**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST ADDENDUM SHEET**
**INTERCOUNTY CONNECTOR PROJECT**

**Property Name: Sycamores**
**Survey No.:** M:23-112 (PACS A5.10)

Property Address 15708 Sycamore Grove Court, Rockville vicinity (Norbeck), Montgomery County, MD
Owner Name/Address Douglas Horsman, 15708 Sycamore Grove Court, Rockville, MD 20853
Year Built circa 1850

**Description:**

Sycamores was previously surveyed in 1975 by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and in 1979 by the Sugarloaf Regional Trails. Since the time of the previous surveys, the property has deteriorated, including the loss of the porch railing and porch decking on the north and a portion of the east elevations. At present, however, the structure is being rehabilitated. In addition, the property is now located within a subdivision known as "Sycamore Acres", and therefore, the house is now separated from Muncaster Mill Road by two improved lots within the subdivision. The perimeter of the property remains screened by vegetation, however. Finally, a tenant house (M:23-132) associated with the farm is extant which was not discussed during the previous surveys of the property. The tenant house, however is located on a separate parcel, at 15808 Sycamore Lane.

**National Register Evaluation:**

Sycamores, constructed circa 1850, was previously surveyed by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1975. The property is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The main house is a good example of a mid-nineteenth century structure, which was updated in 1896 with features of the Second Empire style. Despite some deterioration, it retains such character-defining elements as a mansard roof, its original windows and siding, and a porch which wraps around all four elevations of the structure. The period of significance for the property extends from circa 1850 to 1947, as the main house was subdivided from its acreage in 1948. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. Finally, the property has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, does not meet Criterion D.

**Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:**

The National Register boundary of Sycamores follows the current property lines of Subdivision 3, Block D, Lot 40 on Tax Map HS 122. This 1.11 hectare (2.75 acre) parcel, which includes the main house, is now located within a modern residential development known as "Sycamore Acres". The parcel is bounded on the north, west and south by modern residential development, and on the east by Sycamore Grove Court. The property was originally part of a 106.4 hectare (263 acre) parcel until 1948, when the first subdivision of the property occurred. Subsequent subdivision of the adjacent lands have resulted in current property size and the establishment of a modern residential development.

**MHT CONCURRENCE:**
**Eligibility** X recommended ____ not recommended
**Criteria** ___A ___B X C ___D **Considerations** ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None
**Comments:**

Andrew Lewis 01/02/02 [signature] 3/4/02
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date Reviewer, NR program Date

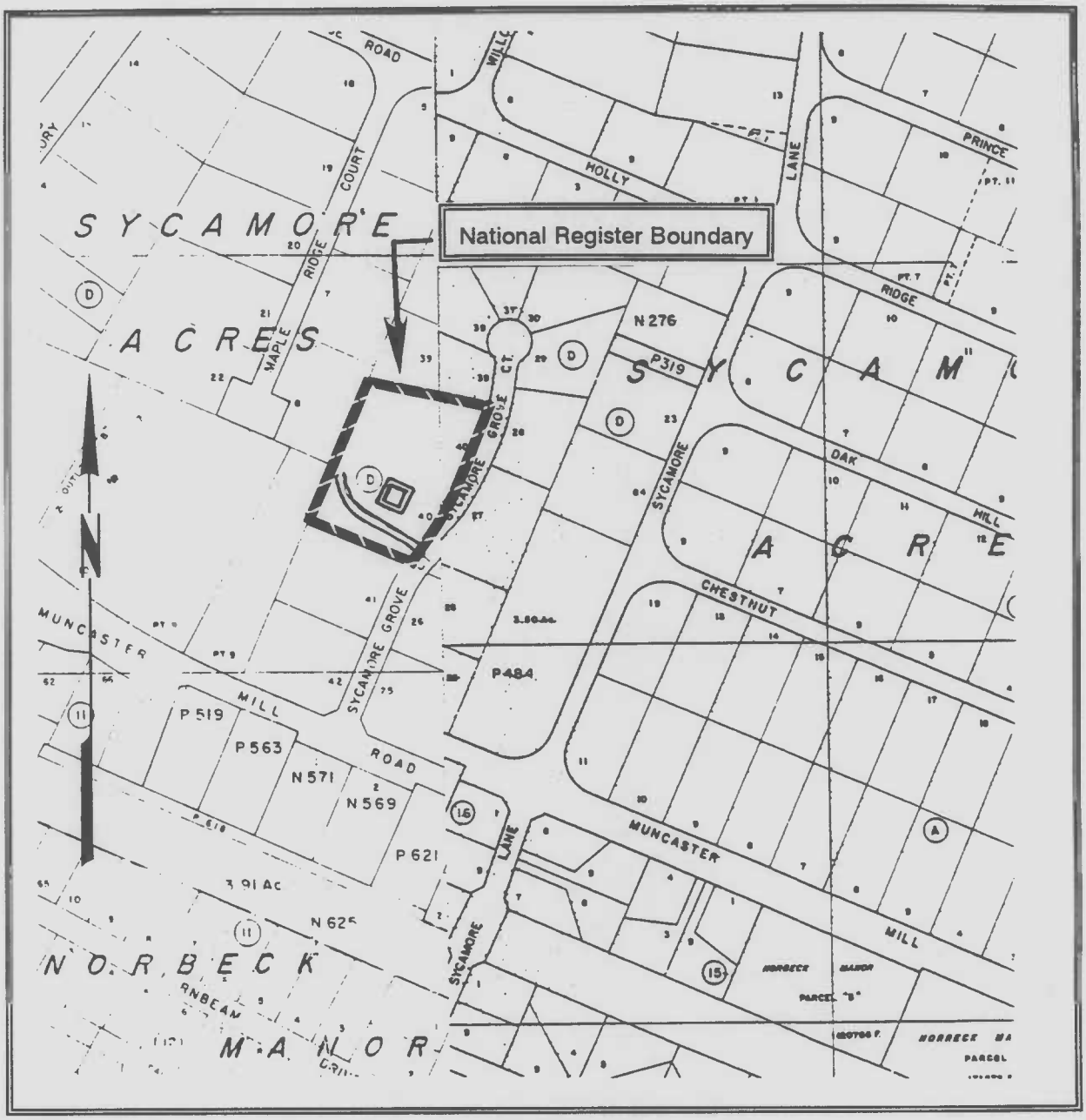
**Preparer:**
***P.A.C. Spero & Company***
**December 1996**

