

M:29-7

Capsule Summary
for
John McDonald House

June 1991

Mont. Co. survey prefix : 29
Site number : 7
Approx. building date : 1873
Town/town vicinity : Potomac
Access : Public Private

Short Description of Site:

The McDonald House is a fine example of a late nineteenth century two-and-one-half-story ell-shaped farmhouse which retains several interesting outbuildings and its original setting with a long driveway and many large trees. The original house is a two-and-one-half-story five-bay gabled ell. It has exterior corbelled chimneys at either end of the main, side-gabled block, which faces northeast. The front door is centered. There is a two-story porch added on the southeast which is screened and has a standing seam metal roof. A two-story addition has been placed in the angle of the ell. On the gable end of this addition is yet another small shed addition covering a bow window. The main horse barn is across the driveway to the east of the main house. The center gabled portion is two stories, with a hayloft above the stall area. A small one-story pyramidal hip-roofed cottage is built across the yard from the barn, to the west. An empty swimming pool lies between the guest house and the main house. A platform on the west is all that remains of a pool house that exploded some time ago. Across fields to the south and west from the guest house are two more horse shelters, basically shed-roofed lean-tos with a cut-away portion of the wall and roof supported by square posts.

Analysis of Evaluation
for
John McDonald House (29/7)

M:29-7

June 1991

Value Descr.			
Outstanding			✓
Considerable	✓	✓	
Moderate			
Minor			
Evaluation Criteria	Arch. Signif.	Arch. Integrity	Historical Signif.

Procedure:	
Rating = $\frac{\# \text{ of Boxes Selected}}{12} \times 100$	
0 - 25 % = Unqualified	
25 - 50 % = Minimal	
50 - 75 % = Mid-level	
75 - 100% = Good	
90 - 100% = Natl. Reg. (with possible exceptions)	

Rating for this site: Good

Criteria:

Arch. Significance - that quality which embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose component may lack individual distinction.

Historical Significance - that quality present in sites associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history.

Arch. Integrity - determined by the number of architectural changes to the site...using the following list as a guide...(and) noting other unusual changes.

Detrimental Changes (depending on the quality of its original character):

- new or relocated chimney
- rebuilt foundation
- new porch
- original windows changed (at a later, but still historical, date)
- modern windows in original frames
- original windows intact but extra ones added
- change in shape or size of window openings
- lack of outbuildings
- aluminum siding (unless original architraves and trim are retained)
- asphalt or asbestos siding (over original siding)
- recent change of location

Critical Changes:

- aluminum siding added; architraves eliminated
- additions engulfing or removing portions of original building

Value Descriptions

Outstanding - distinguished; of particular import. to Md. historic & arch. past.

Considerable - deserving of recognition; contributes to the understanding of history or architectural heritage represented in Maryland

Moderate - commonality...lack of historic signif. or arch. style, except if scarce

Minor - unimportant or inferior; little arch. worth and absence of hist. importance

Site Information Summary

for

M:29-7

John McDonald House

June 1991

Site number : 29/7
Co. tax account number : 2866140
Street address : 10600 River Road
Name of property owner : 10600 River Road Limited Partnership
Addr. of property owner : 152 Rollins Avenue, #100
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Historic Preservation Master Plan Recommendation:

Historic Preservation Ordinance Criteria

(1) *Historical and cultural significance.* The historic resource:

- a. Has character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the county, state or nation;
- b. Is the site of a significant historic event;
- c. Is identified with a person or group of persons who influenced society;
- d. Exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, political or historic heritage of the county and its communities.

(2) *Architectural and design significance.* The historic resource:

- a. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction;
- b. Represents the work of a master;
- c. Possesses high artistic values;
- d. Represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- e. Represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or county due to its singular physical characteristic or landscape.

Environmental Setting Recommendation:

The environmental setting should include an approximately rectangular area bounded:

on the north by River Road;
on the west by a line approximately 150' from the house perpendicular to and extending from River Road approximately 400' southward;
on the south by a line parallel to and approximately 400' south of River Road and which intersects the east & west boundary lines described herein;
on the east by a line approximately 400' from the house perpendicular to and extending from River Road approximately 400' southward.

The environmental setting includes the house, the driveway from the house to River Road, all the outbuildings to the east of the house, and the mature trees and bushes which are important features to the setting. The horse barn and guest cottage are particularly important to the setting of the house.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. M: 29-7

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John McDonald House

and/or common Trespassers W Farm

2. Location

street & number 10600 River Road not for publication

city, town Potomac vicinity of congressional district 6

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 checked="" 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 10600 River Road Ltd. Partnership (Crowell & Baker)

street & number 152 Rollins Avenue telephone no.: (301)253-1856

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20852

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber Plat 17718

street & number folio

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Montgomery County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission

city, town Silver Spring state Maryland

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.

Summary: The McDonald House is a late nineteenth century two-and-one-half-story ell-shaped farmhouse which retains several interesting outbuildings and its original setting with a long driveway and many large trees. The surrounding land, however, has been subdivided into two acre lots.

