

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88002143

Date Listed: 11/10/88

Dowden's Luck
Property Name

Montgomery
County

MD
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

11/16/88
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The nomination form has an inconsistent resource count. Ron Andrews with the MD SHPO clarified the count. The official count is now two contributing buildings (house, and quarters), two contributing structures (smokehouse, and springhouse), three contributing sites (Black building, Switzer barn, and garden), three non-contributing buildings (frame machinery building, garage, and barn), and two non-contributing structures (corn crib and silo), for a total seven contributing and five non-contributing resources.

Through a typographical error Criterion D was checked rather than Criterion C. The form is amended to include C and exclude D.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 28 1988

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Dowden's Luck
other names/site number Ellerslie or Wallace Poole Farm M: 17-20

2. Location

street & number 18511 Beallsville Road not for publication
city, town Poolesville vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Montgomery code 031 zip code 20837

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>3</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>7</u>	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		_____ objects
			<u>5</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] Signature of certifying official STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER 9-27-88 Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 11/10/88
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

M: 17-20

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

DOMESTIC/Secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE - Processing

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

FEDERAL

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Sandstone

walls ASBESTOS

WOOD: Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

"Dowden's Luck" is a complex of domestic and agricultural buildings and structures situated on a hill in their original nineteenth and twentieth century plantation setting, 500 feet east of Beallsville Road in the vicinity of Poolesville, Montgomery County, MD. The unoccupied buildings consist of a Federal style, second quarter nineteenth century, frame house two stories high with a side passage, double parlor plan to which major additions were made in 1855 and 1910; a one story, gable roofed stone slave quarter; a one story, gable roofed brick smoke house; a stone springhouse; and the foundations of two barns. These buildings all date from the 1824-1850 period. An overgrown terraced garden in its original configuration as constructed around 1855 stands to the west of the house. Five non-contributing resources are farm buildings constructed between 1930 and 1960.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Dowden's Luck M: 17-20
Montgomery County
MarylandSection number 7 Page 1GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The main block of the residence, 30 feet by 32 feet, built between 1824 and 1840 is constructed in the late Federal style of the Early Republic Period. It is three bays wide, two and a half stories high with low pitched gable roof, and interior end wall chimney. Across the front there is a hipped roofed veranda-type porch with posts trimmed in gingerbread, Gothic Revival Style and bracketed cornices in an Italianate Style. This is an 1855 addition to the main block. The windows of the main block are six over six pane with large lights and thin muntins. On the front, two windows have molded and paneled moveable aprons which open inward. The large 6-panel front door is surrounded by vertical wooden panels on each side, sidelights and transom lights. Extending across the East facade of the main block there is a wooden porch with a slightly slanted roof supported by 3 chamfered 4" x 4" wooden posts. The bay window of the back parlor projects on to this porch. Two Seneca sandstone steps lead from the porch to the garden.

The walls of the house are constructed of timber framing filled with brick nogging and covered with 6 to 8 inch wide weatherboarding. The exterior was covered in the 1950's with asbestos shingles. The weatherboarding and their corner boards are visible in some places where the shingles have been removed. The wood shingle roof is covered with asbestos shingles.

On the interior the first floor contains front and back parlor and large side hall running from front to back. The entrance at the rear of this hall, directly opposite the front entrance, is similar to the front, containing a large 6-panel door and three-light transom, but without the side panels and side-lights. To the right of the hall a stairway ascends along the South wall.

Opening from the left side of the entrance hall there are two parlors, front and back, each with fireplaces, whose mantels have been removed. The wooden trim of the architraves are cyma reversa combined with flush bead molding and two fascias in a 4 1/2" band. The doors are molded six panel doors. Ceilings are 9 ft. Floorboards are 6 1/2 to 8 inches wide. The front parlor has the apron windows mentioned earlier. The back parlor has a late addition of a bay window consisting of four fifteen-pane windows facing the back, (East). In this parlor there is an original cupboard built into the chimney and two doorways to the North wing of the house.

The main stairway, half turn with landings, ascends from the entrance hall to the attic. The balusters are square, the step ends decorated only with cyma molding; the newel posts round and tapered set on a square pedestal. A window on the landing between the first and second floor, above the front door, is level with the other two second floor windows. On the landing between the second and third floor, the ceiling slants inward at an angle, making it necessary to duck down as one crosses the landing.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Dowden's Luck M: 17-20
Montgomery County
MarylandSection number 7 Page 2

The second floor of the main block corresponds to the first in plan. The long hall has been shortened by the installation of a bathroom at the back (East) end. The front and back bedrooms have fireplaces in the North wall. The mantels are of simple design with beaded molding around the opening and two flat pedestals supporting the narrow mantels. On the North wall of the front bedroom there is an entrance to the North wing.