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST ADDENDUM SHEET**
**INTERCOUNTY CONNECTOR PROJECT**

**Property Name: Sycamores**
**Survey No.: M:23-112 (PACS A5.10)**

Property Address 15708 Sycamore Grove Court, Rockville vicinity (Norbeck), Montgomery County, MD
Owner Name/Address Douglas Horsman, 15708 Sycamore Grove Court, Rockville, MD 20853
Year Built circa 1850

**Resource Sketch Map and National Register Boundary Map:**




**Preparer:**
***P.A.C. Spero & Company***
**December 1996**

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

*Intercounty Connector Project*
*Upgrade Existing Roads Alternative*
*Quad Kensington, MD*
*Survey No. M:23-112 (PACS A5.10)*
*Property Name Sycamores*

1 M: 23-112

2 Sycamores

3 Montgomery County

4 Caroline Hall

5 June 1996

6 PAC Spec and Company 40 W Chesapeake Ave
Suite 412 Towson MD 21204

7 north and west elevations of Main House,
15708 Sycamore Grove Court

8 1 of 3

1 M:23-112

2 Sycamores

3 Montgomery County

4 Caroline Hall

5 June 1996

6 PAC Spero and Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave.
Suite 412 Towson MD 21204

7 south and east elevations, 15' N.
Sycamore Drive

8 2 of 2

M:23-112
(date entered 5-12-80)

# ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name: Sycamores

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 23/112 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 16 C-7

4. Address: 4629 Muncaster Mill Road, Rockville

5. Classification Summary

Category building
Ownership private
Public Acquisition N/A
Status occupied
Accessible no
Present use private residence

Previous Survey Recording Title and Date: M-NCPPC 1976 Inventory of Historical Sites

Federal ___ State x County x Local ___

6. Date: c. 1867 7. Original Owner: Adrian Rowe Wadsworth

8. Apparent Condition

a. fair b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This two-and-a-half story, three bay by three bay stonehouse sits on a hill facing south. It has three foot thick fieldstone walls now covered by whitewashed stucco. A shed roof supported by square posts wraps around all four elevations of the house. There are six-over-six double-hung windows flanked by black wooden louvered shutters. There are three shingled gabled dormers on the north and south elevations set into the mansard roof; on the east and west elevations there are two gabled dormer windows. The mansard roof is covered by wooden shingles and has a bracketed cornice line.

