

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

M-18-21

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 6 1979

DATE ENTERED AUG 13 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Resurvey on None Eaton called the Mary

AND/OR COMMON

DARNALL PLACE (preferred)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

East of Poolesville at  
17615 White's Ferry Road

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Poolesville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Eighth

STATE

Maryland

CODE  
24

COUNTY  
Montgomery

CODE  
031

**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

Robert W. Lanham, Director  
Department of Economic & Community Development

STREET & NUMBER

101 Fleet Street

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
Maryland 20850

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Montgomery Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE  
Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1936

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE  
D.C.

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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 _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Darnall Place is located on the north side of Maryland Route 107 just east of Dry Seneca Creek about 1.2 miles west of Dawsonville in the vicinity of Poolesville, Montgomery County, Maryland. It is a farm complex of four small 18th century stone buildings, a 19th century frame wagon shed/corn crib, a 20th century concrete block barn, and three late 19th or early 20th century frame sheds.

The stone buildings, a house, meathouse/dairy, slave quarter/kitchen, and barn, are all constructed of red-brown Seneca sandstone. The ground on the place is bright red clay. The drive goes up a slope from the main road into the center of the cluster of buildings, then continues north to the dairy barn and cemetery. The place is still farmed and fields flank it on the west and north. To the south and east and between the fields are trees. The trees shield the property from the road, strengthening the cohesive quality of the complex.

Examination of the stone buildings indicates their age to be at least 175 years old by the presence of wrought iron nails, roof rafters joined without ridge poles, mortise and tenon joints with wooden pegs, mortar made almost entirely of clay with little or no lime added, and hand hewn timbers. The construction of the buildings, while very solid and well proportioned, is also very simple. The stone is laid on the ground, and the 24-inch walls are thick enough to stand unsupported. Timber plates are laid on the tops of the walls with roof timbers, notched and joined, resting on the plates. The hand-cut shingles were nailed on roof slats to sheath the roofs. Over some of the doors and windows are stone voussoirs forming jack arches; over others, a single flat stone forms the lintel.

The dwelling (A) contains a 14 1/2 foot square room with doors to the east and south, a small window facing west, and a cooking fireplace in the north wall. The west wall extends 14 feet to form a protected porch, now enclosed. The loft and roof extend as one over the main room and porch. A small log room once flanked the porch on the south, and a six-room frame house had been added to the log room. (The reverse may be the case. The frame house may have predated the stone house, the latter being added as a kitchen and porch.) A fire destroyed the roof and loft of the stone dwelling, the log room, and the six-room frame house in 1952. The frame house was replaced with a similar structure and the interior of the stone house remodeled following the fire.

The meathouse/dairy contains two rooms divided by a stone partition. One room contains hooks and blackened beams indicating its use as a smokehouse. The other room had a trough in the floor for cold water to store dairy products. (D)

The slave quarter/kitchen (C) has a door on the east, a small window on the west, a cooking fireplace on the north wall with an interesting stone arch, and a dirt floor. The single opening on the second story is

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input 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

In the section of Montgomery County in which this farm is located, many log houses and a few large manor houses remain to demonstrate the way of life of the early settlers. But among these there is no other combination of early buildings of the scale, material or type of construction as that found at the "Darnall Place." It is a complex of small stone farm buildings reminiscent of a farmstead in Europe or the British Isles. There is no sign of professionalism in design, only practicality and basic principles of construction applied to achieve a beauty, simplicity and solidity that have endured for nearly two centuries.

The group of buildings has continued in the same function from the time they were built, that of a middle class farmer's dwelling, the building for processing and storing his food, housing for his help, and shelter for his animals. Except for the absence of a tobacco barn, it is possible to see in this group, beneath a minimal overlay of modernization, the pattern of a late eighteenth century farmer's domestic and farming practices.

