

CAPSULE SUMMARY

FOR

SAMUEL THOMAS MAGRUDER FARM

14800 SENECA ROAD, DARNESTOWN

Montgomery County Survey Prefix & Site Number: M-24/29

Approximate Building Date: circa 1830s and 1858

Town or Vicinity in which Resource is Located: Darnestown

Access: Private

The Samuel Thomas Magruder Farmhouse is a c1858 vernacular dwelling which, with its c1830s rear section, has largely retained its original exterior appearance and has notable interior features. In addition, there are a number of significant, historic outbuildings on the property. The Samuel Thomas Magruder Farm is historically significant for its function during the Civil War as a military camp and signal station. In addition, the house and its outbuildings are representative of changing agricultural practices and lifestyles from the early 19th century subsistence type farming to the mid 20th century specialized farming.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. M24-29

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Samuel Thomas Magruder Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 14800 Seneca Road ___ not for publication

city, town Darnestown ___ vicinity of congressional district 8

state MD county Montgomery

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Joan Iler et. al. tr.

street & number 5206 Glenwood Road telephone no.:

city, town Bethesda state and zip code MD 20814

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 9625

street & number 51 Monroe Street folio 855

city, town Rockville state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Montgomery County Locational Atlas of Historic Sites

date 1976 ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records M-NCPPC

city, town Silver Spring state MD

7. Description

Survey No. M 24-20

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Samuel Thomas Magruder Farmhouse is a c1858 vernacular dwelling which, with its c1830s rear section, has largely retained its original exterior appearance and has notable interior features.

The structure is a two and a half story, five bay frame dwelling with a Classical Revival style center portico and interior chimneys at both gable ends. The side gable roof is covered with slate shingles. The roof is met by a full entablature which rests directly above the second story windows. The main north facade is covered with flush board siding while remaining facades have narrow clapboard siding. The shuttered windows are six over six sash with simple sills. The foundation of the front section and rear ell is Seneca sandstone. Only the front section has a basement.

The main entrance is located in the center bay of the symmetrical north facade. A recessed entranceway contains two paneled wood doors with five light transom, paneled side walls and pilasters. Exterior glazed storm doors are surmounted with a single light transom. The one story one bay portico has a front gable with return cornice supported by twin squared corner columns. The portico has side wood railings and is reached by a short flight of stone steps with metal railings.

East and west gable ends contain pediments surrounding two small four light casement windows. The east end contains no other windows. On the west end two windows of different sizes are located on the first story and one window on the second story.

This main section has a center hall floor plan with two large rooms on each floor. The hall is dominated by a curving walnut staircase with turned balusters. Each room has a fireplace, one of which has a marble surround. Other significant interior features include shaped window cornices, random width Georgia pine floorboards and ten foot ceilings. Floor beams for the first floor are of whole logs. The cellar walls are of fieldstone and quarystone. The attic contains two small rooms lit by the gable end windows.

Attached to the southwest corner of the rear elevation is an ell built in two stages. On the west elevation, the middle two story two bay section was probably built in the 1830s as the original part of this dwelling. Windows contain six over three sash and the north bay entrance door is surmounted by a three light transom. The large brick chimney on the south elevation was originally exterior it was enclosed on the first level by the rear addition.

(Continued)

Continuation Sheet
M: 24-29 - Samuel Thomas Magruder Farm
Section 7: Description
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This center section has a hall and parlor floorplan. A hall and room are located on each floor with eight foot ceilings in first floor rooms, and large fireplace in the downstairs parlor. This part of the house is two steps lower than the main front section. The unusually thick connecting door between this section and the rear section was probably originally an exterior door.

The rear section of the ell is a one story one bay gable roof kitchen addition with a south facing bay window. This section, being one step down from the center section, was probably built by the Tschiffelys who owned the property from the 1880s to 1914. The entrance to this section is on the west from a one story porch which extends across the entire rear ell. The porch has a shed roof which is supported by four square columns and a sandstone foundation. A short flight of stone steps is located at the north end of the porch on the west elevation.

A two story two bay shed roof addition is located at the southeast corner where the rear ell meets the main block. The addition is enclosed at the second level and has an open porch supported by two squared posts at the first level.

The present portico on the main facade, constructed in the early 20th century (c1917-1935), replaced the original full width porch. By the time of the Tschiffely ownership (1880s-1917), the driveway ended in a teardrop approach in front of this north porch.¹ Under the ownership of Charles Iler (1948 to present) the kitchen addition was altered through replacement of its flat tin roof with a gable roof and addition of a bay window on the south facade.

