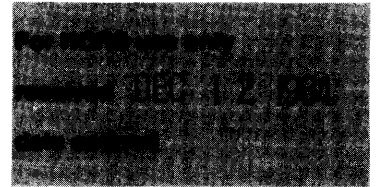


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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  Dawson Farm (preferred)

and/or common "Rocky Glen"

**2. Location**

street & number  1070 and 1080 Copperstone Court n/a not for publication

city, town  Rockville n/a vicinity of congressional district Eighth

state  Maryland code 24 county Montgomery code 031

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> museum</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <span style="float: right;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <span style="float: right;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> religious</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> scientific</span>
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> transportation</span>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> other:</span>

**4. Owner of Property**

name See Continuation Sheet No. 1

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Rockville state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

M:26-19

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input 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 <u>n/a</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Number of Resources		Number of previously listed
Contributing	Noncontributing	National Register properties
		included in this nomination: <u>0</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings	Original and historic functions
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites	and uses: Residential
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Total	

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Dawson Farm, located within the city limits of Rockville, Montgomery County, comprises two dwellings. The 1874 Dawson farmhouse is a 2½ story rectangular frame building, 3 bays wide and two bays deep with a steeply pitched gable roof. Its east (front) facade is clad in German siding, and features a Gothic-influenced cross gable. The transomed entrance is located in the northernmost bay; all windows hold 2/2 sash. The building features a dentiled box cornice. South of the 1874 house stands a later (1912) hip-roofed 2½ story dwelling, four bays wide by seven deep. The 1912 house reflects early twentieth century eclecticism in the use of Queen Anne-derived massing and half-timber detailing in combination with mission-style elements such as broad porches, overhanging eaves, a Spanish parapet over the entrance, and stucco finish. On the northeast (front) facade, an open porch wraps around the southwest side. A hood supported on curved brackets and topped with a Spanish parapet, projects over the porch steps and defines the entrance, which holds a wooden door with beveled-glass panels in a surround with sidelights and transom. Windows throughout the house are arranged in singles and pairs, and hold double-hung sash with three or four vertical lights over a large single pane. Each elevation of the hipped roof has a cross gable holding a recessed double window and embellished with half-timber ornament. The interior is detailed in the Craftsman mode, and features dark wooden paneling, arched openings, sliding doors and built-in furniture. A frame and block outbuilding is located behind the house. This building is considered non-contributing.

# 8. Significance

M:26-19

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1874 and 1912      **Builder/Architect** unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Applicable Criteria: B and C  
 Applicable exceptions: none  
 Significance evaluated: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Dawson farm is significant both for its architecture and for its historical association with a prominent family. The 1912 house is a rare example in the Rockville area of an early 20th century residence embodying the stylistic eclecticism characteristic of architecture of the period. Its massing and half-timber detailing are reminiscent of the Queen Anne style; the broad porches, Spanish parapet, overhanging eaves, and stucco finish all evoke a Mission-style feeling. An excellent Craftsman interior completes the catalogue of stylistic influences embodied in the house. The 1874 farmhouse also on the property contributes to the Farm's significance by reflecting an earlier stage in the economic and social development of the residents. The Farm is also significant for its association with the Dawson family, whose members played important roles in local politics and commerce for several generations.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Thomas Dawson (1708-1800) was the first of that family to come to Montgomery County, settling in Dawsonville about 1750. His great-grandson, Lawrence A. Dawson(1807-1875), was also born in Dawsonville. After teaching for two years, Lawrence came to Rockville to study law, and remained there all his life.

Lawrence A Dawson served in the Maryland House of Delegates in the 1837 session which passed the Reform Act, a major step in the democratization of Maryland's political structure. Politically, he was a Whig, a combination of the "old family" influence with the new planter-merchant-lawyer class just emerging into political power. Later, Dawson became a Republican.

Dawson purchased land from the widow of his law partner, Benjamin Forrest. He married Elizabeth Kiger in 1844 and brought her to live at Rocky Glen where their children were born and raised. They enlarged the original log house on the farm about 1852, and purchased 223 acres of farmland in 1856. Utilizing slave labor, Lawrence farmed his land in addition to practicing law. During the Civil War, he served as Commissioner of the Draft for the Union Army, and was captured by J.E.B. Stuart (whose army encamped on the farm) in June 1863. Along with several other prominent Union sympathizers, Dawson was transported North, but released the following day.