The earliest recorded document of the "Darnall Place" is a patent filed by Daniel Veirs for 109 acres, called "None Eaton," dated 1755.<sup>1</sup> In addition to the rent on the land he paid a further rent for "some improvements." It is not possible to establish whether or not the "improvements" were the four stone buildings discussed here, or other buildings no longer existing. In 1761 Daniel Veirs filed a patent for the "Resurvey on None Eaton," adding to the original 109 acres, "contiguous to which Tract the Petitioner had discovered some Vacant Land" the amount of 1,450 acres.<sup>2</sup> "The Resurvey on None Eaton called the Mary" is the title which passes from deed to deed in the transfer of the "Darnall Place." When Daniel Veirs died in 1766, it was willed to his wife, and on her death to his sons. Daniel Veirs was a third generation colonist, his grandfather having come to Anne Arundel County in 1677.<sup>3</sup> His will refers to the nearby dwelling places of his sons and leaves large amounts of land,<sup>4</sup> so that by 1766 the "Sugarlands" area of Montgomery County must have been well settled.

Following this period of original settlement of the "Sugarlands," 225 acres of Daniel Veirs' land was sold in 1767 to Mary Dyson, whose son, Maddox Dyson, 24 years old, is mentioned in the deed. A 1776 census shows the farm to be occupied by Mary, Maddox, Maddox's wife and four children, one negro slave, and one indentured white man. A 1783 land assessment lists a tobacco barn which is no longer standing. The

See Continuation Sheet #.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Aud, Kathleen L. & Susan E. Our Ancestors. Silver Springs, Md.: Compiled and published by the authors, 1972.

Brumbaugh, G.M. Revolutionary Records of Md. Annapolis, Md. 1924.

Fitzpatrick, John C. , ed. George Washington Diaries, Vol. II.

Forman, H. Chandlee. Maryland Architecture. Cambridge, Md.: Tidewater Publishers, 1968.

See Continuation Sheet # 5

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 18 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1.8 | 295470 | 433350.0 |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | 1.8 | 295320 | 4333060 |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | 1.8 | 295180 | 4333040 |

D | 1.8 | 295220 | 4333430 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Reference to Montgomery County Deed 5207-695, September 20, 1978 (enclosed) and plat map (enclosed).

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

njm

NAME / TITLE

Ms. Mary Ann Kephart

ORGANIZATION

Historic Medley District, Inc.

DATE

January 5, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 232

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Poolesville,

STATE

Maryland 20837

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*[Signature]*

12-14-78

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*[Signature]*

DATE

8-13-79

ATTEST: *[Signature]*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Regional Coordinator

DATE 8-13-79

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

a door in the south wall reached by a ladder placed against the exterior wall.

The barn (B) measures 20 X 40 feet. The few stone barns that remain in this area are all much larger than this, usually 30 X 60 feet. One of this small size is extremely unusual, attesting to the modest scale of the farming operation of the builder.

A stone fence of Seneca sandstone in dry wall construction encloses a family graveyard (E). Scalloped headstones dated 1830, 1840, 1842, and 1855, are cut of the same sandstone. Each grave is also marked with a small footstone of sandstone.

Henrietta d. 19 Dec 1848, 82 yrs Darnall

Thomas d. 7 June 1830, 65 yrs Darnall

Amos Young Darnall d. 9 July 1836, 9 months 24 days

Charles William Darnall d. 6 Sept 1837, 4 months, 13 days

The other buildings on the property include the following:

(F) 19th century frame wagon shed with corn crib; gable-roofed structure covered with weatherboards except corn crib which has vertical slats; two shed-roofed additions, one on each end with vertical board sheathing.

(G) late 19th or early 20th century shed, all milled wood, circular sawn, gable roof, vertical and horizontal siding.

(H) 20th century frame chicken coop.

(I) 20th century cinder block barn.

