

## ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M: 26-14

(date entered 5-12-80)

MAGI #1651373601

(# assigned 11/86)

1. Name: Pump House
2. Planning Area/Site Number: 26/14
3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 15 I-12
4. Address: 401 South Horners Lane, Rockville

## 5. Classification Summary

Category building Previous Survey Recording M-NCPPC  
 Ownership public Title and Date: Inventory of Historical Sites - 1976  
 Public Acquisition NA  
 Status occupied  
 Accessible yes: restricted Federal      State X County X Local       
 Present use government/park

6. Date: 1896-7
7. Original Owner: City of Rockville

## 8. Apparent Condition

a. fair b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This is a square, 1-story brick building painted beige, with a very steep hip roof. This roof is capped by a small, lantern-like cupola, that also has a hip roof. The bricks are quite rough. The building has wide brick pilasters at the corners of each wall. A shed-roof, two-bay brick wing is built onto the south end of the building. The main section has a 3-bay east facade, with the entrance set in the south end-bay. This consists of double doors, recessed into a wide frame, that is accented by an ornamental wooden architrave on the outside. The windows here seem to have been reduced at one time in height to their present, 6/6 sash. The openings have rough-hewn stone sills and lintels. The windows of the south wing also have stone sills, but are low, 6/6 openings. Brick stove flues occur in the wing at the outside SE corner, and in the main section, inside the NE corner wall.

10. Significance: From 1865 to 1900 Rockville changed from a sleepy courthouse town to a bustling resort and commuter village. Its population tripled, and the services needed for the increased housing multiplied accordingly.

In 1896, the Mayor & Council authorized construction of a waterworks and electric plant to serve the village. By August of 1897, the plant was substantially in place, and what we now know as the Pump House (although perhaps not in its present form) was operating. The Council established a rate of 30¢ per 1,000 gallons for water (\$5 per year more if you owned a bathtub); for electricity, the bill was \$1.25 per month for 4 lights or less, and on up to \$3.70 if you had more than 15 light.

Rockville had municipal water and electricity before the turn of the century, but in 1901, the power house and contents were destroyed by fire and it was not until 1905 that the electric plant was again operable. In the meantime, the city of Rockville went back to oil lamps.

In November of 1909, the Potomac Electric Power Company was granted a franchise to provide electric power, and thus the city went out of the electric power business. However, the pumping of water continued from wells until 1957, when the water system tapping the Potomac River was put into operation. The Pump House has subsequently been used for the waterworks, as a maintenance building, and now as a senior citizens center.

11. Researcher and date researched: Helen Heneghan, City Clerk - May 1979  
 Michael Dwyer-Arch. Desc.
12. Compiler: Eileen McGuckian
13. Date Compiled: 6/79
14. Designation Approval
15. Acreage: 11,420 sq. ft.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**  
 HISTORIC Pump House  
 AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**  
 STREET & NUMBER 401 South Horners Lane  
 CITY, TOWN Rockville VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8  
 STATE Maryland COUNTY Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
 NAME City of Rockville Telephone #: 424-8000  
 STREET & NUMBER City Hall, Maryland at Vinson  
 CITY, TOWN Rockville VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 20850

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse Liber #: 1245 Folio #: 520  
 STREET & NUMBER  
 CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland 20850

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites  
 DATE 1976  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Park Historian's Office  
 CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland 20855

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a most unusual structure, located near the center of "old" Rockville-apparently once at a flowing stream. It is a square, one-story brick building, with a very steep hip roof. This roof is capped by a small, lantern-like cupola, that also has a hip roof. The bricks are quite rough, and were probably made locally. The building was wide brick pilasters at the corners of each wall. A shed-roof, two-bay brick wing is built onto the south end of the building.

The main section has a three-bay east facade, with the entrance set in the south end-bay. This consists of double doors, recessed into a wide frame, that is accented by an ornamental wooden architrave on the outside. The windows here seem to have been reduced at one time in height to their present, 6/6 sash. The openings have rough-hewn stone sills and lintels. The windows of the south wing also have stone sills, but are low, 6/6 openings. Brick stove flues occur in the wing at the outside southeast corner, and in the main section, inside the northeast corner wall. The building is presently used as a meeting place for Rockville's "Senior Citizens". It has been painted beige.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1896-7

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE From 1865 to 1900 Rockville changed from a sleepy court-house town to a bustling resort and commuter village. Its population tripled, and the services needed for the increased housing multiplied accordingly.

