Hill

St. Marks Ch
Cem

Taylor's

Seneca

Little Seneca
Regional
Creek

Seneca
Park

BALTIMORE

Old
Ge



Side porch on northern gable end of Lawson
House and Georgie Lawson

~~M-18-11-9~~ M:13-32-3

Boyd's, Md.

Photo by Gary Kreizman

65/78



Rear Length of Lawson House (west)

~~M 18-11-9~~ M:13-32-3

Boys, md,

photo by Gary Kreizman

6/78



Rosetta Coakley

~~M-18-11-89~~ M: 13-32-3

Boys, md.

collection of Georgia Lawson

~~orig~~ photo by Gary Kreizman

6/78



~~Rosetta~~

Susan Morris
~~M-10-11-9~~ M:13-32-3

Bixds, md.

photo by Gary Kreieman
original: collection Georgia
Lawson

6/78



chair in living room of
Georgia Lawson

~~M-18-11-9~~ M:13-32-3
Boyd, Md.

photo by Gary Kreizman

6/78

