FHR-8-300 (11-78)

M:18-26

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received
date entered 43

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic: Susanna, Oakwood

and or common: Susanna Farm (preferred)

2. Location

street & number: 17700 White Grounds Road — N/A not for publication

city, town: Dawsonville — X vicinity of — congressional district: Eighth

state: Maryland — code 24 — county: Montgomery — code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	X work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name: Harold F. Baker

street & number: 1730 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.

city, town: Washington — N/A vicinity of — state D.C. 20006

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number

city, town: Rockville — state Maryland 20850

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title: Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Survey — has this property been determined elegible? X yes ___ no

date: 1981 — ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records: Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town: Annapolis — state Maryland 21401

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Susanna Farm is located on a knoll on the west side of White Grounds Road about .9 mile north of its intersection with Route 28. The L-shaped, 2½ story frame dwelling house is five bays by six bays overall, sits on sandstone foundations, and is topped by seamed metal roofing. The symmetry visible from the driveway approach is deceiving, for there are distinctly separate blocks which were constructed in several stages. Despite some minor 20th century alterations, the last major change occurred when the house was doubled in size and value by Benjamin F. Dyson in 1877-1878; Dyson renovated in the Italianate style, adding a dormer, large brackets, and segmental-arch second floor windows. Throughout the house, the first floor 6 over 6 double-hung sash windows have simple moulding; most windows are flanked by dark green louvered shutters. The west block appears to be the earliest section of the house (with the possible exception of the east kitchen). In the Federal style, it is 5 bays by two bays and faces west. There are two interior brick end chimneys. The west (front) facade has moulded architraves and a Colonial Revival pedimented porch. The front wood paneled door has sidelights and is surmounted by a 4-light transom. Five auxilary buildings stand on the property. These include a stone kitchen/ slave quarter and meat house which are believed to be contemporary with the house, a 1870s frame bank barn, and twentieth century farm buildings.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

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SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

post caps a simple staircase with paneled understair, landing window, and gently curved balustrade. In the same vertical location are stairs to the basement and to the attic. Attic floors are of random width and appear to be original. The northeast corner porch of this block was enclosed in the 1930s to make a paneled room and bath.

Going eastward, the one-bay two story middle section (connecting west and east blocks) appears to have been built not long after the Federal section. It too is frame with sandstone foundation. It is lower than the blocks flanking it, but features a dormer with arched window and a central chimney on the east side. On the interior, it is one room square, with a small fireplace and simple mantel and a narrow stairway on the east side. Doors leading from the west block to the middle section have six panels and early hardware.

The east block is two bays wide, making it (from the south facade) appear symmetrical with the west block. An unanswered question regarding its relationship to the Federal section is raised by its log joists and half-timber construction. It is 2½ stories high, with stone foundation and gable roof, and an interior brick end chimney on the gable ridge of the south facade. This section has a south door with Romanesque molding which is surmounted by a three-light transom; this leads to a narrow hall with a rear door, side interior doors with swinging transoms, and a single room with simple fireplace to the east. On the north side of this room a bath and laundry room have been enclosed.

To the east of this block is a one-story, one-bay shed-roofed frame addition on stone piers (with projecting deck) which features a square-fronted false facade (similar to others in the upper western part of Montgomery County) and mortise and tenon construction. To the north and east of this addition, the frame dairy house has been connected to the house.

Across the three center bays of the south (now main) facade is a porch which sits on stone piers and has elaborately moulded columns and balustrades.

Outbuildings on Susanna farm:

The kitchen/slave quarter, to the north of the dwelling house, is approximately 24' by 18', of sandstone construction with stone lintels and sills. The main (south) facade is three bays with center doorway. On the east end is a stone chimney with large cooking fireplace and one window. There is a metal gable roof. Interior steps on the west end lead to the quarters on the second floor. This structure is early to mid-nineteenth century.

The meat/or smoke house to the east of the dwelling, is approximately 14' by 12', frame with stone foundation, and overhanging metal gable roof. This building was also constructed during the early to mid-nineteenth century.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The double corn crib (circa 1900) is of mortise and tenon construction. Its large beams rest on five stone piers on each open side. It is covered by a metal gable roof.