To the west of the house stands a four bay bank barn with raised seam metal covering its gable roof and foundation of Seneca sandstone. Probably built in the mid 19th century, and certainly by 1884, the barn is covered with board and batten siding and ventilated by louvered windows typical of barns in that era.² The upper level is accessed by a pair of large hinged doors. A later shed roof addition was constructed on the east end as a wagon drive through. The openings were later boarded up when it was converted to horse stalls by the present owner.

North of the bank barn is a one story, three bay building constructed in the early 20th century as a dairy house. Protected by a standing seam metal roof, the building has clapboard siding and concrete foundation. Window and door alterations were made when the building was converted into a tenant house by the current owner in

(Continued)

Continuation Sheet
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the mid 20th century. About the same time a garage and attached stable were built to accommodate the horse breeding business.

A hay barn which stands at the south end of the property was built by 1884. Covered with vertical board siding and sheltered by a corrugated metal roof, the long, low, one and a half story barn or barracks has one small window covered by a hinged door in each outer bay and a pair of large doors in the center bay which open along metal tracks. Converted to a horse barn after 1948, it was then given a concrete foundation. A one story shed roof addition is located on the east gable end. This building is slated for demolition in a subdivision plan approved in June 1992. A springhouse west of the bank barn is also slated for demolition.

The original detached kitchen, in use before the present kitchen addition was built, was located behind (south of) the main house. No visible evidence remains today.

The corn house, ice house, carriage house and another hay barn (barracks) described in 1884 are no longer extant.

Located on a rise overlooking the surrounding countryside, the Magruder House sits in a cluster of mature trees and boxwoods. It has retained its rural setting in spite of nearby residential development. This setting is important to the nineteenth century character of the house which has largely been retained.

8. Significance

Survey No.

M 24-29

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c.1858 Builder/Architect Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Summary: The Samuel Thomas Magruder Farm is historically significant for its function during the Civil War as a military camp and signal station. In addition, the house and its outbuildings are representative of changing agricultural practices and lifestyles from the early 19th century subsistence type farming to the mid 20th century specialized farming.

Situated on land overlooking the Potomac River from an elevation of 400 feet, the Magruder Farm is located some 20 miles from the U.S. Capitol. This strategic location served as the division headquarters for Union General Nathaniel P. Banks, was the site of a signal station and a signal corps school.

Following the Confederate victory of Bull Run in July 1861, General Banks brought his troops to this area in late August to counter any Rebel activity. Banks was responsible for three brigades which guarded Potomac crossings as far north as Harpers Ferry.³ Banks established his headquarters in the Magruder House where he and his staff resided. The Magruder family is said to have retreated at that time to the attic of the house. Topographers' tents were pitched within the walls of nearby house ruins, the cellar walls of which contained the camp's kitchen and mess room. Defensive fortifications were located nearby.⁴

The U.S. Signal Corps established three signal stations from Sugarloaf Mountain to Washington, including one at Banks' Magruder House Headquarters. By late September the line, employing a system of flags at day and torches at night to communicate detection of Confederate movement, extended to Harpers Ferry, with stations located an average of ten miles apart.

The signal station was located in a chestnut tree on the southwestern part of Magruder Farm. The treetop was made accessible by a system of ladders, scaffolding, leading to and from a wooden platform

(Continued)

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M: 24-29 - The Samuel Thomas Magruder Farmhouse

Section 8: SIGNIFICANCE

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in the crown of the tree. A camp of topographic engineers and defensive fortifications located near the tree. Sketches of signal tree station with tent and Camp Magruder showing stone foundations of unknown structure.⁵ This signal station was in use from the summer of 1861 to the fall of 1862.⁶ The tree is believed to have been located along present day Signal Tree Lane on the crest of a hill approximately 1/4 mile north of River Road. A signal corps school, about which little is known, is said to have operated from this location.⁷

The property was formerly a 1,392 acre estate known as Springfield composed of property which Hardage Lane, operator of a Potomac River ferry boat, inherited from his father-in-law Ninian Beall. Lane's house may well have been the log and stone structure which was destroyed by fire before the Civil War when its ruins were still extant.⁸

The rear section of the house was constructed by 1840, probably in the 1830s by either Clemet Smith who acquired the property in 1832 or Daniel Denham who lost the property in 1840 after owning it one year. At that time, Denham's possessions included three large mahogany tables, three beds, and a pianoforte.⁹

Samuel Thomas Magruder probably built the main north section of the house about 1858, after purchasing the 267 3/4 acre estate for \$2401.71 in 1845.¹⁰ The locally prominent Magruder family was active in the military and political affairs of early Montgomery County. Wife Mary L.C. Magruder.

