

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name Dr. Willett House
2. Planning Area/Site Number 29/9 3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 19
L-4
4. Address 10101 Falls Road, Potomac
5. Classification Summary
 Category building
 Ownership private
 Public Acquisition NA
 Status occupied
 Accessible no
 Present use private residence
 Previous Survey Recording M-MCPC Federal State County X Local
 (Title and date: Inventory of Historical Sites - 1976)
6. Date c. 1870 7. Original Owner Dr. Cephas Willett
8. Apparent Condition
 a. good
 b. altered
 c. original site
9. Description: This five bay by two bay, two and a half story frame house is set back from Falls Road on beautiful grounds, facing northwest. The Willett house has been enlarged by a one story addition to the southwest. It has both novelty and clapboard siding. The cross gable roof has a decorative jigsawed screen on the northwest elevation. The southwest addition has a flat roof and is enclosed by a balustraded railing. There are six over six double hung windows. The southwest addition has French doors--two facing northwest and two facing southeast.
10. Significance: This house is the oldest dwelling in the village center of Potomac. It was constructed about 1870 by Cephas Willett, a local physician. A contemporary description of the four acre property in 1884 reads:
 A fine frame dwelling house, two stories high, containing ten rooms and cellar. The house has been built but a few years, and is in good order. There is also a meat house, hen house, pump of good water at the door, good stable, large enough for six horses, corn crib, granary, and wagon shed.
 Willett did not have clear title to the property, however, until 1874 when the land was purchased for \$225. Willett and his wife, Elizabeth, lived there until 1883 when she sold the property for \$1,550 to Matthew O'Brien, a Potomac blacksmith. The property then remained in the O'Brien family for over 60 years until 1945. It has since passed through a number of hands. The present owners have lived in the house since 1967.
- Date researched and researcher 1/79 - Mark Walston Candy Reed
 Arch. Description
12. Compiler Gail Rothrock 13. Date Compiled 2/79 14. Designation
 Approval
15. Acreage 4 acres

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Dr. C.E. Willett House				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 10101 Falls Rd.				
CITY OR TOWN: Potomac				
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Montgomery	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<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 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: H. Levy				
STREET AND NUMBER: 10101 Falls Rd.				
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:				
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:29-9

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncltered		<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 structure of Victorian style. There is a one-story, open porch on the front (north) of the building and it is supported by bracketed posts. The gingerbread motif is repeated in a projecting center gable of low pitch. Windows are all six-over-six, double-hung, and the central door is topped by a transom-light.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:29-9

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 | losophy | _____ |
| <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 | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarion | _____ |
| <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

[Empty space for statement of significance]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:29-9

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:
Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC

DATE: 4/23/75

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Ave.

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

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Dr. Willett House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

10101 Falls Road

CITY, TOWN

Potomac

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

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

Wm. C. Hildebrandt et al

Telephone #: unlisted

STREET & NUMBER

508 Goldsborough Drive

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 3691

Folio #: 48

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

M NCP+PC Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1976

___FEDERAL STATE COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Derwood

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

M:29-9

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This five bay by two bay, two and a half story frame house is set back from Falls Road on beautiful grounds, facing northwest.

Built on fieldstone foundations, the Willett house has grey clapboarding and novelty siding. The northwest (front) porch has a shed roof supported by four turned posts. It is enclosed by a balustraded railing and may be reached by three wooden steps. The glass and wooden paneled northwest (front) door is surmounted by a three-light transom. The southwest addition to the house has two French doors which open on the northwest elevation. The southeast porch has a shed roof and has been enclosed. There is a glass and wooden paneled Dutch door which is protected by a metal shed hood. Two French doors open on the southeast elevation.

There are six over six double hung windows throughout the house flanked by black wooden louvered shutters. The gable roof has a northwest cross gable with a jig-sawed screen. The cornice line is boxed. The southwest addition is one story and has a flat roof which is enclosed by a balustraded railing. There are two chimneys: an exterior end chimney at the southwest elevation and an exterior end chimney at the northeast elevation.