Description: The original house is a two-and-one-half story five-bay gabled ell. It has exterior corbelled chimneys at either end of the main, side-gabled block, which faces northeast. The front door is centered. It has a transom with five small square lights. The front entry porch has a shed roof supported by two clusters of three posts that are joined at the top with jigsawed decorative panels. Windows are two-over-two with trabeated lintels with molding at the top, and small curved decorative brackets at either end of the sills. Windows have louvered shutters. The house has German siding on the front, plain weatherboarding elsewhere, and an asphalt shingled roof. The main ell and the first gabled addition have stone foundations. There is a two-story porch added on the southeast which is screened and has a standing seam metal roof. A two-story addition has been placed in the angle of the ell. A French door with a five light transom opens from this addition to the back yard; above it is a modern glass bay window. A pointed arch two-leaved casement window is set into the rear gable of the original ell. A one-story gabled addition extends from the gable end of the ell, with a low sloping shed roof to the west. On the gable end of this addition is yet another small shed addition covering a bow window. These two later additions have wider weatherboards than the rest of the house and are set on cinder block foundations. The small shed addition has a large chimney on the exterior, and a standing seam metal roof.

Outbuildings:

The horse barn and guest house are particularly noteworthy.

The main horse barn is across the driveway to the east of the main house. The center gabled portion is two stories, with a hayloft above the stall area. The building rests on a sill of crudely hewn logs approximately 8" x 8". Smaller peeled logs that have been smoothed on the outer side serve as studs to which wide overlapping boards are nailed to form the walls. Both studs and rafters are spaced about four feet apart. The roofing planks are also wide and widely spaced, and support a standing seam metal roof. Shed-roofed extensions have been added to the eaves of the original barn for its entire length on the north and half its length on the south. On the east, the shed is a shelter for the horses, with one wall on the south, the barn wall serving for another, and the remaining two sides open.

(cont.)

On the other side of the barn, the shed addition has had doors added to it and it serves as a garage. This shed is clad with board and batten siding. From the rear gable end of the barn, a shed-roofed one-story stall addition extends on the same axis; behind it is a gabled building set across the axis. It may have been a corn crib, as the slats are set widely and the gaps are screened. Behind this structure is a large shed-roofed shelter, walled on three sides, and open towards the east.

Guest House - A small one-story pyramidal hip-roofed cottage is built across the yard from the barn, to the west. A shed hood supported by square posts shelters the entry, and small shed-roofed extensions have been built to either side of the building. The former board and batten siding which covered horizontal clapboards has been covered over with another layer of aluminum siding.

Pool - An empty swimming pool lies between the guest house and the main house. A platform on the west is all that remains of a pool house that exploded some time ago.

To the east of the pool is a concrete platform which appears to cover a well.

Outlying shelters - Across fields to the south and west from the guest house are two more horse shelters, basically shed-roofed lean-tos with a cut-away portion of the wall and roof supported by square posts.

Researcher: Susan Escherich, May 23, 1991.

8. Significance

Survey No. M:29-7

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 checked="" 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 McDonald House is a fine example of a late nineteenth century farmhouse. Together with its outbuildings, it represents the type of early rural complex which is disappearing from the Potomac area as new subdivisions alter the landscape. In addition, the McDonald House is historically associated with the Offutt family, which played a prominent role in the establishment of the village of Potomac in the eighteenth century, and with a prominent nineteenth century political figure, Captain John McDonald.

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Agriculture
Government
2. Geographic Organization: Piedmont (Montgomery County)
3. Development Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930 A.D.
4. Resource Type(s): Plantation

One of the original patents on which Potomac was located was a 2000 acre tract called "Clewewall", granted to William Offutt in 1728. At his death in 1734, William Offutt left his land to his eleven children.

"The village of Potomac, now the center of an affluent commuter society, came into existence in the 18th century as a small crossroads community serving planters and travelers who were then beginning to fill southwestern Montgomery County. By mid-century the population warranted the establishment of a church. This was the Captain John Presbyterian Church, erected on land owned by Edward Offutt and his wife Eleanor. Later in 1746, the Offutts donated the land to the church. According to legend, the name was a reference to Captain John Smith, who was credited with having explored the Potomac to the vicinity of Great Falls. The name, gradually corrupted to Cabin John, was afterward transferred to a stream valley just east of the fall line. Under the pastorship of Rev. James Hunt, who took charge in 1761, the church flourished, with an associated grammar school

(cont.)

being later established.¹ The original church was abandoned and dismantled around 1838. The Potomac Methodist Church, a recent replacement of an 1858 structure, presently occupies its site.