The Magruders were said to be of Southern sympathy. A Confederate soldier relative, Col. Nicholas Dorsey, escaped from imprisonment in Baltimore to the Magruder House, arriving just before the Union Army. According to family lore Dorsey disguised himself in one of Magruder's suits, "calmly walked down the front steps of the house, waved a pleasant greeting to the sentries, ambled out the driveway and got a ride on a wagon to Seneca, where he was rowed across the river to Virginia and safety." The Magruders had seven slaves including a cook, two maids, a butler, and a teamster.¹¹

The Magruders struggled to recover from the occupation. The worm fences and post and beam fences had been used to fuel camp fires and livestock, including cows, pigs and chickens, taken to feed the troops.¹²

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Continuation Sheet

M: 24-29 - The Samuel Thomas Magruder Farmhouse

Section 8: SIGNIFICANCE

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After the death of both elder Magruders in the early 1880s, the farm remained in the family and became the homeplace of their daughter Mary and her husband Wilson B. Tschiffely. Wilson, the son of Frederick Tschiffely of Gaithersburg's Kentlands, operated Seneca Mills, at River Road and Seneca Creek, from about 1900, owned a fleet of boats and warehouse on the canal, and sold farm products.¹³ The farm was sold out of the family in 1917, three years after Wilson's death.

The property suffered a decline in subsequent decades when it went through a period marked by abandonment and use as a summer residence. The farm has been owned since 1948 by Charles Iler (now in trust by his daughter Joan Iler) who converted it into a thoroughbred horse farm.¹⁴

In a subdivision plan approved in 1992, the house, bank barn, tenant house, and garage are to be situated on a five acre lot, surrounded by 21 more similar sized lots. The springhouse and hay barn are scheduled for demolition. As of this writing, construction for the subdivision has not yet begun.

The main section of the house has unusually fine details for the region. The original rear section is a well preserved example of an early 19th century vernacular dwelling. The bank barn is an especially noteworthy outbuilding as a fine example of the building type and for its prominent location.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. ^M24-29

See Attached Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 123.19A

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Clare Lise Cavicchi

organization M-NCPPC date May, 1994

street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone (301) 495-4570

city or town Silver Spring state MD

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7400

Continuation Sheet

M: 24-29 - The Samuel Thomas Magruder Farmhouse

Preservation Planning Data:

- a. Geographic Organization: Piedmont
- b. Chronological/Development Period:
Agricultural-Industrial Transition - A.D. 1815-1870
- c. Historic Period Themes:
Agriculture
Architecture
Military
- d. Resource Type:
Category - Buildings, Sites
Historic Environment - Rural
Historic Function - Farmhouse/Outbuildings, Camp, Signal Station
Uses: Residential, Agricultural, Military

Chain of Title

- 1832 Clemet Smith (Deed BS 5:401)
- 1845 Clemet Smith to Samuel Thomas Magruder
267 3/4 acres \$8.97/acre (Deeds STS 1:327 & 328)
- 1883 Magruder dies, bequeathes property to daughters Mary and Vandelia subject to dower rights of their mother Mary L.C. Magruder (Equity #3088, 26:95)
- 1884 Mary L.C. Magruder & Vandelia Magruder Owen, wife of Thomas Owen Wilson B. Tschiffeley, husband of Mary Magruder (Deed EBP 33:109)
- 1917 John J.S. Athey, \$16,035 (Deed 262:18 & Equity PBR 262:18)
- 1924 John S.J. Athey & Rebecca Athey to Thomas Athey (Deed 362:332)
- 1935 Thomas & Willy Beall Athey to Federal Land Band (Deed 604:373)
- 1941 Federal Land Bank to Ross & Jennie Snyder, \$12,500 (Deed 855:243)
- 1948 to Present: Jane Snyder Estate to Charles B. Iler (Deed 1204:9)
- 1941 Ross and Jennie Snyder (\$12,500), Deed 855:243