The attic, entered through a 4 foot high door is 9 feet high at the ridge line. There are two windows in the gable of the South wall. On the North wall, the two brick chimneys join in a corbelled construction forming a wide A. The large hand hewn timbers supporting the roof are mortised and tenoned.

Alterations to the main block are: the addition of a wing to the north, built in 1855, east windows of the back parlor revised into a projecting bay, doors added to the north wall of the first and second floors to give access to the newly constructed (1855) wing and, on the exterior, pendant brackets added along the roof cornice. The 1855 porch addition is described above.

In 1910 a one room, two story addition was added to the back where the 1855 wing joined the main block.

In the 20th century a bathroom was added on the second floor.

The two story wing added to the north of the main block in 1855 is two bays wide, set back two feet from the front of the main block. The wing is two rooms deep on the first floor. The gable roof is three feet lower than the roof of the main block. There are bracketed cornices in an Italianate Style across the eaves of the first and second floors.

The walls of the addition were originally covered with weatherboarding to match the main block and around 1950 were covered with asbestos shingles. On the front, a six over six window has been replaced (after 1964) by a large two pane sliding glass door. On the north wall the small brick stack of an interior chimney rises from the gable end. An open concrete porch built between 1930 and 1960 extends across this wall.

The first floor of the addition contains a dining room, kitchen, pantry and small back hall.

In the dining room a fireplace is built into the back of the chimney of the main block and surrounded with a simple wooden mantel with a Tudor arch and narrow shelf. An enclosed quarter-turn stairway with winders, rising to the bedroom above, is built into the southeast corner of the dining room. Woodwork in this wing is

See Continuation Sheet 7/3

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Dowden's Luck M: 17-20
Montgomery County
MarylandSection number 7 Page 3

similar to that of the 1824-1840 main block but slightly narrower, with fewer bands of fascia and cyma molding.

The second floor of the 1955 wing is at a level two steps below the second floor of the main block. One bedroom extends north-south from the wall of the main block to the gable end of the addition. In the end wall there is a fireplace, with a mantel which matches the dining room mantel, set between the back of another chimney and a built in closet. A small stairway with rounded hand rail and square balusters at this level, descends to the dining room below. The room is lighted by two six over six windows facing west and one facing east.

The second addition to the residence, built in 1910, projects eastward and is centered at the joining of the north wing and the main block at the back of the house. It is two storys high with a shed roof and was built for the purpose of adding a sitting room to an invalid's bedroom. On the first floor, this addition contains only a storage room opening off the back hall and containing one window. On the second floor, a small room, with exposures to the north and east, opens from the bedroom of the 1855 addition.

2. SLAVE QUARTER

The one-story 16' by 24' stone slave quarter is situated 30 feet from the main dwelling with its only door facing south toward the kitchen door of the dwelling. The two feet thick walls are uncoursed field stone, the quoining constructed of exceptionally large stones. There is an exterior stone chimney with a brick stack on the west end, one window on the north side and two windows on the east end. The gabled roof is raised seam metal, covering an earlier roof of wood shingles.

On the interior, two rooms are divided by a vertical-board wall containing one door. The walls are plastered, the three windows deeply recessed. A stone fireplace in the west end of one room has a brick lintel and no mantelpiece. The opening is filled with rubble stone. There is no ornamentation on windows or doors. Architraves are made of flat boards. The two steps leading from the entrance on the exterior are two large flat stones.

3. SMOKEHOUSE

The one-room smokehouse, measuring 12 by 15 feet, is situated 33 feet north of the main dwelling, and 25 feet west of the slave quarter.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetDowden's Luck M: 17-20
Montgomery County
MarylandSection number 7 Page 4

The one foot thick walls are brick. In the gables of the two end walls there are three lines of spaced openings forming a pattern of louvers for smoke to escape. The wood shingle gabled roof is covered with a plastic sheet. The south wall, facing the main dwelling, has one door.

4. SPRINGHOUSE OR DAIRY

The springhouse or dairy is situated 200 feet north of the main dwelling. It is 9 ft by 12 ft with walls of uncoursed field stone. The gables of the east and west walls are wooden board and batten. The roof is covered with raised seam metal over wood shingles. On the west end there is a two foot square opening covered with a heavy board shutter with iron closures. On the east wall there is a heavy plank door with iron hinges and closures and a small window opening, like that on the west side. A stream runs west to east through the bottom of the springhouse. Ten feet west of the springhouse a large stone slab laid across two upright stones, in a post and lintel design, forms a platform bridging the stream.