The northwest (front) door enters into a central hallway. The open string single run stairway ascends from northwest to southeast against the northeast interior wall. The stairway has a carved newell post and turned balusters. Northeast of the stairs is a small bedroom with a bath and closet immediately to the southeast. The living room is southwest of the hall. The living room was enlarged to the southwest by a one story addition. Southeast of the hall is the dining room (on the northeast) and the kitchen (on the southwest). The floors of the house are narrow hardwood. The walls and ceilings are plaster over lath. There are simple door frames for the paneled wooden doors. The paneled door from the hall to the living room slides into the wall.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:29-9

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES c.1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is the oldest dwelling situated within the confines of the village of Potomac. The house was constructed by Dr. Cephas Willett, a local physician, around the year 1870. However, Dr. Willett built his residence upon property of which he had no clear title. The site was a section of a 16 1/2 acre parcel of "Williamsburg" purchased by Milton Fisher from Arena P. Whitelock on February 27, 1861. (1) Later, on September 30, 1868, Fisher sold one undivided moiety of the property to James R. Norton. (2) Then, on January 16, 1871, Fisher and Norton drew up an agreement with Cephas Willett, stating that they "...have agreed to make unto [Willett] a good and sufficient deed for the lot of land whereon the said Willett now resides, containing about four and one half acres...provided the said Willett gives the same number of acres adjoining the aforesaid lot...or if the said Willett fails to give or cannot give the said Fisher and Norton a good and sufficient deed for the aforesaid lot in a reasonable time, then the said Willett or his administrators will pay to the said Fisher and Norton the sum of \$225 for the aforesaid lot." [3] Yet, the title to the property was still unclear by 1874, for the house was included in a court-ordered trustees' sale of the property, under the unpaid debt proceedings of Mary A. Almoney vs. Fisher and Norton. The sale advertisement provides a good contemporary description of the property;

A fine frame dwelling house, two stories high, containing ten rooms and cellar. The house has been built but a few years, and is in good order. There is also a meat house, hen house, pump of good water at the door, good stable, large enough for six horses, corn crib, granary, and wagon shed. [4]

But, someone (perhaps Willett) brought to the trustees' attention the fact that Fisher and Norton had previously agreed to sell the lot to Dr. Willett, and the house was subsequently withdrawn from public sale. [5] Consequently, on June 20, 1874, Fisher and Norton executed a proper deed of conveyance for the four acre lot surrounding the house to Elizabeth Willett, wife of Dr. Willett, for the sum of \$225. [6] On December 14, 1883, Mrs. Willett sold the property, for

(See Attachment Sheet A)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Dr. Willett House

\$1,550, to Matthew O'Brien, a blacksmith located in the village of Potomac. (7) O'Brien died in 1928, and by his will, bequeathed the property to his wife, Elizabeth O'Brien. (8) On her death in 1934 she devised to her son Thomas S. O'Brien, "...all my real estate... situate at Potomac, in Montgomery County, upon which I made my home for over 50 years." (9) On August 20, 1945, Mary W. O'Brien, widow of Thomas O'Brien, conveyed the house and four acres to Mary McMillan Noonan. (10) The property has since passed through a number of hands, being purchased by the present owners in 1967.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md. JGH 8/331.
2. Ibid., EBP 5/405.
3. Ibid., Agreement, EBP 8/373.
4. Montgomery County Sentinel, April 10, 1874.
5. Montgomery County Equity Records, Judgment EBP 17/98.
6. Land Records, Op. Cit., EBP 12/340.
7. Ibid., JA 17/40
8. Montgomery County Orphan's Court Records, Will PEW 14/73.
9. Ibid., Will HGC 5/408.
10. Land Records, Op. Cit., 381/3.