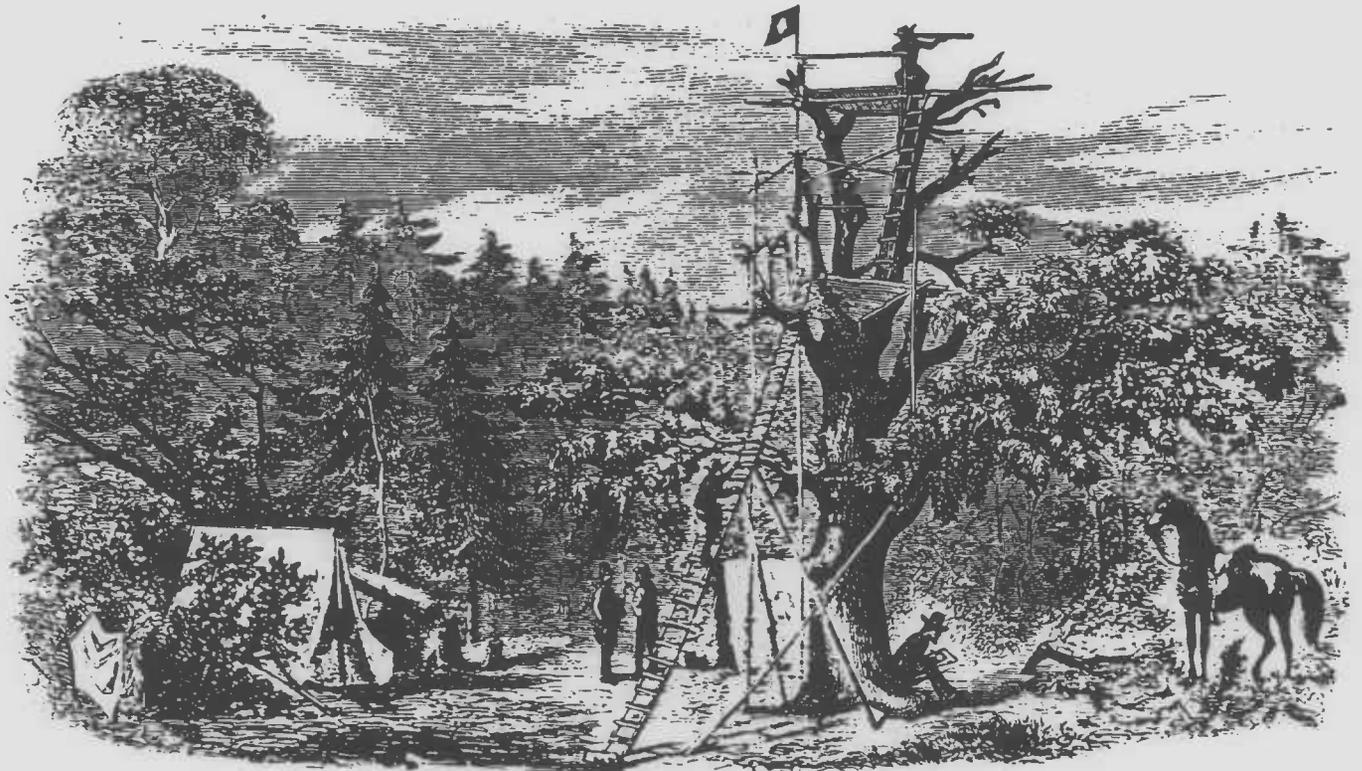
Continuation Sheet

M: 24-29 - The Samuel Thomas Magruder Farmhouse



"Topographical Encampment, Magruder's"
Harper's New Monthly Magazine 33:196 (September
1866), 421.

Continuation Sheet
M: 24-29 - The Samuel Thomas Magruder Farmhouse



SIGNAL-STATION, MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

"Signal-Station, Montgomery County"
Harper's New Monthly Magazine 33:197 (October
1866), 547.

Continuation Sheet

M: 24-29 - The Samuel Thomas Magruder Farmhouse

Endnotes

¹ Claude Owen, "Remembering the Civil War," in **History of Potomac**, Potomac Almanac, 1970.

²Equity #3088, Mont Co Judgement Record, 26/95, cited in Crawford MHT form.

³ Major sources of information for this section are Nancy Houston's articles "Springfield" and "The Darnestown Signal Tree" in **Little Acorn** (Dec 1989 and October 1984) and Catherine Crawford's MHT Form (8/83).

⁴ The ruined log and stone house was probably built by Hardage Lane about 1799 when he established his 1,392 acre Springfield estate here. (**Harper's New Monthly Magazine**, Oct 1866, 546-7 illus and desc.)

⁵ **Harper's New Monthly Magazine**, (Oct 1866), 546-7, illustration and description.

⁶ Sheila Smith Cochran, "River Road: An Early History", 1986 (revised 1990), 18.

⁷ Conversation with Rick Griffin, 4-13-94.

⁸**Harper's New Monthly Magazine**, Oct 1866, 546-7 illus and desc.

⁹ Nancy Houston, "Springfield" article and research notes, Deed BS 5:401 (1832).

¹⁰ Crawford: Montgomery County Tax Assessment Records, 1841-1876. Deed STS 1:328.

¹¹Claude Owen, "Remembering the Civil War," **History of Potomac**, Potomac Almanac, 1970. Owen was a grandson of S.T. Magruder.

¹²Ibid.

¹³Houston, "Springfield," and Owen, "Seneca, Once a Commercial Center."

¹⁴ Deed 1204:9

Continuation Sheet

M: 24-29 - The Samuel Thomas Magruder Farmhouse

Section 9: MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Unpublished Sources

Assessment Records, 1841-1876.

