

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes
 no

Property Name: Somerset Historic District (Somerset Heights) Inventory Number: M:35-36
 Address: Dorset, Cumberland, Essex, Warwick and Surrey City: Chevy Chase Zip Code: 20815
 County: Montgomery USGS Topographic Map: Kensington
 Owner: multiple owners Is the property being evaluated a district? yes
 Tax Parcel Number: _____ Tax Map Number: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____
 Project: MD 355 @ Dorset Avenue Agency: SHA
 Site visit by MHT staff: no yes Name: _____ Date: _____
 Is the property is located within a historic district? yes no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: _____
 NR-listed district yes Eligible district yes Name of District: _____
 Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource yes no Non-contributing but eligible in another context yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible yes no

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:
 Project Review and Compliance files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*
 Somerset Heights developed in 1890 as one of the first residential streetcar neighborhoods in Montgomery County. Somerset Heights was founded by a group of five US Department of Agriculture scientists who formed the Somerset Heights Land Company and purchased a 50 acre parcel of the Williamson farm for \$19,000. The suburb was originally developed along the Trolley line (Rockville Electric railway) and Wisconsin Ave (MD355). Their plans for the farmland were described in a story in the May 17, 1890 issue of the Washington Evening Post: "...the scientific men of the Dept. of Agriculture...selected a tract of 50 acres of rolling land adjoining the property of General Drum just across the DC line in Mont. County. The Company will begin operations by providing the property with good system of sewerage, a bountiful supply of water and electric lights from Georgetown and Tenallytown Electric Railway Company. The lots are to contain not less than one acre...suburb fashioned after the very pleasant ones of Boston and other northern cities."

Somerset Heights was originally part of an extensive tract of land called "Friendship" patented in 1711. By the 19th century, a triangular shaped 211 acre part of this tract was purchased by Richard Williams who operated a farm on the property. Five short streets in a grid pattern were laid out and named for the English counties of Dorset, Warwick, Surrey, Cumberland, and Essex. In 1895, the partners subdivided the rest of the tract into one acre lots. Covenants on the lots were established by the original developers that required a 30 foot setback and a limit of the price of new residences (\$2000). Water and sewer service

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
MHT Comments	
<i>Andrew Lewis</i> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<i>6/23/03</i> Date
<i>[Signature]</i> Reviewer, NR Program	<i>6/23/03</i> Date

200302406

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Somerset Historic District (Somerset Heig

Inventory Number: M:35-36

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was also installed.

The developers built the first five houses in Somerset Heights. The first house was built in 1893 by Dr. Charles Crampton at 4805 Dorset Avenue. He was the Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry. Dr. Harvey Wiley, Chief, Bureau of Chemistry, best known as the "Father of the pure Food and Drug Act of 1906" built 4722 Dorset Avenue. Dr. Daniel Salmon, Chief, Bureau of Animal Industry, built 4728 Dorset Avenue and called it "Clover Crest"; and Miles Fuller, Chief Clerk of the Bureau of Animal Industry and (Business Manger of the Partnership), built 4723 Dorset Avenue; Dr. E. A. de Sweinitz, Chief Biochemic Division, Bureau of Animal Industry, took over interest of Horace Horton one the original partners, and built 4721 Essex Avenue- which burned down shortly afterwards.

By 1905, 35 residents had been built and occupied. In 1906, the community of Somerset Heights with some surrounding farms became the Town of Somerset. By 1940 the population has tripled.

The Town of Somerset includes a locally designated Somerset Historic District that is located entirely within the originally 50 acre tract purchased by the Somerset Heights Colony Company and includes the National Register listed Clover Crest (M:35-36-6) located at 4728 Dorset Avenue. The district includes 54 houses located on parts of Cumberland, Dorset, Essex, Surrey and Warwick streets. 31 of the houses are considered "primary resources" built prior to 1915.

The Town of Somerset is now bounded on the east by Wisconsin Ave, on the West by Little Falls Parkway and the South by Littlefalls Creek and on their North by Drummond Community. The Town of Somerset maintains a park-like setting, featuring landscaping, trees, and sidewalks throughout the community. The community also includes a elementary school built in 1926, a pool and a park although these amenities were not originally in the plan of Somerset Heights. The locally designated district includes the original fifty acre tract which is located in the center of the 242 acre suburb; however the entire plat includes several phases of development and has a period of significance from 1893-1951. A significant section of the original plat was not developed until after 1946 when the remaining area was resubdivided in a free form pattern typical of mid-twentieth century suburbs. As development pressure intensified, the large corner lots were subdivided into narrower lots resulting in new in-fill houses. The Somerset Historic District has also experienced in recent years the demolition of some of the older houses and their replacement with larger modern houses.

According to the MIHP forms, there are at least four major periods of development in the Somerset Historic District. The original phase from 1893-1904 in which large frame Victorian and Queen Anne houses were constructed. The second phase from 1900-1915 saw smaller Bungalows/ Craftsmen houses. The third phase was predominantly brick and frame Colonial Revival houses that were constructed from 1915- to 1940; and from 1940 - present there have been many different types of modern and Neo-Colonial houses built.

The Somerset Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B and C. It is as an example of one the first planned residential streetcar suburbs developed in Montgomery County. The Somerset Historic District represents a cohesive grouping of residential properties built between 1893 and 1951. Although some of the lots were resubdivided in later phases of development, the setbacks are consistent.

The Somerset Historic District has remained almost completely residential and possesses integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, feeling and association. The Somerset Historic District is associated with suburbanization of the DC Area (Criterion A). The property is also is significant for its associated with the founding group of scientists that were national

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None
MHT Comments

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, NR Program

Date

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Somerset Historic District (Somerset Heig

Inventory Number: M:35-36

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recognized (Criterion B). The Somerset Historic District also embodies the distinctive characteristics of several types and periods of construction that represent possess high artistic values (Criterion C). The Somerset Historic District is not being evaluated under Criterion D.

Due to the limited nature of SHA's undertaking, the historic district boundary recommended for eligibility is coterminous with the 50-acre tract locally designated by the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. While the 50-acre historic core of the histric was revisited by SHA to assess integrity since the previuos surveys, SHA has not identified contributing and non-contributing resources. It is likely that additional survey and study in the future will justify a larger district boundary.