5. "BACKBUILDING" FOUNDATION

The 14 by 24 feet red brown sandstone foundation of a "story and a half back building"⁽¹⁾ is located 25 feet behind (east of) the main dwelling at a slightly lower elevation. The remains of a chimney and large fireplace make it probable that this was the kitchen building for the 1824-1840 house.

6. "SWITZER BARN" FOUNDATION

The 22 by 48 feet red brown sandstone foundation of the "brick Switzer barn"⁽²⁾ is located 50 feet north and downhill from the slave quarter. The west and south walls are built into a bank of land, well constructed of very large stones and are still absolutely straight. Some timbers and some wooden shelf constructions, incorporated into the wall, remain. The barn was torn down in 1975.

7. GARDEN

The terraced garden at the rear of the main dwelling (east side) is badly overgrown but the three levels are still easily distinguishable. A steep hillside was landscaped by building three flat 25' x 10' terraces. Stone was laid into the banks of the lower levels to retain the earth walls. The two lower levels are reached by 2 steps made of two huge stones which remain. A niece of the Poole family recalled playing here as a little girl and related that the first two levels below the lawn contained flower beds, and the third level sloping off to a meadow was planted with perennial vegetables such as asparagus and rhubarb.⁽³⁾ Born in 1890, Miss Poole visited this house for several weeks each summer and knew that Judge William Wallace Poole, who had bought the farm in 1855, had had the garden constructed.

See Continuation Sheet 7/5

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dowden's Luck M: 17-20
Montgomery County
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 5

8. NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE

A 15' x 20' unpainted frame building, built between 1930 and 1960 to house machinery. It is open at the west end.

9. NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE

20' x 20' unpainted frame building built in early 1930's in a late 19th century design. The two sides, north and south, are corn cribs, the center a roofed open-ended space to house farm machinery.

10. NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE

A two car wooden garage with openings facing southward, built between 1930 and 1960. Numbers 8, 9, and 10 all have gabled roofs covered with raised seam metal. The three buildings are built very close together but are not attached.

11. NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE

A tile covered concrete silo with no roof, built between 1930 and 1960 situated 15' west of the foundation of the "Switzer barn".

12. NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE

A cinder block, gambrel roofed dairy barn, 20 by 40 feet. The east and west walls contain a line of windows, the north and south walls are made of sliding wooden doors. This barn is situated at a lower elevation and about 100 feet north of the "Switzer barn" foundation.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dowden's Luck M: 17-20
Montgomery County
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 6

FOOTNOTES

- (1) Volume 3/170, November 21, 1842
Orphan's Court of Montgomery County, MD.
- (2) Ibid.
- (3) Conversation with Miss Katherine Poole January 16, 1978,
Gaithersburg, Maryland.

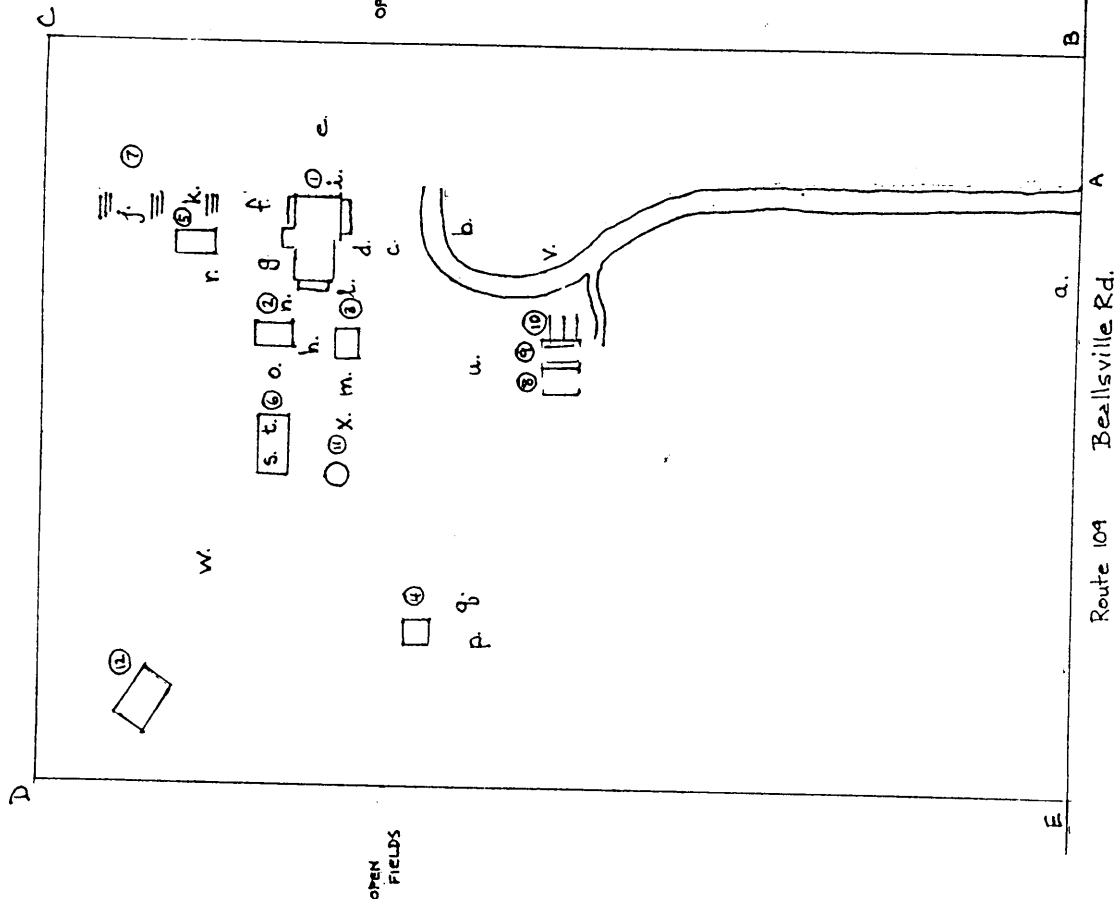
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Dowden's Luck M: 17-20
Montgomery County
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 7