In 1896, the Mayor and Council of Rockville hired George Morgan, an engineer, to draw up plans for a "waterworks and electric plant" to serve the village, and obtained an option on a piece of land fronting on Horner's Lane, owned by Joseph Reading (who was also Mayor at the time), so that a test water well could be drilled. The testing was successful, and the land was purchased for \$369.60 (3¢ a square foot). One Councilman voted against the purchase, feeling the price was too high. A well, 224½ feet deep and 7 inches in diameter was dug from which the town would get its water supply.

In the same year, 1896, the Council authorized the construction of the water works and electric plant. By August of 1897, the plant was substantially in place, and what we now know as the Pump House (although perhaps not in its present form) was operating.

The Council established a rate of 30¢ per 1,000 gallons for water -- (\$5 per year more if you owned a bathtub); for electricity, the bill was \$1.25 per month for 4 lights or less, and on up to \$3.70 if you had more than 15 lights.

Rockville had municipal water and electricity before the turn of the century, but in 1901, the power house and contents were destroyed by fire and it was not until 1905 that the electric plant was again operable. In the meantime, the city of Rockville went back to oil lamps.

In July, 1902, the Mayor and Council selected a site for a new well, close to the original, and the second well was drilled.

In November of 1909, the Potomac Electric Power Company was granted a franchise to provide electric power, and thus the city went out of the electric power business. However, the pumping of water continued from wells until 1957, when the water system tapping the Potomac River was put into operation.

The Pump House (which probably got its name after the term "power house" became obsolete) was used for the water works, and later as a maintenance building/headquarters for public works operations, until the city moved that operation into a new building on the Civic Center grounds. The Pump House building was later renovated to what we see today, and is used as a center for Rockville's senior citizens.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Minutes of the Meetings of the Mayor and Council, Rockville, Maryland.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11,420 sq. ft.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

part of lots 15 & 16, block E, "Croyden Park"

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	Helen Heneghan, City Clerk	Michael Dwyer-Arch. Desc.
ORGANIZATION	Sugarloaf Regional Trails	DATE May 1979
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, State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 257-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
Box 87, Stronghold  
Dickerson, Md. 20753  
(301) 926-4510

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

City of Rockville Pump House

AND/OR COMMON

Pump House-Senior Citizens' Center

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

401 Horner's Lane

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

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

PRESENT USE

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Rockville

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

— VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR

- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This is a most-unusual structure, located near the center of "old" Rockville-apparently once at a flowing stream. It is a square, one-story brick building, with a very-steep hip roof. This roof is capped by a small, lantern-like cupola, that also has a hip roof. The bricks are quite rough, and were probably made locally. The building has wide brick pilasters at the corners of each wall. A shed-roof, two-bay brick wing is built onto the south end of the building.

The main section has a three-bay east facade, with the entrance set in the south end-bay. This consists of double doors, recessed into a wide frame, that is accented by an ornamental wooden architrave on the outside. The windows here seem to have been reduced at one time in height to their present, 6/6 sash. The openings have rough-hewn stone sills and lintels. The windows of the south wing also have stone sills, but are low, 6/6 openings. Brick stove flues occur in the wing at the outside SE corner, and in the main section, inside the NE corner wall. The building is presently used as a meeting place for Rockville's "Senior Citizens". It has been painted beige.

M:26-14

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A very interesting building, from both an historical and architectural viewpoint. This is one of the very few surviving industrial or technological structures left in the County. Its relation to an early urbanization makes it most significant. Architecturally, it is the only structure of its type in the area.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

M:26-14

**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

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

5/14/75

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

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

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401



NAME PUMP HOUSE M: #26-14

(~~BIO HIST DIST~~)

LOCATION CROYDON AVE. ROCKVILLE, MD

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 5/14/75 MDWYER