

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

1603004216

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

"Marble Quarry"

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

C & O Canal, opposite Mason's Island in Potomac River

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

White's Ferry

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
 ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

National Park Service-Dep't. of the

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Interior

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C. — VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M:16-5

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR

- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Overgrown, rocky cliff area on bank of C & O Canal. Quarry has not been used for many years, but some cuts are still exposed. Stone is not actually marble, but a limestone conglomerate called "breccia" that resembles marble. It was locally referred to as "Potomac Marble".

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:16-5

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

After the British burned the U.S. Capitol during the War of 1812, the famed architect Latrobe set out to redesign and build the finest interior possible. He used this stone for the pillars of the House Chamber, of which Thomas Jefferson was especially pleased.

(See memo from me to Bob Young, March 3, 1975.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1) Records of the U.S. Capitol (check with U.S. Capitol Hist. Society.)
- 2) WASHINGTON POST, (5/8/75), related article re Supreme Court Chamber.

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

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

3/3/75

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

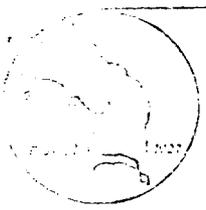
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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

M:16-5

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL AND METROPOLITAN DISTRICTS IN MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTIES, MARYLAND



Regional Headquarters Building
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20907

582-1480
Area Code 301

March 3, 1975

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bob Young, Chief - Division of I&C
FROM: Mike Dwyer, Park Historian *MAD*
SUBJECT: Response to inquiry regarding Quarries in Dickerson area.

The three quarries that you requested information on are unusually significant due to their historical as well as geological background. Two of the quarries in particular have had an impact on our national heritage as well as having contributed to the history of the state and local area. Lengthy references are available from many sources but I will limit myself in this report to a brief sketch of each site. Should you desire more detailed information, I have it available.

- (1) Rock Hall Quarry - Usually referred to as the famed "White Quarry" at the foot of Sugarloaf Mountain on property now owned by Md. DNR. Mills, iron furnaces and distilleries as well as quarries were established on this property by the Johnson family in the late 1700's and early 1800's. The Johnsons were the preeminent family of Western Maryland in the Revolutionary War period and Thomas Johnson was the state's first governor. The white colored mountain sandstone fuses at this point to form a beautiful as well as durable building stone. It was used initially to line the walls of limestone kilns and iron furnaces including Catoclin Furnace. What is believed to be the first railway system used in the U.S. was established here to transport stone from the mountain to the mouth of the Monocacy River, where it was used exclusively for the C&O Canal Aqueduct at this point. This aqueduct is considered to be one of the finest examples of masonry arch-work extant. Sugarloaf Mountain, a Registered National Historic Landmark is formed by this deposit of stone. (See enclosed description of quarry operation)
- ✓ (2) Marble Quarry - C&O Canal opposite Masons Island. This is a largely unusual, fine quality stone that is not actually a marble at all but a limestone conglomerate called breccia. It has been referred to locally as "Potomac Marble". After the U.S. Capitol was burned by the British in 1814, the famed architect Latrobe set out to redesign and build the finest interior

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Memo/Quarries in Dickerson area
Bob Young/Mike Dwyer
March 3, 1975

possible. For the semicircular House Chamber he selected elegant dark columns of breccia from this Montgomery County site and these pillars can be seen today in what is now the Hall of Statuary at the Capitol. It is well documented that Thomas Jefferson supervised many of the details of this work and was especially pleased with the House Chamber.

- (3) Dickerson Quarries - Rt. 28 S.W. of Dickerson. Actually consists of two quarries, the smaller of which was acquired by the District of Columbia government in 1898. Stone was taken from this deposit of very hard blue diabase by D.C. crews and shipped via the railroad to town where it was used for curbstones. It is believed that these work crews were often composed of convict labor. Quarrying was discontinued in 1905 and the property has been declared as surplus since. It was never considered to be suitable for building purposes.

The second quarry is owned by the Anderson family who acquired it during the 1930's when Otto Anderson was County Agent. It has not been utilized since before that time but when in operation it was worked by a Baltimore limestone company. A man named Mercer Jones reportedly worked at this quarry as a boy but he has been dead for many years. His house, built partly of logs, is the old farmhouse visible on Rt. 28 at the quarry.
(See maps enclosed)



Mt. Ephraim

Barnesville P.O.

Beallsville

Poolesville P.O.