PHOTOGRAPH MAP



"DOWDEN'S LUCK" Survey # M 17/20

PHOTOGRAPH MAP LEGEND

Location of building on map	Description
1	View from Rte. 104, Photographer facing east.
2	Smokehouse and Main Dwelling, Photographer facing east.
3	Main Dwelling, west elevation. 1855 addition left, 1824-40 right.
4	Main Dwelling, porch elevation, w. elevation.
5	Main Dwelling, s. elevation.
6	Main Dwelling, e. elevation of main block.
7	Main Dwelling, e. elevation, 1910 & 1855 additions.
8	Main Dwelling, n. elevation, 1855 addition.
9	Main Dwelling, 6 1/2" weather boarding, 1824-40.
27	Terraced garden, looking west toward dwelling 1855.
27A	Terraced garden, stone steps 1855.
28	Brick smokehouse 1824-40, s. elevation.
29	Brick smokehouse, n. elevation.
30	Slave quarter, 1824-40 s. elevation.
31	Slave quarter, n. elevation.
35	Dairy or springhouse, 1824-40, w. elevation.
36	Stone structure over spring west of springhouse.
37	Foundation of back building, 1824-40, northwest corner.
39	Foundation of Switzer barn 1824-40, from interior, w/s walls.
40	Foundation of Switzer barn, s. wall, built in shales & timbers.
41	Two agricultural, equipment storage buildings, e. elevation.
42	Two car garage, s. elevation.
43	Dairy barn, southwest elevation.
44	Silo, s. elevation.