Injured soldiers on both sides were cared for at Rocky Glen following the various troop movements and skirmishes which occurred in the Rockville area during the Civil War. After the war, Dawson turned to farming his increasing acreage and to raising a large family.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

M:25-19

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6.085 acres

Quadrangle name Rockville, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UMT References**

A 

1	8	3	1	4	6	0	0	4	3	2	7	1	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

1	8	3	1	4	8	2	0	4	3	2	6	9	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

1	8	3	1	4	5	6	0	4	3	2	6	9	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Verbal boundary description indicated on attached map labeled "Boundaries for NR Nomination, 1984."

Boundary Justification: Nominated acreage includes undeveloped area surrounding buildings which evokes their historic setting.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state n/a code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ms. Eileen McGuckian

organization Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation, Ltd. date 1984

street & number P. O. Box 262 telephone (301) 762-8744

city or town Rockville state Maryland

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature] date 12-3-84

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

**For HCRS use only**  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
 Entered in the National Register date 1-11-85  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

M:26-19

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received  
date entered

Dawson Farm

Continuation sheet Montgomery County, Maryland Item number 4 Page 1

OWNERS OF PROPERTY:

- I. Park land - 4.87651 acres  
The Honorable John Freeland, Mayor  
c/o Larry N. Blick, City Manager  
City Hall  
Maryland Avenue at Vinson Street  
Rockville, Maryland 20850  
(301) 424-8000
  
- II. 1912 house, 1070 Copperstone Court - 0.87334 acres  
Stepping Stones, Inc.  
Mr. B. Daniel Walder, Chairman  
424 East Diamond Avenue  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877  
(301) 251-2700
  
- III. 1874 house - 0.33515 acres or 14,599 square feet  
Mrs. Joelle Erin Owens  
1080 Copperstone Court  
Rockville, Maryland 20852  
(301) 251-8750

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**National Register of Historic Places  
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Dawson Farm

Continuation sheet Montgomery County, Maryland Item number

7

Page 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The two Dawson dwelling houses provide excellent examples of 19th and 20th century farmhouses in close to original condition. The 1874 Victorian Gothic farmhouse and the 1912 house are among the few remaining farmhouses within the Rockville city limits. Architecturally, they are unique in Rockville, one for its steep roofline and the other for its eclectic character.

The 1874 Dawson farmhouse is a vernacular farmhouse reflecting the influence of the Gothic Revival style. It is a 2½ story rectangular frame building, 3 bays wide and 2 bays deep. The steeply pitched "A" roof features a steep pointed center gable. There is an original narrow, interior brick flue in the south gable wall. Decorative exterior features include a transom over the front door, dentiled box cornice, and German siding on the front (east) facade). There is a fieldstone foundation. The original wood shingle roof was later covered with metal; The metal has recently been replaced with wood shingle. All windows are 2-over-2 double hung sash; shutters were removed long ago.

Entering the house via the northeast bay door, a small section of the large entrance room/hall has been partitioned for a powder room and closet. To the south is a parlor with simple mantel. Near the northwest corner of the entrance room is the rear door, which formerly served as the link to the earlier (1852) section (demolished in the 1930s), later linked the 1940s kitchen-bath additions (demolished 1983), and now links the country kitchen addition to the main block. At the southwest corner of the entrance room is a closed stairway, which ascends toward the south; the missing balustrade has been replaced. (The unusual location of the stair at the back of the house is attributed to its use at the juncture of the 1852 and 1874 structures.)

On the second floor, one of the two bedrooms has been divided into two baths. There is a central hall which runs north to south. A narrow half-turn closed-string stairway to the attic rises from behind a door off the west side of the hall. The third floor receives light and air from five small windows on three sides; the central gothic-pointed gable window is an attractive feature.