M:29-9

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Montgomery County Land Records
- Montgomery County Equity Records
- Montgomery County Orphan's Court Records
- Montgomery County Sentinel, April 10, 1874

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 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	Candy Reed - Architectural Description
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Sugarleaf Regional Trails	January 1979
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
Box 87, Stronghold	926-4510
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Dickerson	Maryland

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

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

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

M:29-9

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated August 15, 1989

ACTION TAKEN

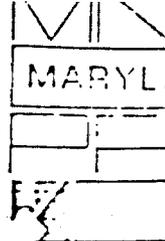
This amendment recommends 18 historic resources throughout Montgomery County for historic designation and protection under the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code. It also recommends that 4 other resources be found not to warrant historic designation and that they be removed from the Locational Atlas and from further protection under the Ordinance.

18 historic resources recommended for historic designation and protection:

M: 10-52	Charles Browning Farm
M: 10-57	Zeigler Log House
M: 12-11	Frederick Hayes House
M: 12-36	Oak Ridge/Eleven Brothers
M: 14-51	Woodburn/Blunt House
M: 16-1	Trundle Farm
M: 16-12	Warren M.E. Church and Martinsburg Negro School
M: 16/26	Nathan Dickerson Poole House/River View
M: 23-41	Musgrove/Hobbs/Gaither House
M: 23-47	Pleasant View
M: 23-84/1	Ellicott Mine
M: 25-8	Mt. Prospect
M: 25-10/1	Travilah Town Hall
M: 29/9	Dr. Willett House
M: 29-19	Joseph Magruder House (Offutt House)
M: 33-1	Drumeldra
M: 34-10	Conley House/Green Ridge
M: 36-3	Rock Creek Stables/Old Callahan Estate

4 resources to be removed from Locational Atlas.

M: 25-19	Semmes Farm	M: 37-1	Waterworks Site/Sligo Creek
M: 37-2	Presidents' Tree	M: 28-34	Mt. Pleasant II



M:29-9

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated April 25, 1989

ACTION TAKEN

This document contains the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission's recommendations on the designation of twenty-two (22) historic resources throughout Montgomery County. Twenty-one resources are recommended for historic designation and protection under the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code. One resource is not recommended for designation.