← N
"DOWDEN'S LUCK" Survey # M 17/20

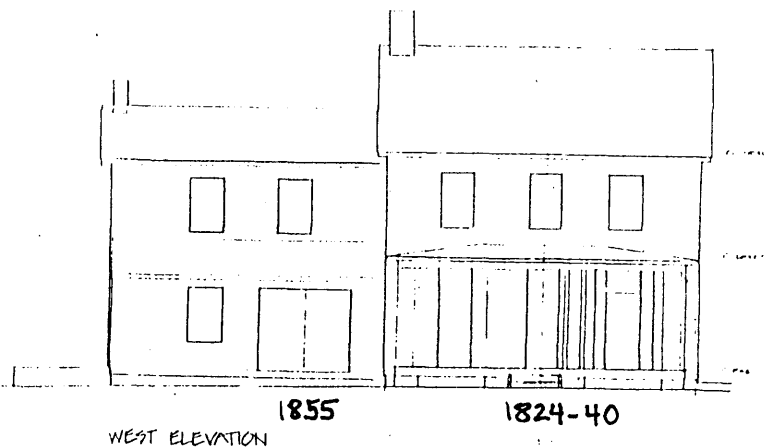
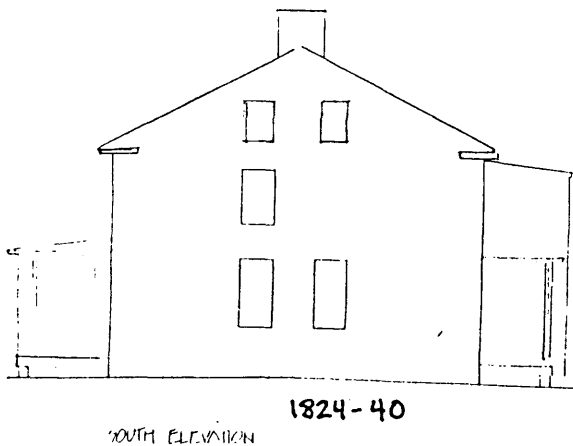
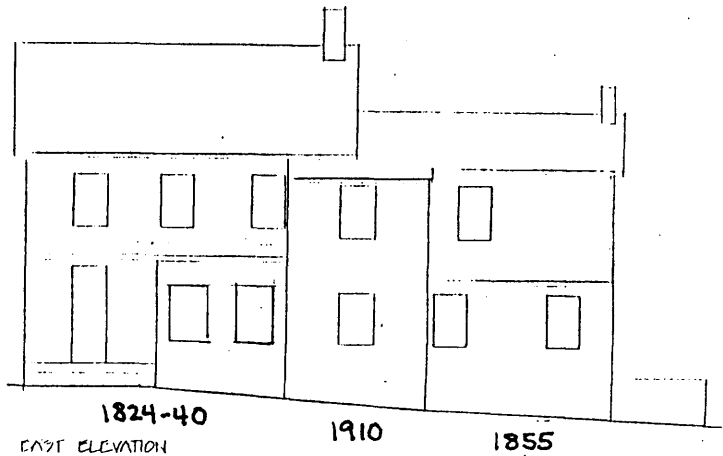
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Dowden's Luck M: 17-20
Montgomery County
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 8