The large bank barn (circa 1870s), four bay by five bay, approximately sixty feet by thirty-eight feet, is located to the southeast of the house, and is of mortise and tenon construction. The lower stone and upper board-and-batten stories are covered by a gable metal roof.

There are also a machine shed (200' by 15') and pig barns (in poor condition) on the property to the southwest of the house. These buildings are believed to be mid-twentieth century.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries are drawn to exclude extraneous farm land around the complex but to maintain the historic rural setting and include all of the contributive buildings.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1870s **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Applicable Criterion: C

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Susanna Farm acquires significance from a unique architectural character of the nineteenth century frame house that stands upon it. The house contains the distinct characteristics of two architectural styles, Federal and Italianate, which were combined when the house was enlarged and remodeled to meet the needs of a new owner. Although the remodeling and enlargement of houses is not an uncommon occurrence, the ambition and scale of the alteration and addition at Susanna Farm is unusual for Montgomery County in the mid to late nineteenth century when the area was a relatively quiet rural farming region. This remodeling was a conscious attempt to enhance visually the house, particularly as seen from the drive. An interesting and puzzling feature about the remodeling is the extent of it. The remodeling completely changed the architectural character of the house as seen from the property entranceway. The change, however, is limited to remodeling of one end of the original house and an addition. The limit of the change gives rise to speculation about the extent of the planned remodeling.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The land known as Susanna Farm for its first half century of use was the home of the Veirs family, which located in the Dawsonville area in the mid-18th century. The name "Susanna" first appears in a survey related to an unpatented certificate filed by Daniel Viers (or Vears, or Veirs) in 1786.[1] Veirs sought to resurvey, correct errors, and include vacancies between his two previous surveys of "Fair Prospect" and "White Oak Bottom". On his 341 1/8 acres at that time were a least one "framed dwelling house", a "logg kitchen", and several outbuildings.[2] Veirs was a slave-owning tobacco farmer, as were many early settlers in the area, and chose to name the tract after his wife and daughter. After Daniel's death in 1787, Susanna Farm was inherited by his son John; his brother Elisha received adjacent land. John Veirs operated the farm for almost 30 years, but found himself in the situation of many tobacco "planters" who had practiced poor farming methods which depleted the land, and who could not compete with tobacco and wheat growers closer to quick transportation. John Veirs sold "Susanna" with 224 acres in 1816 to William Brewer[3] and moved to Kentucky, as did much of his family.

The Brewer family had settled early in the Poolesville area. William Brewer (1777-1861) was a physician and planter who owned many farms and slaves on over 1600 acres in Montgomery County. He lived at "Aix la Chappelle" near

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Beallsville, but may have purchased "Susanna" with one of his 15 chindren in mind. Hif fifth son, Joseph (1812-1863), may have been living in the "framed dwelling house" as early as 1835-1840 with a small household and three slaves;[4] in 1844 he married Warnetta Sellman, and three years later his parents deeded the house and 330 acres to him "for natural love and affection" and $3100.[5] The Federal section of the present house was constructed during the Brewer ownership; the original dwelling house was either incorporated into the new construction or demolished to make way for a rear wing.

Joseph and Warnetta Brewer had two children and lived at this farm which they called Oakwood until their deaths. As one of three Brewer sons who farmed in the area and who encouraged the revitalization of Montgomery County soil through innovative practices and materials, Joseph Brewer joined the Medley's District Agricultural Society, which reported in 1849 that

> Joseph Brewer's fences were well repaired, much of it stone, a part of which, lately made, is excellent. He has planted a young apple orchard of choice fruit. The fly has injured his wheat much, though a part is good; rye good; his corn has been well worked and looks fine; in a word, he has improved much within the past year. Mrs. B's garden is of the first order, containing all the usual vegetables, flowers and fruits, especially strawberries in abundance, upon which your committee feasted.[6]

Joseph Brewer died in 1863, and following Warnetta's death in 1869, their heirs sold the farm to the son of yet another prominent Dawsonville area family, Benjamin F. Dyson.[7]