Crawford, Catherine. **Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form**. Survey No. 24-29. August 1983.

Deeds, Land Records Office. See chain of title for references.
(Montgomery County Courthouse)

Equity Record #3088. (Montgomery County Courthouse)

Griffin, Patrick J., III. Telephone interview by Clare Lise Cavicchi, 4-13-1994.

----- . Research files including cartes de visite of Major General Nathaniel Prentis Banks and another showing the Signal Tree, and various published articles.

Houston, Nancy. Deed references. Houston research files.

Iler, Charles. Interview by Lois Snyderman, 11-1993.

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Robinson & Associates. Locational Atlas Historical Survey of 400 Resources, Survey Form, Summer 1989.

Snyderman, Lois. Draft architectural description. January 1994.

Published Sources

Boyd, T.H.S. **The History of Montgomery County, Maryland, From Its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879**. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968 (originally 1879).

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M: 24-29 - The Samuel Thomas Magruder Farmhouse

Section 9: MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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"Topographical Camp, Darnestown" and "View from Head-Quarters, Darnestown," illustrations, 421 & 425. In October (#197), "Topographical Encampment", "Signal-Station, Montgomery County", and "Encampment of Signal Party, Darnestown, Maryland," 546-548.

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----- "Springfield," Darnestown in the Past column. **The Little Acorn.** December 1989, 11-14.

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----- "Seneca, Once a Commercial Center," in **History of Potomac,** Potomac Almanac, 1970.

Philadelphia Inquirer. September 28, 1861 Correspondence of the Harrisburg Patriot and Union. Camp near Darnestown, Maryland. 11-5-1861. (Griffin collection)

Quaife, Milo M. (Editor). **From the Cannon's Mouth.** Wayne State University Press and Detroit Historical Society (1959), 32-3. (Griffin collection)

Continuation Sheet

M: 24-29 - The Samuel Thomas Magruder Farmhouse

Section 9: MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Page 9.3

Scharf, J. Thomas. **History of Western Maryland.** 1879.

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----- . **Montgomery County: Two Centuries of Change.**
Woodland Hills, Cal: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1984.



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FORM
LOCATIONAL MAP

SURVEY NO.: M.24/29
PROPERTY NAME: S. Thomas Magruder Farm
TOWN: Darnestown
COUNTY: MONTGOMERY
QUADRANGLE: Seneca, MD-VA



S Thomas Magruder Farm (View from
entrance gate)

M-24/29

14800 Seneca Rd

~~Germanstown~~ ^{Darnestown}, MD 20874 (Mont. Cty)

L Snyderman

11/93

North (Main)

NEG: MD SHPO

1 of 8

8910-26



S. Thomas Magruder Farm

M-24/29

14800 Seneca Rd
~~Georgetown~~, MD 20874 (Mont. Cty)

L Snyderman

11/93

North (main)

NEG: MD SHPO

2off

8910-27



S Thomas Magruder Farm

M-24/29

14800 Seneca Rd.

~~Germany~~ Darnestown, MD 20874 (Mont. Cty)

L Snyderman

11/93

North (main)

NEG: MD SHPO

30f8

8910-28



S Thomas Magruder Farm

M-24/29

14800 Seneca Road

~~Germanstown~~, MD 20874 (Mont. Cty)

L Snyderman

11/93

East

NE6: MD SHPO

4 of 8

8910-34



S Thomas Magruder Farm

M 24/29

14800 Seneca Rd
~~German town~~ ^{Darnestown} MD 20874 (Mont. Cty)

L Snyderman

11/92

East (Right)

South (Left)

NE6: MD SHPO

5078

8910-35



S. Thomas Magruder Farm

M-24/29

14800 Seneca Rd
~~Germantown~~ ^{Darnestown} MD 20874 (Mont Cty)

L Snyderman

11/93

South (Right)

West (Left)

NE6: MD SHPO

6688

13-0158



S Thomas Magruder Farm

M-24/29

14800 Seneca Rd

~~Germanytown~~ ^{Darlington}, MD 20874 (West. Cty)

L Snyderman

11/93

~~WAT~~
NE6: MD SHPD

7 of 8

8910-30



S. Thomas Magruder Farm

M-24/29

14800 Seneca Rd

~~German town~~ Darnestown, MD 20874 (Mont. City)

L Snyderman

11/93

West

NEG: MD JHPO

8.78

8910-29



S. Thomas Magruder Farm (Outbldg.) (^{Bank} Barn)

M-24/29

14800 Seneca Rd

~~Cesmanstown~~ ^{Darnestown}, MD 20874 (West. City)

L Snyderman

11/93

South (left)

West (right)