10. Significance: This handsome stone farmhouse is associated with farming families from its construction in 1867 until 1947. Adrian Rowe Wadsworth bought the 263 acre farm from the Samuel D. Walker estate in 1867. Born in Connecticut and a lawyer by training, Wadsworth farmed the land for 21 years, selling the farm to Mary and Edward Prescott, who moved to the Sycamores from Illinois. Ten years later, their son Alexander Fullerton Prescott was granted a lease to the farm; then later, their daughter Marguerite and her husband Harry Beard were granted the remaining land and operated a dairy farm at Sycamores. In 1947 one of their children sold the farm to a builder, retaining the house and 16 acres, but sold that two years later. Dallas M. and Lucille A. Grady bought the property in 1957. Their two children now live in the house, part of the still unsettled Grady estate.

11. Researcher and date researched: Margaret Coleman-7/79 Candy Reed Arch. Description

12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock 13. Date Compiled: 10/79 14. Designation Approval ___

15. Acreage: 16.12 acres

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 23/112
MAGI:

# INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC: Sycamores

AND/OR COMMON:

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 4629 Muncaster Mill Road

CITY, TOWN: Rockville — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 8

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Montgomery

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __DISTRICT | __PUBLIC | X OCCUPIED | __AGRICULTURE | __MUSEUM |
| X BUILDING(S) | X PRIVATE | __UNOCCUPIED | __COMMERCIAL | __PARK |
| __STRUCTURE | __BOTH | __WORK IN PROGRESS | __EDUCATIONAL | X PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| __SITE | **PUBLIC ACQUISITION** | **ACCESSIBLE** | __ENTERTAINMENT | __RELIGIOUS |
| __OBJECT | __IN PROCESS | __YES: RESTRICTED | __GOVERNMENT | __SCIENTIFIC |
| | __BEING CONSIDERED | __YES: UNRESTRICTED | __INDUSTRIAL | __TRANSPORTATION |
| | | X NO | __MILITARY | __OTHER: |

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Dallas M. and Lucille A. Grady (heirs) Telephone #: 924-5246

STREET & NUMBER: 4629 Muncaster Mill Road

CITY, TOWN: Rockville — VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: Maryland 20855

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 2325
Folio #: 120

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: Rockville

STATE: Maryland 20850

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE: 1976 — __FEDERAL X STATE X COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN: Rockville

STATE: Maryland 20855

## 7 DESCRIPTION

M:23-112

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---|---|---|
| __EXCELLENT | __DETERIORATED | __UNALTERED | X_ORIGINAL SITE |
| __GOOD | __RUINS | X_ALTERED | __MOVED DATE_____ |
| X__FAIR | __UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two story plus mansard stone house sits on a hill facing south. Its three foot thick fieldstone walls have been covered by stucco and whitewash. Rubble was thrown into board forms, into which mortar was poured. As the mortar hardened, the forms were moved up to receive another course, and so on.[a]

A shed roof, supported by square posts, extends around all four sides of the house. A raised wooden porch floor, supported from below by brick posts, starts at the northwest corner of the west elevation and continues around the south elevation to the center of the east elevation. A simple wooden railing with narrowly spaced square balusters is interrupted only where stairs climb up to the porch on the south, east, and west elevations. On the north elevation and northeast half of the east elevation the porch has ground level brick flooring. Seven wooden steps ascend north to south to the porch on the south elevation. The south (front) door is centered between two windows. It is paneled, flanked by three-light sidelights and surmounted by a five-light transom. On the west elevation a wooden stairway leads up to the porch. A second stairway at the northwest corner leads up to the porch. On the east elevation a wooden stairway leads from the northeast corner. There is a narrow panelled wooden door on this elevation which is surmounted by a three-light transom. On the north elevation the door is centered and panelled. It is flanked by louvered wooden shutters. A wooden run of east and west ascending steps lead to a small central landing in front of this door.

There are large six-over-six double-hung windows throughout the house. They have molded lintels and are flanked by black louvered wooden shutters. On the west elevation at the northwest corner there is a six-over-nine light window. On the south and north elevations there are three shingled gabled dormer windows of one-over-one double windows. On the east and west elevations there are two shingled, gabled dormer windows of one-over-one double-hung windows. The upper section of all these dormer windows is set into an interior frame of smaller square panes of glass.

The house has a mansard roof and is covered by wooden shingles. It has a bracketed cornice line. There are four interior end chimneys constructed of brick with corbelled caps. Two are on the east elevation and two on the west elevation.

The house is set in from the road on a hill overlooking a beautifully landscaped area.

Originally the roof was pyramidal and nearly flat. A storm removed it in 1896, and it was replaced by the present mansard roof.

