TWO HOUSES ORIGINALLY SURVEYED ON ONE FORM

Site: M:26/10/89

Dawson-Thomas House
14 Forest Avenue

Built: 1926

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Site: M:26/10/94

Henderson-Saunders House
18 Forest Avenue

Built: 1909
Architect/Builder: Franklin Karn

Private

These two variations of the American Foursquare face east on well-landscaped lots. Both are 2-1/2 story frame residences with hipped roofs, central dormers, wide friezes, wraparound porches, and central chimneys. The house at 14 Forest is smaller and more vertical than 18. Eighteen Forest, constructed for banker George Henderson in 1909 by local builder Franklin Karn, combined American Foursquare symmetry with late Victorian elements such as a "Rockville Bay". Fourteen was constructed in 1926 by Henry and Charlotte Stratmeyer for their daughter and son-in-law, the Everett Gormleys; it was owned by the Dawson and Thomas families for almost 30 years each.

Survey No. M:26/10/89

Magi No. 1651052704

DOE ___yes ✓no

# Maryland Historical Trust
# State Historic Sites Inventory Form

NR eligible ___yes ✓ no
contrib. element in H.D. _____

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic: Dawson-Thomas House (14) M: 26/10/89
Henderson-Saunders House (18) M: 26/10/94

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number: 14 and 18 Forest Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town: Rockville ___ vicinity of congressional district: 8

state: Maryland county: Montgomery (RV Planning Area 4)

## 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 |
| | ✓ not applicable | ✓ no | ___ military | ___ other: |

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

name: ~~Mr. and Mrs. Herbert A. Thomas (14)~~
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Saunders (18)

street & number: 14 Forest Avenue
~~18 Forest Avenue~~ telephone no.: 424-9423
~~763-4382~~

city, town: Rockville state and zip code: Maryland 20850

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Montgomery Co. Land Records (14) L/f 2667/292

street & number: Montgomery Co. Courthouse (18) L/f 2473/181

city, town: Rockville state: Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title: National Register of Historic Places -City of Rockville H. D.

date: West Montgomery Avenue Historic District 1984 ___ federal ___ state ✓ county ✓ local

depository for survey records: City of Rockville Planning Department

city, town: Rockville state: Maryland

# 7. Description

Survey No. M:26/10/89

| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
|---|---|---|---|
| ___ excellent | ___ deteriorated | ___ unaltered | ✓ original site |
| ✓ good | ___ ruins | ✓ altered | ___ moved date of move _____ |
| ___ fair | ___ unexposed | | |

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

The subject houses face east on Forest Avenue. 14 Forest Avenue is located on a narrow interior lot facing the entrance to Harrison Street. 18 Forest Avenue is located next door on a large landscaped corner lot. Other houses on the street date from the same period and are similarly situated on large lots with mature vegetation.

Both houses are variations on the American Foursquare - 2-1/2 stories with a central front gable, wide frieze and wrap-around porch. Both have a central brick chimney and rusticated concrete block foundation and porch piers. 14 Forest has composition shingle roofing, is clad in wood clapboard siding, and is a smaller and less ambitious house than 18. 18 Forest has a pressed pattern metal shingle roof and is clad in asbestos shingle siding; it includes many ornamental features such as painted shutters, Doric columns and a Rockville bay.

14 Forest

Basically a square two-bay by two-bay frame, the 2-1/2 story house has a one-story enclosed porch at the rear and a full-width wrap-around partly screened front porch. The roof of the house and porch are sheathed in composition shingle. Painted clapboard siding covers the house. Windows are 6/1 double hung with wooden surrounds. The foundation is beveled concrete block and there is one central brick chimney.

The two bay east (front) facade has a wide hipped-roof dormer with a three-light casement window. Two pairs of windows are evenly spaced on the second story. The first story has a six-light wood exterior door in the south bay and a triple set of windows in the east. The one-story low-hipped porch wraps around the south facade. It is supported by five half-length tapered wooden columns on rusticated concrete block piers with an egg and dart molded concrete plinth at the juncture. Access to the porch is by three wide wooden steps. The low-hipped porch roof, sheathed in composition shingle, is supported by four plain tapered wooden columns on rusticated concrete block bases.