For the purposes of this undertaking, the stone pillars located at the Dorset Avenue entrance to the Town of Somerset are considered a contributing resource to the Somerset Historic District. The stone pillars were rebuilt in 1935 and replaced the original stone entrance that also featured a shelter that was used as trolley station. Research indicates that in March 1913, the trolley station at Dorset and Wisconsin was condemned as a public nuisance and ordered to be removed. In April 1925, the Women's' club funded lamps to be installed on posts at station and provided shrubs. In April 1930, metal "Somerset" signs are installed on stone pillars at Wisconsin entrance to Somerset.

Prepared by: Liz Buxton

Date Prepared: 6/10/2003

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None

MHT Comments

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, NR Program

Date

**MD 255 @ Dorset Avenue
 Montgomery County
 Washington West Quad
 Attachment 2 showing APE**



M:35-36
 Somerset Historic District

APE

Stone Entrance Pillars

-  M:hp.shp
-  Swnrhp3m.shp
-  USGS Topo Quad Index
-  County



M: 35-36

TOWN OF
MIRSET

SPEED
LIMIT
25



John ... p. 11/13

(MS 35-36)

Mont. Co MD

L. Buxton

...

MD ...

...

Somerset ...

1921 10 N N H+1-08 AC+01 GR08 2083-100

2-002 (3) BH

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1000 DE SOMERSET

SPEED
LIMIT
25

7958 DISTRICT
FOR WALL BROWNS

M: 35-36

Somerset H.D.

(N.) Entrance at Dorset

Mint Co.

Leighton

June 2003

MD SHPO

Looking West

1021 10 H N M+1-21 PC+01 6R08 2083/100

Prestige DIGITAL

CONSUM AVE
(Before)

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Prestige DIGITAL

AGFA

Prestige DIGITAL

Prestige DIGITAL

AGFA

A black and white photograph showing a street scene. In the foreground, a concrete sidewalk runs from the bottom left towards the center. To the left of the sidewalk is a large, dark, leafy bush. In the background, a road curves to the right, marked with white crosswalk lines. A utility pole stands near the center, with power lines extending across the frame. A sign on the left side of the road reads "TOWN OF SOMERSET" and "ESTABLISHED 1842". A car is partially visible on the right side of the road. The scene is surrounded by trees and dense foliage.

TOWN OF
SOMERSET
ESTABLISHED 1842

M: 35-36

Somerset 113

Entrance on Dorset and W. Scoville

Mont. Co.

L. Burton

[unclear 2000s]

and SHPs

Looking west

<###
1021 10 N N N N 11 AC+01 GPOB 2003-100
>005 @ BN



M 35.36
Somerset 4 2

4/11/5 Cumberland

L. B. Prestige
Mont Co.

June 2003

145 5400

Los Angeles

AGFA
104118 N N N+1-89 AC+81 6888 2883/180

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DIGITAL

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SOMERSET ELEM
5811 WARWICK PL

Somerset H.D.
Somerset Elementary
Rt 35-36

5811/2 Warwick Place
Dialton, Co

L. Buxton

MD SHPO

Looking SE

AGFA

CNO: 25N1002 @ EH
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DIGITAL



SOMERSET ELIOT
5011 MARWICKA PI

Somerset H D
Somerset Elementary

M: 35-36

5111 Warwick Place

Mont. Co.

L. Buxton

MD 31140

Looking east at fence

<No. 24112801 @ BH
104110 N N N N 00 AC+01 GR08 2003-1000



M: 35-36
Somerset HD
4823 Dorset Ave
L Buxton
Mont. Co.
June 2003
MD SHD
Looking North

<NO. 1390>012 @ BH
18410 N N N-2 18 AC+01 GR08 2003-100



M: 35-36

Somerset Co.

4820 Durset Ave

Mont. Co

L Buxton

June 2003

MD 5140

<NO. 1299> 013 @ BH
104110 N N N N 1 13 AC+01 6R08 2003/100



M: 35-36

Somerset H.D.

4816 1 road -

Mont Co.

June 2013

LA Briston

WY SLPD

Looking South

<NO. 119> 014 @ EN
104110 N N N N N-06 AC+01 GR08 2083/100



M: 35-36

Somerset A.C.

4725 Dorset Ave

Mont. Co.

L. Burton

June 2003

M. S. P.

Living North

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No. 10111015 @ BM
101110 N N N-2 23 ACF 01 GR08-2003-100

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M: 35.36

Somerset H.D.

4817 Cumberland

Mont. Co.

June 2003

L Buxton

1110 SHPO

Looking N

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35-36

Somer set H. D.

4818 Cumberland

Mont. Co.

↳ Suxton

June 2003

MD SLAPD

Looking South

<NO. 742-018 @ BH
1941 10 H N N H 02 AC+01 6R08 2003/100

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M. 35-36

Sunrise A.D.

4-119 Cumberland

Ment Co

L. Buxton

June 2003

MD 3400

Looking for...

<NO. 24> 023 @ BH
104119 N N N+1 NH AC+01 GR08 2003-100



MI 35-36

Somerset H.D

4721 Cumberland

Mont. Co.

Li Buxton

June 1 2003

MD SHPO

Looking N. H.

NO. 34-022 © BH
1041 10 N N N N 22 RC+01 GR08 2003-100

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M. 35-36

5812 Warlock

Mont. Co.

L. Bixton

MD SH80

Looking West

June 03

Exposure

Historic District

100118 N N N N N 02 NC+01 GR08 2093-109

4000-2000-003 @ BH

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M: 35-36 Somerset Historic District

5808 Warwick

Mont Co

L. Buxton

MIS SHPO

June 2003

Looking W

NO. 217-084 © EN
104110 N N N N H 03 AC+01 6P00 2083-100



M. 35-36
Somerset A.D

5806 Warwick

Markt Co

MTS SHOP

L. Burton

June 2003

1/2003

<No. 2003>005 (3) BH
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M. 35-36

Sunset H D

5712 Warwick

Mont. Co

L. Baxton

June 2013

MD SHPD

Looking West

NO. 194118 N N N H 1-17 RC+01 GR08 2083-100



M 35 36

Sarasat H.D.