FOOTNOTE:

a. Farquhar, Roger Brooke; Historic Montgomery County, Maryland, Old Homes and History. Monumental Printing Co., Baltimore, Md. 1952; p. 302.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:23-112

| 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 | X OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History |
| | | __INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1867 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sycamores is significant for its architecture and for its association with several prominent Montgomery County families.

Adrian Rowe Wadsworth bought the 263 acre farm from the estate of Samuel D. Walker in 1867 for $3,116.50. No buildings were mentioned in the deed. The property included parts of two tracts, "Bradford's Rest," and "The Resurvey on Batchelor's Forest".[1]

Wadsworth, born in Connecticut, was a lawyer by training, but an attack of scarlet fever had left him deaf. Consequently he abandoned his New York law practice and moved to Montgomery County, where he had the present house built about 1867. The name of the designer and builder is not known.

In 1888, Wadsworth sold the farm to Mary Richardson Prescott for $20,000. Included in the sale were a wide variety of household goods, livestock, and farm equipment.[2] Prescott and her husband, Edward B. Prescott, moved to the Sycamores from Illinois. In 1898, their son Alexander Fullerton Prescott was granted a lease to the farm,[3] with further grants in 1916 and 1917.[4] The Prescott's daughter Marguerite, called "Daisy", was granted the remaining property in 1908 and 1920.[5] Daisy married Harry Beard of Rockville and they operated a dairy farm at the Sycamores.[6]

The four Beard children inherited The Sycamores -- William, Edward, Reginald, and Jocelyn. Jocelyn and her husband, Dr. Robert E. Moran, bought out the remaining heirs in 1947.[7]

The Morans sold the surrounding farm to Huggins and Gordon, Inc. in 1948, which was subdivided as "Sycamore Acres";[8] they retained the house and sixteen acres.

The O.L. Murdock Co. bought the old house and 16 acres from the Morans in 1929.[9] Dallas M. and Lucille A. Grady bought the property in 1957. None of the old furniture remained with the house. Grady was a real estate broker from Washington, D.C. Although he died in 1964 and she in 1977, the estate is not yet settled. The two Grady children now live in the house.[10]

FOOTNOTES:

See Attachment Sheet A

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

M:23-112

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Farquhar, Roger Brooke. Historic Montgomery County, Maryland, Old Homes and History. Monumental Printing Co., Baltimore, Md. 1952.

Interview with John F. Grady, July 11, 1979.

Land and Tax Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.


CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 16.12 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 — Candy Reed, Architectural Description

ORGANIZATION
Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE
7/79

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

Sycamores

FOOTNOTES:

1. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md. EBP 4/7 (April 5, 1867).
2. Ibid., JA 9/81 (January 3, 1888). The inventory included 9 horses, 4 colts, 19 steers, 26 sheep, 60 chickens, 2 cows, 1 wheat drill, miscellaneous farming equipment, 2 ox carts, 1 pair oxen, new double carriage, 12 shoats, 7 hogs, 1,000 pounds prk, 500 pounds fish, 18 bee hives, a sleigh and various other items.
3. Ibid., TD 2/199 (February 15, 1890).
4. Ibid., TD 258/316 (July 12, 1916); 258/475 (September 1, 1916); 262/423 (April 30, 1917).
5. Ibid., TD 198/26 (March 13, 1908); 290/67 (January 2, 1920).
6. Farquhar, Roger Brooke; Historic Montgomery County, Maryland, Old Homes and History. Monumental Printing Co., Baltimore, Md. 1952; p. 303.
7. Land Records, Op. Cit., 1099/141 (July 21, 1947).
8. Ibid., 1185/585 (August 19, 1948); Plat Book 34/2216 (June, 1948).
9. Ibid., 1299/456 (October 4, 1949).
10. Interview with John F. Grady, son of Dallas and Lucille Grady, July 11, 1979.

M#23-112

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

1606175604

# INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Sycamores

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

4629 Muncaster Mill Road

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __DISTRICT | __PUBLIC | ✓OCCUPIED | __AGRICULTURE | __MUSEUM |
| ✓BUILDING(S) | ✓PRIVATE | __UNOCCUPIED | __COMMERCIAL | __PARK |
| __STRUCTURE | __BOTH | __WORK IN PROGRESS | __EDUCATIONAL | ✓PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| __SITE | **PUBLIC ACQUISITION** | **ACCESSIBLE** | __ENTERTAINMENT | __RELIGIOUS |
| __OBJECT | __IN PROCESS | __YES: RESTRICTED | __GOVERNMENT | __SCIENTIFIC |
| | __BEING CONSIDERED | __YES: UNRESTRICTED | __INDUSTRIAL | __TRANSPORTATION |
| | | ✓NO | __MILITARY | __OTHER: |