The four-bay north facade has irregular fenestration. One window is centered on the second story. The four-bay first story has a small 9 light casement sash in the first bay, a stairwell leading to a 9-light wood panel exterior door in the second bay. There is a long, narrow 1/4 window in the third bay and a 6/1 window in the fourth.

continued on attachment 7 page 1 (7.1)

Description (continued) : 14 and 18 Forest Avenue

14 Forest Continued...

The two-bay west facade has a central dormer on the roof, similar to the front dormer with louvers replacing the window. The second story has one window each bay. The first story is occupied by an enclosed porch with a low-hipped roof. The north side of the porch has two bays, each containing one window; the east window is an 8-light casement sash, the west a 6/1 window. The three-bay west porch facade has an exterior door in the north bay and a 6/1 window in each of the south bays. The two-bay south porch facade also has one 6/1 window in each bay.

The two-bay south facade has one window in each bay on the second story. A pair of windows occupy the west bay on the first story. A screen-enclosed portion of the front porch occupies the second bay.

A one-bay front-gabled clapboard garage, unrelieved excepting the doors, is set back from the northwest corner of the house. A small side-gabled one-story shed, the exterior of vertically applied German siding, is at the rear of the property.

18 Forest

18 Forest is a square three-bay by three-bay frame structure shingled in asphalt wood-grain shingle siding and built on an elevated basement foundation of beveled concrete block. Its one-story open porch wraps around the east and south elevations. The roof is sheathed in patterned tin shingles. There is a central brick chimney. Typical window treatments are 1/1 double hung windows with wooden surrounds and painted shutters.

The three-bay east (front) facade has a wide-hipped dormer with two small windows. Three windows are evenly spaced on the second story. The first story has one window in the north bay, a one-light wood panel door with single transom light in the center bay, and another window in the south bay. Access to the front door is by three steps leading up to the raised porch from the front walk. Seven wooden columns with Ionic capitals support the porch which wraps around the south side.

The three-bay north facade also features the wide hipped dormer above the frieze. Two evenly spaced windows appear on the second floor. The first story has three bays. The first bay holds a bay window with 3/3 windows featuring Gothic detail. The second bay contains a small one-light window. The third bay contains a modern aluminum-framed sliding glass casement window.

The west (rear) facade has three evenly spaced windows on the second story. The first story has three bays with a door in the first bay, a

Description (continued) : 14 and 18 Forest Avenue

casement window in the, second and a double-wide single light window with shutters in the third. The first and second bays are covered by a low-hipped roofed porch supported by three square wooden posts. Access to the backyard is achieved by three steps. The backyard is landscaped with mature trees, lawn and perennials.

The two-bay south facade consists of a one-bay east main block and a Rockville Bay projecting from west bay. The bay has a gabled roof with returns. A louvered vent panel replaces the single sash window in the gable. One window is centered in the square second story of the bay and one narrow window is on the east side. One window is in each of the three mitred sides of the first story bay. The east main block of the house has one window on the second story and one on the first story.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. M:26/10/89

| 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** ~~1926-14 Forest~~ 1909-18 Forest **Builder/Architect** ~~(14) not known~~ (18) (A&B) Franklin Karn

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.

Significance

These two variations of the American Foursquare have similar hipped roofs, central dormers, wide friezes, wraparound porches, and central chimneys. 18 Forest, constructed for banker George Henderson in 1909 by local builder Franklin Karn, combines American Foursquare symmetry with late Victorian elements such as a "Rockville Bay". 14 shows the trend toward simple Craftsman/Prairie facades without ornamentation. It was constructed in 1926 by Henry and Charlotte Stratmeyer for their daughter and son-in-law, the Everett Gormleys; it was owned by the Dawson and Thomas families for almost 30 years each.

ROCKVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN DATA:
1. Historic context theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning
2. Geographic Organization: Piedmont, Montgomery County, City of Rockville
3. Chronological Period(s): Maturation and Expansion; 1873-1930
4. Resource type: single family residence

History and Support

18 Forest Avenue - 1909

This transitional Colonial Revival house, built for banker George Henderson in 1909, was the first new construction on the west side of Forest Avenue since Rockville's late 19th Century boom as a summer resort. 1/ Forest Avenue was the last stop on the trolley line down West Montgomery Avenue, but this tract of land was owned by the Cummins syndicate and remained undeveloped until this house was built. 2/

continued on attachment 8 page 1 (8.1)

Statement of Significance/ History (continued): 14 and 18 Forest Avenue

George Henderson was the son of Circuit Court Judge James B. Henderson and Clara Adamson Henderson, of long-time Rockville families. 3/

Although the younger Henderson obtained his law degree, he chose banking as a profession, eventually serving as President of the Montgomery County National Bank for 35 years.