(J) and (K) 20th century frame sheds.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Revolution occurred during the period of Maddox Dyson's occupancy of the farm. He was called on to sign the "Oath of Fidelity and Support to Maryland," as were his neighbors,<sup>5</sup> but there is no record of his having served in the war. It was also during his occupancy that the former President of the United States rode near, or through, his lands. George Washington records in his Diary for August, 1785: "Saturday, 6th ... In my ride from George Towne to this place, I made the following observations:...That land about the Maryland Sugar Lands (1400 acres of which belong to George Plater, Esq) which is five Miles above Seneca, is remarkably fine, and very level..."<sup>6</sup>.

In 1808 this 225 acre farm was bought by Thomas Darnall. When he died in 1830, he owned 15 slaves (and two other farms). He specified which slaves were to remain on this farm to work and care for his widow and those of their eight children who still remained at home. His will tells us that two men and a woman were required for the work. It is Thomas Darnall, his wife and two of his grandchildren, who are buried in the little family graveyard. It is probably because of the existence of the graveyard that the place continues to bear the Darnall name.

Samuel Dyson, whose forbears were also early settlers in this area and in Anne Arundel County before that, bought the farm in 1857. During his occupancy the Civil War was fought and this section of Montgomery County was occupied almost constantly by Union troops. An important signal relay station was located only two or three miles away. Farmers in the neighborhood were continually required to furnish food, horses, tack and sometimes shelter for the troops. Many Dyson family stories recount the incidents that occurred in this community of Southern sympathizers reluctantly hosting the enemy.

When Albert Sellman became owner of the "Darnall Place" in 1926, it was no longer an owner occupied farm, but one on which a hired farmer lived. The tenant, with his wife and large family of children, continued to grow crops for marketing and food for his own family much as his predecessors had done in the same location. It was during their occupancy, in 1936, that it was included in the HABS described as follows: Darnall House, fieldstone, 1 story, late 18th century, 7 photos.

In 1963 Eugene Casey bought the farm and now rents the land to a contract farmer. For the first time in their long history, the buildings are no longer kept in repair nor used for their original purpose.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The vernacular architecture of the four Darnall farm buildings that produced the beauty, simplicity and solidity which endures today, their construction of native stone, their resemblance to rural cottages of Europe and the British Isles, their continuous use as a middle class family's farmstead until the very recent past, could all be available today as a visible lesson in history and architecture.

To walk among these small buildings in their practical arrangement and lovely setting is immediately to sense the practical but sensitive aesthetics that shaped the buildings as well as to sense the farm functions and home life that have taken place here for nearly two hundred years.

<sup>1</sup> "patent filed by Daniel Veirs ... 1755." Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md. Liber BC & GS #1, Folio 302 & L-BC&GS #2, F-256

<sup>2</sup> "patent ... 1,450 acres." Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md. Liber BC & GS 14, Folio 638 and Liber BC & GS #17, Folio 217

<sup>3</sup> "grandfather ... 1677" Aud, Kathleen L. & Susan E., Our Ancestors. Silver Springs, Md. 1972. Chapter: Veirs.

<sup>4</sup> "Sugarlands" The name given to a section of Montgomery County Md., which abounded in sugar maple trees. Later, Sugarland Hundred was a political unit like a township in New England, a militia district and a district for the assessment of taxes.

<sup>5</sup> "Oath of Fidelity and Support" Brumbaugh, G.M., Revolutionary Records of Maryland page 6.

<sup>6</sup> "...and very level." John C. Fitzpatrick, ed., George Washington Diaries. Vol. II, pps. 398, 399.

<sup>7</sup> "late 18th century, 7 photos" Historic American Buildings Survey. Catalogue. Photographs, 1936.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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ADDENDUM TO SIGNIFICANCE

The structures individually and the farmstead as a whole retain enough significant design and integrity to convey the feeling of a small farmer's life in the late 18th and early 19th century. The complex is of particular interest for the construction techniques in stone, the survival of a large number of early outbuildings, and its unusual rather English flavor. The alterations and additions have not detracted from the significance of the structures individually or as a farmstead. It is, however, extremely important that these buildings receive some attention before they are lost. Recent county ownership of the property is expected to provide this attention.



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Montgomery County,  
Maryland

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

- Hiebert, Ray Eldon and MacMaster, Richard K. A Grateful Remembrance, The Story of Montgomery County, Md. Rockville, Md., 1976.
- Historic American Buildings Survey. Recording Historic Buildings. Washington, D.C.:U.S. Govt. Printing Office, 1970.
- Historic American Buildings Survey. Catalogue. Photographs, 1936. Compiled by National Park Service. U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1941.
- Land Records and Wills. Frederick County Courthouse, Frederick, Md.
- Land Records, Wills, Equity Cases. Montgomery County Courthouse. Rockville, Md.
- Land Records and Wills. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.
- Morrison, Hugh. Early American Architecture. New York: Oxford University Press, 1952.
- Scharf, History of Western Maryland. 1880.
- Sween, Jane Chinn. Dawsonville and Seneca. Unpublished, 1967.
- Weslager, C: A. The Log Cabin in America. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1969.
- Woodforde, John. The Truth about Cottages. London: Routledge Kegan Paul, 1969.
- Darnall Family Records. Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, Md.
- Dyson Family Records. Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, Md.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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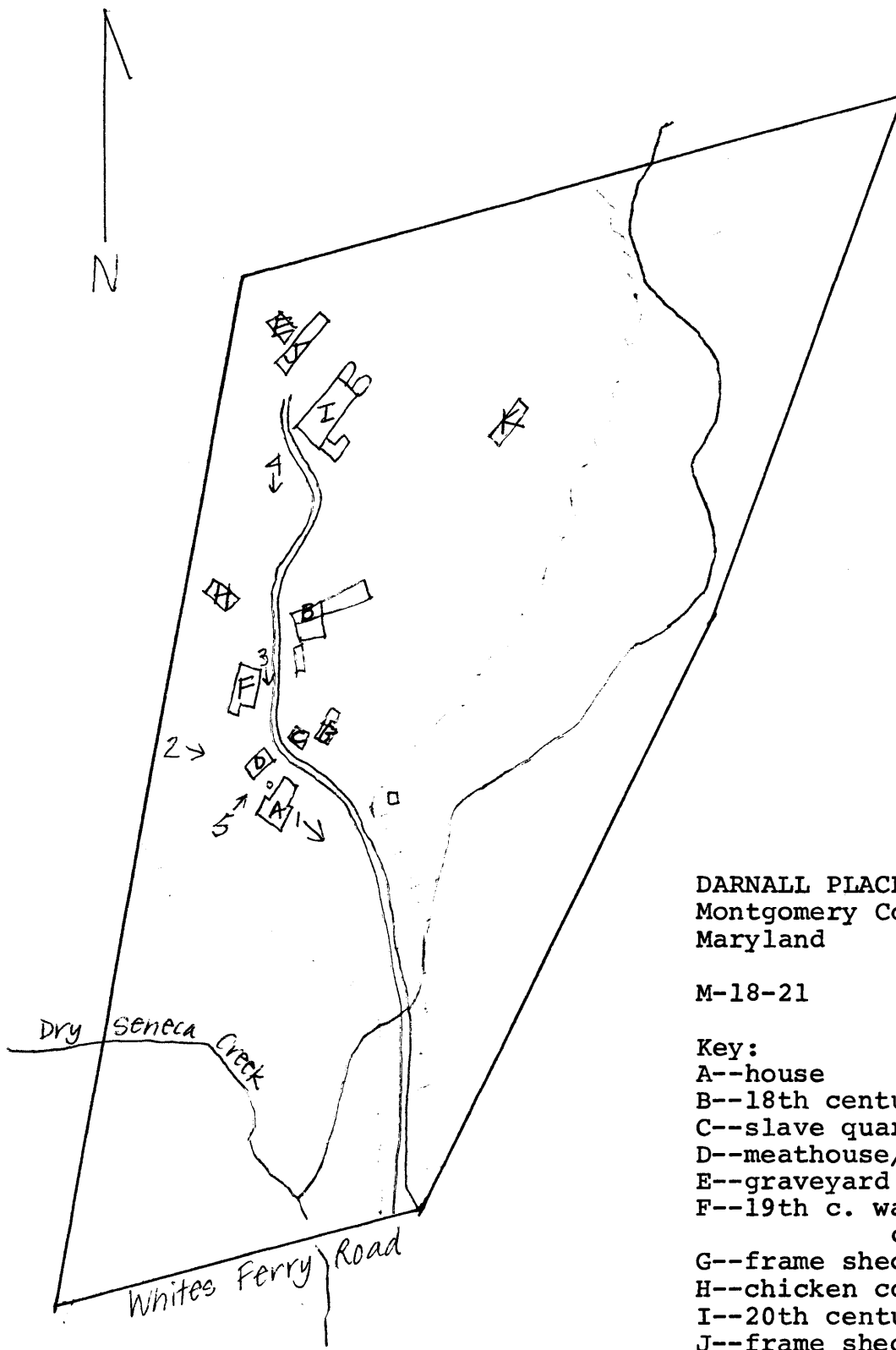
Darnall Place  
Montgomery County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland      ITEM NUMBER 9      PAGE 6

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**Acreage justification:**

The acreage chosen for the Darnall Place nomination is that recently purchased by Montgomery County--eighteen acres. This amount of land is necessary to include all of the outbuildings, the house, the drive, and the creek.



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 NATIONAL REGISTER

DARNALL PLACE  
 Montgomery County  
 Maryland

M-18-21

- Key:
- A--house
  - B--18th century barn
  - C--slave quarter/kitchen
  - D--meathouse/dairy
  - E--graveyard
  - F--19th c. wagon shed/  
corn crib
  - G--frame shed
  - H--chicken coop
  - I--20th century barn
  - J--frame shed
  - K--frame shed

approximate scale:  
 1"=200'

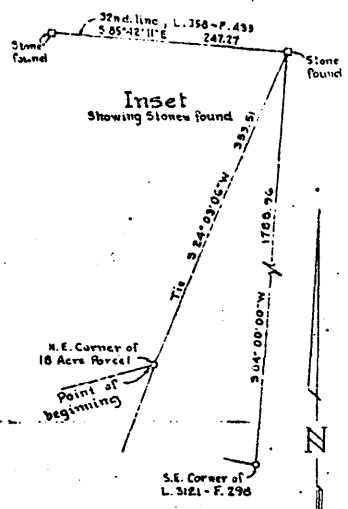
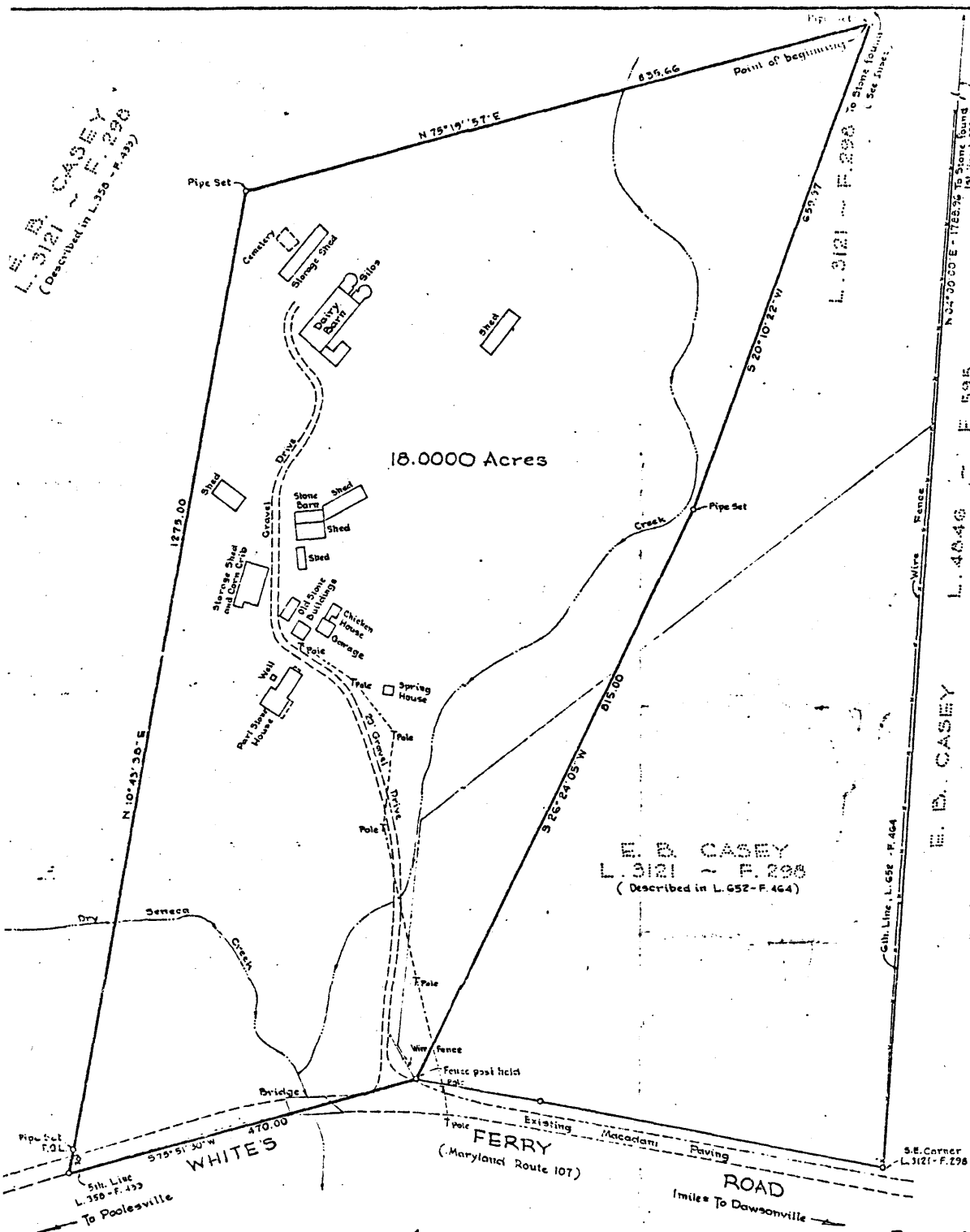
AUG 13 1979

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AUG 3 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER

E. B. CASEY  
L. 3121 - F. 296  
(Described in L. 356 - F. 459)



E. B. CASEY  
L. 3121 - F. 296  
(Described in L. 652 - F. 464)

E. B. CASEY  
L. 4046 - F. 595  
L. 3121 - F. 296

Surveyor's Certificate

I hereby certify that the plan shown hereon is correct; that it is a survey of a part of the land conveyed by Albert H. Sellman and Elizabeth H. Sellman, his wife, to Eugene B. Casey by deed dated August 8, 1963 and recorded among the Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland in Liber 3121 at Folio 296.

The improvements shown hereon were located by a transit-tape survey and property markers have been found or placed where indicated hereon.

The total area included within the bounds of this survey 18,000 acres of land.

August 10, 1978 *Paul K. Miller*  
Paul K. Miller  
Professional Land Surveyor, Md. #9154

NOTE  
Outline and area revised from 24 acres to 18 acres 8-9-78

NOTE  
This survey was performed without benefit of a title report and is subject to rights of way, easements or other encumbrances of record, if any, that a title search may disclose.

Boundary Survey  
Part of Eugene B. Casey Property

Dawsenville ~ Montgomery County, Maryland  
August, 1978  
Scale: 1" = 100'  
Oyster, Imus & Pezold, Inc.  
Civil Engineers • Land Planners • Land Surveyors  
2419 Keeble Drive • Wheaton, Maryland • 949-2011