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Dallas M. Grady

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

4629 Muncaster Mill Road

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #:

Folio #:

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

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:23-1P2

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---|---|---|
| __EXCELLENT | __DETERIORATED | __UNALTERED | ✓ORIGINAL SITE |
| ✓GOOD | __RUINS | ✓ALTERED | __MOVED DATE_____ |
| __FAIR | __UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a large Victorian house of unusual design and construction for this rural area. It is a large, square house, with walls formed by pouring cement and rubble into wooden forms. The exterior walls are covered with stucco, and the roof is a mansard roof, with three dormers on the main (west) facade. The roof forms the third, full story of the house. The roof is a replacement, however, being built after an 1896 storm damaged the original hip roof. An elevated, veranda-type porch surrounds the structure. There are newer farm buildings on the property, including a frame barn and tile silo.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

M:23-112

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| 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 | __ARCHITECTURE | __EDUCATION | __MILITARY | __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| __1700-1799 | __ART | __ENGINEERING | __MUSIC | __THEATER |
| ✓1800-1899 | __COMMERCE | __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | __PHILOSOPHY | __TRANSPORTATION |
| __1900- | __COMMUNICATIONS | __INDUSTRY | __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | __OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | __INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1853-54 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

See Farquhar's OLD HOMES AND HISTORY OF MONT. CO., MD. (1961) pp. 298-300.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

M:23-112

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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: 1975

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#23-112 HISTORY OF MONT. CO. - FARQUHAR; 1962

# Sycamores

THE massive structure shown below, constructed of stone covered with stucco, was built from 1853 to 1854 of rubble thrown into board forms, into which mortar was poured. When the mortar hardened the forms were moved up to receive another course, and so on. The house was the home of two very interesting families, both with traditional New England roots of education and culture.

The unusual house was built by Adrian Rowe Wadsworth on a farm of 240 acres which he purchased in June, 1853, and made his home for thirty-five years. His successor on the farm was Edward B. Prescott, who acquired the Sycamores in 1888. Both of these families, who trace their ancestry to New England, are examples of the culture and refinement of many who came from northern states to Maryland a century ago.

The Sycamores house stands on a lawn sloping toward the south about 400 feet from the highway, and is surrounded by sycamores from which the name was derived. A few of these trees still line the driveway. When Adrian Wadsworth purchased the farm for $3,116.50, it consisted of two plots, parts of Bradford's Rest and parts of Resurvey on Batchelor's Forest. The former was an original grant to Major John Bradford in June, 1713, and the second part at one time belonged to Philip Barton Key. The farm sale to Wadsworth was made under a decree of the court, by Richard J. Bowie, trustee, for the estate of Samuel D. Walker, deceased.

In 1813 the land was owned by John Ellicott, and in 1838 by Samuel Ellicott and his sister, Rachel, heirs at law of John Ellicott, of John. Samuel and Rachel sold the place later which at that time contained 723 acres for a consideration of $880.35, an average price of $1.25 per acre.

Adrian Rowe Wadsworth, born in Connecticut in March, 1815, after graduation from Yale studied law at Harvard Law School, was admitted to the bar in Hartford in 1840, and practiced in New York for two years. Because of deafness resulting from scarlet fever, he relinquished this work and settled at the Sycamores in 1853. His first wife was Margaret Radcliffe, of Brooklyn, to whom he was married in 1848. In 1861, Margaret Wadsworth died, and in 1870 he married Mrs. Antoinette Mallory, the widow of James S. Mallory, of Connecticut. Upon the death of the first Mrs. Wadsworth Charles Abert, who had just moved into Homewood, came to offer his sympathy to Wadsworth.

A cousin of Wadsworth came down from Connecticut to keep house for him and brought along a widow, Mrs. James S. Mallory, as chaperone. When the cousin was called back to Connecticut, Wadsworth married Mrs. Mallory. She had two sons, John and James S., Jr., in their teens at that time. James ran away to sea, but returned, worked on the farm, and in due course married Sophie Bache Abert, a daughter of Charles Abert, of Homewood. They moved to North Carolina some time later.

It is reported that when on the farm in those days, James, who was a hard worker, could be heard on an adjoining farm half-a-mile away "cussing" the colored boy, warning him to have the front gate opened for him when he returned from a drive.