In the 1930s, the earlier 1852 section to the west of the 1874 addition was demolished. A one-story, two part addition was constructed in the late 1940s; it contained a kitchen and small bath. In 1983, these unsightly appendages were removed and a 1½ story replacement was constructed to the west of the main block. The compatible, shed-roofed addition is set in slightly to distinguish it from the 1874 block. It has two shed-roofed dormers and double multi-paned doors on the west facade, and a door on the south facade. The plain clapboard and the two-over-two double hung windows duplicate those in the 1874 block.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET # 3

**United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Dawson Farm

Continuation sheet Montgomery County, Maryland Item number

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

1912 farmhouse. This four bay by seven bay, 2½ story T-shaped house sits on a hill at a considerable distance from Rockville Pike facing northeast.

Built on a poured concrete foundation with white stuccoed walls, the Dawson House was designed by Mrs. Fanny K. Dawson, and embodies the eclecticism which typified the architecture of the early 20th century.

The northeast (front) porch wraps around to the southwest elevation. Ten steps lead up to the porch which has a shed roof supported by seven stone posts and an enclosed stuccoed railing. A projecting hood with a curved Spanish parapet extends out over the steps and is supported by flanking curved braces. The northeast (front) door is wooden with beveled glass panels at eye level. The door is flanked by sidelights and surmounted by a rectangular transom. On the northwest elevation near the west corner is a small semi-enclosed two story porch. This porch has a stuccoed railing and semicircular openings on the northwest elevation and quarter-circular openings on the southwest elevation. At the first level on the southwest elevation, this opening is elongated and steps lead up to the porch. On the south (rear) elevation, there is a semi-enclosed porch with half-hipped roof.

There are three and four vertical lights over one single light double hung windows throughout the house. Windows are arranged in singles and pairs. On the northeast, northwest, and southeast elevations, there are bay windows. The southeast and northwest elevation bay windows are two stories, while the northeast bay window is at the second story above the front door. There is a diamond shaped window on the southwest elevation at the second level.

The hipped roof is crossed on each elevation by a cross gable roof; the southwest ell has a gable roof which intersects the hipped roof of the main body of the house. In each of the cross gables there are paired windows which are recessed behind a railing. The roof is covered by asbestos shingles and has wide overhanging eaves, with simulated exposed rafters. At each of the cross gables there is a simulated half-timber construction. There is one interior yellow brick chimney and two exterior yellow brick chimneys on the northwest and southeast elevations.

The interior of the house is spacious and graceful, and reflects Craftsman influence. The northeast (front) door opens into the living room. The northwest is the "Indian Room" where the Dawson family kept its collection of Indian artifacts from the Dakotas. Directly southwest of the front door, an archway leads into a hallway. A closed string double run stairway ascends, northeast to southwest, along the northwest interior wall. There is a northwest door leading into a bedroom from the hall. An archway opens from the hall into the dining room (accessible, too, from the living room). Southwest of the

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Dawson Farm, Rockville

Continuation sheet Montgomery County, Maryland Item number

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Page 4

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

dining room (at the south corner of the house) is a sunroom. A hall leads southwest from the hall to the breakfast room which is adjacent to the sunroom. There is a pantry southeast of this hallway. Northwest of the breakfast room is the kitchen. There is a closed string, single ron stairway which winds against the northeast wall of the kitchen.

The floors are narrow hardwood. The walls are both wooden paneled and plastered. The dining room has a built-in china closet and there is a built-in wooden bench against the southwest wall of the central hall. The breakfast room has a built-in cupboard. There are sliding wooden paneled doors opening from the living room into the dining room and Indian rooms. The remaining hinged doors are wooden paneled and have molding surrounds.

Behind and to the southwest of the 1912 house is a 3 section outbuilding. The oldest section is one-room, board and batten with block chimney; it was used by black tenants. A frame two-room section is closest to the houses, and a cinderblock one-room section connects the two.

The ruins of a large barn are located between and to the west and behind the two houses. Only the foundations and large beams remain. It was torn down in 1979.

The property was named "Rocky Glen" because of the massive outcroppings of white quartzite rock in a glen shaded by 14 hughe chestnut trees. Although the chestnuts were destroyed by blight around World War I, a number of large trees remain around and between the houses and in the glen. Five huge hollies planted by Fannie Dawson are of particular interest.