4022 Duneset Ave

6 Duneset Ave

MS 5795

June 2003

Lebanon, South

<NO. 1811> 007 @ BN
104110 N N N N N 11 AC+01 GR06 2003-100

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4811

M: 35-36

Somerset H D

4911 Dorset Ave

L Buxton

Mont Co

June 2013

IND ST 30

Looking N

<NO. 1779> 008 © EN
1041 10 N N N+1-03 PC+01 GR06 2003-190



M:35-36

Somerset H. D.

4824 Direct Ave

Mont Co

L. Buxton

June 2003

MD SH20

Looking South

<NO>14A>011 @ BN
184118 H H N+1-37 AC+01 GRM8 2003-100



M 3030
Prestige
DIGITAL

4952 Dorset Ave
Part A
L 100-1-01

June 2003

MD SHPO

Looking South

<NO. 15A> 010 @ EN
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AGFA

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ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M. 35-36
(date entered 5-4-80)

1. Name: Somerset Heights Historic District
2. Planning Area/Site Number: 35/36 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 21
Somerset Heights H.D. D-14
4. Address: Chevy Chase, Maryland

5. Classification Summary

Category district Previous Survey Recording M-NCPPC
 Ownership private Title and Date: 1976 Inventory of
 Public Acquisition N/A Historical Sites
 Status occupied
 Accessible no Federal State x County x Local
 Present use private residences

6. Date: 1890 to date 7. Original Owner: Somerset Heights Colony Co.

8. Apparent Condition

a. good b. altered c. original site

9. Description: Somerset is a late 19th century commuter suburb just over the District line in Maryland. Although the town has incorporated boundaries, the main area of historical concern is located one block west of Wisconsin Avenue, between the blocks of Cumberland Avenue and Essex Avenue. The houses in this area are fine examples of Victorian architecture and many exhibit a distinct vernacular style. Some of the best examples are:
5800 Dorset Avenue - a 2 story frame house with several ells and a 2 story Italianate tower
4719 Cumberland Avenue - a nice example of the Colonial Revival style
4723 Cumberland Avenue - a 2 story frame house -- one of the earlier houses built in the area
4824 Cumberland Avenue - a later 2 story house in the Greek Revival style.
10. Significance: Somerset Heights is a fine example of the turn of the century suburbs that arose because of better transportation methods and routes into the city. In 1890, five employees of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture organized the Somerset Heights Colony Company, purchased 50 acres and subdivided the tract, naming streets for English counties and agreeing to construct five residences immediately. Lot sales at first were brisk, and by 1905 there were 35 families in the community.
 The Somerset Heights Water and Power Company was incorporated in 1902; the Citizens Association obtained a charter from the State to exercise municipal powers, and Somerset Heights became the town of Somerset. The first town council was elected in 1906; the town assessed and collected taxes, and provided some municipal services. By 1920 there were 200 residences and by 1945 about 100 families lived in the town. During the post World War II building boom between 1945 and 1956, the population tripled.
 Somerset has a well developed park system, tennis courts and swimming pool and there are four paid town employees. The town still continues to govern its chartered area.

1. Researcher and date researched: Clarice Hens-10/79 Michael Dwyer Arch. Description
12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock 13. Date Compiled: 10/79 14. Designation Approval
15. Acreage: 192 acres

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Somerset Heights

AND/OR COMMON Somerset Historic District

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Chevy Chase VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8

STATE Maryland COUNTY Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF 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 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 20755

7 DESCRIPTION

M.35-36

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

Somerset is a late 19th century commuter suburb just over the District line in Maryland. Although the town has incorporated boundaries, the main area of historical concern is located one block west of Wisconsin Avenue, between the blocks of Cumberland Avenue and Essex Avenue. The houses in this area are fine examples of Victorian architecture and many exhibit a distinct vernacular style.

Some of the best examples are:

- 1) 5800 Dorset Avenue (at NW corner of Warwick)
This is a two-story frame house with several ells. A two-story, Italianate tower is set in the ell of the main (south) facade. There is a pair of small, arched windows at the second floor level. An open, one-story porch runs across the south facade and it is supported by bracketed, turned posts. There is a Victorian balustrade along the porch, as well as other decorative millwork.
- 2) 4719 Cumberland Avenue
This is a very nice example of the Colonial Revival style of house that seems to predominate in this community. There is a wide, one-story porch adorned with Victorian trim and the clapboards are very tightly overlapped so that only a few inches of each shows.
- 3) 4723 Cumberland Avenue
Also a two-story frame house, but apparently one of the earlier homes in the district.
- 4) 4824 Cumberland Avenue
Although this is a later structure it is an exquisite example of the Greek Revival style, seldom seen in Montgomery County. It is a two-story frame house of three bays and large pedimented portico. There are clapboards on the sides and rear of the building but flush siding on the main (north) facade. A large central chimney projects above the roof.

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 checked="" 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 1890 to date BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Before 1890 the land which is now the incorporated town of Somerset was part of the Williams family farm. In 1890 Thomas Hyde purchased 211½ acres of the farm, 50 of which he sold the same year to a group of five Department of Agriculture colleagues.¹ The five, Harvey Wiley, Charles Crampton, Daniel Salmon, Miles Fuller, and Horace Horton, agreed to immediately construct their own residences in the subdivision; and recorded a plat for "Somerset Heights."² An Evening Star article at the time indicated that the men expected to build a "cluster of villas, forming a suburb fashioned after the pleasant ones of Boston".

All but Horace Horton built large homes on Dorset Avenue by 1895. Horton sold his share and never built in Somerset. The remaining four, in 1895, subdivided the remaining building lots, and published a brochure to encourage sales in Somerset Heights. The brochure listed as advantages of Somerset Heights: "Good class of residents assured. Property in the direction of rapidly advancing values. Three lines of electric railroad and one of steam transportation. Away from the river; no malaria; no mosquitoes. Residents are citizens of Maryland, and therefore entitled to vote."³

Early sales were encouraging, and by 1905 there were 35 families living in the subdivision. One early builder was Richard Ough. The Somerset Heights Water and Power Company was incorporated in 1902 and provided water for the community.⁴ The Citizens Association petitioned for and obtained a charter from the State of Maryland to exercise municipal powers, and Somerset Heights became the town of Somerset. The first town council was elected on May 7, 1906, and Dr. Charles A. Crampton became the first mayor. The Town began to assess and collect taxes, made arrangements for fireprotection, improvement of sewage disposal, maintenance of the trolley station at Dorset and Wisconsin Avenues, and to regulate the running at large of various farm animals such as geese, ducks and turkeys.