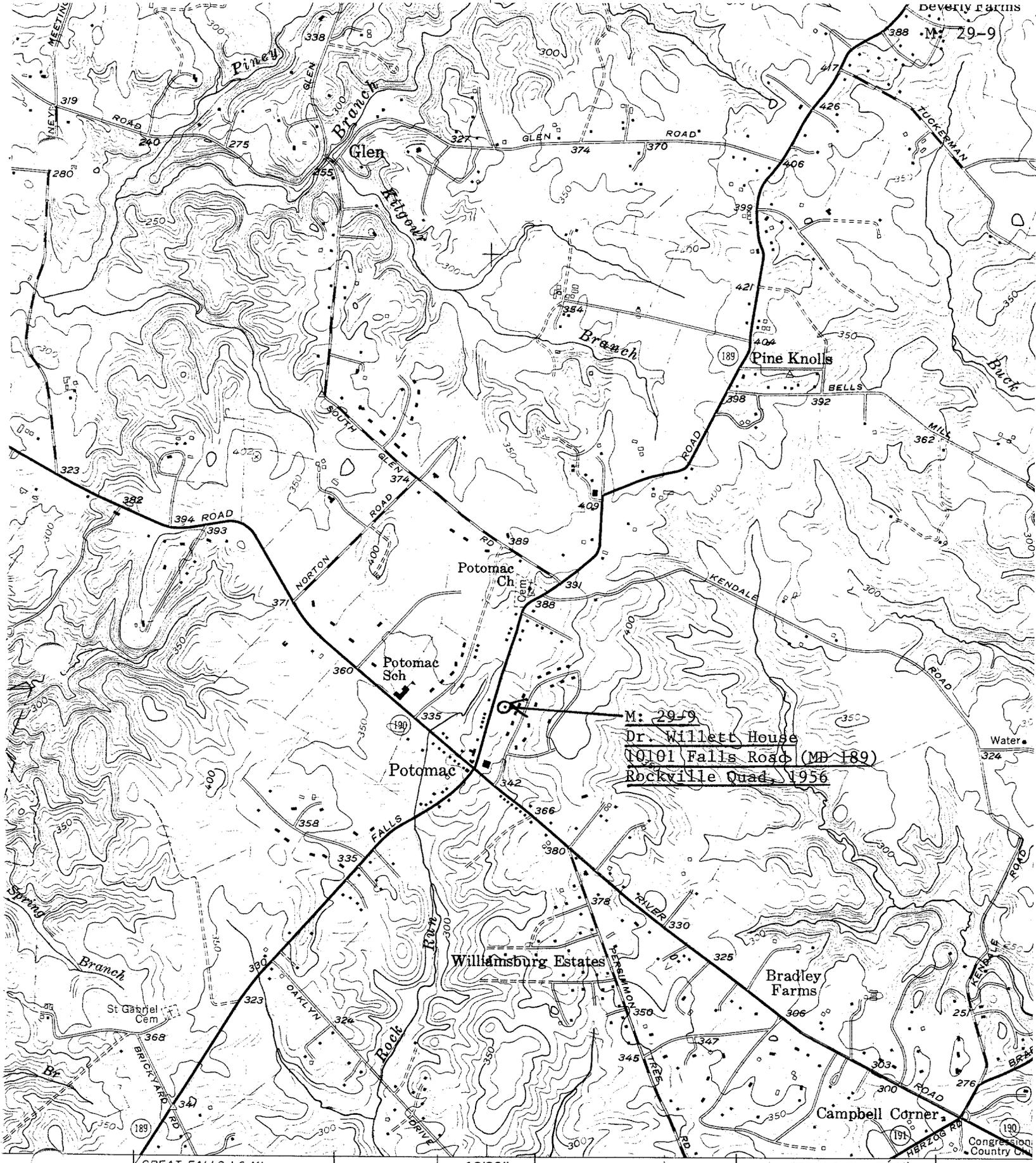
SITES RECOMMENDED

- M: 10/52 Charles Browning Farm
- M: 10/57 Zeigler Log House
- M: 12/11 Frederick Hayes House
- M: 12/36 Oak Ridge/Eleven Brothers
- M: 14/51 Woodburn/Blunt House
- M: 16/1 Trundle Farm
- M: 16/12 Warren E.M. Church and associated bldgs.
- M: 16/26 Nathan Dickerson Poole House/River View
- M: 23/41 Musgrove/Hobbs/Gaither House
- M: 23/47 Pleasant View
- M: 23/84-1 Ellicott Mine
- M: 25/8 Mount Prospect
- M: 25/10-1 Travilah Town Hall
- M: 28/34 Mount Pleasant II/Esther Scott House
- M: 29/9 Dr. Willett House
- M: 29/19 Joseph Magruder House
- M: 33/1 Drumeldra
- M: 34/10 Conley House
- M: 36/03 Rock Creek Stables/Old Callahan Estate
- M: 37/01 Waterworks Site/Sligo Creek
- M: 37/02 The President's Tree

NOT RECOMMENDED

- M: 25/19 Semmes Farm



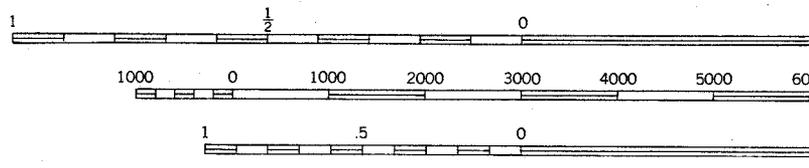
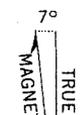


M: 29-9
 Dr. Willett House
 10101 Falls Road (MP 189)
 Rockville Quad, 1956

by the Geological Survey

photogrammetric methods
 check 1956

merican datum
 ordinate system,
 one



(FALLS CHURCH)
 CABIN JOHN 3.2 MI
 SCALE 1:24000

NAME DR C.E. WILLETT HOUSE

M: # 29-9

LOCATION 10101 FALLS RD POTOMAC, Md

FACADE W

PHOTO TAKEN 4/23/75 MOWYER



M: 29/9

Dr. C. E. Willett House c. 1870
10101 Falls Road

West (Front) elevation

(29/8 Potomac Village)

Judy CHRISTENSEN

Feb. 1989