

1. Name: President's Tree and Davis Graveyard

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 37/2 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 22
D-11

Address: Sligo Creek Parkway at Maple Avenue (tree)
Greenwood Avenue at Prospect (graveyard)

5. Classification Summary object
Category site (graveyard) (tree) Previous Survey Recording M-NCPPC
Ownership public (tree) private Title and Date: Inventory of Historical
Public Acquisition (graveyard) Sites - 1976
Status _____
Accessible Yes: restricted Federal _____ State X County X Local _____
Present use park
private residence

6. Date: (tree) carved during civil war era
(graveyard) reserved since 1863

8. Apparent Condition

a. good (tree) b. altered c. original site

a. unexposed (graveyard)

9. Description: The "President's Tree" is a large white beech, approximately 2 feet in diameter, located at the corner of Maple Avenue and Sligo Parkway and enclosed in an iron fence. On the tree are carved the names of American presidents from Washington through Andrew Johnson; because of the growth of the tree, the names are barely discernable.

About 4 blocks from the President's Tree is the Davis graveyard site (adjacent to 7911 Greenwood Avenue, a 1-story rambling frame house). The 1/4 acre parcel is overgrown, and no stones are visible. However, at the street there are two circular iron posts with cement tops, about 2 feet in height. The parcel is landscaped with mature trees and bushes.

10. Significance: Reminders of the Civil War period of the County's history in the Takoma Park area are the "President's Tree" and the Davis family graveyard. The tree was carved by the Samuel McCloskey Fenton who was farming a 68 and 7/8 acre tract inherited from his father Samuel Fenton (originally from New Jersey). Samuel Fenton had purchased his land from his daughter, Martha and her husband John Meyers, in 1869. They had bought the tract in 1863 from Benjamin Davis, and since that time a 1/4 acre graveyard has been reserved as the Davis family plot.

Researcher and date researched: Frank Roland/Eileen McGuckian - 1/79

12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock

13. Date Compiled: 2/79

14. Designation
Approval _____

15. Acreage: 1/4 acre

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 37/2
Magi #

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

President's Tree/Davis Graveyard

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Graveyard - Greenwood Avenue at Prospect
Tree - Sligo Creek Parkway at Maple Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Takoma Park

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC (tree)
 PRIVATE (graveyard)
 BOTH

STATUS

OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS

PRESENT USE

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

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

grave- X SITE
ya

X OBJECT - tree

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Tree- MNCPPC 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Md. 20910
Graveyard - James A. Davis Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