"The name "Offutt's Crossroads" was early attached to the area. By the first decades of the 19th century a number of small dwellings had been constructed about the crossroads, and around the year 1820 what appears to be the town's first commercial enterprise was established, a tavern stand operated by Kinsey Gittings.² The opening of the Seneca to Georgetown section of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal in 1831 brought an increase in traffic upon the River and Falls roads, added value to those lands in close proximity to the canal, and subsequently fostered the growth of the community. By the time of the Civil War, the town contained two general stores and a blacksmith's shop. Also, about this time, gold discovered in the area between Offutt's Crossroads and Great Falls, brought into the community a number of mining companies which would continue intermittent operations into the 20th century.³

"By 1875, the town of 100 received its first post office, housed in the newly constructed Offutt and Perry general store (situated on the northeast corner, the building has been replaced by a gas station). However, at the request of the Post Office Department for a more individual designation, the town name was officially changed to "Potomac" on May 17, 1880. According to postal officials, too many towns carried the "crossroads" appendage.⁴ After the expiration of the partnership of Winfield Offutt and Thomas Perry, on May 1, 1880, Perry began his own general merchandising operation in a store (still standing) constructed that year across Falls Road from the Offutt store. The next year Perry's wife, Marian, was appointed postmistress, and the office moved into the new Perry store.⁵

"The last decade of the 19th century saw rapid growth as new homes were built along River Road east and west of the intersection. One of the driving forces behind this new construction was Edgar Perry, son of Thomas Perry and inheritor of Perry's store. In 1897, Edgar Perry, described by a contemporary as an "enterprising merchant", purchased an 11 acre tract of land running along the eastern section of River Road, had a house constructed upon a one acre section thereof (9000 River Road) and divided the remainder into convenient building lots. His own house, constructed in 1900-1901 (currently the Maryland National Bank office) was described in 1919 as "one of the best and most substantial in that part of Montgomery County".⁶

¹ MacMaster and Heibert, A Grateful Remembrance (Rockville, 1976) pp 25, 70; Montgomery County Sentinel, May 23, 1884.

² Montgomery County Equity Records, Judgment 1823-1826/67.

³ Martinet and Bond Map of 1865; Montgomery County Equity Records, Judgment EBP 2/271; Montgomery County Sentinel, June 1, 1978, "Potomac's Gilt Edge".

⁴ Montgomery County Post Office Records, Site Reports, Archives of the United States, Washington, D.C.

⁵ Montgomery County Sentinel, April 9, 1880; August 21, 1881.

⁶ The Sunday Star, February 9, 1919, "Rambler Writes of Old Church in Potomac"; Montgomery County Sentinel, September 16, 1898.

"The next great period of house building came in the 1920's and 1930's, this time concentrated along the northern section of Falls Road. These houses were constructed upon land devised to Cora Ball by her mother, Marian Perry. Beginning in 1920, Cora Ball and her husband John Ball, partitioned the property into 1/2 to 1 acre lots, with an eye towards residential development. Again, Edgar Perry, the brother of Cora Ball, had a hand in this new construction.

"During those first decades of the 20th century the residential character of Potomac had been firmly established. In more recent years, the rural nature of the countryside surrounding the village has given way to extensive suburban developments. Commercial development of the crossroads area has kept pace. Yet vestiges of the past are sufficiently visible to give the passerby some idea of the earlier neighborhood."⁷

"A house was built on this property by Thomas Levi Offutt (1785-1855), possibly between 1820 and 1829. Offutt willed his plantation on River Road to his wife, Sarah B., some property at the crossroads to his daughter-in-law Louise Unis Offutt, \$1 to his son Thomas M., and the remainder of his property to his grandchildren."⁸

"Thomas Marshall Offutt, son of Thomas Levi Offutt, had a store at the intersection of River and Falls Roads, in the village of Offutt's Crossroads. He married Lois Unis Fisher and lived on the southwest corner of Falls and River Roads, near the store. In 1855 he was convicted by a Montgomery County Circuit Court of shooting at Oratio Clagett with intent to kill; Offutt escaped and was at large for two years, with a \$300 reward for his capture. He was apprehended at Offutt's Crossroads⁹ and died several years later. Lois Unis Offutt later remarried John Collins, who lived in the house next to Offutt's store. Her children brought suit against her regarding this particular property because Thomas Levi had willed it to her only if she remained unmarried after Thomas Marshall died."¹⁰

"Sarah, Thomas Levi's wife, died in 1859. In her will,¹¹ she gave her grandchildren (Thomas M. was the only child) her plantation on River Road. Sarah B. Offutt also willed some land, known locally as "The Pines" behind the Potomac Place shopping center), to some of her slaves that she freed in her will; a black community still exists nearby.

"About 1870, Captain John McDonald retired to this 250-acre farm which he had purchased from his wife's family."¹² McDonald was born in 1837 in Ireland, coming to the United States at age 18. He enlisted in the Army in 1857, and

⁷ Mark Walston, Maryland Historical Trust, "Inventory Form for State Historic Sites", Sugarloaf Regional Trails, February, 1979.

⁸ Will Records, WT of R 2/203 (1855).

⁹ Montgomery County Sentinel, October 2, 1857.

¹⁰ Montgomery County Equity Records, Judgment EBP 2/277-86 (1868).

¹¹ Wills, op. cit., JWS 1/37 (1859).