From the beginning Somerset women organized activities for the community's benefit. The "Wednesday Club" supported social and medical services for needy persons in the County. Its successor, the Woman's Club, raised the money for and had constructed the handsome stone pillars at the town's entrance on Wisconsin Avenue.

In 1910 there were 173 residents and in 1920 there were 200. By 1945 about 100 families lived in the town but it was still surrounded by open fields and woodland on the south, east and west. When surrounding property became available for development (the Bergdoll unimproved property), three auctions were held. People came from miles around to bid on the land. The houses built by Richard Ough and others in the early 1900's and other

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Continued on Attachment Sheet A

Somerset Historic District

typical homes of the twenties and thirties, were joined by houses of post-World War II design. Between 1946 and 1956 the population tripled.

Somerset has remained an almost completely residential area. There is a well developed park system for the town residents, and tennis courts and a community swimming pool. There are four paid employees of the town. Functions which the town does not wish to perform through its staff are provided by agreement with Montgomery County (such as fire and police protection). The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission has long since superseded the Somerset Heights Water and Power Company. The boundaries are now surrounded by the homes and apartment houses of Bethesda and Friendship. The Town of Somerset continues to govern its chartered area under its authority from the State of Maryland.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., JA19/489 (1890).
2. Ibid., Plat 1/30 (1890).
3. "Somerset Heights Land Company" (1895) (copy attached).
4. Montgomery County Corporation Records, EBPL/314 (August 15, 1902).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Montgomery County Land & Corporation Records.
 "Town of Somerset: 1906-1956 History and Government".
 O'Brien, D. and Jaszi, H., "The Town of Somerset", Montgomery County Story, Montgomery County Historical Society, Vol. 20, No. 2 (May 1977).
 Montgomery County Historical Society's Photograph Collection.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 192 Acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Area bordered by Wisconsin Avenue on east, Little Falls Parkway and River Road on west, Cumberland Avenue on north, and Friendship Heights on south.

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Clarice Hens	Michael Dwyer	Architectural Description
ORGANIZATION	Sugarloaf Regional Trails	DATE	October 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, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Somerset Historic District

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: COUNTY:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input 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:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:
Rockville Maryland

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

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)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Uncltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>Somerset is a late-nineteenth century commuter suburb just over the District line in Maryland. Although the town has incorporated boundaries, the main area of historical concern is located one block west of Wisconsin Avenue, between the blocks of Cumberland Avenue and Essex Ave. The houses in this area are fine examples of Victorian architecture and many exhibit a distinct vernacular style.</p> <p>Some of the best examples are:</p> <p>1) <u>5800 Dorset Ave.</u> (at NW corner of Warwick) This is a two-story frame house with several ells. A two-story, Italianate tower is set in the ell of the main (south) facade. There is a pair of small, arched windows at the second floor level. An open, one-story porch runs across the south facade and it is supported by bracketed, turned posts. There is a Victorian balustrade along the porch, as well as other decorative millwork.</p> <p>2) <u>4719 Cumberland Avenue</u> This is a very nice example of the Colonial Revival style of house that seems to predominate in this community. There is a wide, one-story porch adorned with Victorian trim and the clapboards are very tightly overlapped so that only a few inches of each shows.</p> <p>3) <u>4723 Cumberland Avenue</u> Also a two-story frame house, but apparently one of the earlier homes in the district.</p> <p>4) <u>4824 Cumberland Ave.</u> Although this is a later structure it is an exquisite example of the Greek Revival style, seldom seen in Montgomery County. It is a two-story frame house of three bays and large pedimented portico. There are clapboards on the sides and rear of the building but flush siding on the main (north) facade. A large central chimney projects above the roof.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

[Empty area for Statement of Significance]

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:

Acreeage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC DATE: 4/22/75

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

M: 35/36

Attachment Sheet B
Somerset Historic District

OFFICERS:

RALPH WALSH,
PRESIDENT.

CHAS. M. BARRICK,
VICE PRESIDENT.

JOHN E. BEALL,
SEC. & TREAS.



SOMERSET
HEIGHTS
LAND CO.

The Future of Washington and Suburbs.

The Washington City of to-day challenges the world for beauty. Ten years in the future, and it will have no rival. The social and intellectual center of the United States now, it is rapidly becoming the permanent residence of men of culture throughout the country. Men of wealth, who have retired from active business and professional life; men of science and letters, who desire to surround themselves with an atmosphere most conducive to their work; capitalists and investors, who can read the future of the Capital of the Great Republic, all push toward this great center to make for themselves permanent homes among the representatives from every quarter of the globe. The past ten years only have developed the true meaning of this wealthy influx, and as a result real estate has just begun to assume its actual values. Speculators who can purchase, at this time, in any part of the District of Columbia, at present prices, and with the determination to hold on for a few years, will realize as they cannot in any other section of the country. This is an opinion given after a thorough study of the future of Washington and real estate interests generally throughout the United States.

What wonder, then, that our growing population should begin to push out into the suburbs, especially when a city can boast of such charming suburbs as Washington. It is said that the area of the subdivided portion of our suburbs is equal to the area of the original limits of the city proper, and in ten years from this time it will have to be three times the area to accommodate the *bona fide* population and far-sighted speculator. This may seem an extravagant statement, but if any one will take the time to calmly deliberate over the possibilities of our future they will conclude that at the end of the time named there will not be a parcel of ground within the limits of the District of Columbia which will not be selling per foot. There are people now who marvel and shake their heads at the extent of suburban subdivisions made during the past few years, and yet these are the very ones who most deeply and loudly regret that they did not purchase ten years ago. The coming ten years will see more wonderful changes and improvements in Washington than have taken place in any previous decade, and there will be hundreds of the same regretful spirits at the end of that time.—*B. H. Warner & Co.'s Annual, 1888.*

SOMERSET HEIGHTS.

LOCATION.