The Dysons came to Dawsonville about 1750. Benjamin Franklin Dyson's home place was "Locust Grove" on Sugarland Road. Dyson (1829-1910) married Catherine Jane Pyles in 1863, and produced eleven children. They purchased Joseph Brewer's farm for $11,000 in 1870, enlarging it with a purchase from Joseph C. White six years later.[8] Dyson continued Brewer's steady improvement of the land, raising its value several-fold; he raised large crops of wheat, corn, oats, potatoes and some tobacco. It was Dyson who remodeled the old farmhouse in the grand Italianate style in 1877-1878[9] and who built the large barn which stands southeast of the house.

The Dysons were members of the Baptist Church and of the Dawsonville Literary Society. B. F. Dyson served as a School Trustee in 1881-1882. Upon Benjamin F. Dyson's death in 1910, his extensive land holdings were appointed and conveyed to his twelve hiers; his unmarried son William J. (1869-1946) received the "home place" and lived there with Catherine (until her death in 1912) and his unmarried sisters.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Like other Montgomery County farmers of the first decades of the 20th century, William J. Dyson raised wheat and corn, cattle and other livestock. After his death in 1946, the farm was appraised at $15,000 and described as containing

> about 300 acres of land, and is improved by a 2 story frame and attic dwelling with 10 rooms and a porch, heated by stoves. This house is very much in need of repair. There is also a 4 room tenant house on this property. There is also a red barn (in need of repair), corn house, meat house, and has running water....[10]

Dyson's heirs sold the farm out of the family in 1946. Since that time Susanna Farm has been sold several times, used as a dairy farm, and at times leased to tenants and tenant farmers. The new owner is currently rehabilitating the structures.

FOOTNOTES

[1]Unpatented Certificate #276, Hall of Records

[2]Montgomery County Assessment Records, 3rd District, 1783

[3]Montgomery County Land Records, S20/102 (March 11, 1816

[4]U. S. Census Records, 1840, 1850

[5]Land Records, op. cit., STS3/80 (February 24, 1847)

[6]Maryland Journal (Rockville), September 8, 1849

[7]Land Records, op. cit., EBP8/56 (October 28, 1870)

[8]Ibid., EBP 15/123 (May 6, 1876)

9 Assessment Records, op. cit., 1876-78

[10]Montgomery County Orphan's Court Records, Inventory of Real Estate of of William J. Dyson, OWR9/268 (April 16, 1946)

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Montgomery County Land Records, Courthouse, Rockville, Md.

Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Survey: Montgomery County (M-18-26).

Montgomery County Land, Assessment, Orphan's Court, Judgment, and Marriage Records

U. S. Census Records

Patent Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis

Sween, Jane C., "A History of Dawsonville and Seneca - Montgomery County, Maryland" (1967), unpublished manuscript, MCHS

MacMaster and Hiebert, A Grateful Remembrance, Montgomery County Government & MCHS, Rockville, 1976

MCHS Genealogical files, Cemetery Records

Newspapaers: Maryland Journal, Montgomery County Sentinel

9. Major Bibliographical References

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SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 11 acres

Quadrangle name Germantown, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	297 310	4 13 314 810
B	18	297 512 10	4 13 314 514 10
C	18	297 180	4 13 314 610 10
D	18	297 190	4 13 314 814 10
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries are delineated on the enclosed map.