¹² Land Records, Montgomery County, EBP 7/215 (January 27, 1870).

served in Indian campaigns in Arizona and California. He fought for the Union during the Civil War, receiving wounds and honors, and was commissioned Captain. After his retirement to Montgomery County, he became active in the Grange movement, the County Agricultural Society, the Grand Army of the Republic, and the Rockville Protestant Episcopal Church.¹³ McDonald was living at the farm on April 9, 1873, when the house was completely destroyed by fire; it was rebuilt soon after.¹⁴

"Captain McDonald was elected to the State Legislature in 1882, and as State Comptroller in 1891, defeating Blair Lee for the post. He became the first Republican Congressman from the Sixth District of Maryland in 1896. McDonald was influential in changing the name of the small village from Offutt's Crossroads to Potomac. He died in 1917.

"The property remained in the McDonald family until 1941, when the house and 20 acres were sold to Franklin and Margaret Lane.¹⁵ From 1949¹⁶ to 1972 it was the home of Newbold Noyes, editor of the Evening Star. (In 1972, the property was sold to) Herbert J. Miller, Jr., (who) in 1970, lost a bid for state-wide office to Blair Lee III, descendant of the Blair Lee Captain McDonald defeated in 1891."¹⁷

An attorney and Chairman of the Board of Potomac National Bank, Miller was appointed by President Kennedy in 1961 to be Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice. President Johnson appointed him in 1965 to be Chairman of the President's Commission on Crime for the District of Columbia.

Miller conveyed the property to Quod Construction Company, which in turn, conveyed it to 10600 River Road Limited Partnership in 1988.¹⁸

¹³ Portrait & Biographical Record of the Sixth Congressional District, Maryland, Chapman Publishing (1898), p. 215-17.

¹⁴ Sentinel, op. cit., April 11, 1873.

¹⁵ Land Records, op. cit., 843/153 (July 30, 1941).

¹⁶ Land Records., 1238/426 (March 15, 1949)

¹⁷ Carey K. Miller and Eileen McGuckian, Maryland Historical Trust, "Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey", Sugarloaf Regional Trails, July 1979.

¹⁸ Land Records, 8122/13 (January 20, 1988).

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MacMaster & Heibert, A Grateful Remembrance, 1976.
Land and Tax Records, Montgomery County, Maryland
Portrait and Biographical Record of the Sixth Congressional District,
Maryland, Chapman Publishing, 1898.
Maryland Historical Trust, "Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey", Sugarloaf
Regional Trails, February 1979, July 1979.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 19.93 acres
Quadrangle name Rockville Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the property are the lot lines which define parcel #915, south of River Road, and which are boldly delineated on the accompanying tax map.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

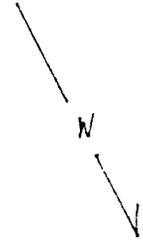
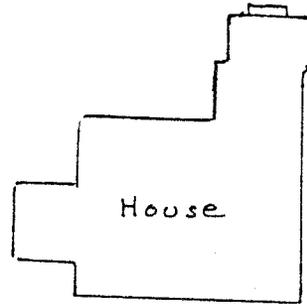
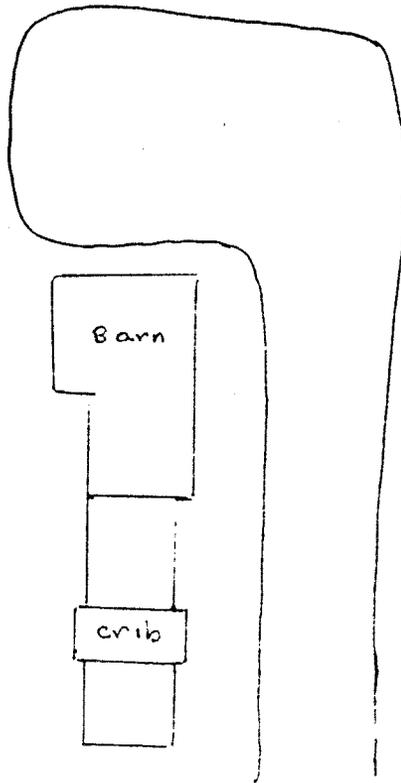
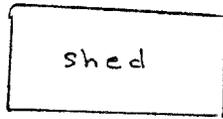
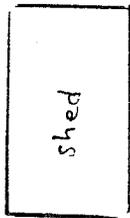
11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Lois Snyderman & Susan Escherich, Historic Preservation Consultants		
organization		date	June 1991
street & number	8804 Spring Valley Road	telephone	(301) 654-6423
city or town	Chevy Chase	state	Maryland 20815

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.

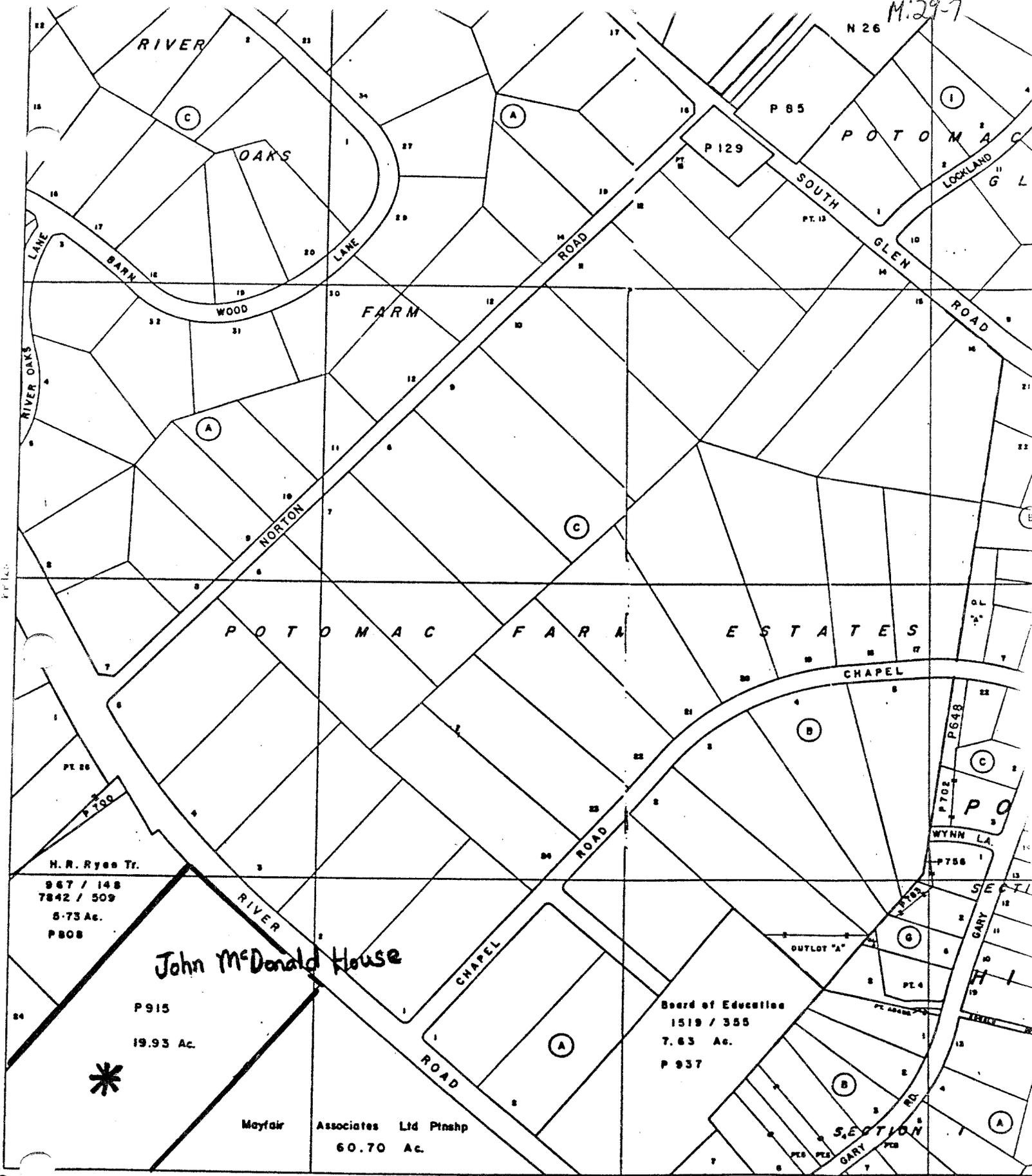
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



MacDonald House
(Not to scale)

L-129-7

M:29-7



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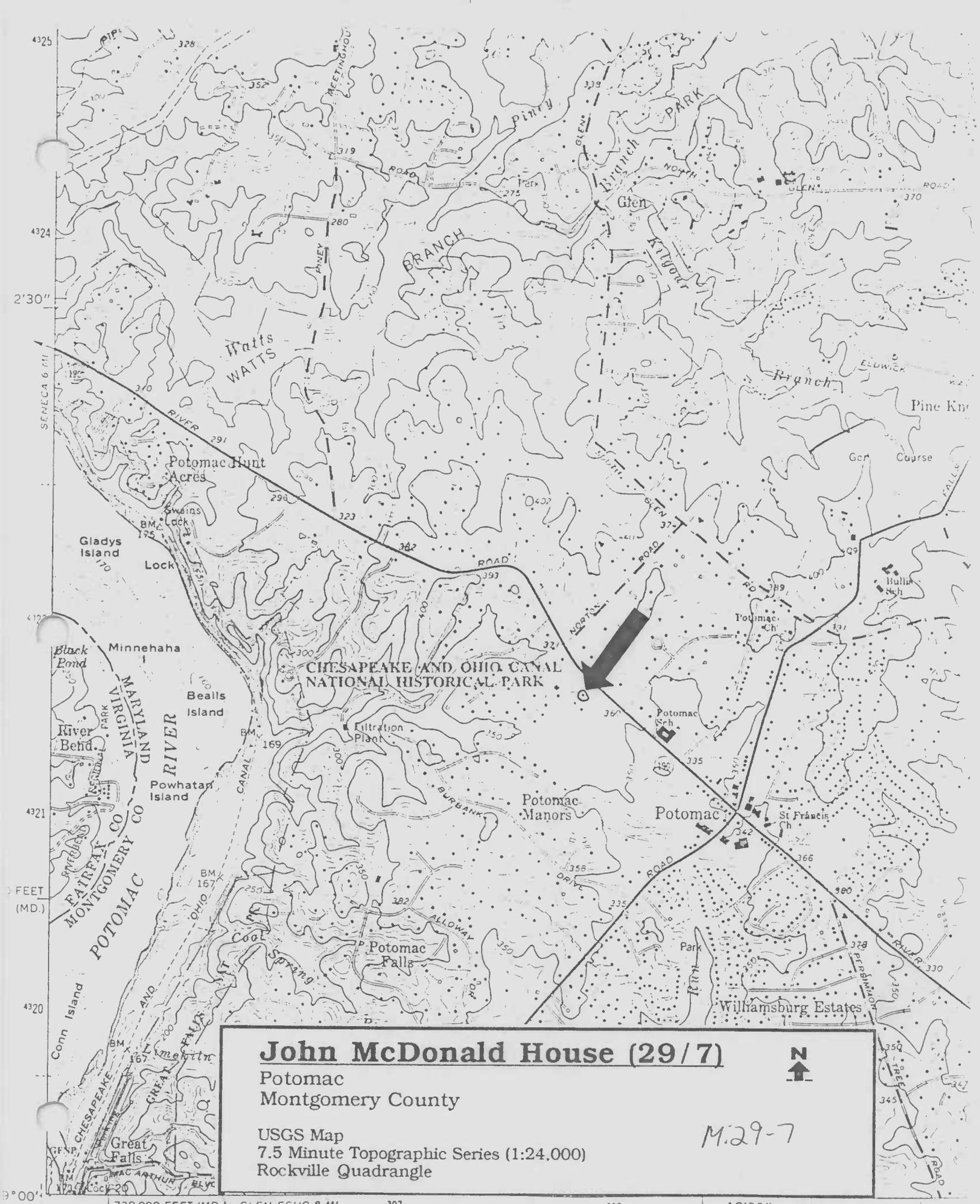
F3

FP342

ROADS AND STREAMS ARE CONTROLLED FROM PLANIMETRIC MAPS COMPILED BY MNCPRC AND MS&L; COORDINATES SHOWN ARE BASED ON W.S.C. COORDINATE SYSTEM. PROPERTY LINES ARE COMPILED BY THIS OFFICE FROM DEED DESCRIPTIONS AND ARE NOT TO BE INTERPRETED AS ACTUAL FIELD SURVEYS. USERS NOTING ERRORS ARE URGED TO NOTIFY THE DRAFTING SECTION, DIVISION OF ASSESSMENTS, RM 400, 51 MONROE ST, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 2/83

LEGEND
 - - - - - ELECTION DISTRICT BOUNDARY
 CORPORATE BOUNDARY
 P-768 OR N-768 { PARCEL NO. IS USED FOR OWNERSHIP IDENTIFICATION AND MUST BE PRECEDED BY GRID REFERENCE READING FIRST BY COLUMN AND THEN BY ROW

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John McDonald House (29/7)
 Potomac
 Montgomery County

USGS Map
 7.5 Minute Topographic Series (1:24,000)
 Rockville Quadrangle

M.29-7



Ms 29/7

John McDonald House

Mont Co MD

by L. Snyderman 4/91

Neg - Mont Co Hist Pres Comm

House - Main (N) elevator



Mi 29/7

Schore McDonald House

Mont Co MD

by L Snyderman 5/91

Neg - Mont Co. HPC

Setting - looking south



M: 29/7

John McDonald House

Mont Co MD

by L. Snyderman 4/91

Neg - Mont Co Hist Pres Comm

House east elev



M 29/7

John McDonald House
Mont Co. MD
by L. Snyderman 4/91

Nes - Mont Co Heat. Pres. Comm

House - south elev



Ms 29/7

John McDonald House

Mont Co MD

by L Snyderman 4/91

Neg - Mont Co. Hist Pres Comm

House - south elev



M: 29/7

John McDonald House

Mont. Co., MD

by L. Snyderman 4/91

Neg - Mont Co. Hist Pres. Comm

House - west elev



M: 29/7

John McDonald House

Mont Co MD

by L. Snyder — 4/91

Weg - Mont Co Hist Pres Comm

Barn - 5 elev



M. 29/7

John McDonald House

Mont Co MD

by L Snyderman 4/94

Neg - Mont Co Hist Pres Comm

Guest House - E elev



M: 29/7

John McDonald House

Mont Co. MD

by L Snyderman 4/91

Weg - Mont Co Hist Pres. Comm

Outbuilding



M: 29/7

John McDonald House

Mont Co MD

by L. Snyclerman 4/91

Neg - Mont Co HPC

Shed -

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M: 29-7

(date entered 5-12-80)

1. Name: John McDonald house
2. Planning Area/Site Number: 29/7
3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 19
Coordinate J-4
4. Address: 10600 River Road
Potomac, Md.
5. Classification Summary
 Category building Previous Survey Recording MNCPPC
 Ownership private Title and Date: Historic Sites Inventory
 Public Acquisition NA 1976
 Status occupied
 Accessible no Federal State x County x Local
 Present use agriculture; private residence
6. Date: 1873
7. Original Owner: John McDonald
8. Apparent Condition
 a. excellent b. altered c. original site
9. Description: This five bay, two and a half story, frame house has been enlarged over the years; it faces northeast. There is grey novelty siding on the northeast elevation and regular clapboarding on the remaining sides. The northeast porch has a shed roof supported by three narrow square posts set at right angles to each other by two panels of jigsawed filigree. There is a two story screen porch on the southeast elevation. There are two-over-two double-hung windows flanked by louvered wooden shutters. The gable roof has asbestos shingle covering. The house is surrounded by lawns and large maples, oaks, and pines. There is a one story barn and a swimming pool southwest of the house. Nearby are the ruins of a brick barn and a stone springhouse, and the owners recently found Thomas Offutt's tombstone in the back yard.
10. Significance: This house is significant as the dwelling for many years of Captain John McDonald, the first Republican Congressman from the Sixth District of Maryland. McDonald came to Montgomery County about 1870 to retire to the 250 acre farm his wife's family had purchased from the heirs of Thomas M. Offutt. Offutt and his father, Thomas Levi Offutt, had lived on this property since the 1820s, also owning land in "Offutt's Crossroads", later Potomac Village.
 Born in Ireland, McDonald had fought in Indian campaigns and in the Civil War. Soon after retiring to his farm, the original house was completely destroyed by fire; it was rebuilt soon after, in 1873. McDonald was active in the Grange movement, the County Agricultural Society, the GAR, and the Rockville Episcopal Church. He was elected to the State Legislature in 1882, as State Comptroller in 1891, and to Congress in 1896. He was influential in changing the name of the small village near his home.
 McDonald died in 1917, and the property remained in the family until 1941. Owned by Newbold Noyes, editor of the Evening Star, from 1949 to 1972, it was purchased by the present owners at that time.
11. Researcher and date researched: Carey Miller/Eileen McGuckian - 7/79
Candy Reed - Arch. Description
12. Compiler: Eileen McGuckian
13. Date Compiled: 9/79
14. Designation Approval
15. Acreage: 20 acres

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John McDonald House

AND/OR COMMON

Trespassers W. Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

10600 River Road

CITY, TOWN

Potomac

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

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 checked="" 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Herbert J. & Carey K. Miller

Telephone #: 299-9472

STREET & NUMBER

10600 River Road

CITY, TOWN

Potomac

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20854

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 4235

Folio #: 269

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

MNCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

— FEDERAL STATE COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Derwood

STATE

Maryland 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Captain John McDonald House has been added to considerably over the years, but the two and a half story L-plan structure is still apparent.

Built on fieldstone foundations, this wooden frame farmhouse faces northeast and is five bays across. There is gray novelty siding on the northeast elevation and regular clapboarding on the remaining sides. There is a porch on the northeast elevation which has brick foundations and a shed roof supported by three narrow square posts which are set at right angles to each other by two panels of jigsawed filigree. On the southeast side of the house there is a two story screened porch. There are two outside end chimneys: at the northwest and southeast elevations.

The front door is centered on the northeast elevation. It is a wooden paneled door with a brass knocker and is surmounted by a five light transom. There are two-over-two light double-hung windows with wooden sills and lintels, flanked by louvered wooden shutters throughout the house. At the northwest and southeast gable ends, flanking the chimney stacks are small casement windows: at the northwest end they each have six lights and at the southeast end they have four lights. On the southwest elevation, at the second story there is a three-sided bay window, probably a recent addition. The gable roof has asbestos covering.

The house is surrounded by lawns and large maples, oaks, and pines. There is a one story barn and a swimming pool southwest of the house. Nearby are the ruins of a brick barn and a stone springhouse, and the owners recently found Thomas Offutt's tombstone in the back yard.

The northeast door opens into a central hallway. An open string double run stairway ascends along the southeast hall wall. Northwest of the front door is the living room and to the southeast is the study. To the northwest of the hall and southwest of the living room is a cloak room and powder room. Southeast of the hall is the dining room and at the southwest end of the hall is the L-shaped kitchen/utilities area.