NEG: MD SHPO

1 of 9

8910-32



S Thomas Magruder Farm (Outbuildings)

M-24/29

14800 Seneca Road
~~Darnestown~~
~~Germanstown~~ MD 20874 (mont. city)

L Snyderman

11/93

West

NEG: MD SHPO

2 of 9

8910-37(36A)



S Thomas Magruder Farm (Tenant House)

M-24/29

14800 Seneca Road

~~Darnestown~~ MD. 20874 (Mont. City)

Lois Snyderman

11/93

South

NEG: MD SHPO

3 of 9

9038-1



S. Thomas Magruder Farm (Outbuilding) (Barn)

M-24/29

14800 Seneca Rd.

~~Darnestown~~ MD 20874 (Mont. Cty.)

L Snyderman

11/93

North

NEG: MD JMO

4 of 9

9038-5



S. Thomas Magruder Farm (Outbldgs)

(Garage, Horse stable)

M-24/29

14800 Seneca Rd

~~Darlington~~ MD 20874 (Mont. Cty)

L Snyderman

11/93

South

NEG: MD SHPO

3 of 9

8910-33



S. Thomas Magruder Farm (outbuilding)

M 24/29

(GARAGE & HORSE
STALLS)

14800 Seneca Rd

~~Darnestown~~
Darnestown MD 20874 (Mont. Cty.)

L Snyderman

11/93

North

NEG - MD SHPO

6 of 9

9038-4



S Thomas Magruder Farm (^{Bank} ~~Bein~~)

M-24/29

14800 Seneca Rd

~~Getmantown~~ ^{Darnes} MD 20874 (Mont. Cty.)

L Snyderman

11/93

North

NEG: MD SHPO

7 of 9

9038-3



S Thomas Magruder Farm (^{Band} Barn)

M-24/29

14800 Seneca Rd.

~~German~~ ^{Darnestown} MD 20874 (Mont. City)

L Snyderman

11/93

North

NEG: MD SHPO

Pof?



S Thomas Magruder Farm (VIEW ^{from field} OF HOUSE
& OUTBLOGS)

M-24/29

14800 Seneca Rd

~~Damascus~~ Germantown MD 20874 (Mont. City)

L. Snyderman

11/93

SOUTH

9 of 9

NEG: MDJHP0

9038-6

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. M 24-29

Magi No. 160655504

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Samuel Thomas Magruder House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 14800 Seneca Rd. not for publication

city, town Darnestown vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Charles B. Iler

street & number 14800 Seneca Rd. telephone no.: 948-5369

city, town Darnestown, Md. state and zip code 20767

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 1204

street & number folio 9

city, town Rockville state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MNCPPC Historic Sites Inventory

date 1976 federal state county local

pository for survey records Park Historian's Office

city, town Rockville state Md.

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<div style="text-align: right; margin-bottom: 5px;">(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center; width: 45%;"> (Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 45%;"> (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site </div> </div>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The house is a two story, frame house with a 1-1/2 story rear el. The rear el is supposedly older than the front part.</p> <p>The main (north) facade is five bays with a central transom-lighted doorway. At either end are internal brick chimneys (rebuilt). The windows are 6/6 double hung sash. Siding is tongue and groove. There is a wide fascia below the boxed cornice. At one time a front porch ran across the entire facade; it has been replaced by a pedimented porch.</p> <p>The rear section is 1-1/2 stories with an external chimney on the south end; originally it was stone but is rebuilt in brick. On the west wall it has a door with transom and one window. The second floor windows are 6/3 double hung sash. The one story kitchen is a recent addition.</p> <p>In plan, the house has a central hall and flanking parlors. The rear wing is a hall and single room. The architraves of the front rooms are all low pediments.</p> <p>West of the house is a bankbarn. The trusses are mortised, tenoned, and pegged with shouldered tenons. The wall under the overhang was originally upright cribbing framed between plate and sill.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. Significance

Survey No. .

M:24-29

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 checked="" 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

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Samuel Magruder House is a late 1850 vernacular dwelling. Its present porticoed front porch gives the house today a somewhat Classical Revival appearance. This porch for sometime has replaced the original porch which ran the length of the facade. Aside from the porch and the replacement of the chimneys, the house has retained its original appearance which includes some interesting architectural details both inside and out.

As a farm its location, bordering on the C&O Canal, was prime, making transportation of produce out, and fertilizer, etc in, very easy. Because of its location it was also used during the Civil War by a regiment of Union soldiers under the command of General Nathaniel Banks. They erected a look-out platform on the property from which they could view any attempts by the enemy to cross the river into their territory.¹

The house was built by Samuel Thomas Magruder of the Magruder family who were among the earlier settlers of Montgomery County. The Magruders were very much involved in the military and political affairs of early Montgomery County. Here, Samuel Magruder ran a farm.