Wadsworth, after his few slaves were freed in 1862, gave some of them lots, sold lots to others, and donated the plot on which the colored church and school at Mount Pleasant are located. He complained that after his generosity the slaves proceeded to work for the neighbors instead of for him. He was a "horseback farmer," doing little physical labor himself, but riding around the farm on a sorrel horse which always paced or cantered. The handicap of deafness kept him out of local activities, and he spent much time in his library.

Some years after their marriage, Wadsworth and his second wife travelled in Europe. He brushed up on his French, as Paris was the principal point of interest. "Nettie" Mallory Wadsworth was an accomplished woman of New York society who was able to speak good French. When they returned she amused their friends with accounts of the difficulties she had had to keep Adrian out of trouble with the Paris "cabbies" who could not understand his

M:23-112



pronunciation, while he could not hear what they said. Amusing situations were frequent along the Boulevards, she recounted.

Wadsworth purchased one of the first self-binders in the immediate neighborhood. When he was testing it the fence around the wheat field was covered with men atop the rails to watch the new "contraption." It is not known whether this was before or after Roger B. Farquhar bought his first binder on June 10, 1884. Adrian Wadsworth died in September, 1891, in his seventy-seventh year.

On January 3, 1888, the Sycamores with three hundred acres of land was conveyed by Adrian R. Wadsworth to Edward B. Prescott. The new owner was also a man of culture and education and an art connoisseur. He traced his ancestry to Colonel William Prescott, in command of the Colonial forces at the Battle of Bunker Hill, and to William Hickling Prescott, the historian.

Edward B. Prescott and his wife, Mary R., came from Illinois to Montgomery County in 1887, purchased the Sycamores farm, and settled there the next year. Allan McLane Abert, of Homewood, who passed away in April, 1951, at the age of eighty-six, wrote in a firm hand to the author less than a month before his death, giving facts about the Sycamores. Allan stated that when Edward Prescott was looking for a farm in Montgomery, Jacob Poss, a horseman of Rockville, was asked to drive the prospect to see the Sycamores. Poss had a speedy pair of dun-colored horses behind which he drove Prescott to the farm and back in such style and at such an exciting speed that the sale was made with ease.

Edward Prescott had become familiar with the work of artists in the galleries of this country and abroad. He spent nine years in Europe studying there. It was after this that he and his family settled at the Sycamores. He was born in 1844 and died in 1905. His wife, Mary, was born in 1846, and died in 1918.

Alexander Fullerton Prescott, a son of Edward and Mary, was born in Illinois in 1867. He received most of his education abroad when his parents were there. One of the schools he attended was Silligs, in Vevey, Switzerland. "Aleck" Prescott, as he was called, was reported by one who knew him well to have been exceptionally well-informed, his statements being always completely reliable. In 1889 he married Miss Edith Stanley Kellog of Washington before he had moved to Rockville. Alexander Prescott died in 1932, his wife in 1929, and both are interred in Union Cemetery.

A daughter of Edward B. and Mary Prescott was Daisy, who in 1906 married Harry Beard, a Rockville boy. Upon the death of Mrs. Beard's and Alexander's mother, the farm was left to the two of them, share and share alike. Later, Mrs. Beard and her husband bought the half share of Alexander, and during their lives operated a dairy farm there.

Daisy Prescott was a tomboy, very popular when she was a youngster in Rockville. She was known to ride her pony right into the old post office for the family mail. When she first moved to the Sycamores with her parents, she was reported by John Muncaster to speak French and German as fluently as English. John, who lived at Milton across the road, was then about eighteen and Daisy, about eight or ten years old. John recalls that, "she nearly scared me to death the first time she saw me by climbing on my lap." Whether she said to him, "Ich Libe dich," or "Je vous adore" John has not reported!

Stedman Prescott is a son of Alexander and Edith Prescott. He was born in the Sycamores house in 1896. Stedman obtained his law degree at Georgetown University Law School in 1919, and was admitted to the bar in 1924 to practice before Maryland and the District of Columbia Courts. In 1938 he was elected to a fifteen-year term as associate judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, one of the youngest judges ever elevated to that high office in Maryland. The fine minds of Alexander F. Prescott and his son, Stedman, have proven valuable in-

NO. 110 E-9 ADRIAN R. WADSWORTH 1853-'54
STONE RUBBLE FILLED WITH CEMENT MORTAR

M:23-112



heritances from their eminent forebears of New England. Judge Prescott married E. Callander Minnick in 1917, and they have four children.

After Harry Beard died in 1929 and Daisy in 1946, the old home was left to four Beard children, Jocelyn, Harry, Jr., Dale, and Reginald. Since 1948 the other heirs were bought out by Jocelyn Beard who is the wife of Dr. Robert E. Moran, the eminent surgeon of Washington. In 1950, all of the farm except sixteen acres retained with the house was sold to a real estate developer.