Spink's Ferry

Henry O. Talbott
M: '16-5
Marble Quarry
Martene & Bond's

N

3

Montgomery River

Mason's Island

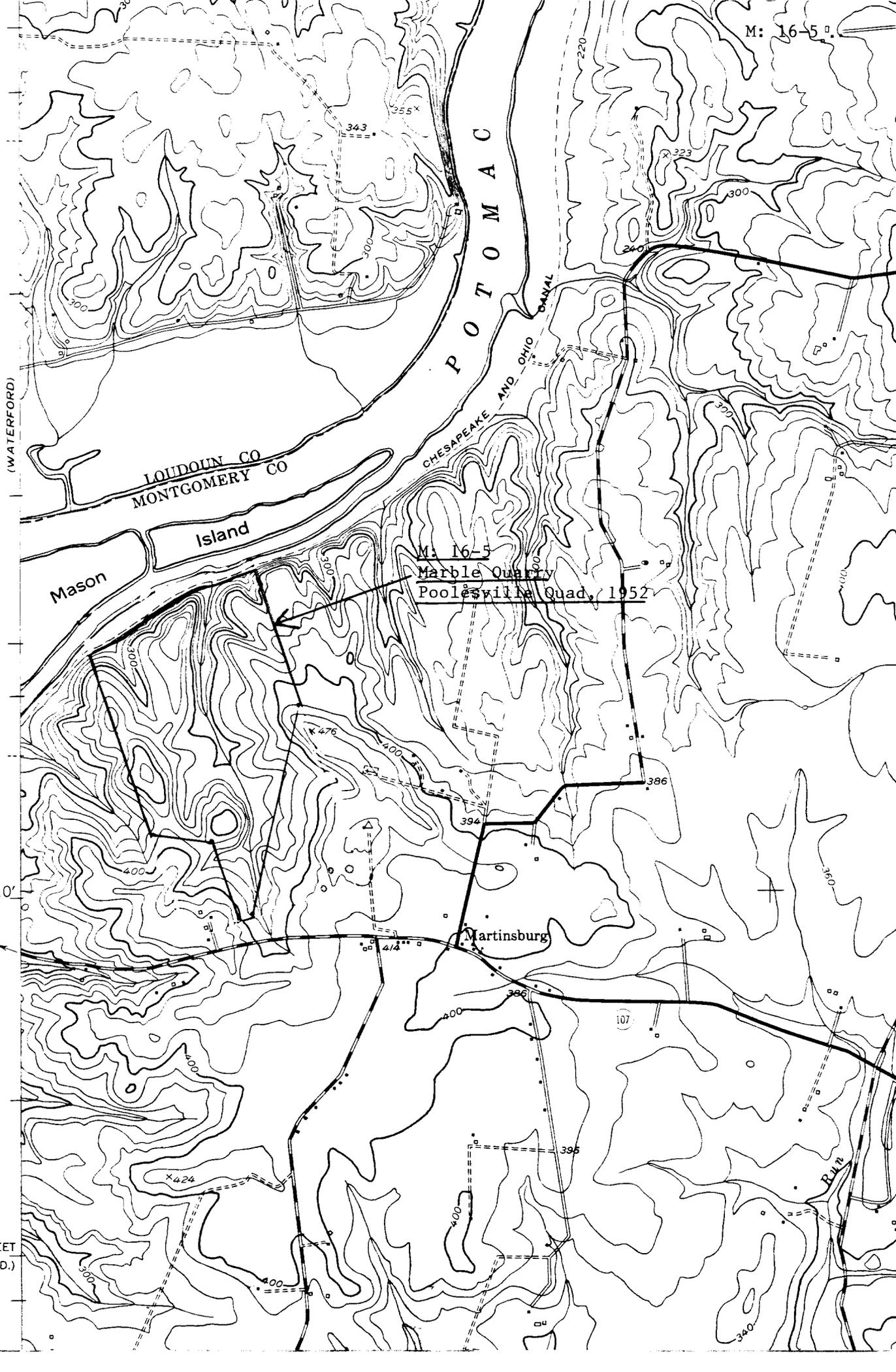
Ohio River

Martene & Bond's Map of Montgomery, W. Va., and W. Md., 1865

Conrad's Ferry

B

DESNC White



LOUDOUN CO
MONTGOMERY CO

POTOMAC

M: 16-5
Marble Quarry
Poolsville Quad, 1952

Mason Island

Martinsburg

10'

WHITE'S FERRY 1.4 MI

480 000 FEET
(MD.)