The beautiful suburban property known as Somerset Heights is situated just outside of the District line, in Montgomery county, Maryland, and lies in the heart of that active real estate movement and march of improvement northwest of Washington. It is bordered on the east by the Rockville pike and on the west by the River road, thus presenting *two fronts*. It lies in the centre of that beautiful ridge of land running from Washington to Bethesda and sloping to the Potomac river on the west and Rock creek on the east. It is 400 feet above tidewater, absolutely free from malarial influence, and is located in the healthiest suburb of Washington.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

The Rockville and Tenallytown electric railway borders its entire eastern front; the Glen Echo electric railway runs within two hundred feet of its southern border; the Rock Creek electric railway is within a few minutes' walk; and the proposed extension of the B. & O. R.R., which will terminate in Georgetown, borders its northwest corner.

It can be reached by three electric railways and one proposed steam road.

With the present facilities for transportation, a resident of Somerset can reach the centre of Washington in one hour, and by May 15, 1891, the trip will be made in 40 minutes.

A system of transfers will be arranged by which he will be enabled to reach the city on one fare of 10 cents. The difference in Maryland and District taxes will go largely towards paying this fare.

All of the advantages of a country home and city markets are secured.

VALUE OF LAND.

The development of this section is just begun, and it may safely be predicted that within a few years all this high and beautiful country will become the most desirable part of "The New Washington."

There is no cheap property in the neighborhood.

The tract immediately east of Somerset, on the opposite side of the Rockville pike, containing 152 acres, was purchased in bulk, April 5, 1890, for \$1,050 per acre, by the California Syndicate. *This purchase was made before an electric road was within two miles of the property.*

Land between Somerset and Washington on the line of railroads is held at from \$2,500 per acre to 50 cents per square foot. One mile beyond and away from Washington 10 cents per square foot (over \$4,000 per acre) has been offered.

Fifty acres of Somerset were recently sold to a syndicate of scientists connected with the Smithsonian Institute and Agricultural Department. The following is an extract from

their published proceedings, showing why they concluded to make the purchase :

"After effecting an organization, the Company next proceeded to the choice and purchase of a piece of property suited to its purposes. A committee was appointed to receive propositions from land owners and examine into the merits of each. After spending several months in this work and studying thoroughly the status and advantages of the various sections of country adjoining the city, the committee adopted certain conclusions, by means of which the large number of propositions submitted to it could be sorted out and a decision arrived at with reference to a site for the colony.

It was agreed :

First. That the 'Northwest' section was the most desirable and most progressive portion of the country contiguous to Washington.

Second. That no tract would be considered which was not in such position as to be reached from the city by railway connections, and that street cars were to be preferred to steam railways.

Third. That while it was desirable to have the colony located as near to the city as possible, no tract should be chosen which would require so much money for its purchase that members could not secure ample building sites at reasonable prices.

By applying these tests to the propositions laid before it, the committee finally reduced them to a few available and promising offers, and laid these before the Company. Another committee was then appointed, with instructions to examine personally the different tracts, and empowered to make the final choice of one of them. The owners of the chosen tract were then to be closed with by the committee, the agreement made to be subject to the approval of the Company. The result was the purchase of the 'Somerset' property by the

committee, and the ratification by the Company of the agreement made with the owners."

This syndicate is under agreement to erect five handsome residences in the spring of 1891.

LOTS.

Somerset embraces 192 acres, subdivided into lots of an average size of an acre each, including one-half the width of the street. This is in marked contrast with the prevailing custom in existing subdivisions about Washington, in which the land is parceled up into narrow slices after the plan of city lots. The absurdity of going into the country for more air and space, and then building a home on a 25 or 50 foot lot, is manifest to every one. The *shape* of the lots is also an attractive feature, being nearly square, and in some cases having more front than depth. This gives an ample street frontage, and is far superior to the long, narrow lots of other subdivisions. The design of the officers of the Company in adopting this plan of subdivisions was to afford residents facilities for establishing ideal country residences, with ample grounds, lawns, and gardens. Instead of building the houses in stiff rows along a street, the citizen of Somerset can place his house in the most favorable point in a large square of ground, which will permit the exercise of his taste in landscape gardening and ornamental architecture, with broad walks or drives, smooth lawns, and shady groves.

ADVANTAGES OF SOMERSET HEIGHTS.

1. 400 feet above tidewater.
2. Good class of residents assured.
3. Acre lots with ample street frontage.
4. Property in the direction of rapidly advancing values.
5. Three lines of electric railroad and one of steam transportation.
6. View of surrounding country extends from the Virginia bluffs on the south, to the Blue Mountains on the north.
7. Located just beyond the District line in Maryland and hence with *low taxes*.
8. Cost of acre lot and a handsome residence combined, less than would be paid for a 20 by 100 foot lot in the city.
9. Away from the river; no malaria; no mosquitoes.
10. Promoters are men of high standing in scientific, business, and Departmental circles.
11. Residents are citizens of Maryland, and therefore entitled to vote.
12. Notwithstanding all the advantages, this property is actually offered at a less price than in any other desirable subdivision near the city.

Incorporation of
The Somerset Heights
Water and Power
Company, Inc.

Received this 15th day of Aug.
1904, to be recorded, and same
day was recorded in Liber E.B.P.
No. 1, folio 314, one of the
corporation records of Montgomery Co. Md.
and examined per

Thomas Dawson Clerk

Know all men by these presents, that we, Charles A. Crampton, Frank E. Millis, Jesse E. Swigart, William B. Benham and Edwin H. Gibbs, all of whom are citizens of the United States and of the State of Maryland, do hereby certify that we, for ourselves, and for such other persons who are now, or who may hereafter become stockholders in the hereinafter named corporation, under the General Laws of the State of Maryland authorizing the formation of corporations, do hereby form a corporation under and by the name of "The Somerset Heights Water and Power Company, of Montgomery County".

We do further certify that the objects and purposes of said corporation are the leasing, buying, selling, mortgaging, improving, disposing of or otherwise dealing in lands in this State or partly in this State and partly beyond this State; and for the purpose of boring for, digging for or otherwise procuring a supply of water, and for the laying of mains or other conduits for distributing the same and selling the same in the town of Somerset Heights and adjoining towns in said Montgomery County; and for the purpose of erecting, constructing and maintaining a plant for the production, distribution and sale of power and light in said town of Somerset Heights and adjoining towns in said Montgomery County; and for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a system of sewerage in the said town of Somerset Heights and adjoining towns in said Montgomery County.

We do further certify that the term of the existence of the said corporation shall be the term of forty years.