Samuel purchased the 267 3/4 acres of the "Springfield" tract² on which the house was built in October of 1845 at \$8.97 per acre. The house was probably built about 1858.³ Samuel died in July of 1883 leaving his property to his two daughters, Mary and Vandelia, subject to the dower rights of their mother, Mary L.C. Magruder.⁴ Then in September of 1884, Mary L.C. and Vandelia sold their interest in the property to Wilson B. Tschiffely, the husband of their daughter and sister, Mary. The house was at this time described as a frame dwelling, two stories with an attic and cellar containing a total of twelve rooms, with porches on the front and sides. The farm was also improved by a barn, two barracks, a carriage house, corn house, ice house and other necessary farm buildings.⁵ Wilson was a farmer and miller, owning a large mill adjacent to the farm

See Attachment Sheet A

Attachment Sheet A

(formerly owned by Upton Darby), for the grinding of wheat and corn. His operation included a warehouse on the C&O Canal and a fleet of canal boats.⁶

In January of 1917 the farm was sold to John J.S. Athey for \$16,035.⁷ It remained in the Athey family until 1935. In 1941 the house was purchased by Bethesda lawyer, Ross Snyder and his wife, Jennie who used it as a week-end home.⁸ They used it only a few years and it then remained vacant until it was purchased by the present owner, Charles B. Iler in 1848.⁹ Mr. Iler runs a throughbred horse farm on the property today.

Also the the property is a particularly noteworthy bank barn which sits to the west of the house.

¹ Claude W. Owens, "Remembering the Civil War," Potomac Almanac, 1976.

² Deed STS 1/327 & 328, Montgomery County Land Records.

³ Montgomery County Commissioners Tax Assesment Books, 1841-1876.

⁴ Equity #3088, Montgomery County Judgement Records, 26/95.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Claude Owens, "Seneca, Once a Commercial Center," Potomac Almanac, 1976.

⁷ Deed 262/18, Montgomery County Land Records.

⁸ Deed 855/243, "

"

⁹ Deed 1204/9, "

"

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No.

M:24-29

Montgomery County Land Records
 Montgomery County Judgement Records
 Claude Owens articles in Potomac Almanac, 1976
 Conversation with Mr. Charles Iler, 7/83

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 143.19 acres

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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E

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F

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G

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H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Catherine Crawford

organization Mont. Co. Hist. Pres. Comm.

date 8/83

street & number _____

telephone _____

city or town _____

state _____

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
 Shaw House
 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

160635304

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: S. Thomas Magruder House				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 14800 Seneca Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Darnestown				
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Montgomery	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
				ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
				<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
				<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Charles Iler				
STREET AND NUMBER: 14800 Seneca Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Darnestown			STATE: Maryland	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Montgomery County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville			STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: None				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	

M:24-29

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a two story, frame house with a 1-1/2 story rear el. The rear el is supposedly older than the front part.

The main (north) facade is five bays with a central transom-lighted doorway. At either end are internal brick chimneys (rebuilt). The windows are 6/6 double hung sash. Siding is tongue and groove. There is a wide fascia below the boxed cornice. At one time a front porch ran across the entire facade; it has been replaced by a pedimented porch.

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In plan, the house has a central hall and flanking parlors. The rear wing is a hall and single room. The architraves of the front rooms are all low pediments.

West of the house is a bankbarn. The trusses are mortised, tenoned, and pegged with shouldered tenons. The wall under the overhang was originally upright cribbing framed between plate and sill.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8 SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losaphy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humon-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itorian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:24-29

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES.		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC DATE: 22 May 74