7911 Greenwood

CITY, TOWN

Takoma Park

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

MNCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

— FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Derwood

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

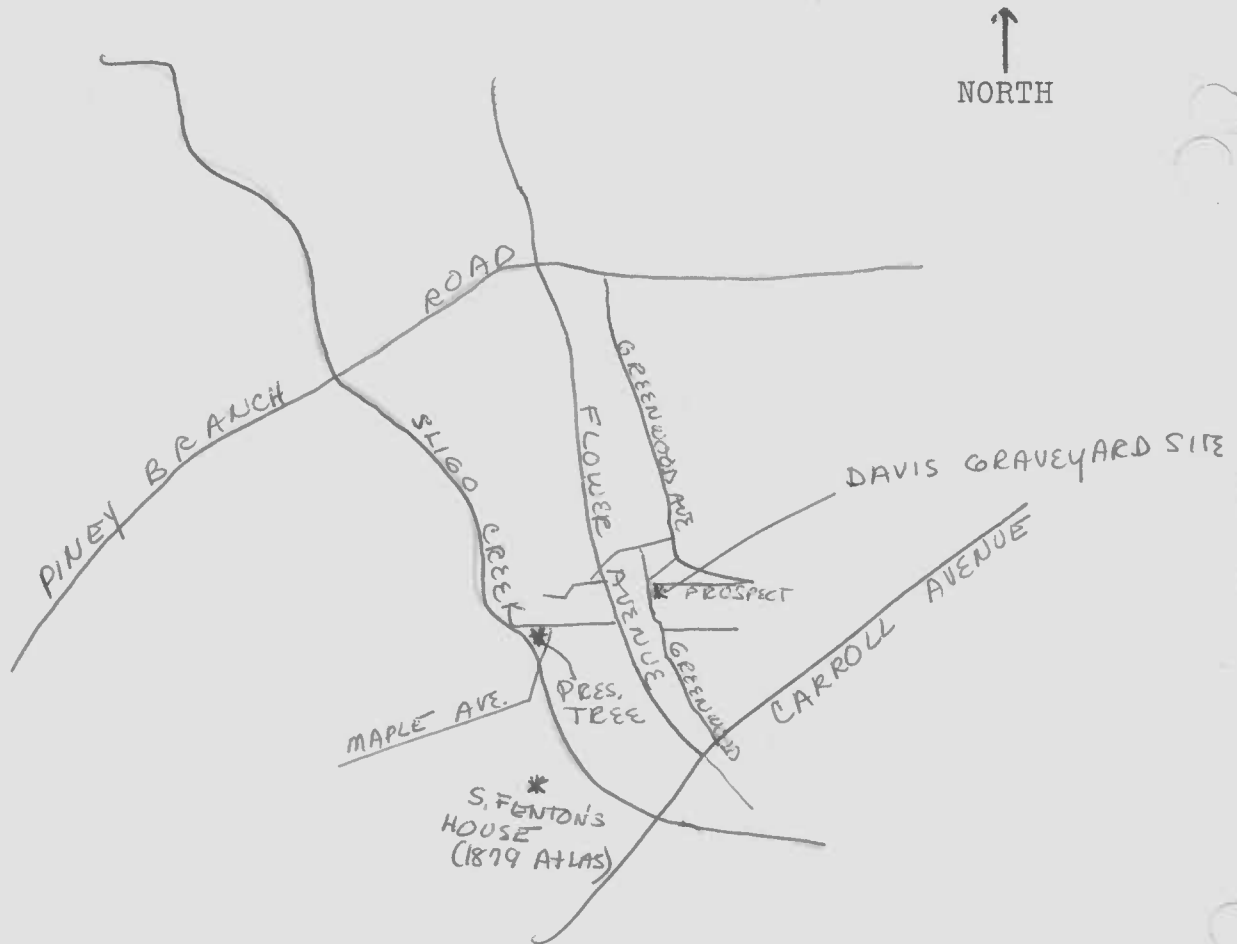
M.37-2

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The "President's Tree" is a large white beech, approximately two feet in diameter. It is enclosed in an iron fence, and is located at the corner of Maple Avenue and Sligo Parkway. On the tree are carved the names of American presidents from Washington through Andrew Johnson; because of the growth of the tree, the names are just barely discernible. A small marker on the iron fence states that the names were carved by Samuel McCloskey Fenton, a young farmer living in the area during the Civil War period. The tree was dedicated April 26, 1948, and the marker placed twelve years later.

About four blocks from the President's Tree is the Davis family graveyard site, located at the corner of Greenwood and Prospect Streets adjacent to 7911 Greenwood Avenue, a one-story rambling frame house. There are no stones visible on this one-quarter acre property. The parcel is overgrown, but landscaped with mature trees, bushes and flowers, and at the street there are two circular iron posts with cement tops, about two feet in height.



CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
X 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

Local History

SPECIFIC DATES _____ BUILDER/ARCHITECT _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Samuel Fenton farm was located in the area of Takoma Park now known as Flower Avenue, between Piney Branch Road and Carroll Avenue. Fenton, in a deed made in 1869 but not recorded until after his death in 1878, came from New Jersey and purchased a house and 68 7/8 acres from his daughter Martha and her husband John Myers of Washington, D.C. This was part of a tract called "Kilmarnock", and the purchase excluded 1/4 acre reserved as the Davis family graveyard.¹ This was the same land purchased in 1863 by John and Martha Myers from Benjamin Davis,² again reserving the 1/4 acre graveyard, but with no mention of buildings.

Samuel Fenton died at age 78 in 1878; the inventory of his personal property indicates a family farm with chickens, horses, and cows, and sufficient crops to feed them. His assets were divided among his widow Ann and his eight children.³ His son Samuel McCloskey Fenton bought from the other heirs the remaining 48 3/8 acres of land in 1880, again with the graveyard reserved;⁴ 20 acres of the farm had been sold in 1870 to Francis P. Blair.⁵ Samuel McCloskey Fenton is the "young farmer" believed to have been responsible for carving the "President's Tree" on his property along Sligo Creek.

When Section Three, Flower Avenue Park, in Takoma Park was platted in 1924, the "Davis family lot" of 1/4 acre was indicated,⁶ and this lot still remains reserved, although no stones are discernible.

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., EBP 19/234
- 2 Ibid., JGH 9/68
- 3 Montgomery County Orphan's Court Records, Docket 5, folio 116 (date of letters, Dec. 10, 1878)
- 4 Land Records, EBP 23/10
- 5 Ibid., 8/90
- 6 Plat Book 4, Plat 366.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land and Will Records of Montgomery County, Md.
Takoma Park, a Photographic History (1958), p. 39

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

Graveyard - $\frac{1}{4}$ acre - unnumbered lot, Block G, Flower Avenue Park,
Section 3

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
Frank Roland/Eileen McGuckian

ORGANIZATION
Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE
1/79

STREET & NUMBER
Box 87

TELEPHONE
926-4510

CITY OR TOWN
Dickerson

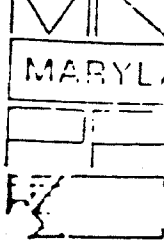
STATE
Maryland

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

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

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw Center, 2 State Circle
Annapolis, Md. 21401
(301) 2438~~

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



M:37-2

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:37-2

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M #37-2
1608964934

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Presidents' Tree

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Sligo Creek Parkway, at Maple Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Takoma Park

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

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

OWNERSHIP

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

STATUS

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

PRESENT USE

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Telephone #: 589-1480

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Silver Spring

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Liber #:

Folio #:

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M:37-2

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a large, white beech tree now enclosed with an iron fence. A union soldier, stationed here in the Civil War, carved the names of every U.S. President (up to that time) on the tree. Small marker placed on tree in dedication ceremonies on April 26, 1948.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:37-2

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"/> 0-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

M:37-2

TAKOMA PARK...A PHOTO HISTORY, (1958), p. 39.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

6/2/75

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

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



NAME "PRESIDENT'S TREE"

M: #37-2
(MNCPPC)

LOCATION SLIGO CREEK PARKWAY

FACADE S

TAKOMA PARK, MD

PHOTO TAKEN 6/2/75 MDWYER