"DOWDEN'S LUCK"
Montgomery County, MD
South, East, West Elevations
Main Dwelling

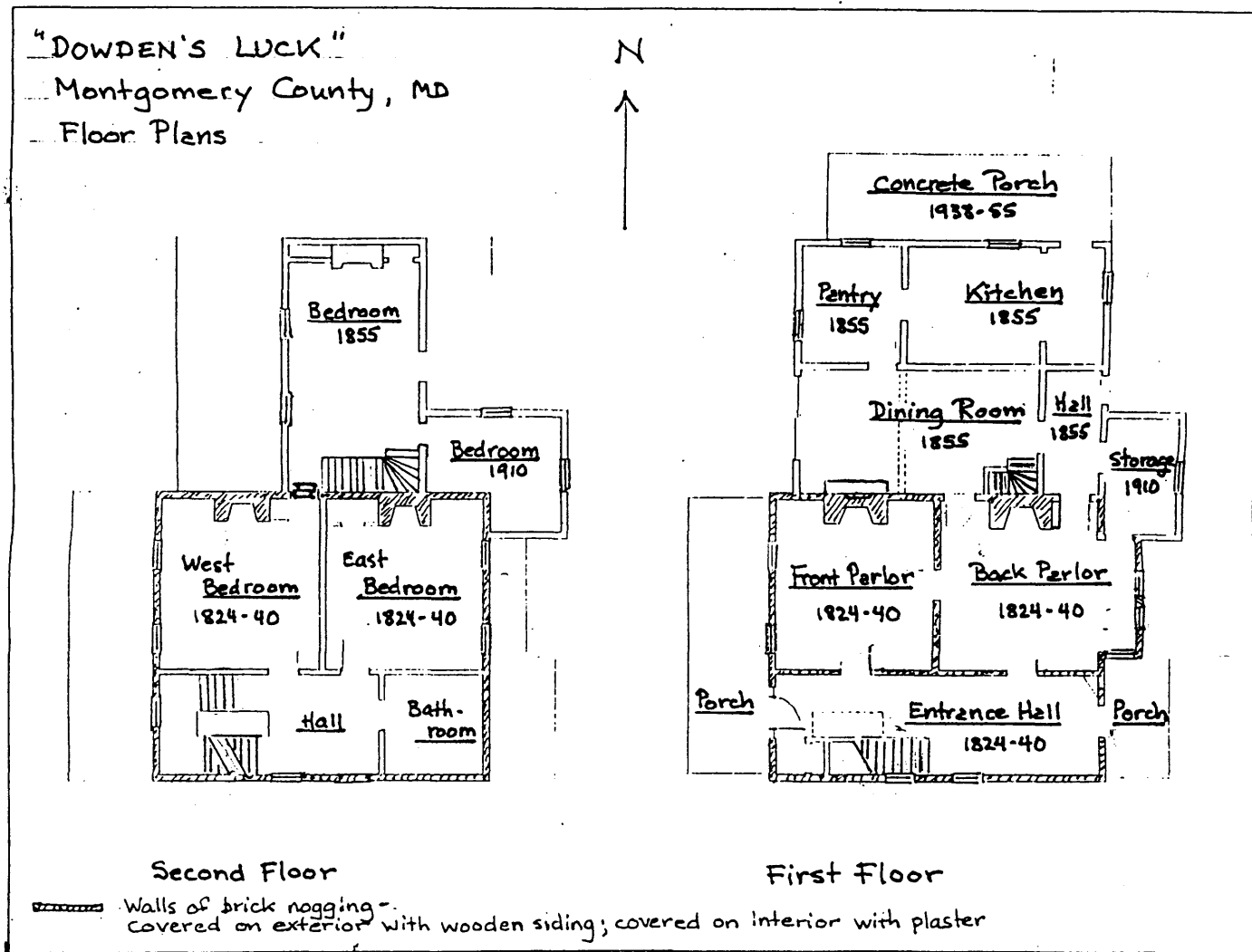


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Dowden's Luck M: 17-20
Montgomery County
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 9

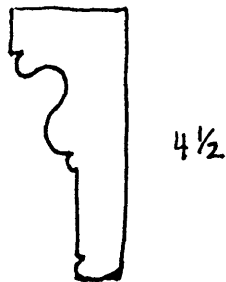
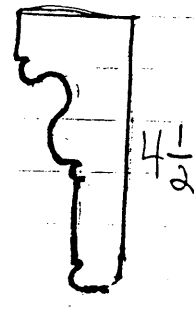
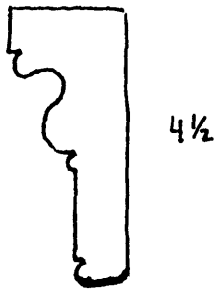


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Dowden's Luck M: 17-20
Montgomery County
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 10



D. 17200
"DOWDEN'S LUCK"
DETAIL OF WOOD TRIM

8. Statement of Significance

M: 17-20

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
N/A

Significant Dates
1824-40
1855

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

"Dowden's Luck" is a plantation established between 1824 and 1840 during the Agricultural-Industrial Transition Period (1815-1870) of the Piedmont Section of Maryland. It is significant in the areas of agriculture, architecture and landscape architecture. An 1842 inventory exists which lists the uses of its buildings, reflecting the cultivation of soil, production of crops and raising of livestock and plants. Of the buildings inventoried in 1842, the main dwelling, three domestic and agricultural buildings and two agricultural building foundations exist to interpret the plantation functions and demonstrate its agricultural significance. The main dwelling is architecturally significant as an example of two periods, Federal style of the Early Republic period and Italianate and Gothic Revival styles of the mid-19th century period. The slave quarter, smokehouse and dairy are architecturally significant as examples of a local vernacular style of the 1815-1870 period. This is a simple rectangular style with gabled roofs, post and beam construction and brick or uncoursed rubble stone walls, found also in several nearby plantations of the same period.

See continuation sheet for
HISTORIC CONTEXT and
MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
PLAN DATA

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet No. 9/1

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical DataAcreage of property 8.04 acresUSGS Quad: Poolesville, MD-VA

UTM References

A 18 291250 4337090
 Zone Easting Northing

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Referencing the accompanying maps, begin at point A on State Route 109, Beallsville Road, 500 feet west of the southwest corner of the residence, and 15 feet east of the center of the road, southward along the road 100 feet, to point B, eastward 700 feet to point C, northward 500 feet to point D, westward 700 feet to point E, southward 400 feet along route 109 to point A, to comprise an 8.04 acre rectangle.

See continuation sheet No. 10/1

Boundary Justification

The nominated acreage constitutes a visual setting to include all plantation buildings. At the back of the residence, the land drops away sharply. The edge of a cultivated field at the bottom of a hill makes a natural boundary.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Ann Kephart

organization Historic Medley District, Inc. date October 6, 1987

street & number P.O. Box 232 telephone (301)972-8635

city or town Poolesville state Maryland zip code 20837

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Dowden's Luck M: 17-20
Montgomery County
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 1

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition
A.D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture/Landscape Architecture/
Community Planning - Agriculture

Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Uses(s): DOMESTIC/Single dwelling
DOMESTIC/Secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE - Processing

Known Design Source: Unknown

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetDowden's Luck M: 17-20
Montgomery County
MarylandSection number 8 Page 2HISTORIC CONTEXT:

The name "Dowden's Luck" appears on all land records of the transfer of this property, beginning in 1823. Since William Wallace Poole, who purchased the property in 1855, was named for William Wallace the Scottish patriot, he called "Dowden's Luck", "Ellerslie", after William Wallaces' ancestral home. Since Wallace Poole, Jr. inherited the property, it became known in later years simply as "Wallace Poole Farm".

In the Piedmont section of Maryland, in Montgomery County, the Medley District(1) was still frontier land when the eastern part of the County was settled. The earliest patent was 1695 procured by a Potomac Ranger patrolling the Potomac River shores to keep order with the Piscataway Indians. The forested lands were gradually cleared and planted beginning in the mid-18th century, by members of Anne Arundel County families looking for more land to grow tobacco, by indentured servants who had completed their indenture and by Scotch-Irish immigrants who either purchased small tracts or leased them from several large land holders. Many of the early planters added to their original land holdings, planted large acreages and reared large families. These families intermarried, remaining on the same lands for several generations.

John Augustin Chiswell established his plantation "Dowden's Luck" in 1824 on 372 acres of land given him by his father, Joseph Newton Chiswell, who in turn had been given land for his "better support and maintenance and preferment" by his father, one of the earliest settlers (1738) of the later named Medley District, Stephen Newton Chiswell. Although called the Agricultural-Industrial Transition Period, A.D. 1815-1870, in Maryland history, during this period in the Medley District, with the one exception of stone-quarrying, the only industry continued to be agriculture and tobacco was still an important crop. John A. Chiswell's land had great value at this time because improved farming techniques(2) were being introduced and the plantation's location on a good road made transporting products to markets practicable. During "Dowden's Luck" period of significance the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, 8 miles away, was completed from Georgetown to Harper's Ferry.(3)

The plantation was only 5 miles from Edwards Ferry and Conrad's Ferry, which crossed the Potomac River, so that plantation products could be shipped to either Georgetown or Virginia.

The buildings on the plantation are described in an 1842 inventory made after John A. Chiswell's death in 1840. It indicates that slaves were owned and housed, tobacco, corn and wheat were raised, that animals were raised, meat processed, and apples and peaches grown (440 peach trees listed). From this inventory the "two story frame dwelling 30 X 32 feet" is standing, as are the "stone dairy 12 X 15 feet", "slave quarter 16 X 24 feet", and "brick smokehouse 12 X 15 feet". From the same inventory, stone foundations are visible of "story and a half frame back building 16 X 24 feet in good repair" (thought to be the original kitchen because of its large fireplace and proximity to the back of the dwelling) and "brick

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetDowden's Luck M: 17-20
Montgomery County
MarylandSection number 8 Page 3

switzer barn 22 x 48 feet".(4)

The main dwelling is significant architecturally because it is built in the Federal style of the Early Republic Period. The first floor plan has a side hall running from front to back and a front and back parlor. The main entrance has characteristic side lights and transom around the front door. The windows are six over six pane with large lights and thin muntins. There are louvered shutters (stored in shed) thin corner boards on the weatherboarding exterior, an end wall chimney and a low pitched gable roof, all in the Federal style. These elements of the Federal style (with the exception of the wood exterior features) can also be found in the stone examples of the non-National Register site "Greenwood M:18-17", built 1848, the brick National Register sites "Old Chiswell Place M:17-47", built 1826, for John Chiswell's brother, William, and "Dr. Thomas Poole House" built before 1835 (part of "Poolesville Historic District") in the Medley District M:17-15.

The slave quarter of the 1824-40 period is architecturally significant for its local vernacular style typical of other quarters built between 1818 and 1860. Examples of this style, 1 or 1½-story, rectangular, gable roof, post and beam construction, brick or uncoursed rubble stone walls, are found in the Medley District at National Register sites: "Annington M:16-9", "Mt. Carmel M:12-22", "Darnall Farm" and "Susannah Farm", and at non-registered sites: "Stoney Castle", "Inverness", "East Oaks" and "Brewer House or Rose Hill".

Smokehouses of this period were built of log, stone or brick. This one of brick is the only one known to this writer. The dairy or springhouse is also typical of its period. With uncoursed rubble stone walls and gabled roof it can be compared to the dairy (attached to the smokehouse) at the National Register site, "Darnall Farm", a complex of farm buildings pre dating "Dowden's Luck" by 35-40 years.

In a second period of architectural significance "Dowden's Luck" demonstrates Italianate and Gothic Revival styles of the mid-19th century period. William Wallace Poole, a great grandson of one of the earliest settlers, John Poole I, was a "man of considerable property, both real personal", served as Judge of the Orphans' Court, county Commissioner, incorporator of the Monocacy Cemetery Society of Montgomery County, warden of St. Peter's Parish, and "was an acknowledged leader among his fellow men." (5) He bought "Dowden's Luck" in 1855 and, in accordance with his wealth and position, altered the main dwelling according to current styles. (6) He added a story and a half wing to the north side of the main block, containing dining room and kitchen at ground level and large bedroom above. To the front he added a hipped roofed veranda-like porch with gingerbread trim in the Gothic-revival style. Wooden brackets in a pendant design were added to the eaves along the front of the house in an Italianate style.