The design of the Henderson House, as executed by local builder Franklin Karn, reflects a transitional phase in architecture. The nearly symmetrical facade, centered dormers and classical columns of the style commonly called American foursquare are here combined with such late Victorian elements as a wrap-around vernadah and a modified Rockville Bay under a semi-pedimented flank gable.

The Hendersons occupied this comfortable house until 1926. George Fry purchased the residence for $8,000, and the Hendersons moved to their new home on Falls Road. 4/

The Frank Campbell and then Harry Armstrong families owned the house for varying periods from 1941 to the 1958 sale to its present owners. Arthur Saunders, a native of England, came to the U.S. as part of the first military mission during the Second World War, later marrying an American.

Footnotes

1. The Smith House, Presbyterian Manse and Talbott House, built 1890 -1892, were the only houses on Forest Avenue.
2. The widow of Julius West, Sarah West McCahill, retained a five acre parcel of land out of the acreage that became the West End Park development. She sold 3-1/2 acres of this to the Cummins syndicate which built a tennis court on the corner of West Montgomery and Forest, but no houses.
3. John Adamson, Jr. was an early merchant in Rockville and Postmaster several times after 1817.
4. Montgomery County Land Records 412/55 (1926) and Montgomery County Sentinel, September 3, 1926.

14 Forest Avenue - 1929

By the second decade of the 20th century, the social and professional elite of Rockville occupied large, widely scattered houses in the West End of Rockville. The undeveloped lands bordering Forest Avenue were in the hands of the Dawson family (as heirs to Margaret Beall) or the Talbott family, allied by marriage to Beall heirs. 1/

In 1913 William Adair Brook and his wife Mary Dawson Brook sold this unimproved lot valued at $350 to Rosa McDonald, but the subject house

Statement of Significance/ History (continued): 14 and 18 Forest Avenue

was not built until 1926. 2/ Henry and Charlotte Stratmeyer built the house for their daughter and son-in-law, the Everett Gormleys. 3/ The house was resold the following year, and in 1930 the property returned to the Dawson family with its sale to Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Dawson, Jr., the fourth generation of Dawsons in Rockville. 4/

Although similar in silhouette to the adjoining house at #18 Forest, built in 1909, the 1920's styling is evident in the Dawson house both in its smaller size and its ornamentation, such as cement block piers supporting squared tapered porch supports. The rear two rooms were either an early addition (pre 1930) or the enclosure of the original large service/breakfast porch; otherwise the house remains in original condition. 5/

Since 1959 Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Thomas have owned the house.

Footnotes

1. Bealls Subdivision occupied the lands east of Forest Avenue and was still being subdivided by the Beall heirs (the Dawsons) in 1926. The west side of Forest was not part of any subdivision but was contiguous to West End Park.
2. Rose McDonald was a Holland, sister to Mrs. Hattersley W. Talbott of 100 Forest Avenue. She had married Maj. McDonald when she was 62 years of age. W. Adair Brook was a nephew of the Talbotts.
3. Montgomery County Land Records 398/26 (Statmeyer to Gormley) and Tax Records.
4. Henry A. Dawson, Jr. was descended from the Dawsons of Rocky Glen; his house lay in the rear of the house at 301 West Montgomery Avenue built by his cousin Harry A. Dawson.
5. According to Janet Kirby, a Dawson daughter, the rooms were already enclosed or added by 1930. They had no central heating, and the interior wall had double windows.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No.M:26/10/89

Montgomery County Land, Tax and Plat records. Lucy Smith Oral History, Henderson family histories, interview with Mrs. Saunders; Beall, Dawson and Talbott genealogies, interviews with Janet Dawson Kirby and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Thomas.

# 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of nominated property** 14,140 sq. ft. (14 Forest) 14,996 sq. ft. (18 Forest)

**Quadrangle name** _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | | | | B | | | |
| C | | | | D | | | |
| E | | | | F | | | |
| G | | | | 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** | Anne Cissel | Mary Fitch Arch. description | |
| **organization** | Peerless Rockville | **date** | Feb. 1985, Sept. 1986 |
| **street & number** | P.O. Box 4262 | **telephone** | 762-0096 |
| **city or town** | Rockville | **state** | Maryland 20850 |

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

PS-2746

1982

M:26/10/89 4 (14) Dawson-Thomas 14/18 Forest Avenue
M26/10/94 (18) Henderson-Saunders Houses

# City of Rockville
scale: 1"= 600'

M:26/10/89
Dawson-Thomas House
14 Forest Avenue
Rockville, Md. 20850
Richard Andrews
date:6/1987 elevation:SE

RICHARD H. ANDREWS
424-8282
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

10862601