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

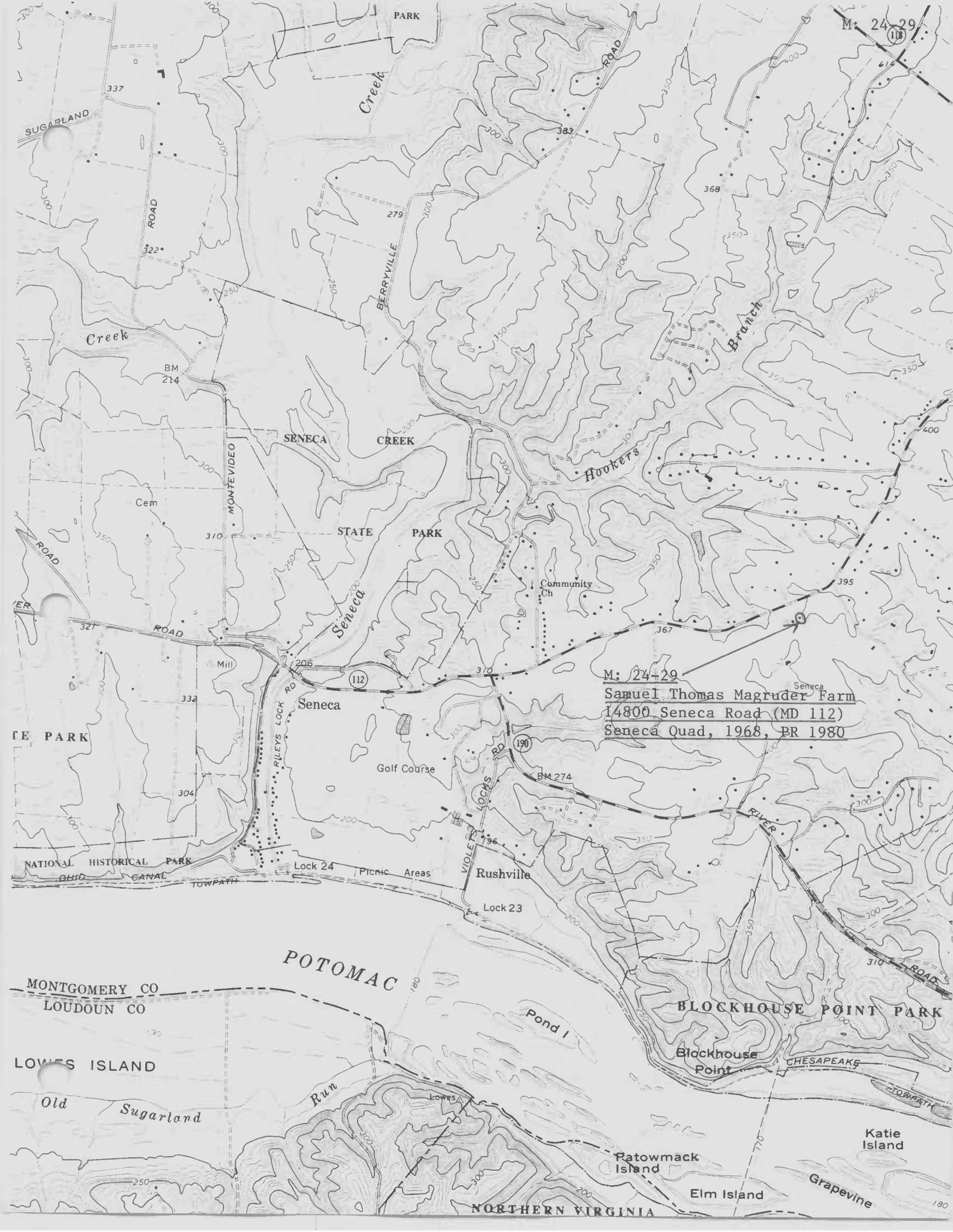
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



M: 24-29
(112)

SUGARLAND

Creek

Creek

ROAD

BM 214

MONTVIDEO

SENECA CREEK

STATE PARK

Seneca

Community Ch

Hookers

Branch

ROAD

ROAD

Mill

(112)

Seneca

Golf Course

(190)

BM 274

CE PARK

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

OHIO CANAL TOWPATH

RILEYS LOCK RD

Lock 24

Picnic Areas

VIOLETS RD

Rushville

Lock 23

M: 24-29

Samuel Thomas Magruder Farm
14800 Seneca Road (MD 112)
Seneca Quad, 1968, BR 1980

MONTGOMERY CO
LOUDOUN CO

POTOMAC

LOWES ISLAND

Old Sugarland Run

Pond I

BLOCKHOUSE POINT PARK

Blockhouse Point

CHESAPEAKE TOWPATH

Patowmack Island

Katie Island

Elm Island

Grapevine

NORTHERN VIRGINIA



#24-29

NAME S. THOMAS MACGRUDER HOUSE

LOCATION SENECA RD, SENECA, MD.

FACADE N

PHOTO TAKEN 5/22/74

M. DUYER



#24-29

NAME S. THOMAS MAQUIDER - HOUSE

LOCATION SENECA RD., SENECA, MO.

FACADE REAR WING - W. FACADE

PHOTO TAKEN 5/22/74

M. DEWYER



#24-29

NAME S. THOMAS MAQRUDER → BARN

LOCATION SENECA RD., SENECA, MD.

FACADE SW

PHOTO TAKEN 5/22/24

M. DWYER



#24-29

NAME S. THOMAS MAGRUDER - BARN

LOCATION SENECA RD., SENECA, MD.

FACADE DIAMOND-SHAPED BARS IN STALLS

PHOTO TAKEN 5/22/74

M. ROYER