We do further certify that the operations of the said corporation are to be carried on in the State of Maryland, and in the District of Columbia, and that the principal office of the said corporation shall be located in the town of Somerset Heights in said Montgomery County, in the State of Maryland.

We do further certify that the capital stock of the said

corporation will be the sum of five thousand dollars, and that the said capital stock will be divided into two hundred shares of the par value of twenty-five dollars per share.

We do further certify that the said corporation will be managed by a board of five directors, who shall, after the first election, be annually elected by the stockholders, at such time as may be provided in the By-Laws; and that the said Charles A. Crampton, Frank E. Millis, Jesse E. Swigart, William B. Benham and Edwin H. Gibbs are the names of the directors who will manage the concerns of the said corporation for the first year, or until the regular meeting of the stockholders for the purpose of the election of directors.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this second day of August, in the year nineteen hundred and two.

Witness:

John B. Brewer *Charles A. Crampton* (seal)

Frank E. Millis (seal)

Jesse E. Swigart (seal)

William B. Benham (seal)

Edwin H. Gibbs (seal)

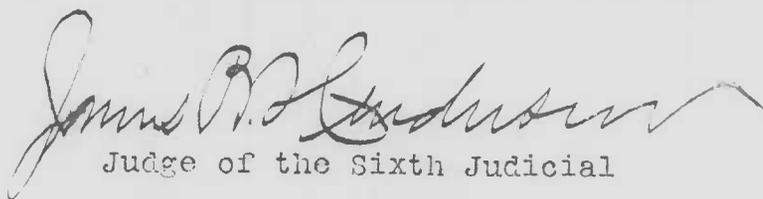
State of Maryland, Montgomery County, to-wit:

I hereby certify that on this second day of August, in the year nineteen hundred and two, before the Subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for Montgomery County, personally appeared Charles A. Crampton, Frank E. Millis, Jesse E. Swigart, William B. Benham and Edwin H. Gibbs, and did each acknowledge the foregoing certificate of incorporation as and for their act and deed for the purposes therein mentioned.

John B. Brewer J.P.

I, James B. Henderson, one of the Judges of the Circuit Court for the Sixth Judicial Circuit of the State of Maryland, within which the principal office of the corporation named in the above certificate is located, do hereby certify that the foregoing certificate has been submitted to me for examination; and I further determine and certify that the said certificate is in conformity with the provisions of the law authorizing the formation of said corporation.

Aug 6th 1962.



Judge of the Sixth Judicial

Circuit of Maryland.

Master Plan Historic District Addresses
July 18, 1990

SITE #	HISTORIC DISTRICT & ADDRESS	SITE NAME/MULTIPLE LOTS (IF APPLICABLE)
35/36	Somerset Historic District Chevy Chase, MD 20815	
-2	4701 Cumberland Ave.	Callahan House, Weintraub House
	4707 Cumberland Ave.	
-3	4709 Cumberland Ave.	Gill House
-4	4711 Cumberland Ave.	Alderman/Dunbar House, Lerner House
	4712 Cumberland Ave.	
	4715 Cumberland Ave.	
	4718 Cumberland Ave.	Biggs House
	4719 Cumberland Ave.	Ough House
	4721 Cumberland Ave.	Ough House
	4722 Cumberland Ave.	
	4723 Cumberland Ave.	Ough House
	4725 Cumberland Ave.	
	4801 Cumberland Ave.	
	4805 Cumberland Ave.	Ough House
	4807 Cumberland Ave.	2 lots
	4808 Cumberland Ave.	
	4810 Cumberland Ave.	
	4811 Cumberland Ave.	
	4812 Cumberland Ave.	
	4814 Cumberland Ave.	
	4705 Dorset Ave.	
	4709 Dorset Ave.	
	4719 Dorset Ave.	
	4721 Dorset Ave.	
	4722 Dorset Ave.	
	4725 Dorset Ave.	
-6	4728 Dorset Ave.	Salmon-Stolhman House/Clover Crest
	4805 Dorset Ave.	Mayor Crampton's House
	4807 Dorset Ave.	
	4817 Dorset Ave.	
	4819 Dorset Ave.	
	4823 Dorset Ave.	
	4901 Dorset Ave.	
	4721 Essex Ave.	
	4727 Essex Ave.	2 lots
	4731 Essex Ave.	
	5706 Surrey St.	
	5707 Surrey St.	
	5710 Surrey St.	
	5712 Surrey St.	
	5802 Surrey St.	
	5804 Surrey St.	
	5807 Surrey St.	
	5809 Surrey St.	

Master Plan Historic District Addresses
July 18, 1990

SITE # HISTORIC DISTRICT & ADDRESS SITE NAME/MULTIPLE LOTS (IF APPLICABLE)

35/36 Somerset Historic District (cont.)
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

5812 Surrey St.

5813 Surrey St.

5816 Surrey St.

5818 Surrey St.

5820 Surrey St.

5800 Warwick Pl.

5806 Warwick Pl.

-> 5808 Warwick Pl.

-> 5810 Warwick Pl.

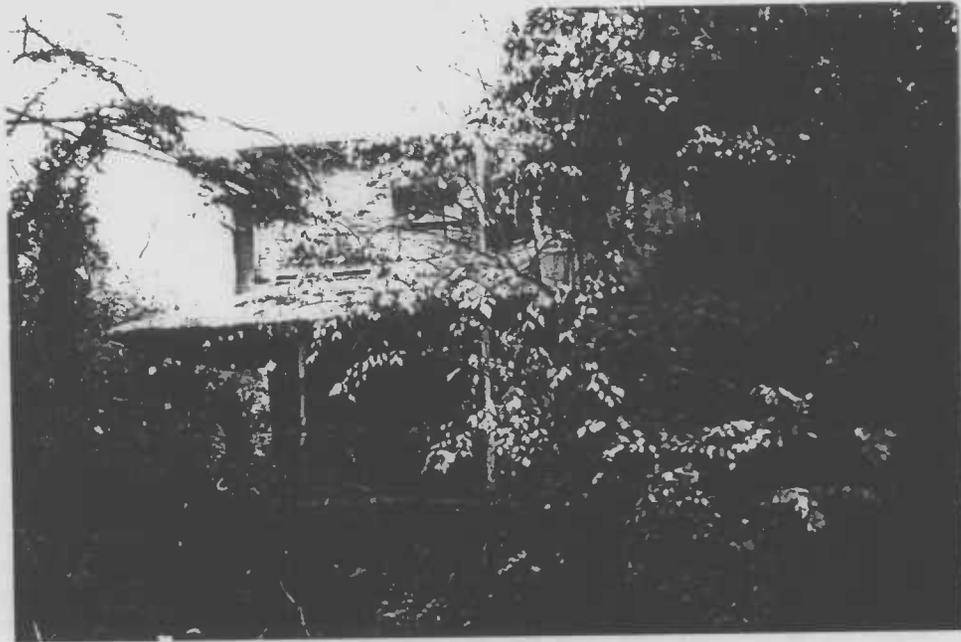
-> 5812 Warwick Pl.

Somerset Corner Store

Cooper/Smith House

Garfield House

Clabaugh/Talbot House/2 lots



4722 Dorset

DATE: circa 1891.

STYLE: Queen Anne/Four-Square

CATEGORY: Pre-1915

CAPSULE DESCRIPTION: This house has the basic floor plan of the four-square style but shows Queen Anne influence in its projecting bay windows and prominent wraparound porch. The bay windows are located on both the main (north) and side facades and are two stories in height. The porch wraps around from the main facade to the east. with turned posts that carved into a sausage-shape in the middle but left square on the ends. The house is 2 1/2 stories. The house is of frame construction with beaded board siding. The house's two gable-ends have fishscale shingles on the half-story. The rear, kitchen, wing of the structure has been destroyed by a fire. The house has been vacant since that fire in December of 1978.

NOTES & COMMENTS: The house at 4722 Dorset has been associated with a pair of men in its history who have left their mark on public life through their high-minded, public-spirited endeavors, Harvey W. Wiley and Arthur C. Ringland. In light of the special importance of the house in the history of Somerset, it is unfortunate that the house was the victim of a fire which marred the rear of the house in December of 1978. The Ringlands, then-owners of the house, were uninsured and had to abandon the house. The house still lies un-occupied and is currently (December 1994) the subject of permit for its demolition by Arthur Ringland's daughter Susan, inheritor of the house.

4722 Dorset was one of the original five houses in Somerset and was built by Harvey Wiley around 1891. Wiley was one of the original five men of the Department of Agriculture who co-founded the town of Somerset.

Harvey Wiley was Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture at the time of his purchase of the land which would become "Somerset Heights". Wiley was known as the "Father of the Pure Food and Drug Act". On the 50th Anniversary of the passage of the act, Dr. Wiley was honored by having his visage placed on a commemorative stamp.

Wiley left a professorship at Purdue to accept an offer to head the Bureau of Chemistry at the Department of Agriculture in 1883. Wiley brought with him from Purdue a former student of his, Charles A. Crampton. Crampton would later join with Wiley in the development of Somerset Heights and would serve as the first mayor of the town of Somerset from 1906 to 1910.

In his first decade of service at USDA, Wiley concentrated on developing improved refining methods for sugar cane, as well as on the development of methods for efficiently extracting sugar from sorghum. Although the development of an economically viable sorghum sugar process remained elusive, experiments under Wiley's direction succeeded in refining the methods used for sugar production. But Wiley's attention soon turned for good to the issue of pure food.

In 1884, Wiley and his office published the first of many reports on the state of adulteration of many types of food products. Various ground pepper samples, for example, were found to be adulterated with husks, dirt, rice, mustard hulls, cracker crumbs, corn, cayenne or charcoal. Wiley worked hard to gain the passage of a general Pure Food and Drug Act. Various measures died in committee in 1886, 1888 and 1891. In March of 1892, such a bill passed the House of Representatives, but was defeated in the Senate owing to the strong opposition of food manufacturers and grocery interests. Wiley continued to fight for a Pure Food and Drug Act, and won some piecemeal victories in Congress even as the overarching goal of a comprehensive Food and Drug act eluded him.

Wiley was a scientific man who relied on the principles of common sense and honesty. Harmful adulterants to foods had to be stamped out, and labels of foods had to be brought up to the standards of simple honesty. If "honey" was in reality mostly corn syrup, it had to be labeled as such. Wiley attracted none of the sensationalist coverage which dominated his time, but his patient research had laid the indisputable groundwork for passage of the

Act in 1906.

As the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 made its way through congress, Wiley worked vigorously behind the scenes, supplying information to Senators and Representatives who supported the measure and accepting a number of speaking engagements in and around the capital. On June 30, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the bill into law. The bill helped to restore public confidence in the manufacturers of foods and medicines. The labelling requirements, as well as the increased public conscience on the issue helped drive a large proportion of adulterated foods and patent medicines out of the market.

In recognition of Wiley's accomplishments, Rep. James R. Mann of Illinois, just before the vote on the compromise Food and Drug bill is put to a vote said: "Mr. Speaker, I do not desire to close without saying a word in regard to Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry. While in some important respects I have been unable to fully agree with Doctor Wiley's opinions, yet he and I have formed a close friendship in connection with the consideration of pure-food legislation, and I have constantly sought his advice as well as his knowledge of facts. We owe much to him."

Wiley built the house in hopes of luring his parents from Indiana to live with him. Wiley's parents, however, never moved to the house. Wiley instead rented the property for a number of years before selling it in 1904 to Perry and Mabel Michener. The Micheners in turn sold the property to the Ringlands in 1938. The Ringlands re-decorated the interior of the house but left the

exterior largely unaltered.

Arthur Cuming Ringland (1882-1981) was a distinguished long time resident of Somerset, active in Conservation and Humanitarian Programs throughout his long career. Mr. Ringland joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1900 and worked as the first regional forester for the Southwest. After serving in World War One, Mr. Ringland worked under future President Hoover for the American Relief Administration, heading the mission to Czechoslovakia. During World War II, Mr. Ringland again turned to humanitarian concerns, becoming executive director of the President's War Relief Control Board. In 1945, he helped originate the concept of the private voluntary organization that became CARE. A principal focus of his work was persuading the government to transport food packages to the needy in Europe. Mr. Ringland became known as "the father of CARE" and was honored by the United Nations for his efforts. After retiring in 1952, Mr. Ringland was active in the Food for Peace Program, the American Freedom from Hunger Foundation and the Citizens Committee on Natural Resources. The Ringland family remained at 4722 Dorset until December of 1978.