There are random width floor boards in the study, living room and northeast end of the central hall. There are plaster over lath walls and ceilings. The living room has crown molding and both the living room and hall have chair rails. There are built in bookcases in the study and at the southwest end of the hall against the southeast wall. There is a butler's pantry. There are simple molded door frames and wooden paneled doors with brass knobs. Double wooden paneled doors open from the hall into the living room. The basement is directly under the two northeast rooms. In this basement is the original kitchen with its large fieldstone fireplace.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:29-7

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1873

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A house was built on this property by Thomas Levi Offutt (1785-1855), possibly between 1820 and 1829. Offutt willed his plantation on River Road to his wife, Sarah B., some property at the crossroads to his daughter-in-law Louise Unis Offutt, \$1 to his son Thomas M., and the remainder of his property to his grandchildren.¹

Thomas Marshall Offutt, son of Thomas Levi Offutt, had a store at the intersection of River and Falls Roads, in the village of Offutt's Crossroads. He married Lois Unis Fisher and lived on the southwest corner of Falls and River Roads, near the store. In 1855 he was convicted by a Montgomery County Circuit Court of shooting at Oratio Clagett with intent to kill; Offutt escaped and was at large for two years, with a \$300 reward for his capture. He was apprehended at Offutt's Crossroads² and died several years later. Lois Unis Offutt later remarried John Collins, who lived in the house next to Offutt's store. Her children brought suit against her regarding this particular property because Thomas Levi had willed it to her only if she remained unmarried after Thomas Marshall died.³

Sarah, Thomas Levi's wife, died in 1859. In her will,⁴ she gave her grandchildren (Thomas M. was the only child) her plantation on River Road. Sarah B. Offutt also willed some land, known locally as "The Pines" (behind the Potomac Place shopping center), to some of her slaves that she freed in her will; a black community still exists nearby.

About 1870, Captain John McDonald retired to this 250-acre farm which he had purchased from his wife's family.⁵ McDonald was born in 1837 in Ireland, coming to the United States at age 18. He enlisted in the Army in 1857, and served in Indian campaigns in Arizona and California. He fought for the Union during the Civil War, receiving wounds and honors, and was commissioned Captain. After his retirement to Montgomery County, he became active in the Grange movement, the County Agricultural Society, the Grand Army of the Republic, and the Rockville Protestant Episcopal Church.⁶ McDonald was living at the farm on April 9, 1873, when the house was completely destroyed by fire; it was rebuilt soon after.⁷

Captain McDonald was elected to the State Legislature in 1882, and as State Comptroller in 1891, defeating Blair Lee for the post. He became the first Republican Congressman from the Sixth District of Maryland in 1896. McDonald was influential in changing the name of the small village from Offutt's Crossroads to Potomac. He died in 1917.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued on Attachment Sheet A)

The property remained in the McDonald family until 1941, when the house and 20 acres were sold to Franklin and Margaret Lane.⁸ From 1949⁹ to 1972 it was the home of Newbold Noyes, editor of the Evening Star. The present owner, Herbert J. Miller, Jr., in 1970 lost a bid for state-wide office to Blair Lee III, descendant of the Blair Lee Captain McDonald defeated in 1891.

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 Will Records, WT of R 2/203 (1855).
- 2 Montgomery County Sentinel, October 2, 1857.
- 3 Montgomery County Equity Records, Judgment EBP 2/277-86 (1868).
- 4 Wills, op. cit., JWS 1/37 (1859).
- 5 Land Records of Montgomery County, EBP 7/215 (January 27, 1870).
- 6 Portrait & Biographical Record of the 6th Cong. District (1898)..
p. 215-17.
- 7 Sentinel, op. cit., April 11, 1873.
- 8 Land Records, op. cit., 843/153 (July 30, 1941).
- 9 Ibid., 1238/426 (March 15, 1949).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Montgomery County Sentinels
Maps: Martenet & Bond, 1865; Hopkins Atlas, 1879
Portrait & Biographical Record of the 6th Congressional District (1898).
Boyd, T.H.S., History of Montgomery County, Md. (Regional Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1973) (originally pub. Clarksburg, 1879).
Historical & Biographical Sketch of the Offutt Family

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20 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 <u>Carey K. Miller/Eileen McGuckian</u>	DATE <u>Candy Reed-arch. Desc.</u>
ORGANIZATION <u>Sugarloaf Regional Trails</u>	TELEPHONE <u>July 1979</u>
STREET & NUMBER <u>Box 87</u>	STATE <u>926-4510</u>
CITY OR TOWN <u>Dickerson</u>	STATE <u>Maryland 20753</u>

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~~ SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS
~~The Shaw House, 21 State Circle~~ Box 87, Stronghold
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~ Dickerson, Md. 20753
~~(301) 267-1438~~ (301) 926-4510

1607545604

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC: Captain John McDonald House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 10600 River Road

CITY OR TOWN: Potomac

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Maryland

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Herbert J. Miller, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER: 10600 River Road

CITY OR TOWN: Potomac 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: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:29-7

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Historic <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Invention <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> Theater <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ |
|--|--|---|---|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:29-7

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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Sr. Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC DATE: 5 Mar 75

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 _____



NAME CAPT. JOHN McDONALD HOUSE
LOCATION 10650 RIVER RD., POTOMAC, MD.
FACADE N
PHOTO TAKEN 3/5/75
M. ROYER

M# 29-7