The interesting house built of rubble stone walls two feet thick is three stories high, has a full basement and is about sixty-five feet square. It originally had a nearly-flat pyramidal roof, which was blown off in a wind-storm in 1896, and was replaced by the present Mansard roof. There is a hall about eight feet wide on each floor, which runs through from north to south. There are two large square rooms on each side of the halls on each floor and two fireplaces in the whole house.

This unusual house was purchased in 1957, with 19½ acres surrounding it, by Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Morgan Grady. They are the pleased owners in 1961—in a lovely island of past glory—and have beautified the few acres with rustic fence, flowers, trees, and new driveway.

The rare care with which they have redecorated the interior of the sturdy house of more than a century in age is indescribably lavish, parlor, dining room, hallway and basement rooms, with two eating units, trophy rooms and bar, tastefully furnished, like a club room. Trophies galore, won by their daughter Mrs. Theodore Kalli, a member of the Goshen Hunt Club, are features.

# Tanglewood

ONE mile east of Ashton, on the highway to Ellicott City, an attractive and commodius house can be seen about one hundred yards back on the south side of the highway. It stands in a park-like lawn, surrounded by a forest of hardwood trees.

This house was built into a rare homestead, and occupied for fifty-seven years by one of the most valued and respected citizens of the County, Alban Gilpin Thomas. For thirty-five years of that time, his wife shared the home with him and they raised a family of two daughters and one son.

Alban G., son of Edward and Lydia Thomas, was born at Ashland in 1843. After establishing himself and his bride at nearby Tanglewood, on part of the parental estate, he began a career notable in the community so full of citizens of the finest type.

His bride was Susanna H. Leggett, born in Flushing, Long Island, in 1846. The Leggetts are an old and well-known Quaker family, still prominent in New York. In 1866 she came to Sandy Spring and lived with her sister Anna Leggett Moore, at Norwood, until her marriage in that old home on September 12, 1871. They moved into their new home in that year. The tract on which the house was built, a heavily wooded and well watered part of the Ashland farm containing 60¼ acres. The deed dated September 25, 1871, executed by Edward and Lydia Thomas states that it is granted "In consideration for love and affection we have for our son Alban G. Thomas," and included a nominal sum of cash.

He built up a unique store and merchandising business which he operated for twenty years in the village of Ashton and was an organizer, director, vice president and later chairman of the board of the Citizens National Bank of Laurel, Maryland. He was Treasurer and then President of the Savings Institution of Sandy Spring. In 1900 he established the First National Bank of Sandy Spring, and directed its affairs as President until 1928 when he became Chairman of the Board. His son Frederic L. Thomas succeeded his father as president.

Alban Thomas left a record in his community that will long be remembered. It was said of him: "He was simple and sincere, held tenaciously to what was good of the old, and yet was well abreast of all that was new. He cultivated beauty at home and loved beauty abroad. He was active in every movement that was for the betterment of the community." He died at the age of 85 in October, 1928. His wife had succumbed on January 5, 1906. The death of Sue Thomas was a source of deep bereavement to

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M:23-112

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

See correspondence dated April 8, 1987

**ACTION TAKEN**

Final Draft Amendment to the Master Plan
OLNEY AREA HISTORIC RESOURCES

The purpose of this Amendment is to designate the following sites on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation thereby extending to them the protection of the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code.

| | |
|---|---|
| M; 23/9 | Elton |
| M: 23/29 | Fair Hill II |
| M: 23/31 | Pleasant Fields/Sundown Hills |
| M: 23/58 | Gustavus Jones Farm |
| M: 23/63 | Longwood |
| M: 23/66 | Bordley's Choice (Merrywood) |
| M: 23/71 | Far View |
| M: 23/73 | Gittings Ha Ha |
| M: 23/79 | Roslyn Bank Barn |
| M: 23/84 | Brooke Meadow |
| M: 23/89 | Walnut Hill |
| M: 23/98-4 | St. John's Episcopal Church |
| M: 23/~~196~~ 106 | Oakdale-Emory United Methodist Church |
| M: 23/112 | Sycamores |
| M: 23/113-1 | Mount Pleasant Church |
| M: 23/119 | Holland Store & House |

M 23/112

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RECEIVED
MAR 24 1986
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MEMORANDUM

March 21, 1986

TO: Richard Ferrara, Director
Department of Housing and Community Development
John L. Menke, Director
Department of Environmental Protection
J. Rodney Little, Director
State Historic Preservation Office
Philip Cantelon, Chairperson
Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Melissa C. Banach, Coordinator
Community Planning North

SUBJECT: Preliminary Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Northern and Eastern Montgomery County Resources

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I am pleased to transmit to you this Preliminary Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Northern and Eastern Montgomery County Resources.