For Boundary justification, see Continuation Sheet #2

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Eileen McGuckian

organization date July 1981

street & number 105 Wall Street telephone (301) 762-8744

city or town Rockville state Maryland 20850

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [signature] 12-16-82

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

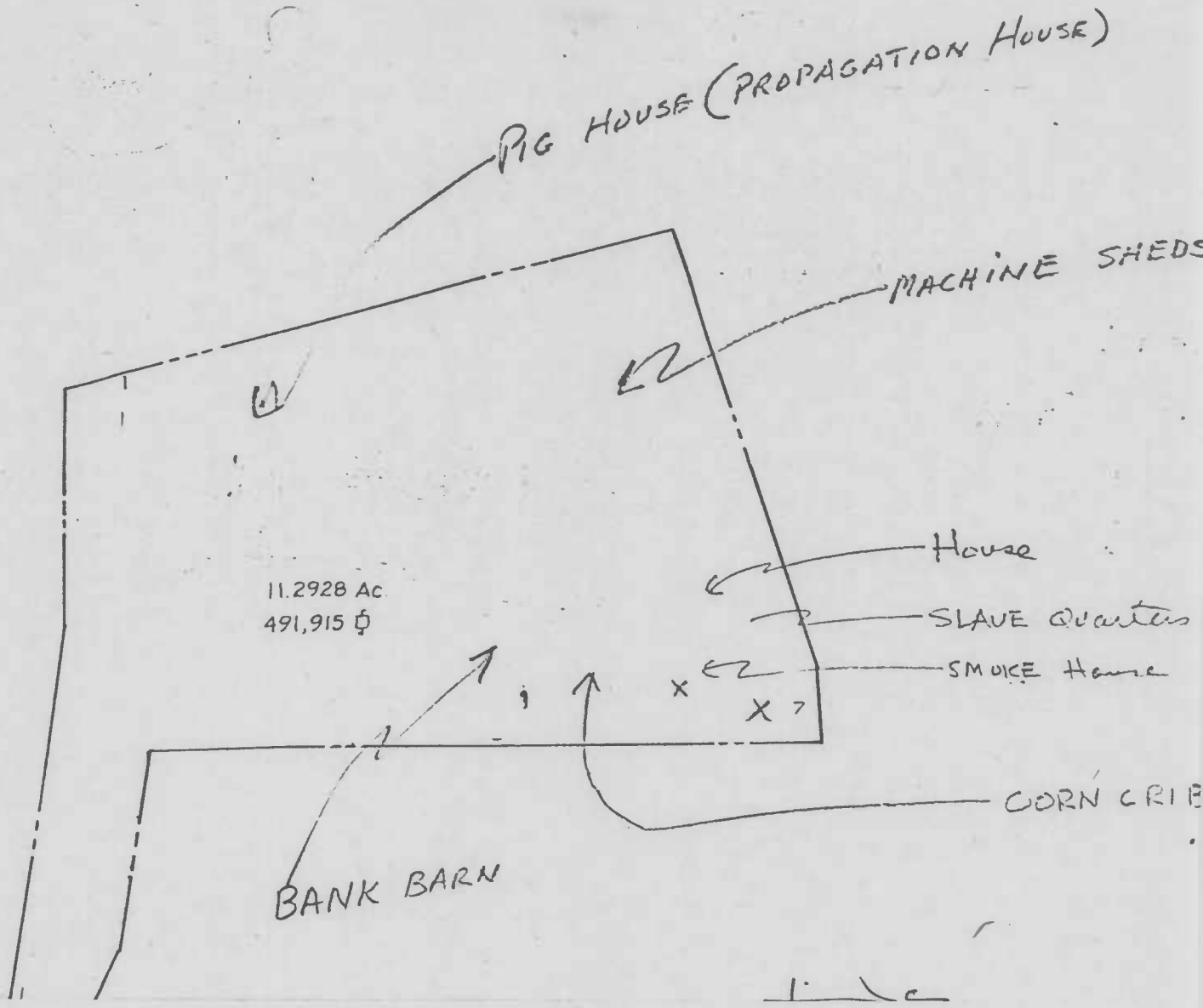
date

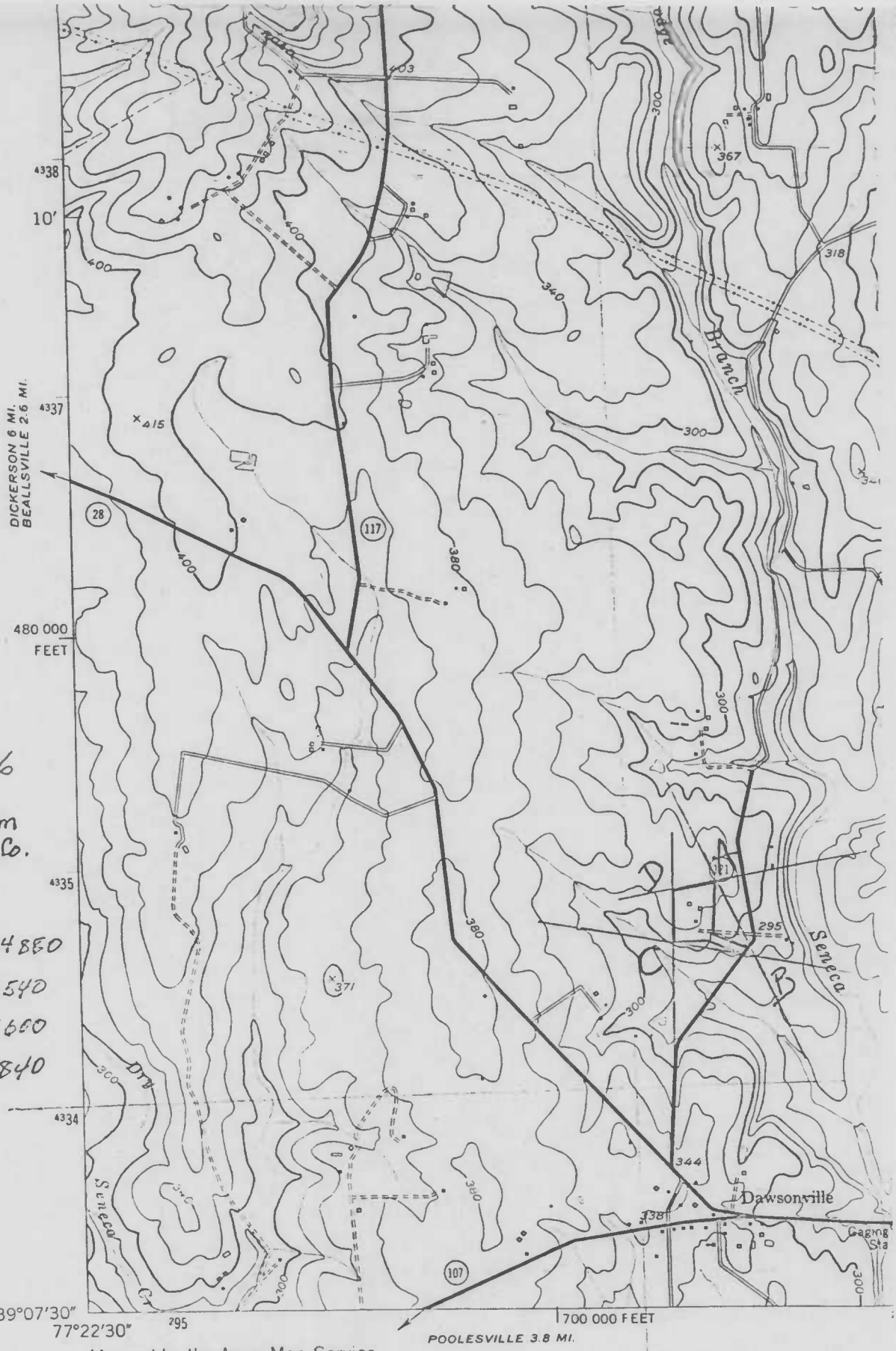
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

M:18-26


PIG HOUSE (PROPAGATION HOUSE)
MACHINE SHEDS
House
SLAVE Quarters
SMOKE House
CORN CRIB
BANK BARN
11.2928 Ac
491,915 ₵



M:18-26

Susanna Farm
Montgomery Co.
Maryland

A 18/297370/4334880
B 18/297520/4334540
C 18/297180/4334600
D 18/297190/4334840

(STERLING)
5562 III SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by KEK plotter
Aerial photographs taken 1942. Field check 1943
Revised by the Geological Survey, 1953

Projection 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

MN
GN
7°
124 MILS
1°28'
26 MILS
UTM GRID AND 1971 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET