

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form**  
**Intercounty Connector Project**

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name:** (indicate preferred name)

historic Thomas Adams Property

and/or common Ricks House

**2. Location:**

street & number 4229 Muncaster Mill Road  not for publicationcity, town Norbeck  vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Montgomery

**3. Classification:**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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"/> education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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"/> other:
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> transportation

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

name Sadie E. Ricks

street &amp; number 7958 Riggs Road telephone no.:

city, town Hyattsville state and zip code MD 20783

**5. Location of Legal Description**

Land Records Office of Montgomery County liber 1587

street &amp; number 50 Maryland Avenue folio 186

city, town Rockville state MD

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form/Norbeck Historic District

date 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

city, town Silver Spring state Maryland

## 7. Description

Survey No. M:23-113-8(PACS A5.2)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Resource Count: 4

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

The Thomas Adams Property is a 2-story, 3-bay I-house on the east side of Muncaster Mill Road in the Norbeck vicinity, Montgomery County. Constructed in 1872, the building has a 1-story, shed roof, concrete block addition on the front elevation and two, 1-story, shed roof, wood-frame additions on the rear elevation.

The structure has a metal roof with a central chimney which is stuccoed. It is of wood-frame construction with several siding materials, including wood shingles, plywood, and asbestos shingles, and it has wood-frame windows. The foundation is not visible.

The first story of the front, or west facade is concealed by a full-width, 1-story addition. The addition has six, 1/1 double-hung windows and a door. The first story of the I-house has two, 6/6 double-hung windows and a door. The second story has three, 6-light fixed windows.

The north elevation has one, 6/1 double-hung window on the first story of the I-house. The second story has no fenestration. The north elevation of the front addition has one, 1/1 double-hung window and the rear addition has one, 3-light fixed window.

The first story of the rear, or east elevation of the I-house is concealed by two, 1-story additions. The additions have one, 6/6 double-hung window and one, 6-light casement window. The second story of the I-house has no fenestration.

The south elevation of the I-house has no fenestration. The south elevation of the front addition has a 3-light picture window and the rear elevation has one, 4/1 double-hung window.

There are three outbuildings associated with this property. The first outbuilding is a 1-story, wood-frame shed with a gable-on-hip roof. The roof overhang, supported by knee braces, covers an entrance on the west elevation. The structure is located at the northeast corner of the house.

The second outbuilding is a 1-story, wood-frame shed, with a side-gable roof. The structure has vertical wood siding and a door and 6-light fixed window on the west elevation. The structure is located down a hill, east of the house and the first outbuilding.

The third outbuilding is a 1-story, gable-roofed structure. It is of wood-frame construction and is located north of the second outbuilding.

The property is located on the east side of Muncaster Mill Road, with residential properties to the north, south, and west. The property's setting remains rural, as it is set back from Muncaster Mill Road, and accessed by a long lane.



CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Thomas Adams Property

SURVEY NO.: M: 23-113-8 (PACS A5.2)

ADDRESS: 4229 Muncaster Mill Road, Norbeck vicinity, Montgomery County, Maryland

8. Significance (Continued)

The standard I-house, such as the Thomas Adams house, is one room deep and two stories tall with three or five openings on each story. From the front, an I-house is often indistinguishable from a Georgian house. The gable view, however, reveals the greater depth of the Georgian house. Chimneys are located on the interior of the gable ends, however, external chimneys are characteristic in the Chesapeake region. Usually, an I-house has a one-story porch running the length or nearly the length of the long side. On the interior, a central hall separates the two rooms on the first floor; the second floor contains either two or four sleeping chambers. Due to the narrowness of the main core, many I-houses have kitchen wings to the rear. Initially, stone masonry construction was used but by the mid-nineteenth century, as pre-cut lumber became increasingly available, frame construction became the norm. During the Victorian period, pre-cut detailing or a two-tiered porch was commonly grafted onto the traditional I-house. The I-form was popular into the early twentieth century, with examples appearing in catalogs of mass-produced suburban houses (Gowans 1992, 55-6).

The Thomas Adams Property was included in the National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form for the Norbeck Historic District as the Ricks House, prepared by the State Highway Administration and Maryland Historical Trust in 1977, however this form did not provide architectural descriptions and significance statements for individual buildings. The Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places determined in 1978 that the area is too altered to constitute an historic district, but that the significance of individual buildings should be considered.

NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION:

The Thomas Adams Property is an I-house, constructed in 1872, located within the area of the African-American community of Mount Pleasant. The property is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, as a rare surviving example of a nineteenth century residence within an African-American community. This area of Norbeck, north of Muncaster Mill Road, largely retains its character as an African-American neighborhood, and the Thomas Adams Property, despite compromised architectural integrity, continues to convey this heritage. The period of significance for the property extends from 1872 to 1947. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. The property is not eligible under Criterion C, due to compromised architectural integrity. The structure has been significantly altered through the construction of two additions which conceal large portions of the front and rear elevations. In addition, deterioration of the property has compromised its integrity, with multiple siding materials being evident. The property has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	
Eligibility recommended <u>  </u>	Eligibility Not Recommended <u>  X  </u>
Comments: <u>  Criterion A  </u>	
<u>  Lacks integrity to convey association with African-American community during period of significance  </u>	
Reviewer, OPS: <u>  E. Hannold/K. Williams  </u>	Date: <u>  11/25/1996  </u>
Reviewer, NR Program: <u>  [Signature]  </u>	Date: <u>  3/4/02  </u>

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

Survey No. M:23-113-8  
(PACS A5.2)

See Continuation Sheet

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

Acreage of nominated property .4 hectare (1 acre)

Quadrangle name Kensington, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

---

### 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 Caroline Hall

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date December 1996

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland

---

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

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

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
(410) 514-7600

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Thomas Adams Property

SURVEY NO.: M:23-113-8 (PACS A5.2)

ADDRESS: 4229 Muncaster Mill Road, Norbeck vicinity, Montgomery County, Maryland

**9. Major Bibliographical References** (Continued)

- Boyd, T.H.S. The History of Montgomery County, Maryland, From its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968.
- Brugger, Robert A. Maryland, A Middle Temperament 1634-1980. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988.
- Coleman, Margaret Marshall. Montgomery County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk and Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers, 1984, rev. 1990.
- Farquhar, Roger Brooke. Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland. Washington: Judd and Detweiler, Inc., 1962.
- Gowans, Alan. Styles and Types of North American Architecture. New York: Harper Collins, 1992.
- Hiebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.
- Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington including County of Montgomery, Maryland. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, 1879; reprint, Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.
- Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.
- Martenet, Simon J. Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland. Baltimore, Maryland: Simon J. Martenet, 1865; reprint, Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society.
- State Highway Administration and Maryland Historical Trust. National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form: Norbeck Historic District. Baltimore and Annapolis, Maryland, 1977.
- Tindall, George Brown. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1984.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Thomas Adams Property

SURVEY NO.: M: 23-113-8 (PACS A5.2)

ADDRESS: 4229 Muncaster Mill Road, Norbeck vicinity, Montgomery County, Maryland

## 10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Verbal boundary description and justification:

The National Register boundary of the Thomas Adams Property follows the current property lines of Parcel P785 on Tax Map HS 342. This parcel is bounded on the north, south, east and west by residential properties, and is accessed from Muncaster Mill Road by a 4.5 meter (15 foot) wide driveway. The boundary includes the house and three outbuildings on the parcel, all of which contribute to the significance of the property. When the property was purchased in 1872 by Thomas Adams from A.R. Wadsworth, it included .80 hectare (2 acres). Adams purchased an additional .80 hectare (2 acres) from Wadsworth in 1878 and the property included these 1.61 hectare (4 acres) until circa 1950. The parcel now includes .40 hectare (1 acre).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

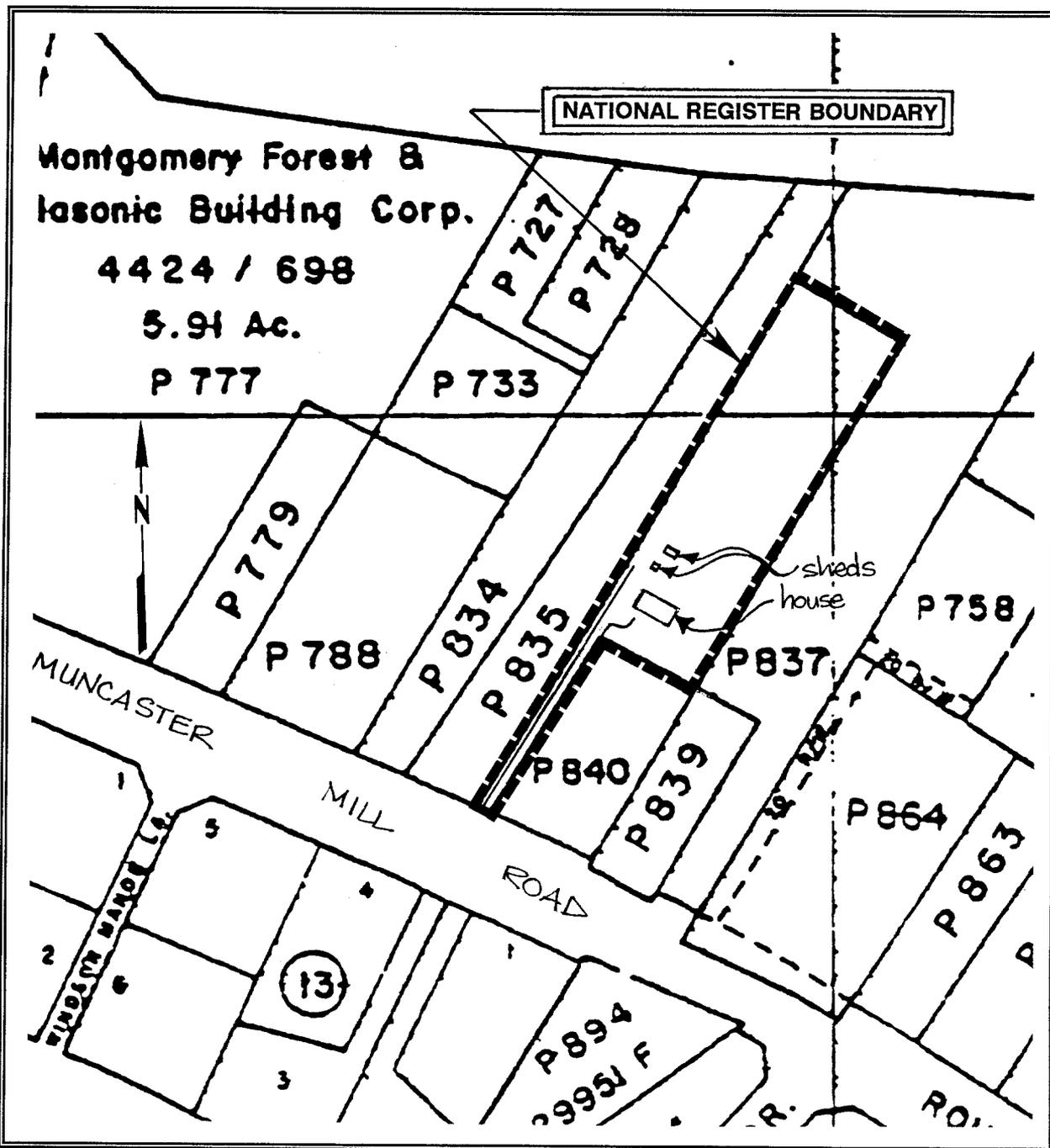
RESOURCE NAME: Thomas Adams Property

SURVEY NO.: M: 23-113-8 (PACS A5.2)

ADDRESS: 4229 Muncaster Mill Road, Norbeck vicinity, Montgomery County, Maryland

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map and National Register Boundary Map:



CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Thomas Adams Property

SURVEY NO.: M:23-113-8 (PACS A5.2)

ADDRESS: 4229 Muncaster Mill Road, Norbeck vicinity, Montgomery County, Maryland

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Social/Cultural

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Building

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Private Residence

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

Preparer:

P.A.C. Spero & Company

December 1996

5562 11 NW  
(GAITHERSBURG)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Intercounty Connector Project  
Upgrade Existing Roads Alternative  
Quad Kensington  
Survey No. M:23-113-8 (PACS A5.2)  
Property Name Thomas Adams Property

77°07'30"  
39°07'30"

317000m E. 318 31

4332000m N

4331

4330

4329

4328

4327

DARNESTOWN II MI.  
2.8 MI. TO U.S. 240  
1.1 MI. TO MD. 355





1. M. 23-113-8
2. Thomas Adams Property
3. Montgomery
4. Caroline Hall
5. July 1996
6. P.A.C. Spero & Company, 40 W Chesapeake  
Ave, Suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. 4229 Muncester Mill Road, west  
elevation
8. 1 of 6



1. M. 23-113-8

2. Thomas Adams Property

3. Montgomery

4. Caroline Hall

5. July 1996

6. P.A.C. Spco & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake

Ave. Suite 412, Towson MD 21204

7. 4229 Muncaster Mill Road, South  
elevation

8. 2 of 6



1. M:23-113-8
2. Thomas Adams Property
3. Montgomery
4. Cordine Hall
5. July 1996
6. P.A.C. Spero & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. 4229 Muncastle Mill Road, North elevation
8. 3 of 6



1. M:23113-8
2. Thomas Adams Property
3. Montgomery
4. Caroline Hall
5. July 1996
6. P.A.C. Spero & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. 4229 Moncaster Mill Road, East  
elevation
8. 4 of 6



1. M. 23-113-8
2. Thomas Adams Property
3. Montgomery
4. Caroline Hall
5. July 1996
6. P.A.C. Spers & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. 4229 Muncaster Mill Road, 1<sup>st</sup> outbuilding
8. 5 of 6



1. M:23-113-8
2. Thomas Adams Property
3. Montgomery
4. Caroline Hall
5. July 1996
6. P.A.C. Spaso & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake  
Ave, Suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. 4229 Moncaster Mill Road, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
outbuilding
8. 6 of 6