This document contains the recommendations of the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission on approximately 80 historic sites located in the Olney, Sandy Spring, Aspen Hill, and Burtonsville areas of the County.

The Montgomery County Planning Board will hold a public hearing on this Preliminary Draft Amendment on Monday, April 21, 1986, at 7:30 P.M., in the Auditorium of the Montgomery Regional Office at 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland.

Should you have any questions concerning this specific Preliminary Draft Amendment, please do not hesitate to contact Marty Reinhart at 495-4565.

MCB:MR:dws
Attachment

M:23-112

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

# AMENDMENT TO THE APPROVED AND ADOPTED MASTER PLAN FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

## NORTHERN AND EASTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC RESOURCES

Including sites located in the Olney, Sandy Spring, Aspen Hill, Norbeck and Burtonsville Areas

March 1986

An amendment to the 1980 Olney Master Plan, 1980 Sandy Spring/ Ashton Special Study Plan, 1970 Aspen Hill Master Plan, and the 1981 Eastern Montgomery County Master Plan; being also an amendment to the General Plan for the Physical Development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District and to the Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County, Maryland.

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

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Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3090

## IMPLEMENTATION

Once designated on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation, any substantial changes to the exterior of a resource or its environmental setting must be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission and a historic area work permit issued. The Ordinance also empowers the County's Department of Environmental Protection and the Historic Preservation Commission to prevent the demolition of historic buildings through neglect.

It is the intent of the Master Plan and Ordinance to provide a rational system for evaluating, protecting and enhancing Montgomery County's heritage for the benefit of present and future residents. The accompanying challenge is to weave protection for this heritage into the County's planning program so as to maximize community support for preservation and minimize infringement on private property rights.

## THE AMENDMENT

The purpose of this Preliminary Draft Amendment is to consider the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission's recommendations that the following sites be designated on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation and protected under the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code. A copy of the Ordinance is provided in Appendix B of this document.

*(NOTE: Unless otherwise specified in the Preservation Commission's nomination, the recommended environmental setting for each site is the entire parcel on which the resource is located as of the date it is designated on the Master Plan as defined in Section 24A-2 of the County's Preservation Ordinance. Where additional buildings of historical or architectural importance are associated with a site, these buildings are noted in the nomination as being part of the recommended setting.)*

| Atlas # | Site | Location |
|---|---|---|
| **15/55** | **Spencer/Carr House** | **2420 Spencerville** |

- Dating from 1855 with a rear section added in the 1870's, this three-story house is distinguished by three over three windows on the third floor and a one-story porch with bracketed pillars on the front facade.

- Significant as an example of the "Spencerville style", a local style characterized by a special grouping of architectural detail most notably half windows on the third story extending into the boxed cornice and roof line.

23/110 **Childs House** **16500 Emory Lane**

- Circa 1858 -- Two-story frame farmhouse in the rural colonial style accented by six over six windows and cornice returns.

- Good example of rural vernacular architecture constructed in the County during the later half of the 19th century.

12/112 **Sycamores** **4929 Muncaster Mill Road**

- Circa 1867 -- Second Empire style residence constructed of fieldstone, now covered by whitewashed stucco.

- Associated with the Prescotts and the Beards, prominent farming families in the County.

- The recommended environmental setting of approximately 5 acres is delineated so as to coincide, as closely as possible, with the fenced area surrounding the house.

23/113-1 **Mount Pleasant Church** **4101 Muncaster Mill Road**

- Built in the late 1800's the church is a one-story, white frame, stucco covered building with stained glass, lancet windows, stone foundation and a gabled roof covered with standing seam tin.

- Representative of rural vernacular church architecture of the late 19th century.

- Church has been associated with the local black community for nearly 100 years and was the religious and social center of the Mount Pleasant community in the 19th century.

- The recommended environmental setting includes the cemetery associated with the church.

23/118 **Amersley** **1721 Norbeck Road**

- Built in the 1880s', this Victorian residence is a stately version of the Queen Anne style, reflecting the restraint of its Quaker builder, R. Rowland Moore.

- The 1890's additions to the house re-enforced the simple, provincial design of the dwelling and contribute to making this one of the more interesting architectural resources of the Sandy Spring area.

- The nomination notes that the site is located in a 2-acre zone.