"Dowden's Luck" is significant in the area of Landscape Architecture because of the existence of a stone-banked three tiered garden. A steep hillside formerly dropped

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Dowden's Luck M: 17-20
Montgomery County
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 4

at the back of the house. This was restructured in a formal arrangement of three levels. A niece of the Poole family recalled playing here as a little girl. She related that the first two levels below the lawn contained flower beds and the third level was planted with perennial vegetables such as asparagus and rhubarb. (7) This type of garden is also called a "waterfall garden" because of its configuration and is typical of the studied, structured garden arrangement popular in the Victorian period. Another example of a "waterfall garden" exists at the National Register site "Mt. Nebo" 5 miles away.

"Dowden's luck was sold by the Poole family in 1938. From then until 1962 it was used as a tenant farm and well-maintained. In 1963 it was sold to speculators who allowed the buildings to deteriorate and suffer vandalism. It is now owned by a person who has stabilized the buildings until they can be repaired. Even in their deteriorated state they retain their integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. (8)

Situated on the brow of a hill surrounded by farm fields, 500 feet from an old road, the complex of buildings give the feeling of an early plantation associated with the development of the agricultural industry of Maryland in the first half of the 19th century.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties numbers for the properties referenced above are:

Greenwood (Day House)	M: 18-17
Old Chiswell Place	M: 17-47
Poolesville Historic District	M: 17-15
Annington	M: 16-09
Mt. Carmel (Gott Farm)	M: 12-22
Darnall Farm	M: 18-21
Susannah Farm	M: 18-26
Stoney Castle	M: 17-26
Inverness	M: 12-35
East Oaks	M: 17-24
Brewer House	M: 12-38
Mt. Nebo	M: 17-46
Dr. Thomas Poole House in contributing resource	

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Dowden's Luck M: 17-20
Montgomery County
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 5

FOOTNOTES

- (1) "In 1798, the Federalist-dominated General Assembly created election districts in Maryland. -- Five districts were laid out in Montgomery County....In the Second District voters were to go to the tavern kept by Jean Baptiste Medley in Seneca on the road to the Mouth of the Monocacy. Medley later sold his tavern but the name of Medley's District lingered on." Richard K. MacMaster and Ray Eldon Hiebert, A Grateful Remembrance, (Rockville, Md., Montgomery County Government and Montgomery County Historical Society 1976), page 79.
- (2) Frederick Gutheim, The Potomac, (New York Grosset and Dunlap, 1968), pps. 134-137.
- (3) MacMaster and Hiebert, Grateful Remembrance, p. 102
- (4) Orphans' Court of Montgomery County Maryland, Volume 3, page 170, November 21, 1842
- (5) Montgomery County Sentinel, May 28, 1899. Public Library, Rockville, Md.
- (6) Interview with Miss Katherine Poole, January 16, 1978, Gaithersburg, Md.
- (7) Ibid.
- (8) Plat attached to petition to "divide lands." Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland. Vol. JGH, p. 2, February 19, 1855.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Dowden's Luck M: 17-20
Montgomery County
Maryland

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Assessment Records, Montgomery County, MD -- 3rd Election District, Rockville, 1845, 1869-76, 1876-96, 1896, 1908-10.

1813 Tax List with changes (1818), Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, MD.

Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, Vol. X/245 March 10, 1824; Vol. JGH/2 March 5, 1855; Vol. JGH 8/57, 1868; Montgomery County Judicial Center -- 50 Courthouse Square Rockville, MD. 20850.

Montgomery County Will Book, Inventories and Accounts, Liber X 1840-42, Register of Wills, 50 Courthouse Square, Rockville, MD 20850.

Simon Martenet, Map of Montgomery County, MD, 1865; Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, MD.

Blumenson, John J-G, Identifying American Architecture, Nashville, American Association for State and Local History, 1979.

Gutheim, Frederick, The Potomac, New York: Grosset & Dunlap Rev. Ed. 1968.

MacMaster, Richard K. and Hiebert, Ray Eldon, A Grateful Remembrance, Rockville, MD, Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

Scharf, S. Thomas History of Western Maryland, Vol. 1, Baltimore, MD, 1881.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Dowden's Luck M: 17-20
Montgomery County
Maryland

Section number 10 Page 1