In December of 1978, a fire of electrical origin burned the rear kitchen wing of the house and marred the attic, roof and timbers. The front of the house was largely unmarred by the fire, but suffered some cosmetic smoke damage and water damage of undetermined extent. Since gaining co-title to the property in 1979, Susan Ringland has not improved or restored the property, though she has taken some steps to secure it from vandals and the elements. In October of 1994, she applied for a permit to demolish

M:35-36

the house.

H.A.W.P.s APPLIED FOR/RECEIVED:

35/36-91E, June 19, 1991: Demolition of detached garage to rear of house. Garage was damaged in storm of June 1989. Approved, no conditions.

35/36-94D, January 11, 1995 (forthcoming): Demolition of the original circa 1891 house. The house was damaged in the fire of 1978 and has been vacant ever since. The house was unsecured from vandals and the elements for a long time and now is slated to be sold. Susan Ringland wishes to clear the lot for sale and possible construction of two houses on the site.

PHOTOGRAPHIC
ENGINEERS

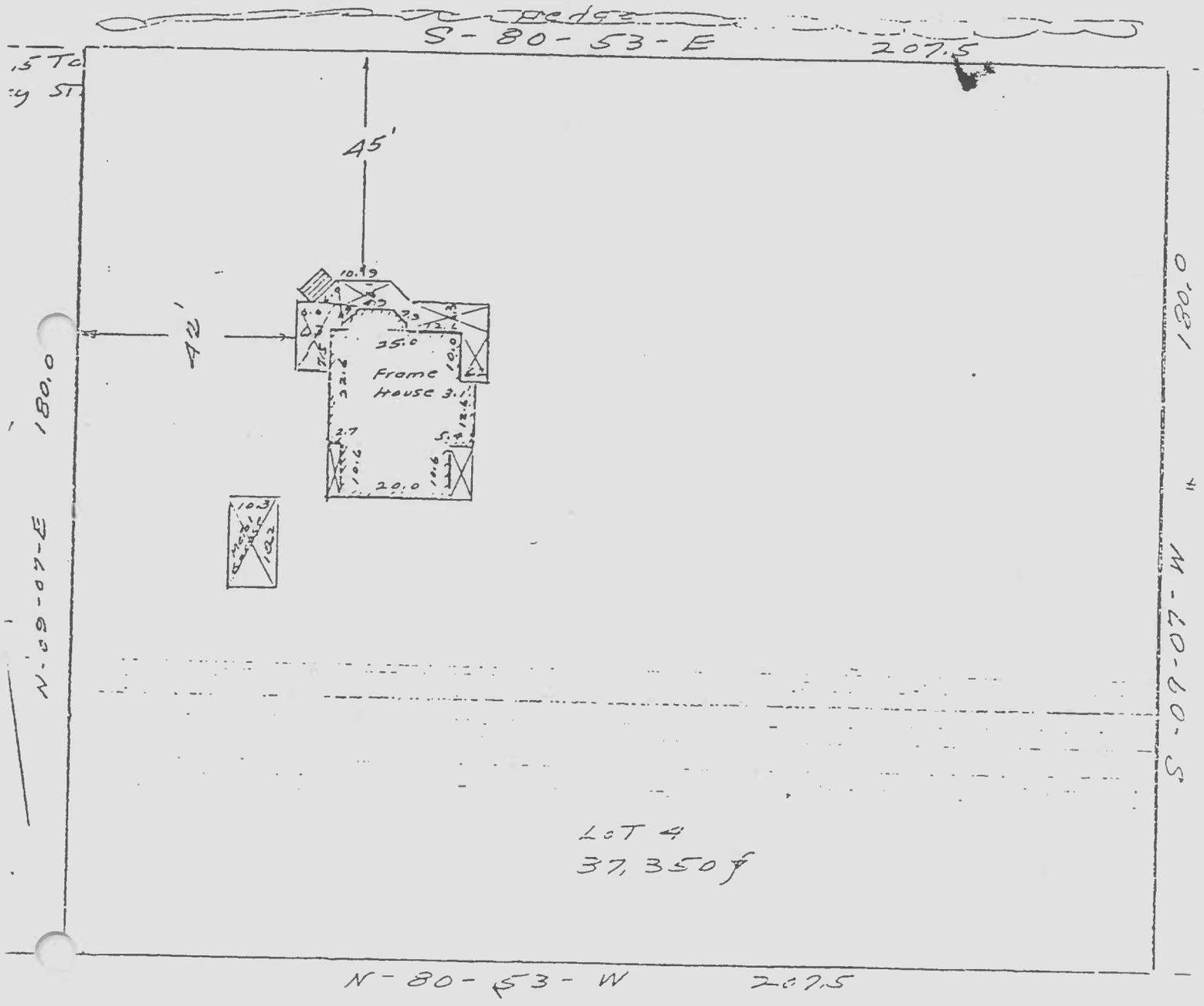
Surveyor & Topographer

BETHESDA, MARYLAND

M:35-36

House location Plat
4722 Dorset Avenue
1st 4 Block 5
Somerset Heights,
Montgomery Co., Md.
Plat Book 1 at 30
Scale: 1" = 30'
September 17, 1950

Dorset Avenue



I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE CAREFULLY SURVEYED THE ABOVE PROPERTY BY TRANSIT-TAPE SURVEY, NOTED IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, AND HAVE FOUND IT TO BE AS SHOWN ON THIS PLAT AND THAT THERE ARE NO ENCROACHMENTS EITHER WAY ACROSS PROPERTY LINES EXCEPT AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAT
MD REG NO 1826 - VA REG NO 441 FRANK E. LAKE, SURVEYOR

13

SOMERSET HISTORIC DISTRICT 35/36



-21-



NAME

(SOMERSET HIST. DIST.)

LOCATION 5800 DORSET AVE, SOMERSET, MD.

M: #35-36

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 4/22/15

M. DWYER



(SOMERSET HIST. DIST.)

M: #35-36

NAME

LOCATION

4719 CUMBERLAND AVE. SOMERSET, MD

FACADE

SE

PHOTO TAKEN

4/22/75 MDWYER



NAME

(SOMERSET HIST. DIST.)

LOCATION 4510 CUMBERLAND AVE., SOMERSET, MD.

M: #35-36

FACADE NE

PHOTO TAKEN 4/22/75 M. DWYER