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Continuation sheet Dawson Farm, Rockville  
Montgomery County, Maryland Item number 8 Page 5

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

In 1874, a major addition was made to the original log and frame dwelling, its gothic style and decoration representative of the Dawson family's growing prosperity.

Following the deaths of Lawrence in 1875 and Mary in 1877, the children continued to farm the homestead; Mollie, George and John supervised operations until each in turn went west or elsewhere.

The fourth son, Henry A. (Hal) (1853-1937) left the farm at age 24 to open a small drygoods and grocery store in Rockville. He served as the Registrar of Voters for Montgomery County just before he left for the Dakota Territory in 1882. He bought an interest in a store in Pine Ridge, South Dakota, a tiny prairie town which was headquarters of the government agency for the Oglala Sioux under Chief Red Cloud. (In 1873, the famous chief had been forced to resettle his people on the Pine Ridge Reservation, but Indian affairs were far from settled. The Battle of Wounded Knee occurred 8 years later.) Hal received the second license for Indian trading posts issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He amassed a sizeable fortune as a cattleman and developer in South Dakota, setting up banks, hotels, etc. and working with the Stockmen's Association. In 1892, he married Fannie Knight Williams, who had come to Pine Ridge to teach in the Sioux boarding school.

Hal and Fannie had 4 children - Lawrence A., Rose K. Henry A. Jr. (Joe) and Walter W. As the children grew older, the Dawsons decided to return east for greater educational opportunities. Hal bought out his siblings' interest in Rocky Glen and returned to the farm. Rather than enlarging and repairing the old house, they chose a nearby hill on which to locate a new dwelling for the family. Fannie drew the plans herself, and brought a Mr. Lance from Des Moines, Iowa to build the house. When the new house was complete in 1912-1913, the Dawsons moved out of the Victorian farmhouse, which until 1981 was leased to tenants working at the farm.

Hal enlarged the farm by purchasing the adjacent Jones farm and a portion of the Carter farm, increasing the acreage to almost 500. Large new barns and stables were built and a new well dug. At first, he experimented with western cattle and horses, then concentrated on milk cows, pigs and chickens. The primary crops were wheat, corn and alfalfa.

Hal managed the Dawson Farm until his death in 1937. Fannie continued the operation until her death in 1948, after which only grazing continued. The land was gradually sold except for the house and surrounding (approx.) 14 acres. Of the four children, two remained at Rocky Glen, and many grandchildren were born and raised there. Walter Dawson (1901-1968) served in the House of Delegates and as State's Attorney; he was known as "Mr. Republican" in an overwhelmingly Democratic county. His sister, Rose, lived on the farm until her death in 1979. She served on the Board of Education Supervisors for 30 years and was regarded

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Continuation sheet Dawson Farm  
Montgomery County, Maryland Item number 8 and 9 Page 6

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

as a political institution. When she reached mandatory retirement age, the Maryland General Assembly passed the "Miss Dawson Bill" which enabled her to remain until poor health forced her to retire.

After 1950, various parcels of the Dawson Farm were sold off or donated for schools, parks and for the development known as Hungerford. The dwellings and the last 14 acres passed out of the Dawson family in 1980. Subdivision and dedication to the City of Rockville for storm water management reduced the parcel to 6 acres.

The 1912 house remained in the ownership of a local developer for three years, and was then sold to the current owner for use as a group home. The 1874 farmhouse (with 14,599 square feet of land) was sold to Peerless Rockville, a local preservation organization, in 1983. Peerless Rockville retained an exterior easement but immediately sold the property to Steve and Erin Owens, who restored the exterior, renovated the interior, removed the 1940s additions and constructed a compatible addition in their place.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Montgomery County Land, Assessment & Orphans' Court Records

U.S. Census Records

Gray, Mary Dawson, "History of Rocky Glen and the Dawsons Who Lived There", 1980.

Photos and Records from Montgomery County Historical Society and the Dawson Family

Miller, Hugh, AIA, "Initial Evaluation of Dawson Farmhouse, Rockville, MD", 1982

BOUNDARIES FOR NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION, 1984

Dawson Farm  
Montgomery County  
Maryland

includes all of  
Parcel A and  
Lot 61

